

THE

Issue #26, April 2018

WORD

**Now is the time
to be strong and
stand up for
what we believe**

£1

Equality **D**emocracy **T**ruth **C**ourage **THE PEOPLE'S PAPER** www.thewordmedia.co.uk



WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?

THE NEWSPAPER FROM THE LEFT WING

What we hope to achieve

To give even a small bit of balance to the bias against the left wing from main stream media. To achieve this we are launching a series of road shows to help inform and recruit people to help us. We believe with modern technology we rival the corporate news outlets by lots of people doing a small amount of work. As much as we admire the ability of the Morning Star to still keep going we feel there is a need for a tabloid daily newspaper that is entertaining to read with a great insight on sport and entertainment promoting all that is cooperative rather than simply money making.

Help us achieve our goal by joining us. If you are from the democratic left wing you will fit in. We debate and vote on our differences without a careerist in sight.

The Word aims for a cooperative structure without a hierarchy. Many people work on the project and give their time and effort free of charge but here is a list of the main ones:

THE
WORD

Editor: Peter Loo; **News Editor:** Alex (scoop) Taylor; **Twitter and Facebook page:** Julie Stephens; **Website:** Clive Jones; **Distribution:** John Wilkins; **Cartoons:** Andy Keir, John Francis; **Satire:** Karl Trevor; **Sport:** Ian Cockerham; **Proof reading:** Faraz Khan; **Graphic design:** Branko Pejovic; **Legal advice:** Peter Stevanovic, Charles James; **Photography:** Melanie Jane; **Quizzes:** Phil Brown, Mick Coats; **Music:** Dave Jepson, Joe Solo; **Problem page:** Tenzin Dasel; **Crosswords:** David Moran

Others who have been integral to the project include: John Malone, Dave Roberts, Alan Davies, George Galloway, Adam Douglas, Robin Richardson, Derek Fraser, Julie Ward MEP, Daniel Powell, Mara Leverkus, Steve Burgess, Cliff Jones, David Lindsay, Jackie Walker, Sean Jones, Kevin Neil, Ian Hodson, John Giles, Daniel Mansfield, George Chrisophorou, Steve Sutton, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Chris Williamson MP, John McDonnell MP Tariq Ali, Jack Comes, Andrew Wallace. **Our apologies to anyone we have missed out.**

www.thewordmedia.co.uk



By Tom Pride

Want a real spy scandal? How about the aristocratic Conservative spy who was NEVER prosecuted?

Heard the one about the Tory Old-Etonian Lord, who spied for the Japanese, giving them the know-how to take out Pearl Harbour and to capture Singapore resulting in 100,000 allied prisoners being taken - many who died in brutal Japanese PoW camps - who was so well-connected he was never even prosecuted?

No? Take a bow Conservative peer William Forbes-Sempill, 19th Lord Sempill.

Scottish Tory Lord Sempill was an active member of several far-right, fascist and anti-Semitic organisations including the Anglo-German Fellowship, the pro-Nazi Link Organisation and Archibald Ramsay's The Right Club, - a secretive organisation with the aim of ridding the Tory party of Jews.

Lord Sempill was discovered by MI5 to have been spying for the Japanese for as long as 19 years - right up to the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

But because Forbes-Sempill was a leading member of the Conservative Party and a Lord with connections even to the King, he got off scot-free without any prosecution.

And remarkably, at a time when other traitors were being hung for betraying their country, Forbes-Sempill didn't even lose his job at the Admiralty.

Compare Forbes-Sempill treatment with war-hero Alan Turing - who suffered from not being a well-connected aristocrat or a member of the Conservative establishment.

One rule for Tories, another for the plebs..

WANT A REAL SPY SCANDAL?

Eye witness account from Salisbury

So there I was, minding my own business, looking around Salisbury when this guy in a fur hat with a red star on it comes up to me. He starts to speak in a cartoon meerkat accent. "ver can I find ze Russian spy?" I suggested he either go online or ask at the nearest Russian embassy. He was not impressed and replied "we will kill all you freedom loving, peaceful, allies of the leader of the free world." He wasn't happy. He opened his umbrella in a menacing way and pointed to the tip, ominously. It started to rain. I felt very afraid pondering on my possible ricin induced demise. "Look, old boy" he said, suddenly sounding like Jacob Rees Mogg. "Sometimes a commoner



has to take one for the team Play up and play the game and all that." I stood there terrified, last night's curry and lager quickly and wetly running out of me.

"Before I kill you" he said, "just to let you know you have been a spiffing sport and not personal at all, old boy. It is simply that without a bogey man there would be a bloody revolution and we can't have that can we. This way we can buy more arms, stoke up nationalism and keep you peasants onside. Vladimir does the same with his lot, you know." Well, toodle pip." He raised his umbrella high for the kill. "I...I'm a freemason." I lied, hopefully. My life was saved by British values.

NO DISPUTIN IN THE UK THANK YOU!

- Poisoning being used to attack alternative news source RT
- Government and BBC coordinating efforts
- UK propaganda campaign against school children
- Suspicious false flag elements of poisoning case

The poisoning of Sergei Skripal on Sunday 4th of March is set to go down as a seminal event in the politics of 2018 and possibly a decade or more to come. Looking at the mainstream media it would seem to be a very simple story: evil Putin attempts to intimidate the west with an outrageous assassination.

On closer inspection there is a lot more to these current events than meets the eye at every single point - the actual event, the government response and some convenient and also quite odd outcomes. So let's tackle it in that order:

The Poisoning:

"Nivochoks" Novichok (Russian: Новичок, "newbie") are a group of nerve agents developed by Soviet Russia, developed originally to elude the international conventions, and they. They are still not covered in any convention or ban, hence Russian officials can claim they have destroyed all chemical weapons and yet still possibly have this agent in their stocks. The type of agent used has been presented as primary evidence that Russia is the point of origin of the vent event - but this is probably

The event itself has already led to huge fallout - 23 Russian diplomats and Russia planning to expel the same number, and also close the British Council, which promotes 'cultural links' to the UK and also close the British Consulate in St Petersburg.

the weakest evidence, for example the only way it could have been identified so rapidly is if Portland Down chemical weapons research labs had extensive knowledge of the substance for which it would have had to produce

some. Portland Down, many curious commentators have noted, is just a few miles from the poisoning.

A doctor who was one of the first people at the scene has described how she found Ms Skripal slumped unconscious on a bench, vomiting and fitting. She said she treated her for almost 30 minutes, saying there was no sign of any chemical agent on Ms Skripal's face or body. The doctor said she had been worried she would be affected by the nerve agent, but added that she "feels fine."

Government Response



Spook: Before entering politics, Putin worked for Russia's notorious spy network, the KGB.

Is Putin Europe's most dangerous leader since Hitler? He stands accused of ordering brutal assassinations and cyberattacks, as well as plotting the downfall of Western democracy.

Porton Down

Craig Murray

I have now received confirmation from a well placed FCO source that Porton Down scientists are not able to identify the nerve agent as being of Russian manufacture, and have been resentful of the pressure being placed on them to do so. Porton Down would only sign up to the formulation "of a type developed by Russia" after a rather difficult meeting where this was agreed as a compromise formulation. The Russians were allegedly researching, in the "Novichok" programme a generation of nerve agents which could be produced from commercially available precursors such as insecticides and fertilisers. This substance is a "novichok" in that sense. It

is of that type. Just as I am typing on a laptop of a type developed by the United States, though this one was made in China.

To anybody with a Whitehall background this has been obvious for several days. The government has never said the nerve agent was made in Russia, or that it can only be made in Russia. The exact formulation "of a type developed by Russia" was used by Theresa May in parliament, used by Boris Johnson on the BBC yesterday and, most tellingly of all, "of a type developed by Russia" is the precise phrase used in the joint communique issued by the UK, USA, France and Germany yesterday:

This use of a military-grade nerve

agent, of a type developed by Russia, constitutes the first offensive use of a nerve agent in Europe since the Second World War.

When the same extremely careful phrasing is never deviated from, you know it is the result of a very delicate Whitehall compromise. My FCO source, like me, remembers the extreme pressure put on FCO staff and other civil servants to sign off the dirty dossier on Iraqi WMD, some of which pressure I recount in my memoir *Murder in Samarkand*. She volunteered the comparison to what is happening now, particularly at Porton Down, with no prompting from me.

Separately I have written to the media office at OPCW to ask them to confirm that there has never been any physical evidence of the existence of Russian Novichoks, and the programme of inspection and destruction of Russian chemical weapons was completed last year.

Novichok agents are extremely potent, yet the claim is that the substance was administered at a restaurant, yet the poisoned pair were able to walk to a nearby park before collapsing.

The government set up no incident or emergency tent and although a police officer claimed that 21 people had been effected, a hospital representative said this was untrue. In recent days a consultant has said that three people have been treated for poisoning. They waited 7 days until issuing a public health warning asking people who were near the scene to wash their clothes.

Within 2 days the government were in parliament, telling us it was "extremely likely", "almost certain" and "beyond a reasonable doubt" that Putin was directly responsible, either deliberately, or through negligence.

Anyone asking for evidence - notably Jeremy Corbyn, has been shot down in flames by the government, and by old line Labour Blairites looking to undermine their leader, and the BBC has given numerous opportunities to people such as Yvette Cooper to blast criticism at Mr Corbyn for being rightly cautious.

"As far as I know, I don't know anybody who knows how to make it except these guys in Russia," says Dan Kaszeta, widely heralded as "a chemical weapons expert with Strongpoint Security in London" by numerous internet sources, "They've been a deep, dark secret." Mr Kaszeta has an B.A. degree...in Political Science.

Former British Ambassador Craig

OPCW inspectors have had full access to all known Russian chemical weapons facilities for over a decade - including those identified by the "Novichok" alleged whistleblower Mirzayanov - and last year OPCW inspectors completed the destruction of the last of 40,000 tonnes of Russian chemical weapons

By contrast the programme of destruction of US chemical weapons stocks still has five years to run

Israel has extensive stocks of chemical weapons but has always refused to declare any of them to the OPCW. Israel is not a state party to the Chemical Weapons Convention nor a member of the OPCW. Israel signed in 1993 but refused to ratify as this would mean inspection and destruction of its chemical weapons. Israel undoubtedly has as much technical capacity as any state to synthesise "Novichoks".

Until this week, the near univer-

Murray has said the group of agents "will almost certainly have been analysed and reproduced by Porton Down. After the fall of the Soviet Union Russian chemists made a lot of information available on these nerve agents."

Convenient Outcomes

The poisoning is now being used by right wingers in their country to add to their general campaign against news source Russia Today, with MPs calling for the closure and the BBC interviewing the director recently asking him repeatedly about being a mouthpiece, a propaganda channel etc.

Using this event as a wholesale attack on Russia seems more than odd in these geopolitical times, but when it gets used to attack non controlled news sources and in the first place is a story as full of holes a Swiss cheese as some have stated, it starts to look a little like the beginning of a deliberate sea change for the selection of a new public enemy No 1.

Chillingly the event is now being used to indoctrinate school children - "theday.co.uk" an educational newspaper resource used by 2/3 of schools in the UK has published a "news" page asking children "Is Putin Europe's most dangerous leader since Hitler?" guiding their opinions with highly selective sources and dressing up supposition as fact, it suggests discussion topics they may like to engage on before concluding, like many of us who left school behind some time ago that we live in, very scary times!

sal belief among chemical weapons experts, and the official position of the OPCW, was that "Novichoks" were at most a theoretical research programme which the Russians had never succeeded in actually synthesising and manufacturing. That is why they are not on the OPCW list of banned chemical weapons.

Porton Down is still not certain it is the Russians who have apparently synthesised a "Novichok". Hence "Of a type developed by Russia". Note developed, not made, produced or manufactured.

This post prompted another old colleague to get in touch. On the bright side, the FCO have persuaded Boris he has to let the OPCW investigate a sample. But not just yet. The expectation is the inquiry committee will be chaired by a Chinese delegate. The Boris plan is to get the OPCW also to sign up to the "as developed by Russia" formula, and diplomacy to this end is being undertaken in Beijing

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE IRAQ WAR: TRANSCRIPT OF JEREMY CORBYN'S 2003 STOP THE WAR SPEECH

Jeremy Corbyn, 2003:

"Thank you to every single person that's here today, in the biggest-ever political demonstration in the history of this country.

And today there are six hundred and more demonstrations in cities all around the world. Every country, every continent, everybody in the world has a chance today to say no, absolutely no, to war on Iraq.

Well surely the message today in London, in Glasgow and ordinary people on the street of this country is this: why are we spending three-and-a-half billion pounds on a war that nobody wants, when there is an AIDS pandemic sweeping Africa, when a quarter of the world's children die in poverty and star-

vation? And we say there isn't money sufficient for our own public services?

Thousands more deaths in Iraq will not make things right. It will set off a spiral of conflict, of hate, of misery, of desperation that will fuel the wars, the conflict, the terrorism, the depression and the misery of future generations.

Our message ... our message ... today here in London - a million and more strong - is this. We want to live in a world free from war. The way to free us from the scourge of war is to free ourselves from the scourge of injustice, of poverty and the misery that's associated with that.

This movement ... this movement ... is giving that message to the British government: stop now or pay a political price.

Thank you very much."



A Tory MP has been forced to issue a grovelling apology and to make a "substantial" donation to charity after making false claims about Jeremy Corbyn's links with communist spies.

Ben Bradley, a Conservative Party vice chair, said his comments were "wholly untrue and false" and agreed to pay out an undisclosed sum to a homeless charity and a foodbank in his Mansfield constituency.

Lawyers acting for the Labour leader contacted Mr Bradley this week over a potentially libellous tweet, where he made unsubstantiated allegations about Mr Corbyn's interactions with a Czech agent, who was posing as a diplomat.

Corbyn wants apology from Tory MP who said he 'sold secrets to spies'

The party said Mr Bradley had agreed to tweet an apology, that will say: "On 19 February 2018 I made a seriously defamatory statement on my Twitter account, 'Ben Bradley MP (bbradleymp)', about Jeremy Corbyn, alleging he sold British secrets to communist spies. I have since deleted the defamatory tweet.

"I have agreed to pay an undisclosed substantial sum of money to a charity of his choice, and I will also pay his legal costs.

"I fully accept that my statement was wholly untrue and false. I accept that I caused distress and upset to Jeremy Corbyn by my untrue and false allegations, suggesting he had betrayed his country by collaborating with foreign spies.

• Labour take lead in polls after

Czech spy claims fail to damage Corbyn

- Labour's general secretary Iain McNicol resigns
- Finally, Corbyn is about to bare Labour's teeth over Brexit
- How newspapers love linking Labour leaders to communist spies
- Labour compares communist spy allegations to 'bad James Bond movie'

"I am very sorry for publishing this untrue and false statement and I have no hesitation in offering my unreserved and unconditional apology to Jeremy Corbyn for the distress I have caused him."

The row centres on allegations that Mr Corbyn met with former StB agent Jan Sarkocy on several occasions in the 1980s, whom Mr Corbyn believed to be a diplomat.

His office produced diary records showing that at least one of the alleged meetings between Mr Corbyn and Mr Sarkocy in Parliament did not take place, as Mr Corbyn had been attending a conference in Derbyshire that day.

I AM VERY SORRY FOR PUBLISHING THIS UNTRUE AND FALSE STATEMENT AND I HAVE NO HESITATION IN OFFERING MY UNRESERVED AND UNCONDITIONAL APOLOGY TO JEREMY CORBYN FOR THE DISTRESS I HAVE CAUSED HIM

Mr Corbyn dismissed the claims as "ridiculous smears" and threatened legal action against Mr Bradley for repeating unsubstantiated claims that he had acted as an informant to the then communist regime.

BEN BRADLEY APOLOGY

Poetry

That Time Will Stop...

I have a dream
That time will stop
But what does it all mean
When I can't rewind the clock
They must be insane
When they say we'll be great again
We was before
Until you demanded more

I watched them fall I watched them drop
How do I know if the bombing will stop
Through rubbles of bricks
Im only six
What does it all mean
When I have a dream?

I watch the boy as he gets his kicks,
With eyes wide and terrible hicks,
I shout my voice just be seen
But the man he sounds more vicious and
mean,
I stand up tall
But I feel so small..
After all what's the point if a child can't dream?

With eyes wide
My days set aside
full of blood
I do what I should
But as I look up at the sky
It must be a lie,
When they say that I'm not worthy of a dream

One by one, they're taken away
But why is it me that they insist I stay,
Without permission,
They proceed their mission
Barging through the day,
Dead bodies they lay,
Will I ever get a say or is it all just mean
It has to be impossible when they say I can't
dream

Piled on boats, they set afloat
They cannot shed a tear
Not until they are near
I close my eyes
Sending good byes
As I know they will not make it to the other
side
My heart still full,
But my mind is dull
I think could this end? Or is it more than just a
broken heart to mend
From day to night
I can't loose sight
I know I must protest for what's right
But through it all,
I know what they mean
When they say I don't have a dream
Is it just me
Or could it be?
That there is no mystery
As the this moment goes down in history,
I must be released from this cuff,
So i decided i had a enough,
Shoved up against the wall with a voice that
stands tall
As i scream,
I have a Dream!

Zahraa Altaf

If This Was A Court Case

*They'd have thrown it straight out.
More like total darkness
Than shadows of doubt.
All pointed fingers
And blind accusations
From desperate leaders
Of desperate nations
With desperate motives
And desperate friends
With desperate means
To desperate ends;
In this Kangaroo Courtroom
Of MPs and media
-The greediest people
Who keep getting greedier-
The stamping of feet
And the pointing of fingers
Now passes for evidence
Lying that lingers
And calls into question
And by that condemns:
"We know it weren't us
So it must have been them!"
And in this way we've raised up
The Keepers of Hell
Into judge and to jury
And hangman as well;
Who rush to convict
And go outside the law
And rattle their sabres
And talk of a war.
The worst kind of peddlers
Of pure propaganda
Who slam and who slate
And who slay and who slander
Would if I were judge here
And this case was brought
Have been thrown in jail
For contempt of my court.
So bring us the evidence
Cut out this tumour
Of lies and mistrust
And of hearsay and rumour
And if that can't be done here
You're right out of luck
So back off and sit down
And shut the f*** up.*

Now What

*At the end of the season when the grandchildren sighed
Too old for an ice cream or a park or a ride
And no one to shrill hurry up and come on
There is only us
Summer has gone*

Kevin John

The Law Locks Up The Man Or Woman

*The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose off the common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from the goose.
The law demands that we atone
When we take things we do not own
But leaves the lords and ladies fine
Who takes things that are yours and mine.
The poor and wretched don't escape
If they conspire the law to break;
This must be so but they endure
Those who conspire to make the law.
The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common
And geese will still a common lack
Till they go and steal it back.
17th Century folk poem*

The Vicar Of Bray

*When Labour's flag was palest pink
I marched on every May Day.
My seat stayed safe on that green bench
For every monthly pay day.
While cowards flinched and traitors sneered
I stood for moderation.
The red flag's fine for conference time
But God save Queen and nation.*

*And that's my stand for evermore.
Our leaders come and go, sir.
I'll still be MP come what may.
Divine right makes it so, sir.*

*In the good old days of Tony Blair
I swore faith in New Labour,
I chucked my socialism in the bin
In the hope of gaining favour.
Away with red flags, picket lines,
Clause Four and nationalisation,
I stood for NATO, PFI,
The war and privatisation.*

*Yes, principles are always cheap.
Our leaders come and go, sir.
I'll still be MP come what may.
Divine right makes it so, sir.*

*We lost the next two elections,
Our party suffered a rout.
Where had all the voters gone?
We chucked two leaders out.
The unions said they need their say.
We said, we'll show who's trusted.
Let all and sundry pay three pounds.
They did - and we got busted.*

*Well, never mind. We're still in place.
Our leaders come and go, sir.
I'll still be MP come what may.
Divine right makes it so, sir.*

*We thought, we'll let some lefty stand
And crush those reds forever.
He won a half a million votes
And half a million members.
How dare they challenge us MPs?
We lined up to oppose him.
We splashed out all the party funds
But failed to depose him.*

*But so what? We've got mass support!
Our leaders come and go, sir.
I'll still be MP come what may
Divine right makes it so, sir.*

*We counted on Theresa May
To put him in his place.
Then Corbyn gained three million votes.
May all but lost the race.
So now we all say: right on, Jez!
We always said you'd score!
I'm in Momentum! Here's my card!
A lefty to the core!*

*So trust me! You can count on me!
Our leaders come and go, sir.
I'll still be MP come what may.
Divine right makes it so, sir.*

*So don't dare question my remit,
Or call for reselection.
I'm loyal to my voting mob,
At every new election.
I stand on sacred principles,
The rights of feudal kings:
A privilege and job for life,
And all that power brings.*

*You get it? That's democracy!
Our leaders come and go, sir.
I'll still be MP come what may.
Divine right makes it so, sir.*

Cenotaph

*If you could feel just love for me,
Don't lay your wreath just let me be.
Don't strike your band of marching horror,
Leave peace my soul, save your tomorrow.*

*Prince's talk of covered glory
Ameliorating any hurt;
I'm not covered in such glory
All I'm covered in is dirt.*

*If you could feel just love for me,
Just throw your arms in to the sea.
You hear them reading out my name;
Those bastards will do this again.*

Kevin John



AN IMMIGRANT'S VIEW



Mara
Leverkuhn

When I think of the mind control I was subjected to back in Romania, I shudder.

Except it's not the communist mind control I mean. That was amateur hour.

I mean the American state of the art propaganda I was subjected to since a kid, that inoculated a hate of my own country and worship of all things America. This was worse for me as a star pupil of advanced intellect, because you'd get admission in all the good cir-

cles and organisations that were set up to penetrate the fertile post communist soil to American imperialism.

Like the debate club of the ARDOR, funded by Soros' Open Society; where you'd develop the Karl Popper style of debate, discussing a wide array of .. pro American topics. Teaching you to think in neoliberal terms, worshipping the free market, and privatisation, and liberalism, telling you nothing of the truth of economic enslavement and extreme inequality and war and climate disaster. Moving from high school to university, you couldn't be anyone in Bucharest unless you were part of this or other Soros society or

organisation. The intelligentsia of former communist Security services intertwined synergistically and surprisingly naturally with the new globalist bodies of covert influence.

For the medium level kids, this wasn't as pervasive. The mind worm wouldn't insinuate itself as deep. But the ambitious and intellectual kids of Romania, who were educated for free by the Romanian government, and fed with natural organic food by their parents, were programmed to be money makers for the US empire, and sell off their motherland's farmlands to the West. Seeding economic indebtedness to the West and ecological devastation

of our natural assets.

There was the parlance of freedom, open society, civil society, democracy, and other such shiny concepts that made the youth aspire to the empire. Well, I came to the West myself ten or so years ago. And what brute, empty lies those concepts are. It's not an open society, and there is but a shadow theatre of a democracy. The press isn't free, and the seemingly vivacious public discourse is manipulated from above, telling you what you can and cannot say. Like Frankie Boyle who quoted BBC censorship of all mentions of Palestine as the reason he left television work altogether. The exuberant Babylonian sounds of this

society may give the appearance of freedom, but if you zoom in, there's a precise, hi tech steel wall around words.

When Ceausescu stood in Adunarea Populara to warn of the West's homelessness, desperation, drug problems, high crime and vast inequality, we, Romanians, thought he was a deluded fool. We thought we had it bad. And now I know who's having the last laugh. Romanians are dying from too much work up and down Europe. Slaves to the West. Desperate to survive, no time to think while slaving on our own ancestral rivers and forests, that no longer belong to us



JEWISH COMMUNITY RESPONDS TO LABOUR MURAL ROW

By Daniel Powell

With local elections looming, the UK's mostly Conservative leaning media is going into overdrive in an attempt to resuscitate the party's chances at the ballot box, which do not look good by most pundits' reckonings. In February, a YouGov survey suggested that Labour would win a greater share of the vote than any party since 1968, with only 28% of London's electorate voting Conservative, threatening all councils held including traditional strongholds such as Barnet, Westminster and Wandsworth.

So the fear-mongering and defamation began - he was painted as a supposed threat to national security for a meeting with a Czechoslovak diplomat in 1986 in the House of Commons, and furthermore he had dared to question the certainty of Russian involvement in the Skirpal poisoning, which, he argued, could lead to a new cold war. Media then began re-stirring the toxic pot with 'new' charges of anti-Semitism against him. This related to a comment Corbyn made on a Facebook post in 2012, apparently voicing support for a public mural named 'Freedom for Humanity' by Kalen Ockerman aka Mear One, which was painted on Brick Lane but to be removed. The painting depicted several figures sitting around a monopoly style board counting money, propped up on the backs of the oppressed; a pyramid symbol of freemasonry looms in the background. The figures included



banking magnates from the Rothschild, Warburg, Rockefeller and Morgan families - the former two being Jewish. The controversy surrounds the supposed caricature of the Jewish figures, which bore a passing resemblance to 1930s German cartoonery. Ockerman responded: "a group of conservatives do not like my mural and are playing a race card with me. My mural is about class and privilege. The banker group is made up of Jewish and white Anglos. For some reason they are saying I am anti-Semitic. This I am most definitely not... what I am against is class."

The current media furore resulted in a demonstration at Parliament Square, organised by the Board of Deputies of Jews (BoD) and the Jewish Leadership Council (JLC), who claim that Corbyn now "personifies" anti-Semitism. A counter protest organised by Jewish Voice for Labour saw demonstrators on both sides engaged in heated exchanges. The Mail and other newspapers made

much of Labour MP Chukka Umunna's presence, standing beside Conservative MP Sajid Javid. Umunna had commented that Labour would not tolerate racism against black people as it allegedly does towards Jews. He denied that his motive was to damage Corbyn for the sake of his own leadership ambitions, since he is seen by party centrists as an ideal 'moderate' candidate, despite being forced to pull out of a previous bid amongst rumours of a scandal lingering in his past.

It is doubtful Umunna believes that Corbyn is an anti-Semite. He knows Corbyn's own political inspiration began with his mother who took part in the historic Battle of Cable Street, where hundreds of socialists opposed Oswald Mosely's anti-Semitic British Union of Fascists in 1936. Corbyn's record of fighting racism is prolific, having been involved in the 1977 Battle of Wood Green against the National Front, generating the Anti-Nazi League. He has never made an anti-Semitic statement. So whence the slanderous charge that he is a figurehead for such ideas?

Critics claim that Corbyn allows anti-Semitic 'pockets' in the Labour Party, despite his clear position. Does anti-Semitism exist within Labour? A 2017 House of Commons report concluded that "despite significant press and public attention on the Labour Party, and a number of revelations regarding inappropriate social media content, there exists no reliable, empirical evidence to support the notion that there is a higher

prevalence of anti-Semitic attitudes within the Labour Party than any other political party." This may be taken as conclusive, though it may be naïve to assume that critics' complaints are baseless, since the report does not say there have been zero incidents.

What constitutes an anti-Semitic remark? We should note that the term 'anti-Zionism' is often mistakenly conflated with 'anti-Semitism' in a bid to stifle criticism of Israeli state policy, and mention of the 'Z' word is claimed to be 'code' for 'Jews'. A fallacious logic is thus employed to shut down debate: speaking against Israel equals an attack on Jews per se, which is equivalent to anti-Semitism. However, no-one should feel reticent to criticise Israeli state policy for fear of absurd accusations that doing so is equivalent to Nazi tendencies. Likewise they should avoid making clumsy and insensitive remarks such as equating Israeli attitudes to Palestinians as "just like the Nazis". Neither comparison is true. Both are simply a cul-de-sac in a toxic argument that demonstrates Godwin's Law in action, i.e. that any argument will eventually reach the depths of one side accusing the other of being "as bad as the Nazis" (aka a *reductio ad Hitlerum*.)

So what can be done? Corbyn has been forced to make a formal apology for the errors of others, which have emerged in many cases due to lack of care when discussing the Israel - Palestine debate. A practical step would be for anyone dis-

cussing the subject not to delve into it without thorough prior knowledge, and not to regurgitate sloppy internet memes or employ dogmatic terms that can be seized on by opponents. In particular, great care must be taken with unspecific language. Bear in mind that a sentence critical of foreign policy beginning "The Americans..." or "The Saudis..." is unlikely to face a charge of racism, but substituting this with "The Israelis..." runs a risk of anti-Semitic accusations. That may be an absurdity, but it can be avoided by being specific on exactly what one intends to be critical of, i.e. the Israeli state, or a particular aspect of its policy. Do not make it easy for critics to level false accusations of hatred towards Jewish people per se. It also goes without saying that if any genuine anti-Semitism is witnessed, the perpetrator should be called on it.

Finally, we should be remember that Labour under Corbyn certainly has support from the Jewish Community, as the counter-protest in parliament square demonstrated. Some of the sardonic retorts to Corbyn's critics published on social media by the supportive Jewish Voice organization brought amusement in what has been an otherwise distressing and divisive affair: "The Daily Mail going after Corbyn is a tough choice for us. Do we pick the newspaper who backed the Nazis, or the guy who would've been on the barricades with us fighting the fascists at Cable Street? I think we'll stick with Mr Corbyn."

Dear agony aunt people at work are telling lies about me because they think I am going to get promoted to their job soon.

Jeremy from London.

Dear Jeremy

Thank you so much for your post. It sounds like you're in a terrible position, but not I expect as terrible a position as those who are mocking you.

Quite often Jeremy, when people are jealous or indeed lacking the intelligence or moral compass that you yourself have, they'll resort to all kinds of skulduggery. All I can advise at this time Jeremy is just be on your guard as they'll try every trick in the book to drag you down. Some people are so low and unscrupulous, they'd crawl up the u bend of your toilet to catch a glimpse of something they can use to dish the dirt. This may sound extreme Jeremy, but I remember the late Margaret Thatcher (may she rest in hell) once saying "There will be no U turns" she was lying. These people know all the twists and turns needed to keep decent folk down some way or other, so I'd just be vigilant wherever possible.

I really hope things work out for you. Please let me know how you get on.

Tenzin

Dear agony aunt, I think my girlfriend is a racist, yours, Henry Bolton from UKIP.

Dear Henry

Thanks for your letter, this must be extremely difficult for you, especially at a time when UKIP are trying their best to convince people they are absolutely opposed to racism. How unfortunate you should find yourself in such an awkward situation. Tell me Henry, what was it that brought the two of you together? I think it's important that you both find that one common denominator and work from there. Good heavens Henry! our very own Prince Harry has a lovely mixed race bride to be and he seems happy enough. If it's good enough for Royalty I'm sure you can find a way.

Best wishes, Tenzin

DEAR agony aunt, I want to run away and join the circus. Is this a good idea? yours, Boris.

Dear Boris,

What on earth has made you want to take such a direction in life? As far as I see it, the most sensible way is always to grit your teeth and try to conquer what or who's getting you down before running.

If you're looking to put your head in a lions mouth Boris, I can assure you there's no need to fire up the balloon yet for a great escape! You can stay right here to get that kind of treatment. It all very much depends I guess, on whether you are planning this by choice, or being forced out of the comfy position you're in. Either way Boris keep your wits about you and don't make any 'crack of the whip' decisions - this is a major time in your life needing serious thought.

Best Wishes, Tenzin

AGONY AUNT

Dear agony aunt, every day I go to work and see some of the people there I feel an urge to punch a lot of them in the face. So far I have resisted but the urge is getting stronger. Denis from Bolsover.

Dear Denis

Thank you so much for your letter, my heart really goes out to you but 10/10 for resisting violence - it's never the way. Except of course if you're being paid to kill or maim people - say like in the armed forces which is a different issue. Most people spend the majority of their lives at work, so the last thing they need is to be punched in the face because of someone else's bad temper, or feeling like they need to do it. It seems from your letter Denis, you're experiencing some real anger problems and maybe need to step back for a while to reassess your life.

What's happened to make you feel so angry with your colleagues? Often there's other culminating factors like stress at home, health issues etc. Whatever the problem Denis, this needs nipping in the bud now before it gets out of hand. Let me give you some helpline numbers of people who might be able to help.

The Samaritans - FREEPHONE 116 123. Or jo@samaritans.org
http://www.supportline.org.uk/problems/anger_management.php

Let me know what happens,

Best wishes, Tenzin

Dear Agony Aunt,

As a kid I dreamed of being a spy and all the bigger kids mocked me. Now I'm likely to be their boss soon, they keep bringing it up. How do I fake giving a flying f...?

Jeremy from Islington

Dear Jeremy

Rest assured! We all have childhood dreams and fantasies, it's part of growing up. Some kids dream of being firemen, nurses, rock stars etc, but you Jeremy! 10/10 for initiative. You stepped outside the normal way of thinking well done! Of course it's quite rare for people to go on and pursue those things in adulthood Jeremy, but it's nice to have dreams.

It seems to me Jeremy, your main problem isn't your childhood fantasies, but more the fact you're on the cusp of being in charge of a group of people who simply haven't matured from the flat cap and playground nonsense. Take for example the political world Jeremy, you have that Lovely Labour Leader always being mocked for not dressing like Versace, by the very people who's wardrobes are probably filled with short trousers and peaked caps and who'd give anything for a short whack on the bottom with a riding crop. Jeremy if



you get into a box of Cobras - you're going to get bitten my friend.

Best Wishes, Tenzin

Dear agony aunt I moved into an area where none of my neighbours seemed to like me. Well, that was OK because I didn't like them either. After a bit some of my family squatted in the house next door so we had more room. Now they want their house back. Yours, Benjamin.

Dear Benjamin

What a difficult situation. Why on earth did you move to an area you didn't like and where nobody likes you? What exactly is it Benjamin, making you dislike your neighbours so much? Is it a class thing or maybe it's to do with their behaviour? Either way this needs sorting out if you're going to achieve any kind of balance in life.

I take it from your letter Jeremy, you have an extended family whom you've moved into the property next door but now the people want their house back is that correct?

The good news is Benjamin, you have rights as a squatter and people can't simply throw you out. There are however a couple of factors, one being whether or not the family living there knew you were moving in? The other factor is whether you threatened them to get use of their home for your own gratification.

There are experts on this kind of thing Benjamin I hope they can be of assistance to you.

Citizens Advice Bureau - <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>

Advice on Squatting - <https://www.gov.uk/squatting-law>

Best wishes, Tenzin

Dear Agony Aunt. I am really, really clever, in fact I am a very stable genius and I keep telling people but no one seems to believe me and they all make fun of all my genius ideas. Donald.

Dear Donald

Your letter fascinated me a lot. It isn't often I receive letters from someone so self assured and I'm truly intrigued.

You say Donald you're a 'very stable genius' which I'm not doubting in the slightest, but opposed to what?? An unstable one? You see Donald, there is indeed a very fine line between genius and insanity and we must be careful not to cross it.

Quite often in my experience, and let me tell you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting many genius's - there needs to be some kind of evidence like an invention, or solving of a complex mathematical equation etc, even creating great machines to influence the world, long before we go around spreading the word. Have you demonstrated or invented anything at all to prove your claims Donald? I'm so sorry you've ended up in such a frustrating situation, I've asked this question but often we lack things in life, which we may unintentionally replace with delusions of grandeur. Maybe some kind of Counselling could be useful at this time in your life so you can talk things through. Let me see if I can find you some support.

Coping with Delusional Disorder - <https://www.psychologytoday.com/conditions/delusional-disorder>
MENSA - <https://www.us.mensa.org>

Please let me know how you get on

Best Wishes, Tenzin

Dear Agony Aunt I am writing on behalf of my work colleagues and myself, we are a bunch of narcissist who identify ourselves as either red, blue or yellow, we lie, make false promises, we do not represent the people as promised. MP from Westminster.

Dear MP

Thank you so much for your letter. Just from reading the first few words I can understand your plight. You seem to have lost sight of the fact you're actually a person. In doing so, how on earth can you expect others to see or treat you as one?

What an absolutely awful situation, to describe yourself as nothing more than 'A Red' 'A Blue' or 'A Yellow.'

On a more positive note however, you do seem to have a really good insight into the fact you and your peers all share common factors - narcissistic traits & not serving the people well. Please don't worry too much Mr MP about the fact you haven't kept prom-

ises to your constituents etc. Most are like sheep, they neither notice or even care who they vote for as long as they vote. This I know will be hard to grasp for someone with such self absorbed traits as yourself but please don't worry, you'll never walk alone so to speak.

Best Wishes, Tenzin

Dear Agony Aunt,
People keep mispronouncing my name.

Regards, J Hunt.

Dear Mr Hunt

Thanks for your post, how unfortunate for you to have this keep happening. Many people don't realise it, but to have our name pronounced correctly is a really big thing. It defines who we are, our roots so to speak. Take for example the name Jackson, you might not be aware of this Mr Hunt, but the name Jackson comes from the trade 'steeple Jack' and people who carry on that trade for example, 'sons' hence the name Jackson.

The point I'm making Mr. Hunt is people often associate us with our trade or the way we present ourselves. What's your position in life Mr Hunt? Maybe this will shed some light on why people keep mispronouncing it.

I hope you get this resolved.

Best Wishes, Tenzin

Dear Agony Aunt

I am a person in a repressed environment that likes auto-erotic asphyxiation. How can I be best remembered as a kinky inspiration, albeit on a side of the political axis which emphasises selfishness and repressed sexuality, and not be used by problematic elements on the Left as a dig at Tories and alienating kinky comrades in the process?

Yours breathlessly,

Stephen Milligan

Dear Stephen

Thanks for your letter, I'm so glad you got this off your chest. So often these days, people keep things bottled up with devastating consequences.

Please rest assured Stephen, in my book you are exactly a kinky inspiration. I'm sure I'm not alone in this, but it took me a fair few weeks to figure out how to put a new plug on electrical appliances.

It's no secret you've been in the public eye before is it Stephen? So I'm sure you won't mind me saying, we were all left a little wide eyed, to read about the many other uses you developed and perfected for an electric cord. Unfortunately Stephen as you so aptly demonstrated, even perfection can develop flaws. In your letter Stephen, you mention the word 'repressed', and I couldn't help but notice your title of 'Private Secretary' to the Conservative party. Private seems to be the operative word here Stephen, almost as if your peers are ashamed of the fact they enjoy a little hanky-panky in their private time. Nevertheless, you were I believe, regarded as a "rising star" of the Conservative Party - I'm choked!

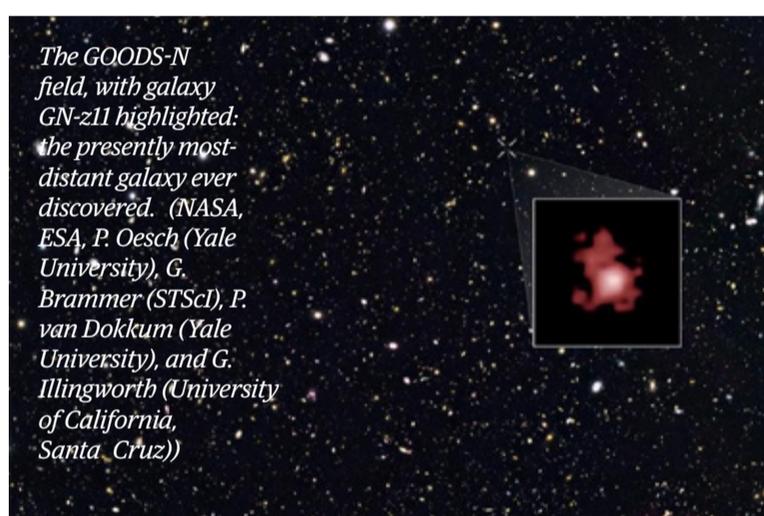
Best Wishes, Tenzin

IF THE UNIVERSE IS 13.8 BILLION YEARS OLD HOW CAN WE SEE 46 BILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY?

Distances in the expanding Universe don't work like you'd expect. Unless, that is, you learn to think like a cosmologist.

There are a few fundamental facts about the Universe—its origin, its history, and what it is today—that are awfully hard to wrap your head around. One of them is the Big Bang, or the idea that the Universe began a certain time ago: 13.8 billion years ago to be precise. That's the first moment we can describe the Universe as we know it to be today: full of matter and radiation, and the ingredients that would eventually grow into stars, galaxies, planets and human beings. So how far away can we see? You might think, in a Universe limited by the speed of light, that would be 13.8 billion light years: the age of the Universe multiplied by the speed of light. But 13.8 billion light years is far too small to be the right answer. In actuality, we can see for 46 billion light years in all directions, for a total diameter of 92 billion light years.

Why is this? There are three intuitive ways we can choose to think about this problem, but only one of them is right.

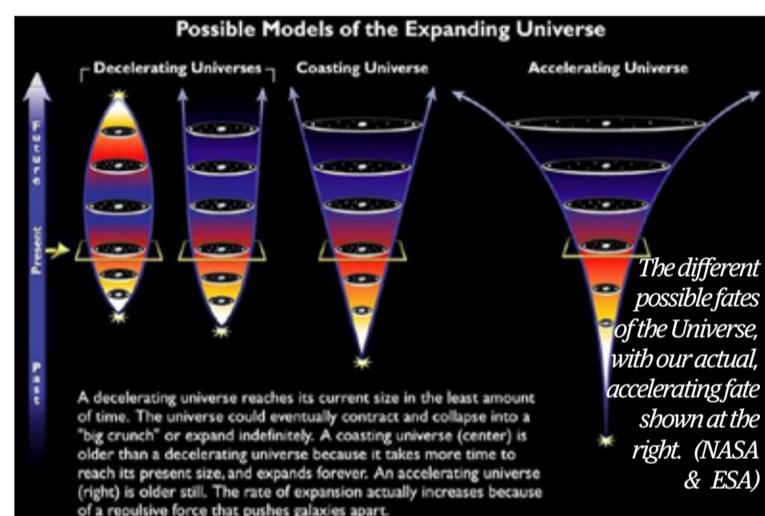


The GOODS-N field, with galaxy GN-z11 highlighted: the presently most-distant galaxy ever discovered. (NASA, ESA, P. Oesch (Yale University), G. Brammer (STScI), P. van Dokkum (Yale University), and G. Illingworth (University of California, Santa Cruz))

1.) Stuff is everywhere, and light travels at the speed of light. This is the "default" mode most people have. You can imagine a Universe that's full of stars and galaxies everywhere we look, and that these stars and galaxies began forming pretty close to the very beginning of everything. Therefore, the longer we wait, the farther we can see, as light travels in a straight line at the speed of light. So after 13.8 billion years, you'd expect to be able to see back al-

most 13.8 billion light years, subtracting only how long it took stars and galaxies to form after the Big Bang.

2.) Stuff is everywhere, light moves at c , and everything can move through space. This adds another layer to the problem; not only is there a ton of stuff that emits light, but those light-emitting objects can move relative to one another. Since they can move up to (but not quite at) the speed of light, by the rules of special relativity, while the light moves towards you at the speed of light, you can imagine seeing twice as far as in the first case. Perhaps the



objects now could be as far as 27.6 billion light years away, assuming their light just reaches us now and they speed away from us at almost the speed of light.

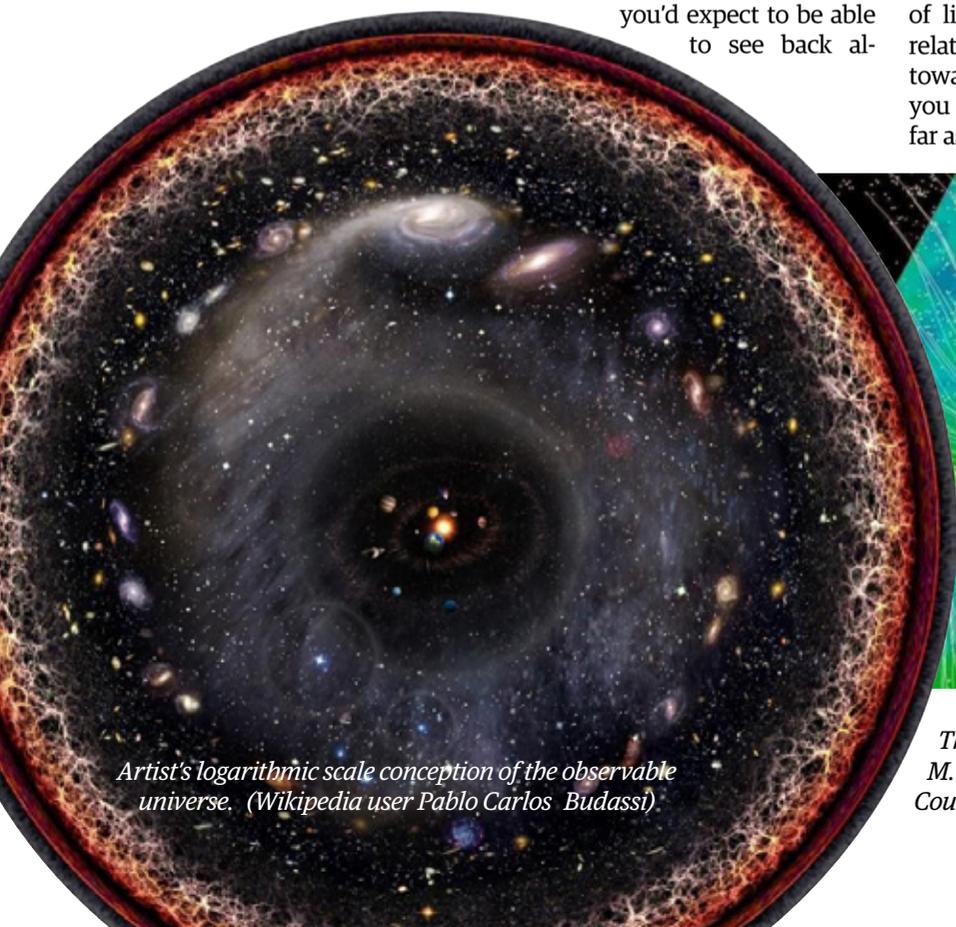
3.) Stuff is everywhere, light goes at c , stars and galaxies move, and the Universe is expanding. This last layer is the counterintuitive one that most people have the hardest time with. Yes, space is full of matter, which quickly clumps into stars, galaxies and even larger structures. Yes, the light it produces all moves at c , the speed of light in a vacuum. Yes, all of this matter can move

through space, mostly due to the mutual gravitational attraction of different overdense and underdense regions on one another. All of that is true, just as it was in the second scenario.

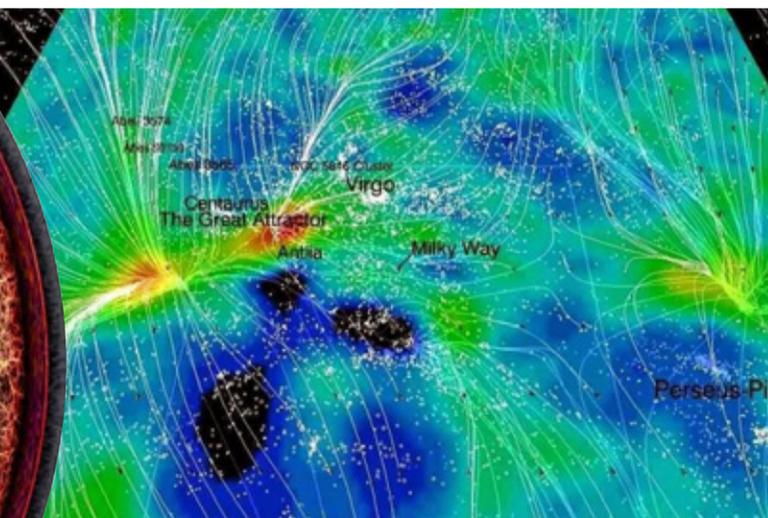
But there's something extra, too. It's that space itself is expanding. When you look out at a distant galaxy, and see that galaxy is redder than normal, the common way of thinking about it is that the galaxy is red because it's moving away from us, and hence the light is shifted to longer (redder) wavelengths the same way a siren moving away from you has its sound shifted to longer wavelengths and lower pitches. But that's still part of explanation #2; General Relativity adds that extra element in of space expanding.

And as the Universe expands, the fabric of space stretches, and those individual light waves in that space see their wavelengths stretch as well!

You might think it's impossible to tell these two effects apart. If all you can measure is the wavelength of the light as it reaches your eye, how can you tell whether it's due to motion or due to the fabric of space? As it turns out, there's a relationship that exists between the redshift (and hence the wavelength) and the observed brightness of the galaxy, which is a function of distance. In a non-expanding Uni-



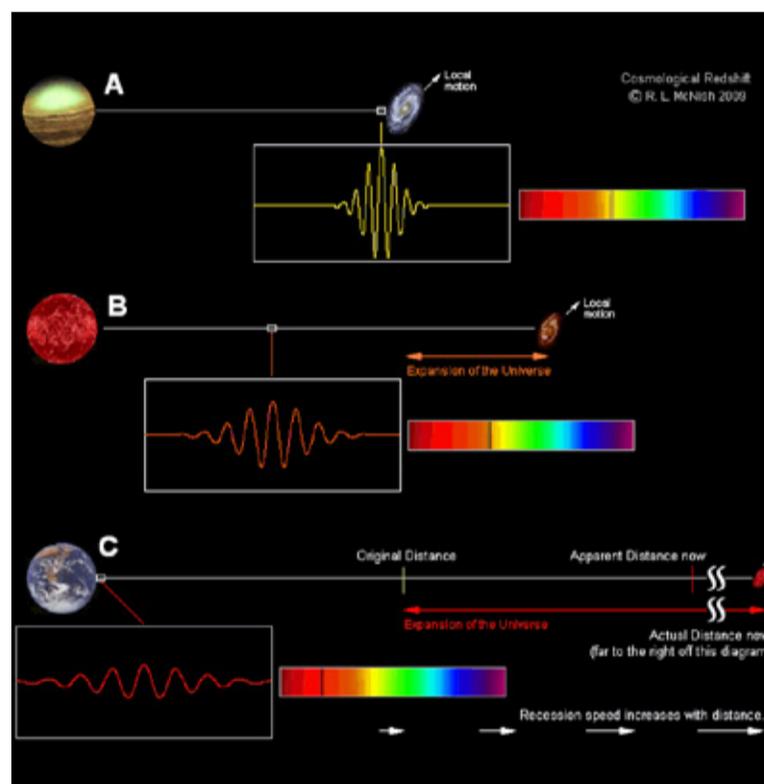
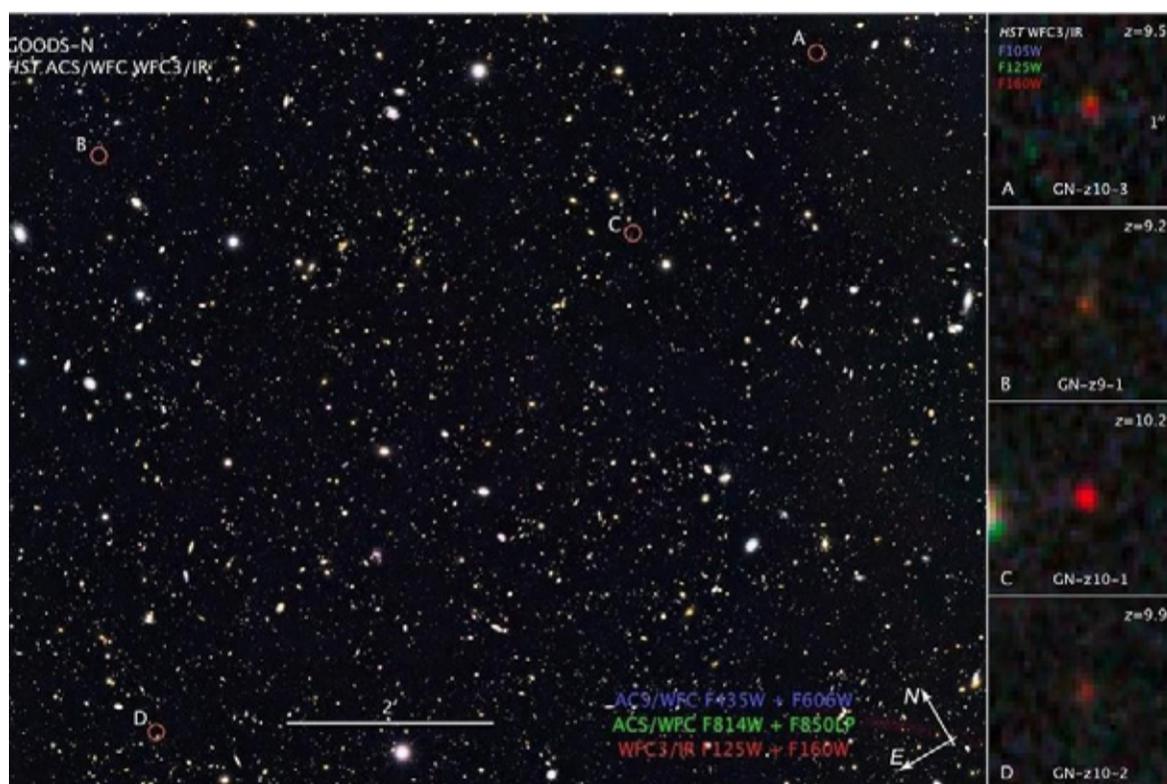
Artist's logarithmic scale conception of the observable universe. (Wikipedia user Pablo Carlos Budassi)



The "flows" of galaxies mapped out with the mass field nearby. (Helene M. Courtois, Daniel Pomaredé, R. Brent Tully, Yehuda Hoffman, Denis Courtois, from "Cosmography of the Local Universe" (2013))

BILLION YEARS OLD, BILLION LIGHT YEARS AWAY?

An image of the extremely distant Universe, where many of the galaxies are tens of billions of light years away. (NASA, ESA, R. Windhorst, S. Cohen, and M. Mechtley (ASU), R. O'Connell (UVa), P. McCarthy (Carnegie Obs), N. Hathi (UC Riverside), R. Ryan (UC Davis), & H. Yan (tOSU))



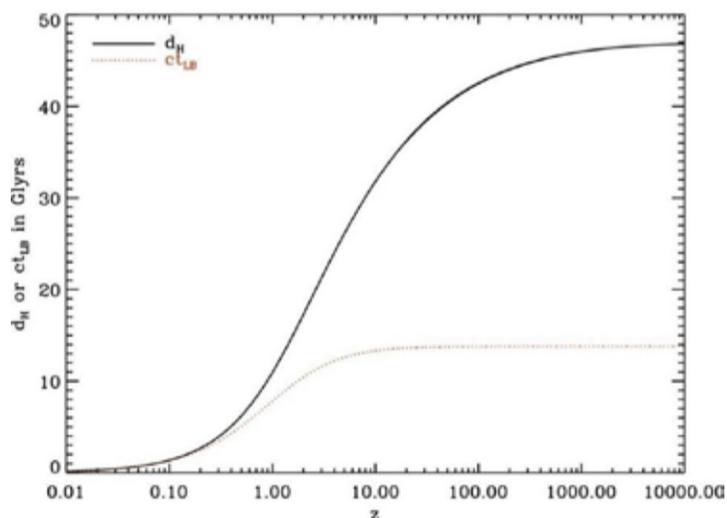
The GOODS-North survey, shown here, contains some of the most distant galaxies ever observed, a great many of which are (highlighted at right) over 30 billion light years away already. (NASA, ESA, and Z. Levay (STScI))

An illustration of how redshifts work in the expanding Universe. (Larry McNish of RASC Calgary Center, via <http://calgary.rasc.ca/redshift.htm>)

verse, as we covered earlier, the maximum distance we can observe is twice the age of the Universe in light years: 27.6 billion light years. But in the Universe we have today, we've already observed galaxies more distant than that!

So how far can we see in any direction? If the Universe had no dark energy in it at all, the farthest objects—stars, galaxies, the leftover glow from the Big Bang, etc.—would be limited to 41.4 billion light years. (The relativistic derivation of that figure, that $R = 3ct$, ought to be a familiar result to those who took General Relativity in graduate school.) But in a Universe with dark energy, that gets pushed out to an even greater number: 46 billion light years for the observed dark energy our cosmos possesses.

Put that all together, and this means the distance we can see in the Universe, from one distant end to the other, is 92 billion light

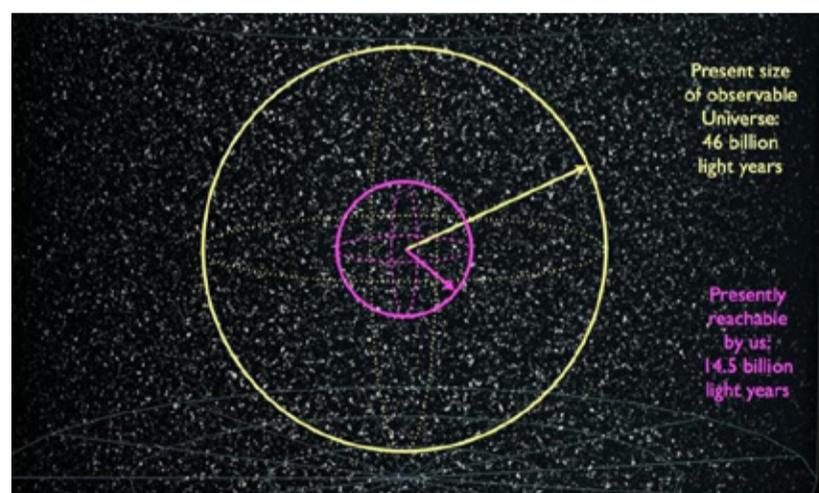


Special relativity (dotted) and general relativity (solid) predictions for distances in the expanding Universe. Definitely, only GR's predictions match what we observe. (Wikimedia Commons user Redshiftimprove)

years across. And don't forget: it's continuing to expand! If we left today at the speed of light, we could only reach about a third of the way across it: approximately 3% of its volume. In other words, due to the Universe's expansion and the

presence of dark energy, 97% of the observable Universe is already unreachable, even if we left today at the speed of light.

And so 92 billion light years might seem like a large number for a 13.8 billion year old Uni-



The size of our visible Universe (yellow), along with the amount we can reach (magenta). (E. Siegel, based on work by Wikimedia Commons users Azcolvin 429 and Frédéric MICHEL)

verse, but it's the right number for the Universe we have today, full of matter, radiation, dark energy, and obeying the laws of General Relativity. The fact that space itself is expanding, and that new space is constantly getting

created in between the bound galaxies, groups and clusters in the cosmos, is how the Universe got to be as big as it is to our eyes. Given what's in it, what governs it and how it came to be, it couldn't have turned out.



BONO PARTNERS WITH MONSANTO TO DESTROY AFRICAN AGRICULTURE WITH GMOS

As his career continues to free fall into total irrelevance, pop star "Bono" of the rock group U2 has announced his support for a U.S.-backed plan to rape and pillage Africa by stealing its land and agricultural systems and replacing them with corporate-owned GMOs (genetically-modified organisms) and chemicals.

At the recent G8 Summit held at Camp David in Maryland, the Obama regime met with private industry leaders to announce the launch of the "New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition," a

thinly-veiled Green Revolution 2.0 that aims to uproot autonomous family farming systems throughout Africa and replace them with toxic monoculture systems controlled by multinational corporations like Monsanto.

The deceptively titled scheme, which investigative journalist Rady Ananda describes as "a euphemism for monocultured, genetically modified crops and toxic agrochemicals aimed at making poor farmers debt slaves to corporations, while destroying the ecosphere for profit," follows the usual script – all those

poor African people need American corporations to take control of their lives so they can be healthy and prosperous.

It is a tired mantra that, upon closer look, is easily exposed as a complete sham to both exploit the vulnerable for obscene profits and seize control over the food supply. And this overtly evil agenda is one that Bono apparently believes is good, at least for the American interests that are slithering their way into Africa under the guise of helping the poor.

"They're future consumers for the United States," stated Bono during a 2012 interview with MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports, referring to the people of Africa who have yet to be assimilated into the beast system. "The president is talking business. This is good. It's a whole new development paradigm today. The old donor/recipient relationship... it's over."

Africa says NO to agricultural genocide being foisted by US

Africa has long been a target of perverse American exploitation, with its rich diversity of minerals, gems and precious metals, a.k.a. lots of dollar signs for greedy mega-corporations. It is only natural, then, that this insatiable lust for filthy lucre extend to food and agriculture as well, much like it already has in the U.S. where GMOs and corporate monoculture rule the day.

Never mind that the African people are vehemently opposed to having their agricultural heritage stolen from them by U.S. interests. The African Civil Society Organizations recently had this to say about the so-called "public private partnerships" being established to eliminate African sovereignty over its own food supply:

"We request that: – governments, FAO, the G8, the World Bank and the GAFSP [Global Agriculture and Food

Security Program] reconsider their promotion of Public/Private Partnerships which, as they are now conceived, are not suitable instruments to support the family farms which are the very basis of African food security and sovereignty."

There's really no other way to interpret this than Africa telling the U.S. and its corporate masters across the globe to shove it and stay out of their land.

The first Green Revolution was an absolute failure, and this second proposed one will be even worse. Nothing about the plan benefits ordinary farmers or citizens of Africa – it is all about enriching multinational corporations under the guise of humanitarian aid.

"All these systems are extremely tenuous, vulnerable, not robust, not resilient," explains a report by Volatility about the nature of corporate agriculture. "They're all guaranteed to collapse. Hermetic monoculture, and industrial agriculture as such, is one big hothouse flower which requires perfect conditions to survive."

U2...or the saviour of mankind?

Paul David Hewson, OL (born 10 May 1960), known by his stage name Bono is an Irish singer-songwriter, musician, venture capitalist, businessman, and philanthropist.[1] He is best known as the lead vocalist and primary lyricist of rock band U2.

The career of the band U2 were on the slide before the live aid event saw them rocket up the charts. Paul Hewson saw this as a good opportunity to forge a and boost his business.

It now emerges that the last four years of Julian Assange's effective imprisonment in the Ecuadorean embassy in London have been entirely unnecessary. In fact, they depended on a legal charade.

Behind the scenes, Sweden wanted to drop the extradition case against Assange back in 2013. Why was this not made public? Because Britain persuaded Sweden to pretend that they still wished to pursue the case.

In other words, for more than four years Assange has been holed up in a tiny room, policed at great cost to British taxpayers, not because of any allegations in Sweden but because the British authorities wanted him to remain there. On what possible grounds could that be, one has to wonder? Might it have something to do with his work as the head of Wikileaks, publishing information from whistleblowers that has severely embarrassed the United States and the UK.

In fact, Assange should have walked free years ago if this was really about an investigation - a sham one at that - into an alleged sexual assault in Sweden. Instead, as Assange has long warned, there is a very different agenda at work: efforts to extradite

him onwards to the US, where he could be locked away for good. That was why UN experts argued two years ago that he was being "arbitrarily detained" - for political crimes - not unlike the situation of dissidents in other parts of the world that win the support of western liberals and leftists.

According to a new, limited release of emails between officials, the Swedish director of public prosecutions, Marianne Ny, wrote to Britain's Crown Prosecution Service on 18 October 2013, warning that Swedish law would not allow the case for extradition to be continued. This was, remember, after Sweden had repeatedly failed to take up an offer from Assange to interview him in London, as had happened in 44 other extradition cases between Sweden and Britain.

Ny wrote to the CPS: "We have found us to be obliged to lift the detention order ... and to withdraw the European arrest warrant. If so this should be done in a couple of weeks. This would affect not only us but you too in a significant way."

Three days later, suggesting that legal concerns were far from anyone's mind, she emailed the CPS again: "I am sorry this came as a [bad] surprise... I hope I didn't ruin your weekend."

In a similar vein, proving that this was about politics, not the law, the chief CPS lawyer handling the case in the UK, had earlier written to the Swedish prosecutors: "Don't you dare get cold feet!!!"

In December 2013, the unnamed CPS lawyer wrote again to Ny: "I do not consider costs are a relevant factor in this matter." This was at a time when it had been revealed that the policing of Assange's detention in the embassy had at that point cost Britain £3.8 million. In another email from the CPS, it was noted: "Please do not think this case is being dealt with as just another extradition."

These are only fragments of the email correspondence, after most of it was destroyed by the CPS against its own protocols. The deletions appear to have been carried out to avoid releasing the electronic files to a tribunal that has been considering a freedom of information request.

Other surviving emails, according to a Guardian report last year, have shown that the CPS "advised the Swedes in 2010 or 2011 not to visit London to interview Assange. An interview at that time could have prevented the long-running embassy standoff."

Assange is still holed up in the embassy, at great risk to his physical and mental health, even though last year Sweden formally dropped an investigation that in reality it had not



JULIAN PAUL ASSANGE

actually been pursuing for more than four years.

Now the UK (read US) authorities have a new, even less credible pretext for continuing to hold Assange: because he "skipped bail". Apparently the price he should pay for this relatively minor infraction is more than five years of confinement.

London magistrates are due to consider on Tuesday the arguments of Assange's lawyers that he should be freed and that after so many years the continuing enforcement of the arrest

warrant is disproportionate. Given the blurring of legal and political considerations in this case, don't hold your breath that Assange will finally get a fair hearing.

Remember too that, according to the UK Foreign Office, Ecuador recently notified it that Assange had received diplomatic status following his successful application for Ecuadorean citizenship.

As former British ambassador Craig Murray has explained, the UK has no choice but to accept Assange's

diplomatic immunity. The most it can do is insist that he leave the country - something that Assange and Ecuador presumably each desire. And yet the UK continues to ignore its obligation to allow Assange his freedom to leave. So far there has been zero debate in the British corporate media about this fundamental violation of his rights.

One has to wonder at what point will most people realise that this is - and always was - political persecution masquerading as law enforcement.

Julian Paul Assange born 3 July 1971) is an Australian computer programmer and the editor of WikiLeaks. Assange founded WikiLeaks in 2006, but came to international attention in 2010, when WikiLeaks published a series of leaks provided by Chelsea Manning. These leaks included the Collateral Murder video, the Afghanistan war logs (July 2010), the Iraq war logs (October 2010), and CableGate (November 2010). Following the 2010 leaks, the federal government of the United States launched a criminal investigation into WikiLeaks and asked allied nations for assistance

In November 2010, Sweden issued an international arrest warrant for Assange. He had been questioned there months earlier over allegations of sexual assault and rape. Assange continued to deny the allegations, and expressed concern that he would be extradited from Sweden to the United States because of his perceived role in publishing secret American documents

Sweden has dropped all charges against him but Assange still remains trapped in fear of his life.

Did the judge who refused to withdraw Julian Assange's arrest warrant labour under a gigantic conflict of interest?

"I find arrest is a proportionate response." That was the judgement delivered in court last Tuesday by Judge Emma Arbuthnot, presiding over the case brought to court by Julian Assange's lawyers. Their argument had been that the warrant for his arrest ought to be withdrawn because arresting him (after the extradition request from Sweden had been rescinded) "was no longer proportionate or in the public interest".

The elephant in the room is, of course, the fact that the whole affair

was always about the thinly veiled US plan to apprehend Julian, throw him into the type of unfathomable cell in which Chelsea Manning was incarcerated for 18 months, and deny him any opportunity to defend himself from ludicrous spying charges. Given that both sides of US politics have confirmed that this is indeed their intention (a rare occasion when Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have agreed), it was quite interesting to read Judge Arbuthnot's response:

"I accept that Mr Assange had expressed fears of being returned to the United States from a very early stage in the Swedish extradition proceedings but, absent any

evidence from Mr Assange on oath, I do not find that Mr Assange's fears were reasonable."

As remarkably circular statements come, this is truly extraordinary: Judge Arbuthnot is dismissing as unreasonable Julian's fears that if he were to exit the Ecuadorean Embassy in London to be arrested by police he would be extradited to the US before being thrown into the US supermax, Guantanamo-like, system. And why did she dismiss his fears? Because Julian did not step out of the Ecuadorean Embassy and into her court to express them!

Now, of course, I am no lawyer and most certainly have no expertise, or right, to pass judgement on

the good judge - except to state my puzzlement at the logicity - or otherwise - of her verdict. However, there is a serious matter on which all of us, who were observing with interest this case, have a duty to bring to the fore. It is a matter that concerns a potentially mind boggling conflict of interest afflicting Judge Arbuthnot.

If my sources are correct (and I do stress this if), Judge Arbuthnot is the wife of Lord Arbuthnot, former minister of defence, until recently former chairman of the defence committee, director of an outfit known as SC Strategy (owned by the former head of MI6 and co-directed by another head of MI6) and,

last but not least, on the advisory board of Thales - one of the largest arms manufacturers and dealers and, crucially, a company associated with corrupt deals whose role has often been exposed by WikiLeaks.

The point here is simplicity personified: If the above is correct, a gigantic conflict of interest arises that should have compelled Judge Arbuthnot to have recused herself from this hearing. The fact that she did not (assuming that the above information is correct), is a blot on British justice and a setback for the notion of English fair play. An explanation from the judge herself and the courts would be very welcome.

The government's 'roll out' of Universal Credit continues and has already reached most areas of the country, with a few areas still to come. If you want to know whether UC affects your area yet, follow this link to check.

<https://ucpostcode.entitledto.co.uk/ucdate>

It's likely that all of us, if not affected directly, will know someone affected by the government switch to Universal Credit (UC). Labour has campaigned hard over recent months, calling for the Conservative government to 'fix' some of the worst aspects of UC before continuing the roll out. Whilst in some areas the launch dates have been put back (for example Exeter is now postponed until September 2018, in most of the country the roll out is already happening now. We therefore thought it might be helpful to give a quick overview of what it's all about.

UC, whose idea was it?

UC was created by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat coalition led by David Cameron and Nick Clegg, so if you hear any Lib Dems (not that there are many anymore) whinging about UC, gently remind them that without the Lib Dems it wouldn't be happening. UC was originally announced at the Tory conference in 2010 by Iain Duncan Smith (remember him?) and he said it would bring "simplicity and fairness" to the benefit system. More of that later!

UC, what is it?

UC is a new benefit for working age people that replaces a number of other benefits. It is claimed online and there will be one monthly payment. The government think that this makes being on benefit feel the same as being in work. Of course, that's because none of the people behind this have much (if any) experience of being on a zero hours contract, on national minimum wage and being paid weekly. So, if you are just about getting by and suddenly find that your income has dipped dramatically or even dried up, then the first thing you'll find is that you get no money at all for several weeks. So, more people will be heading to the foodbanks then!

UC, what does it replace?

UC replaces
Income Support
Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
Housing Benefit
Child Tax Credit
Working Tax Credit
Who does UC affect?

Eventually UC will affect everyone of working age who needs help to pay the bills. Initially though it will only affect people who make new claims, or who have a 'change of circumstances'. Once the initial roll out is complete, people claiming 'legacy' benefits will be migrated across to the new benefit on a rolling program. According to the government this will start in 2019 and be complete in 2022, a full TWELVE YEARS after they started the program.

As a long-standing housing professional I am already aware of many cases where private landlords who used to be happy to accept housing benefit claimants, are starting to exclude people on UC. Unless this system is fixed, then over time anyone who pays rent and needs financial help is likely to find their situation made worse by the introduction of UC.

I'm in work so it won't affect me, will it?

If you are in work and need to claim any benefit, such as money to



help you pay the rent (currently housing benefit), or money to take care of your children (currently child tax credit), then yes it affects you too.

So, what's the difference?

For the first time, UC means that even people in work can be sanctioned. For example, if you can't prove that you're doing enough to find a job on more hours or higher pay. Many commentators and journalists have described this aspect of UC as "punishing the working poor" and with good reason.

UC, what if you are self-employed?

If you have run your own business you will have to have records, such as a business plan, invoices and receipts. Your UC payment will be based on your actual earnings if you have been running your business for less than 12 months. This is called a 'start-up period'. If you have been running your business for more than 12 months the DWP will assume you earn at least an amount called the 'minimum income floor'. This is usually 35 times

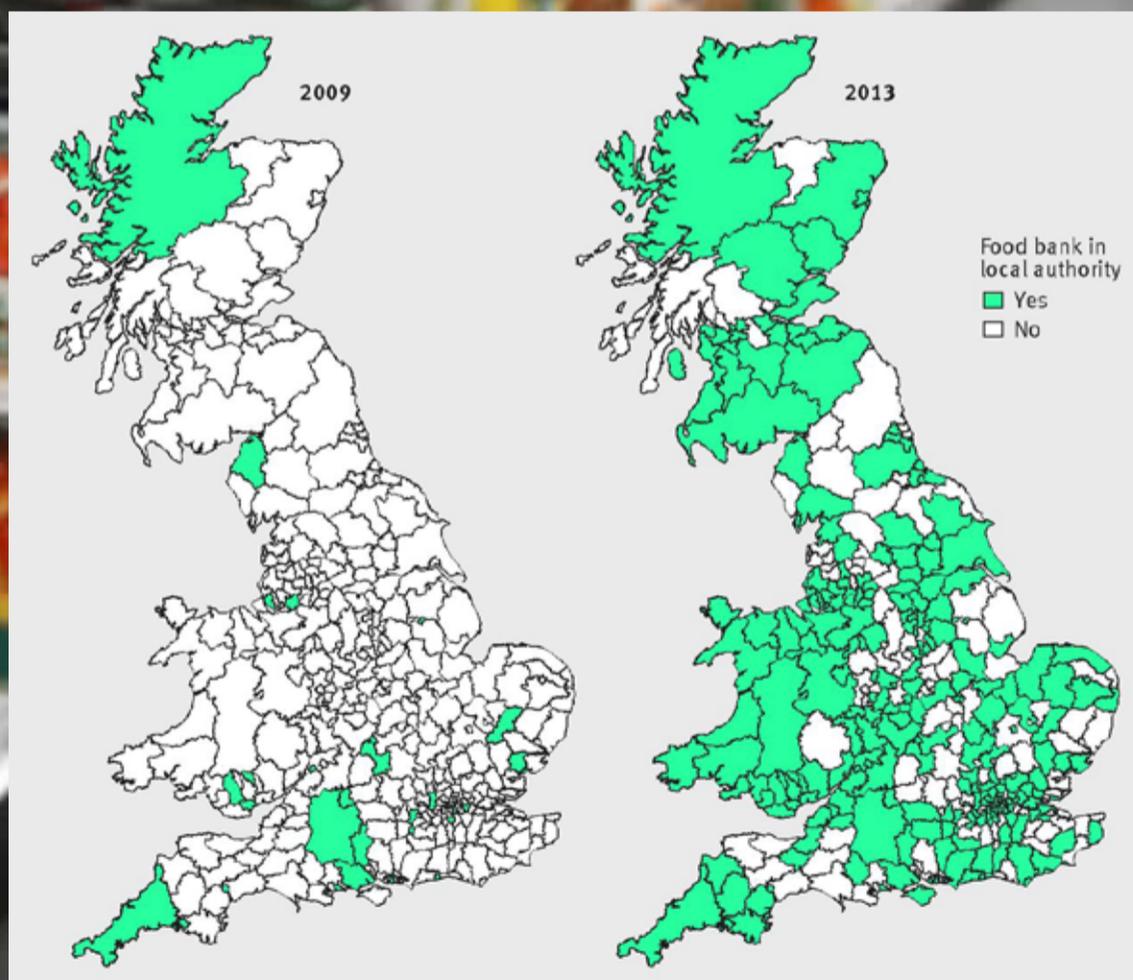
the national minimum wage, minus an amount for tax and NI. Because of this, some people will find though that they are being assessed as having a bigger income than they are actually getting and struggle to make ends meet as a consequence. Worse still, if your income goes up your benefit goes down, but if your income goes down, UC may not be able to make up the difference.

Who will it hurt?

Anyone who is only just getting

by, has no savings and suddenly finds their income disappearing, is in deep trouble. UC has been set up with a built-in delay period of six weeks until you get paid, which the government since agreed to reduce to five weeks. For many that means getting into rent arrears and even struggling to feed their children. UC will affect the self-employed, people on low pay, people in insecure jobs and those who are suddenly affected by misfortune. Labour be-

WHY UNIVERSAL CREDIT IS BAD NEWS



believes that UC is a bad system, made worse by the government failing to deal with problems that have been identified. Labour has consistently called for the roll out to be halted, whilst efforts are made to fix the worst problems. Unfortunately, and despite winning some concessions, we have a runaway government that appears unable to manage anything effectively.

What about vulnerable people?

As with pretty much everything

this government does, vulnerable people always seem to bear the brunt. The grim news is that almost 500,000 disabled people, including 100,000 children, will lose up to £2,000 a year (in some cases potentially even more) as a result of the switch to UC. Most of these will initially be unaware as for the time being existing claims will still be getting 'legacy benefits'. However not only will time eventually catch up with them, but an innocuous event

such as moving house, could suddenly cause them a dramatic drop in income.

A further twist is that unlike existing benefits, where a couple can both claim different benefits, UC can only be claimed and paid to one person. Many experts in domestic abuse fear that this could make it far harder for victims to flee, as many will have no access to money and will be wholly controlled by their abuser.

Help! I think I need advice.

We cannot make this go away and we can't fix it without driving the Conservatives out of office. However, there is help and advice out there.

<https://www.entitledto.co.uk/>
<https://www.moneyadvicecentre.org.uk/en>
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

If you need help and advice, then use one of these links. Also, if you are unable to pay your rent and fall into arrears, then you need to deal with that

as quickly as possible. The Citizens Advice Bureau (see above) may be able to help. Also, you may try Shelter, who have offices in many areas.

http://england.shelter.org.uk/get_advice/advice_services_directory/devon

This summary was originally produced by Kevin Neil for Labour Party members in Plymouth. Please feel free to share with any friends and neighbours who this might be relevant to.

By Gillian Davies 18/02/2018

The Best Year and Worst Year of my life! A year I learned so much about life and people, a year that changed me irrevocably.

I would like to write my story of that year, a miner's wife with two small children, however, I cannot. All that is left is the emotions, with small tableaux of memories attached, around them. Like an old, abandoned jigsaw with many pieces missing.

I was totally behind the strike. My husband was a 'face worker' (at Park Mill, Clayton West). He earned good money for a working class man, earned being the operative word. It was a dangerous job and he often came home injured with cuts and bruises, stitches in his head or bandages on his legs. However, he was always at work the next shift whatever his injuries! I used to have nightmares about him being seriously injured or even killed at work.

The over whelming emotions throughout that year was mainly of hurt and anger. Up to March 1984 I had, had a very happy life, a loving family, no tragedies; I'd never had a lot, but had never been without anything. Then all of a sudden I, WE my family, were being vilified by the media. Some of the headlines in the newspapers were heart breaking, "Let Them Eat Grass", is the one that has stuck in my mind! I was deeply hurt and shocked, that these men who worked so hard and put their lives on the line every day, were being made to look like greedy, grasping enemies of the state, instead of men, fighting for their jobs and their communities.

I 'hated' Thatcher with a vengeance. I have never hated anyone before or since! It obviously ran deep because I am ashamed to say that when she died a couple of years ago, I felt Joy! That worried me! So yes that year I learned what it felt like to be an out-cast of our society: Black, Pakki, Jew,

Queer, Prozzie, Miner!!! We need scapegoats don't we!

There were only six mining families in our village. I always felt we were really lucky to not live in a mining village at this time. Every second of every day, the strike overshadowed everything. Families torn apart, the picket lines and the scabs. Brothers fighting brothers, Fathers and sons separated by their desperate decisions.

One day every week, (Tuesday ?) I would go (to Skelmanthorpe ?) to pick up 6 food parcels and deliver them to the other families in our village. Sometimes I would give a hand to pack some up but I was rarely needed. Solidarity and togetherness are what I remember from those experiences.

Then was the time I needed winter coats for the kids. I was told I would be able to get some from Kirklees all I had to do was apply. So I did! The children got a navy blue Parka each, for which I was very grateful. But I felt ashamed, going cap in hand for handouts to the work house, was what it felt like!

One day about half way through the strike, someone knocked on our door. I went to answer it and there stood a person who I knew, but not very well. He had a big box of groceries in his hands. He just gave them to me and walked back up the drive. I wept and wept. The kindness he had shown was over whelming. It was sorely needed and I will never forget them for that.

Other kindnesses occurred. I once

THE MINER'S STRIKE 84/85



found an envelope with my name on, at the back of the church I went to most Sundays. Inside was a ten pound note. Not a small amount in those days! I never found out who left it there for me, but again the thought behind it as much as the money was very welcome.

A pub in Halifax threw a Christmas party for Miner's Children. My two loved it! Sandwiches, Jelly and ice-cream, games and a present from Santa. But again it was the thought behind it that kept me going.

I haven't mentioned my husband. He was very quiet, spent time with the children and kept himself to himself. I knew it was extremely hard for him. He was a worker and it affected his confidence and self-esteem. A week before the strike finished, my husband went back to work! I understood why, however, that was the beginning of the end for us because I just could not forgive him for that!

Ten years later we were divorced!

Malala Yousafzai's for human rights in Pakistan has been recognised world wide, she is the future. However Pakistan, and the world, lost a tenacious fighter for human rights and democracy on February 11th. this year when Asma Jilani Jehangir died.

Jahangir was born in January 1952 into middle class Pashtun family. Her mother was one of few Muslim women to receive higher education and ran her own clothing business. Her father, Malik, was a civil servant, before entering politics when he retired, but frequently fell foul of repressive dictatorships. He was imprisoned on several occasions for his outspoken views, which included denouncing the Pakistani government for genocide during their military action in what is now Bangladesh.

Jehangir inherited her parent's concern for human rights, even at school getting in trouble for speaking her mind. She became a lawyer getting her law degree in 1978, and her Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from Punjab University.

Her legal work became devoted, in the main, to helping the poor and the downtrodden, and particularly women. No group were victimised more than women who were often treated as possessions who should not question and should not think. A few years earlier President Zia ul-Haq under military rule had brought in severe hudood punishments (extreme interpretation of Sharia law). She helped girls raped by their bosses, facing flogging for fornication, not only defending them but later setting up a shelter for them. If she missed a call to her office she would always return it as often she was the only person in the country victims thought they could turn to in need.

In 1980, Jahangir and her sister, Hina Jilani, got together with fellow



activists and lawyers to form the first law firm established by women in Pakistan. They also formed the Women's Action Forum (WAF), a group campaigning against Pakistan's discriminatory legislation, most notably against the Proposed Law of Evidence, where the value of a woman's testimony was reduced to half that of a man's testimony. Later in 1986, the sisters set up the first free legal aid centre in Pakistan.

Jahangir was a proponent of protecting the rights of persecuted religious minorities in Pakistan and spoke out against forced conversions. She was also an active opponent of child labour and capital punishment: "It would be hypocrisy to defend laws I don't believe in, like capital punishment, the blasphemy law and laws against women and in favour of child labour." Asma Jahangir served as the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial Executions from 1998 to 2004, and as the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief from 2004 to 2010.

There was a price to pay for speaking out. Particularly after defending a 14-year-old Christian boy, accused of blasphemy, ultimately winning the case in 1995. A mob at the High Court vandalised her car, assaulted her and her driver. Jahangir and her family have been attacked, taken hostage, had their home broken into and received death threats ever since, but she continued her battle for justice.

In the mid-1980s, the Zia-ul-Haq-appointed Parliament passed a resolution claiming that Jahangir had blasphemed and she should be sentenced to death. She was found not guilty of blasphemy.

In May 2005 Jahangir tried to hold a symbolic mixed-gender marathon in Lahore to raise awareness about violence against women. The radical Islamist alliance Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) armed with firearms, batons and Molotov cocktails, violently opposed the race. Jahangir received especially rough treatment from local police and intelligence agents, who began to strip off her top in public but lot of people tried to cover her up and used safety pins to preserve her modesty. Police had been under orders to humiliate her and photograph her to add to her disgrace. She was beaten along with other participants.

On 5 November 2007 over 500 lawyers, opposition politicians and human rights activists were arrested, including Asma Jahangir. In an e-mail from her house arrest, where she has been placed for 90 days, Ms Jahangir regretted that General Musharraf had 'lost his marbles'.

She continued to her death from a stroke her fight for justice, women's rights, religious tolerance, worker's rights and democracy worldwide, but especially in Pakistan. She believed Pakistan had to reform because it "cannot live in isolation. We cannot remain shackled while other women progress."

Her work and bravery have been recognised world wide with too many awards to list. Tributes have poured in for this diminutive, brave fighter for justice, including the current prime minister of Pakistan, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, who lauded her "immense contributions towards upholding rule of law, democracy and safeguarding human rights".

WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE ASMA JILANI JAHANGIR

By K. J. TREVOR

What's In A Name?

I'm not one for labels; each person affected by a period of poor mental health is always dealing with more than a one or two word diagnosis. The language of mental health is scattered with euphemistic and blurred meanings; Depression isn't just sad or melancholic; Anxious isn't nervous or on edge; Manic isn't excitable or over the top etc. It's almost like describing a broken leg as a 'Hopping Deficiency'. The clinical disorders are not the emotions the names conferred on it and the diagnosis and treatments can take a long time, as emotions and the words used to describe them can get in the way at times. So here we go with a year in the life of a Manic Depressive, current diagnosis 'Bipolar Type I' but may actually be 'Cyclic Depressive'.

What Goes Up.

Having previously suffered bouts of Depression, I had been taking Prozac (Fluoxetine) for a few years. I was, at this time, writing occasional articles and humour in various places including The Word and enjoying Labour activism, I was sociable and happy. I began to really struggle with sleep and increasingly drinking alcohol to knock myself down at night. This was the beginning of a 'High' or Manic Episode, but I was unaware of this, I was enjoying myself and dare I say it really happy. That's what it felt like on the inside, just happy and creative. From the outside I was becoming reckless, seriously overspending and increasingly aggressive. Family were confused and eventually, following a brief appointment with the GP, the Community Mental Health Team came round and before I knew it an Ambulance arrived. I felt completely in control, having a fun time and was self-medicated off my gourd.

Sectioned.

Bang! Shit just got real. Being legally detained for my own good, or for the protection of others. That's what it means. 15 Bedrooms shower rooms and toilets, a TV room and a Dining area. All other areas locked. Nights were bloody long and boring, days far worse, broken by visits to the Doctors room, a chat with the psychotherapist or an occasional spell in the enclosed courtyard or activity room for drawing etc. The routine of mealtimes and drug times broke up the time; I also had my mobile phone so I had Facebook to keep me 'connected'. The first few days were a blur as medications did their thing. Then I started to enjoy things, made pals with some of the other inmates (I mean patients) and I tried to set about converting them all to Corbynism with mixed results. At this point I was being treated with antipsychotic meds and taken off Prozac, which I now know can induce Mania with Alcohol. After about 10 days I was made 'Informal' and granted 'Leave' meaning I could go out for walks in the grounds and even to the Garden of Earthly Delights that was the local Londis shop. My new pals and I formed a small gang and the staff were also fantastic fun organising activities and simply talking to us. Simply talking being the thing I remembered most. My Hypomanic (more acceptable level of 'High') state meant my Section no longer applied and I requested to be discharged. Which I was, HURRAH.

Dont Believe The Hypo.

So there was I still not sleeping too well, but on new medication and discharged and I felt quite good but calmer than before. I was keeping busy, writing plenty of stuff for The Word and campaigning for Labour and Hope Not Hate in my spare time. I had the occasional meeting with the Community Mental Health Team but as I reported I was okay I was pretty much 'Back to normal'. Except I wasn't. And the CMHT were watching for the oftentimes sequel to the 'High'. What Goes Up Must Come Down. And it did a few months later.

Down, Down, Deeper On Down.

Yes Folks it was a biggy. I became more withdrawn, not enjoying the company of others and that word 'Anxiety' became more than a word and a feeling, and it became a symptom, a big one. The sense of unease grew and grew; from nagging thoughts to terrifying doubts and fears; from something that quickened the pulse prior to doing something to a full on sweat and breathlessness before doing that thing; to a complete inability to do that thing. The things this applied to became more and more numerous including answering the phone. This level of fear is exhausting and the lack of energy was shocking following the previous 'High'. Staying in bed seemed far more comforting than 'pushing' myself. Yep, this was the 'Down'. When suicidal thoughts became an everyday occurrence the Crisis Team visited me daily and the love of my wife and son brought me to the conclusion that a stay in Hospital was on the cards.

Cheer Up Whats The Worst That Could Happen

Unusually I was placed in the same Ward that I had been in 6 months earlier. There was a totally different feel to the place than the first time - more to do with my state of mind and this time I was to stay for over two months. Not a single bed was empty for longer than one night and patients were arriving from hundreds of miles away. There were a few members of staff who had left since my first visit and a few leaving dos. I was less inclined to make friends this time, but there were more patients with violent tendencies and even Prison inmates on the Ward. It certainly wasn't an oasis of calm, though the staff were fantastically supportive throughout, there was definitely less of the activities when there were patients needing permanent observation.

For my part the routines were the same, mealtimes and meds, broken by walks in the grounds and trips to the Wonderland of Londis for Ciggys and treats. I was thrilled when patients 'jumped the fence' and when one climbed onto the roof and the Police and Fire Engine arrived. I was less thrilled at being punched and kicked on a couple of occasions; again the staff were great and very supportive. One member of staff did tell me there had been separate wards in the past, whereby those needing a more restful environment would be separate from those Manic or aggressive ones. Having been at both poles, I can see that would have been beneficial.



DIARY OF



Phil Brown

This is a personal opinion. For Brevity I am going to Refer to "Trevor's" narrative.

I have recently retired as a Nurse .For 36 years i have worked in Mental Health settings and predominantly within the NHS. Some of this time has been within Adult Mental Health Nursing but much more recently within Child & Adolescent Mental Health Nursing [Camhs]. and some within Children and Young Peoples Services [Cyps].

Even as a Mental Health Senior Nursing Lecturer I have never taken an Expert Opinion nor aped the role of a Doctor.

Fundamentally contemporary Mental Health care has evolved to a Multidisciplinary Team approach to care with the Person at its core and commitment and a Research based best practice approach underpinning the aspiration of Excellence and not necessarily perfection in care.

Trevor's account is a Gemstone of a personal vignette of a persons journey through periods of Bipolar Disorder and of Psychosis.

For all of that he provides such a deeply personal account of his journey and his journal that it is unavoidable not to be moved .Not least by the intensity of the insight that he retains throughout both through the horns and vissicitudes of that disorder the significantly raised and dramatically lowered states towards deep depression and suicidality.

Without politicising this discourse I feel I Am safe ground to say readers and subscribers to the WORD share Common values of Compassion Fairness Loving Kindness and true Mindfulness .A Momentum towards ending suffering Injustice and not least Inequality.

Trevor's narrative shows us our own suffering and Mental Health sprains through the prisms of his suffering and how vulnerable he felt set against a dramatic fall in Service Provision cuts Austerity and an intent through Social Policy to fundamentally lower NHS Provision and here specifically Mental Health Care provision.

I do not see true "Parity of Esteem" arising this side of the next General Election between Adult General Nursing Care and Mental Health Care .Meanwhile it is clear that Trevor was Well met by the Multi disciplinary care team on his first Admission and that he fair and loyal to the staff in what he recalls on his second admission .

However...the Service had moved on by the occasion of his second admission and he was at risk .

We have to reflect the courage and forbearance as well as clear seeing and commitment Trevor has shown in giving us his insights and reflections as well as his resilience in progressing his disorder.

Modern Mental Health Care Systems given a fair wind ..level playing field and" Parity of Esteem" can ensure an effective and meaningful level of provision that enables we have a wholesome and Generative Society ...that genuinely cares and shows Compassion..and does not have callous Politicians weaponising the "Fear Factor" ..for political ends .

Trevor is to be admired for his Resilience Honesty and his enduring loyalty to the Doggedly determined and Professional NHS Staffs ...in this our Seventieth Birthday year.

F A M A N I A C

Now Theres A Shock

So, after various medications my little 'mood dip' didn't improve. The Doctors explained that certain medications weren't appropriate to treat the depressive symptoms as they may in fact induce another Mania. I then undertook a six week course of Electro Convulsive Therapy (ECT), that's right, high voltage electric shocks across the temples VOOOM. The treatment isn't that bad as you are given a General Anaesthetic and come round with a sore jaw a short while later. Like many hospital trusts these days the hospital I was in didn't have the equipment so twice-a-week me and a nurse from my ward would be transferred by ambulance the 30 miles to another hospital, I would be zapped, then we would return. Occasionally there would be another patient and carer in the Ambu-



lance with us.

Eventually settling on Prozac (That I was originally taking) And Lithium as a mood stabiliser I was discharged under the Crisis Team who visited or phoned daily for a couple of weeks then referred me as before Community Mental Health Team. This is the stage I am currently at. I have a named Care Coordinator, a Support Time Recovery Worker and am beginning a Bipolar Course.

Outside Inside

Now here is the point of this story. The treatments above happened over the course of more than one year, from the initial Mania and Sectioning to the starting of the Bipolar Course which I am told is 'Like Gold Dust'. In the intervening year it has been periods of Depression, mostly at home.

In that year Mental Health beds

have been cut by almost 20%. Presumably the patients like me, being brought to the Hospital from outside the area will increase, taking them far away from family and friends.

The number of staff leaving the Ward I was on, in the six months I observed, is not sustainable.

That 20% of patients will now be treated in the community, by Crisis Teams and CMHT teams.

My CMHT named contacts are to be re-structured shortly and as a result I may or may not have a named contact and may well not have their support in future.

Is treatment in the community really the best thing for 20% of those previously hospitalized?

In closing I would say that whether being 'Hopping Mad' or 'Clinically Hacked Off' the 1 in 4 of us who will have a period of poor mental health really do need a fully resourced Mental Health Care service as part of the NHS.

HOPE AND GOOD NEWS

France - Chinese companies thrown out of an arms fair in Paris when they were found to be selling illegal torture equipment. Amnesty pushed the EU to ban the promotion and display of such equipment at trade fairs.

Amnesty Spring 2018 Issue 196

Gambia - Government have said it will compensate the family of Ebriima Manneh who was 'disappeared' and killed in 2006

Amnesty Spring 2018 Issue 196

Greater Manchester - Mayor Andy Burnham has joined other politicians in switching to clean electricity as part of a green energy campaign. They are calling on residents to use the scheme and save money on bills. He hopes the GM Big Clean Switch Campaign will make Greater Manchester one of the leading green cities in Europe.

See bigcleanswitch.org/gm

Milan - Polluted Milan wants to pay citizens to keep their cars out of the city centre. In 2016, planners suggested rewarding people who leave their vehicles at home with public transport vouchers. Internet-connected dashboard devices would record a car's location. Each day it remains out of the city? The owner would receive a coupon to the value of a bus or train ticket.

Comment: Fancy that incentivising not punishing with congestion charges and parking fines! What next? Better, cheaper public transport?

Positive.News 16/02/18

Germany - Refugees in Germany are being trained as mental health counsellors to offer psychological support - from a listening ear to sharing coping skills - to asylum seekers with similar backgrounds.

A pilot project was launched by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in the city of Schweinfurt, Bavaria, in March 2017.

"Our impression was that the asylum seekers had huge mental health needs that no one cares about," said project coordinator and clinical psychologist Henrike Zellmann. "That is why we wanted to start a pilot project like this."

Positive.News 13/02/18

Kenya - The Supreme Court ruled mandatory death sentence unconstitutional, a vital step towards abolition.

Amnesty Spring 2018 Issue 196

Salford - For 18 months there has been a Poverty Truth Commission where people who have experienced hardship help those in power bring about positive change.

Actions include:

Care leavers exempt from Council Tax for two years.

White envelopes instead of brown which scare some people.

Drop-in centres to discuss payment plans rather than going down the route of letters, court summons and debt collection.

Plus: Seven new libraries opened.

Care worker's pay raised by 10.7%

Plans to get 8,000 hard to reach people on-line by 2020 which could save households money.

Investing £2million into a development company to kickstart social house building.

Big Issue North Issue 1218

USA - You have to keep your eyes wide open to find positive news from

the US but I spotted this in The Economist. Florida's governor, Rick Scott, has signed off a bill raising the state's legal age for ALL gun purchases from 18 to 21 and there is now a three day waiting period when buying weapons. This would have prevented the 19 year perpetrator of the massacre of 17 people at a school near Miami recently from buying his semi-automatic weapon. Let us hope and pray other State governors copy Florida's example.

UK - Draft regulations to protect NHS whistleblowers from discrimination when applying for a new job are being put into law. This is said to be part of the Government's drive to develop a culture of openness and transparency in the NHS.

Employers will now not lawfully be able to discriminate against job applicants who have raised concerns over patient safety. Any staff facing discrimination will get legal protection and NHS employers will face stiff penalties if complaints are upheld.

This changes have come about from a key recommendation in Sir Robert Francis' 'Freedom to Speak Up Review'.

We wait to see how effective this legislation will be. So in the interim there are many places for victims to seek help such as:

www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/employees.htm

UK - Funding has been given to create breakfast clubs in over a thousand extra schools in the most disadvantaged areas of the country. The money will come from the soft drinks levy. This move will supplement the i paper's 'Magic Breakfast appeal which raised enough to provide 500,000 healthy morning meals. Carmel McConnell from the paper stated that 'the evidence has been listened to. That schools have been recognised as the engine of social mobility'. She claims that in such schools those children benefiting from this support are now two months ahead in core subjects.

i paper 19/03/18

China appears to be "winning" its war on air pollution, making so much progress that life expectancy could rise by more than two years, according to a University of Chicago study. In a quote it says 'while the world's biggest polluter faces a long road to reach national and international air quality standards, the results "suggest the country is winning its war on pollution'

Based on daily data from more than 200 monitors across China from 2013 to 2017, the analysis found that cities have cut levels of PM 2.5 -- the tiny airborne particles considered most harmful to health, by an average of 32 percent in just four years. PM 2.5 can play a role in heart disease, stroke, and lung ailments such as emphysema and cancer.

University spokesman, Michael Greenstone, states 'We don't have a historical example of a country achieving such rapid reductions in air pollution.' He noted that 'it took the US a dozen years and a severe recession to attain similar improvements in air quality after it enacted its 1970 Clean Air Act'

Source: *Good News Network 19/03/18.*
<https://www.sunnyskyz.com/good-news>



By Robin Richardson

Given its debate online on one of our paper's discussion forums, once again I have been asked to lend my sub-par efforts at tackling the question "Is the phrase "Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned" true or sexist?"

Trying to duck the usual "who cares?", "lefties are too sensitive about language" and "transgender people don't exist" non-arguments others posted on this gender-based question, my initial thoughts were, as shallow as my knowledge was at that time and still is, that we must perhaps search deeper into the etymology and usual context of use of such language, and the minds of those making such utterances, to chart whether there is a primordial sexist bent to all this with regards to women of whatever stripe.

Beyond a perhaps related idea for the phrase coming from the avenging female Erinyes (or Furies, ironically) in Greek mythology another poster mentioned, we find the actual specific phrase has its first instance, not in Shakespeare as it is mostly misattributed, but in a play by William Congreve called "The Mourning Bride" in 1697. Congreve writes, "Heav'n has no rage

like love to hatred turn'd, nor Hell a fury, like a woman scorn'd." Knowing as I do of excessively literal ad dictionarium defenses of what a word means, which ignore how such language is ordinarily used in life and how this might reflect or influence the views, opinions, and prejudices of its users, I turned to Oxford Dictionaries, a place where descriptive not prescriptive language analysis happens, who mention that "A woman who has been rejected by a man can be ferociously angry and vindictive."

So therefore, would such a phrase manifest anywhere else but from users who might hold an image of a woman (be they cisgender or transgender) as vindictive and passive-aggressive when scorned or wronged? Given a high enough feeling of feeling wronged, aggressive strategies for all humans of all and indeed no gender identities are on the table out of a feeling of righteous anger and victim mentality. Then again, given a strong sociological and psychological observation about gender socialisation making either overt or passive aggression more or less acceptable related to expectations of gender (as reflected in American Psychological Association's Monitor On Psychology article "Anger Across The Gender Divide" by Melissa Dittmann), passive aggression

is a usual resort for women who have historically been coercively socialised into being inoffensive and facilitative.

Passive-aggressive means of conflict are probably much more damaging to an opponent than direct conflict; they take a while to be discovered, much less prepared for or damage limited from than an overt punch could be. These means are utilised when discovery or overt aggression can be punished harshly, thus necessitating covert means of enacting revenge or the nauseating yet often necessary idea of "teaching someone a lesson", fellow More Information Hypothesis fans. If a person is socialised or coerced into using those means above directly violent ones as my source seems to show happens with women, they could contribute to the "fury" part of the proverb in terms of their vivid effects on a person once they are discovered and their effects felt.

In my experience, men on the other hand seem to have no such restrictions, or they are overlooked, downplayed, or hand-waved as "boys will be boys" whenever these actions present their ugliness to the world. We know as political beings that none of this discussion is a touch on the regular murder, sexual assault, warfare, and physical violence that men might

be socialised into being an acceptable outlet for their own anger, and in this writer's mind, there certainly could be a double standard at play here, which implies sexism. Did the religious metaphysical concept of Hell have any fury like cisgender males Dylan Roof, Thomas Mair, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, or especially Eliot Rodger, scorned? Go online to The Everyday Sexism Project, or listen to feminist comrades or female friends in your own lives, telling how they have been called names and threatened, even hurt, for refusing a man's romantic advances, essentially scorning him from his perspective - talk about Congreve's love turned to hatred!

What hasn't been mentioned so far has been how transgender people fit into all this, as most may have been subject to gender socialisation that does not fit their own internal identity and may contribute to gender dysphoria in them. After transitioning to living in their preferred gender full time rather than their assigned one, either using gender confirmation surgery or not, would transgender women still utilise overt violent aggression due to her growing up being misperceived as a man, and would a transgender man still resort to tact and passive aggression leftover from inappropriate socialisation in his past? Obvi-

ously removing things from a cisgender-centric position won't just annoy anti-scientific transgender exclusionists; it also makes such analysis more complicated, especially coming from someone like me who is gender variant but not necessarily binary transgender who might not feel entitled to talk meaningfully or informedly about such issues.

To sum up analysis of this question and as to whether or not it is true or sexist, or maybe even both - consider Ludwig Wittgenstein's "language game", an attempt to get his students to consider the social rules behind the use of language in specialised contexts. If you're around, or in a society with, a group of people who actually believe this phrase is true, consider where exactly their views on gender based aggression might actually lie, and whether the rules of their social game will allow them to see any double standards between the binary genders!

ROBIN is a recovering toxic masculine nerd polymath from the UK. He likes socialised healthcare, pansexual free love, and attacking lack of critical thinking on all sectors of the political spectrum, home or away. He writes godawful keyboard clatterings for THE WORD.

51 YEARS OF PAUL MCCARTNEY

An Infestation of Beatles

writes Rio Pollaf, from his home where British jurisdiction cannot touch him.

The Fab Fourteen! Nobody can know for sure just how many Beatles there have been. Stu Sutcliffe the bass player, Pete Best the drummer, and Tony Sheridan the sometime lead singer.....

Add to those the guy who filled in for Ringo in 1964 when he was hospitalised with tonsillitis. Name of Jimmie Nicol and he played for just less than two weeks on part of a World Tour until the band's regular drummer was sufficiently recovered.

And Ringo himself, of course. Though a guy named Andy White recorded Love Me Do and PS I Love You because producer George Martin didn't think Ringo was up to it! Andy has insisted that he also played on Please Please Me.

But they've only ever had one lead guitar player, correct?

So who did that scintillating lead and solo to While My Guitar Gently Weeps? Turns out it was Eric Clapton, big friend of George and George's wife Patti. Lost count yet? Excluding Ringo, which it seems they did frequently, that's six extra Beatles - almost an Infestation!

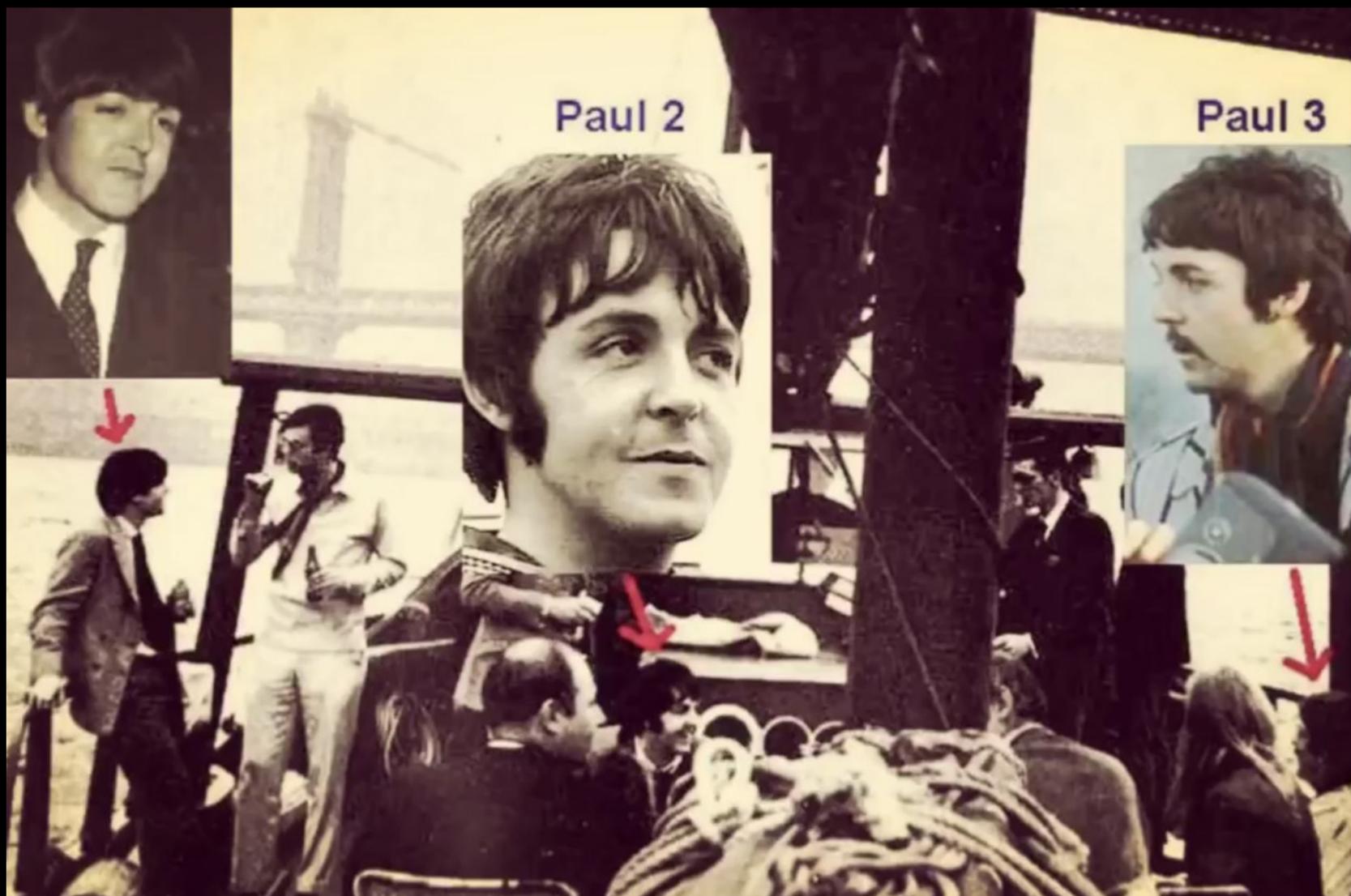
Billy Preston took a solo on Get Back - the first person outside the band to do so they claimed. Which given the work of Eric on the White Album, is complete nonsense. Add him and John-Paul-George-Ringo and that's eleven.

Photographs of Paul pre 1967 and post 1966 don't match, leading to the silly 'Paul is Dead' myths, but the simple facts are that:

- i. There were Beatles doubles (see the photo on the yacht) and
- ii. The 1966 and 1967 versions of



Billy Shepherd (above) was possibly the most talented musician in Beatle-age Liverpool. As a teenager he'd been a professional studio musician, backing many groups including his father's. He'd won a Paul lookalike contest before joining The Beatles early in '67. In August '68 this photo (right) was taken at a party on a yacht; how many 'Pauls' can you spot?



'Paul' have so many differences that they cannot possibly be the same person.

Clearly Paul McCartney wanted, or was wanted, out! and between Autumn of '66 and New Year '67 they did the swap. Pictures of his eyes, nose, ears, face shape and head shape are all over the Internet, but lesser known details such as his sudden lack of confidence on bass (looking at his fretting hand constantly) yet puzzlingly, massive super confidence on solo guitar, and drums, and piano, suggest he's not Paul at all but 'Billy' Shepherd, aka Billy Pepper of the Pepperpots, popular Merseyside band, whose first action on joining the Beatles as Paul's replacement was to turn the band into 'Sgt' Pepper and the Lonely Hearts Club Band!

Even last week when marching against guns in the USA, 'Paul' was still wearing his Sergeant's uniform top.

The new 'Paul's' song-writing style and quality dropped off too, only Fool On The Hill sounding like the old Paul - and this in the style of Things We Said Today. His acoustic guitar songs, though, were exceptional, Blackbird, Mother Nature's Son. Offerings to the whole band sound as much like John's as Paul's. Lady Madonna and Back in the USSR are very like John's Hey Bulldog. Paul would abandon bass as often as possible, the band took a decision no longer to play live, and Billy Shepherd and the band focused on studio recording,

with which he had always been more comfortable.

Hey Jude, often credited to Paul, was based on their collective memory of a tape they'd been sent years before by a band they'd forgotten and could no longer get in touch with. The song was unusable, but rehashed

by 'Paul' and made sufficiently different, it became 'his' signature hit, with him on piano! So are we up to twelve Beatles? Nope. We are not.

I'm suggesting that there were also two Johns. Photos show the broad faced boy with a straight 'Roman' nose giving way to a thin

facial individual with a hooked beak-like nose. But old photos also show a 'beakier' individual, which has led some observers to suppose that the 'other' aka Colin Unwin, still alive today, was the original John Lennon! For a while they co-existed.



There have been 'at least' three Pauls! Most of these were, to be fair, pre 1967, so for the past 51 years, there has been one Macca that we know and love. Real name William 'Billy Shears' Shepherd aka Camp-

bell. Or does this plethora of names give us a clue about earlier attempts to replace Paul?

Why didn't the band just say Paul's out and Billy's in? The answer is that this happened once before

when they were only famous in Liverpool and Hamburg with Pete Best leaving. The fans' reaction nearly broke them. To lose Paul now would kill the Beatles brand.

But how has this 'swap' got past everyone? Ask yourself how old you were 51 years ago. What were you doing? How well did you know 'Paul' in 1964, 65, 66? Those who knew kept silent.

For some video/film evidence, look up YouTube and just watch The Beatles. Consider how he seems to grow much taller in a few months, taller than lifts in his shoes can explain. Hear him say 'film' in 1966 but 'fillum' a year or two later. Look at his skin blemishes, the whorl of his hair at the crown of his head, his earlobes and the angles of his ears.

Most striking is footage of a man called John Halliday, living in Paul's childhood home, curating it for the National Trust, married to Paul's childhood sweetheart, and comparisons of his profile and full face to early Paul, and Paul the toddler/schoolboy.

CARTNEY (1967 – PRESENT)



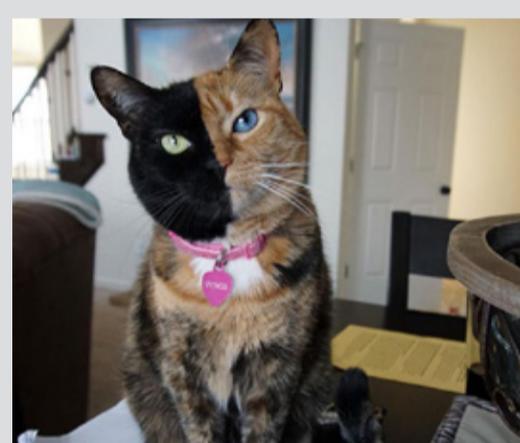
John Lennon



Longer,
More Convex
Noses



Hitler reincarnated as a cat.



DC Comics relaunch 'Eclipso' in feline form.



Theresa May in her 'Fields-of-Wheat' days, knew Boris Johnson when he was a socialist, attempting to get onto an all-women shortlist.



By David Lindsay

As snow and arthritis conspired to keep me worshipping in the basilica of my heart, I saw just how bad the Theresa May fanzines of Sunday morning television really were. The highlight was Michael Howard's provision of a tenor line to Nicky Morgan's Hallelujah Chorus in praise of May's speech on Friday.

Conservative Eurosceptics are a myth. No such person has sat in either House of Parliament since 2015's retirement of Sir Peter Tapsell, whose objections to the EU were substantially the same as Peter Shore's had been.

It pales into insignificance next to May's capitulation, which cannot have been anything else if Morgan supports it, but that Customs Union business was not Jeremy Corbyn's first offence. He initially appointed a Shadow Cabinet that was made up of people who ought to have been told in all frankness that they had just lost an election very heavily.

He allowed a free vote on Syria, and he whipped his front bench to abstain on Trident; if anything, it should have been a three-line whip on Syria, as on Iraq, and then a free vote on Trident. If Corbyn had done as much against a Labour council in Durham as I am very glad that he has done against a Labour council in Haringey, then the Teaching Assistants would have won.

Meanwhile, the liberal and right-wing media as having a high old time with the spectacle of "the Left at war" over gender self-identification. But that proposal itself has come from the Conservative Government.

As on the EU, Corbyn and May are both struggling with the parliamentary persistence of Tony Blair's potent but toxic, toxic but potent brew of the neoliberal economics that Thatcherism had become, of the Eurocommunist social policy that sought to enshrine in legislation the cultural changes that had wrought and been wrought by Thatcherism, and of the neoconservative foreign policy that a tiny but exceedingly well-connected section of American Trotskyism had produced.

Thatcherism could never have become anything other than neoliberalism, but the Conservative Right did not have to become Thatcherite, and much of it never did.



Throughout Margaret Thatcher's Premiership, whenever there was not a General Election on, the pages of *The Spectator* and of the *Times*, *Telegraph*, *Mail* and *Express* newspapers carried regular tirades against her Government by economic libertarians, by social conservatives, and by proponents of a foreign policy of realism, scepticism, self-interest, and so on. Since 1998, but especially since 2001, those last have arrived at a position that is practically indistinguishable from Corbyn's, so that many an article by Peter Osborne or Peter Hitchens would raise no eyebrows if it appeared

in *Counterfire* or the *Morning Star*.

Few Western European Communists became Eurocommunists, and even fewer did so in Britain or within British Communism's sphere of influence on the Labour Left and in the trade unions. Very few Trotskyists indeed became neoconservatives even in the United States, and almost none did so anywhere else.

In Britain, those who never went down either road have been having a good century, working with all manner of others to elect and re-elect Ken Livingstone as Mayor of London, to organise the biggest demonstration

in British history, to elect George Galloway at Bethnal Green and Bow (they were less prominent, but still there, at Bradford West), to organise the mass lobby that led to David Cameron's Commons defeat over Syria, to elect and re-elect Corbyn as Leader of the Labour Party, to deliver the votes that decided the EU referendum for Leave, and to give Corbyn's Labour the 10-point swing that deprived May of her overall majority.

Watch out for this year's Labour landslide at London's local elections, and then for the demonstrations against any State Visit by President Trump. The

Morning Star and *Counterfire* crowds stand on the cusp of key staff position in both 10 and 11 Downing Street.

But in the parallel universe of the Palace of Westminster, legions of Labourites, and all Conservatives, remain as devoted as ever to neoliberalism, to Eurocommunism, to neoconservatism, and to their European Union. While Jeremy Corbyn has to placate that tendency, or seems to think that he does, Theresa May is entirely a figure of it. That was how she became Prime Minister. And that is how she remains Prime Minister.

Who would make the best comedian if they decided on a career change, Trump or Bush Jnr?

I think I have made my mind up, but then my choice is purely subjective and you might differ. I liken George to American comedian with the same first name, George Burns, with his casual style. Trump is more reminiscent of the Australian comedian, Barrie Humphries, or rather his alter ego, Sir. Les Patterson.

If you disagree please supply your own list of great Trump jokes for the next edition.

What I love about George Bush Junior is that like many good comedians he 'pretended to be thick! It took us a long time in the UK to recognise his comic genius. However one of the 60's protest singers, Julie Felix recognised it when he was inaugurated. She told an audience in Shaw Playhouse, Oldham what a talented fool he was. To quote her "Not only has the most powerful



country in the world elected a megalomaniac as President, but he is thick". Most unfair because many of thought like George that Africa was a country. Comic genius!

Some of his jokes you have to think about then you will be in stitches.

1. 'I hope you leave here and say, "What did he say?"'

2. 'Let me put it to you bluntly. In a changing world, we want more people to have control over your own life.'

3. Non pc but brilliant: 'I'm honoured to shake the hand of a brave Iraqi citizen had his hand cut off by Saddam Hussein.'

4. 'We are still being challenged in Iraq and the reason why is a free Iraq will be a major defeat in the cause of freedom.'

5. 'I underestimated me.' (What's wrong with this spellcheck? It does not recognise this word!)

6. When I take action, I'm not going to fire a \$2 million missile at a \$10 empty tent and hit a camel in the butt. It's going to be decisive.' Beat that Donald.

7. 'I just want you to know that, when we talk about war, we're really talking about peace.'

8. 'I'm the master of low expectations.'

9. 'It's time for the human race to enter the solar system.'

10. 'The vast majority of our imports come from outside the country.'

11. 'It isn't pollution that's harming the environment. It's the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.'

12. 'Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.'



THE END OF MAIN STREAM MEDIA

How the circulation numbers compare (monthly, December 2017)

Daily Mirror: 581,877
Sunday Mirror: 493,069
Sunday People: 191,188
Daily Star: 391,509
Daily Star - Sunday: 239,853
Daily Express: 364,933
Sunday Express: 317,893

The owner of the Daily Mirror has agreed to buy the company behind titles including the Daily Express, the Daily Star and magazines such as OK!

Trinity Mirror is to pay £126.7m for the publishing assets of Northern & Shell, which is chaired by Richard Desmond.

Sale talks were announced in September, but a deal between the two has been on the cards for some time.

The sale brings to an end Mr Desmond's 18 years as a UK newspaper owner.

Northern & Shell's publishing assets include the Daily Express, Sunday Express, Daily Star and Daily Star Sunday, as well as three celebrity magazines, OK!, New! and Star.

Simon Fox, chief executive of Trinity Mirror, said: "Northern & Shell's titles have a large and loyal readership, a growing digital presence and a stable revenue mix and offer an excellent fit with Trinity Mirror."

Speaking to the BBC's Today programme, he said: "It's a very wise investment. We've had plenty of time to think about this carefully."

He said the deal would lead to cost savings, as the titles could pool their resources. "For example, [instead of] sending two reporters to a football game, we can send one." Trinity Mirror expects the deal to lead to savings of £20m a year.

Mr Fox pledged that the publications would retain their identities: "The Daily Express is not going to become left-wing and the Mirror is not going to become right-wing."

These people steal food from the poor

The £87,000 rise in funding allows MPs to enjoy five-course meals, wines and spirits at far cheaper prices than they could be bought in restaurants.

The Commons Commission said in June 2010 that £500,000 should be sliced from catering costs and bar prices should rise to those of high street pubs as part of a £12m cut to the Commons budget.

But in the Members Dining Room, MPs are served an artichoke and tomato salad with truffle dressing for £2.05, or a seared breast of pigeon with aubergine purée and spiced couscous for just £4.15.

A risotto of pea and broad bean with Golden Cross goat's cheese

costs £2.40, while MPs wishing to splash out on a char-grilled rib-eye steak with hand-cut chips and béarnaise sauce pay £7.80.

For pudding, they can enjoy a green tea and white chocolate brûlée for £2.05 or the cheese board for £3.10.

In the Terrace restaurant, a spinach, ricotta and sundried tomato pizza with a rocket salad costs £2.75, while at Moncrieff's restaurant Members can enjoy a roasted half spring chicken with stuffing for £2.95.

Afterwards, they can head to the Pugin Room bar, where a glass of malt whisky, Cointreau liqueur or Grand Marnier costs £2.55. Glasses



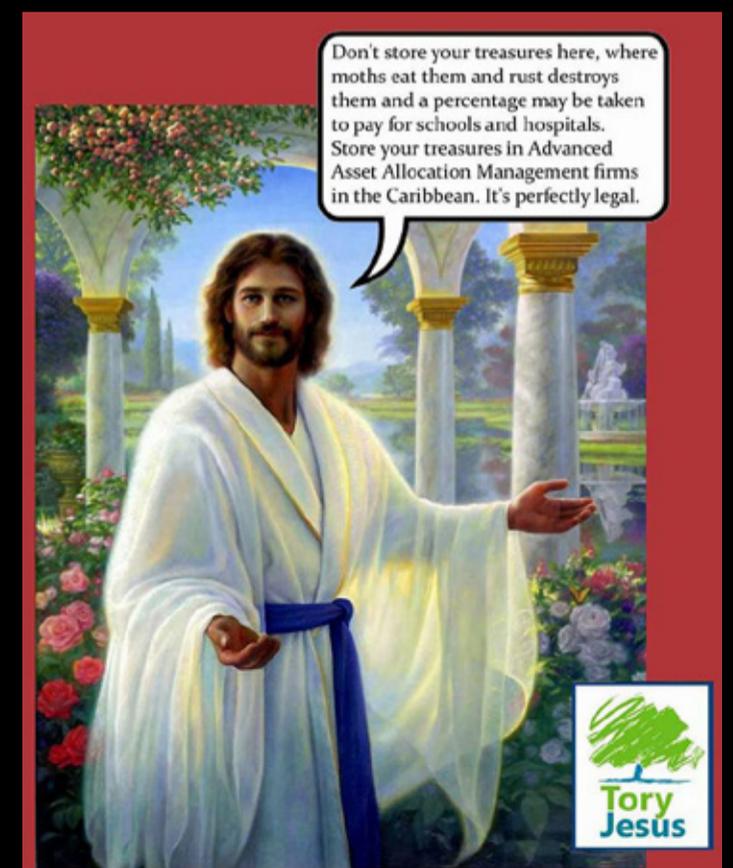
of 2009 Sauvignon Blanc or 2010 Merlot are £2.35.

A total of £1.33m was spent in the House of Commons bars in the year ending 31 March 2011, figures show.

An analysis of commons accounts reveals the size of the subsidy has increased despite MPs spending less of their own money on food compared to last year.

Sales in Parliament's 19 restaurants, nine bars and one coffee shop fell 8pc to £7.5 million in the financial year 2010/11. It means for every £10 an MP spent on lunch, the public contributed £7.60. The year before, the public contributed £6.90.

SATIRE



BREAKING NEWS

3 men are believed to have been stabbed in an apparent terror attack in London using this object.

Theresa May believes the Swiss army are behind it and will deport all swiss diplomats tomorrow and invade Switzerland on monday

CONFIRMED BOSS. HOW DO YOU WANT IT DONE? STABBING, GUNSHOT, SILENTLY WHILE HE SLEEPS WITH NO WITNESSES?

NO! I WANT YOU TO POISON HIM AND HIS DAUGHTER IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY WITH ONE OF OUR NERVE AGENTS SO EVERYONE BLAMES ME, GOT IT? GOOD.

- 1) Novichok. Russia definitely used it on UK soil.
- 2) Novichok. Russia probably used it on UK soil.
- 3) Novichok. Let's test samples to see if Russia used it on UK soil.
- 4) Might not be Novichok, but Russia probably used it.
- 5) Next week: fuck it. Corbyn's an anti-semite.

Medieval conservatives

the Lords worked hard to get where they are.

They shouldn't have to pay taxes to the king.

If they had more gold, then we would too, it's common sense.

No, no, children. Hush. We'll be fine. The free market will find a profitable solution to the problem of homelessness any day now.

HI, I'M JULIAN ASSANGE

I GIVE PRIVATE INFORMATION ON CORPORATIONS & GOV'T TO YOU FOR FREE AND THE MEDIA CALLS ME A CRIMINAL.

HI, I'M MARK ZUCKERBERG

I GIVE YOUR PRIVATE INFORMATION TO CORPORATIONS & GOV'T FOR MONEY AND THE MEDIA CALLED ME MAN OF THE YEAR.

A busy night at Stone Henge as workers move all the stones forward one hour...

The homelessness epidemic: Are the Tories doing enough to tackle the issue?



By Shariq Haidery

If you have been to Manchester you have likely seen the increased number of homeless people or "rough sleepers". This rising trend is not unique to either Manchester or the North West, in England the number of homeless people has risen by 2983 over the past 7 years according to official figures. This figure however is likely inaccurate because it is based off a single night in November where local authorities estimate the number. Some studies put the actual number of homeless people at 9000 and continue to expect the number to rise by three quarters over the next 10 years.

What is causing the problem?

In the past the most widespread reason cited for someone's homelessness used to be due to personal circumstance and issues in their lives. The main reason cited now however is being pushed out of rented accommodation due to the rising price of rent. For example in London alone there has been an increase of 18% where people say high rent is the main cause of their homelessness. In addition to this austerity has caused cuts to housing benefits which is essentially an eviction notice for those barely struggling to get by. This national crisis has effectively been created and amplified by the Tories reduced spending.

What can be done about this growing crisis?

On April 3rd the Homeless Reduc-

tion Act will start to come into effect it will make local authorities offer help to the growing number of homeless people it will also extend the period that people threatened with homelessness can apply for help from 28 days to 56 days, which attacks the problem at its roots reducing the number of rough sleepers in the first place. Is this really enough for a crisis that should not be happening in the world's 6th largest economy? The answer is no. As the government has promised councils £73 million to fund the legislation some such as Sarah Makhoul of Providence Row have pointed out that due to the huge scale of the problem many more case workers are going to be needed and therefore a lot more fund-

ing will be needed. This shows the ineptitude of the Tories as, a crisis that is rarely reported on grips the nation, they still refuse to give local councils the proper funding they need to effectively reduce the number of rough sleepers. Moreover because they refuse to provide the proper funding needed, Theresa May will most likely not keep her promise to reduce the number of rough sleepers by half and end the crisis by 2027. Now the question arises does Labour have a better alternative? To begin with Jeremy Corbyn's pledge to buy 8000 homes "immediately" would greatly help reduce the number of homeless people and actually provide them with a roof over their heads. Furthermore he plans to

give councils the power to seize properties that are vacant so they can be used to provide shelter for the homeless, this would again help reduce the size of the epidemic and would do more to tackle the issue than the Homeless Reduction Act. In addition to this because a Labour government would increase public spending and reduce the funding crisis faced by local councils housing benefits won't be cut meaning less people will become homeless. In short the Tory government is not doing enough to combat a crisis they have created and a Labour government getting rid of austerity and following through on Corbyn's promises could create real change and put an end to this crisis.

Quiz

Nature Quiz Questions

1. What type of creature is feared by an ophidiophobe?
2. An arenaceous plant grows in what type of soil?
3. What crop does the Colorado beetle attack?
4. In what part of the sea do 'demersal fish' live and feed?
5. The cavy family of rodents, including the domestic guinea pig, is native to which continent?
6. What is the plural of Mongoose?
7. How many legs does a bee have?
8. The moa is an extinct large flightless bird associated with which country?
9. In botany, small cushion like structures called areoles are found on which plants?
10. Which part of a horse's anatomy is the equivalent to our ankle?

- Answers:
1. Snakes
 2. Sand or sandy
 3. Potato
 4. Near the bottom
 5. South America
 6. Mongooses
 7. Six
 8. New Zealand
 9. Cacti
 10. Fetlock
- Answers:
1. Duma
 2. Finland
 3. Gorky Park
 4. Nicholas II
 5. Kremlin
 6. The Hermitage
 7. Maria Sharapova
 8. Vladivostok
 9. Dmitry Medvedev
 10. Vladimir Lenin
 11. The Neva
 12. Ivan Bunin

Russia Quiz Questions

1. What Russian word describing an assembly with legislative functions means 'to think'?
2. Which country declared independence from Russia on 6 December 1917?
3. What is the Central Park of Culture and Leisure in Moscow normally known as?
4. Who was the last Emperor of Russia?
5. What Russian word means 'fortress inside a city'?
6. One of the largest museums in the world is in Saint Petersburg, what is it called?
7. Which Russian tennis player won Wimbledon in 2004?
8. Which city is the largest Russian port on the Pacific Ocean?
9. Who became the tenth Prime Minister of Russia in 2012?
10. Who led the Bolshevik party in the October Revolution?
11. Which river flows through Saint Petersburg?
12. Who was the first Russian to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature?



Cat Burgers

Ingredients

For the chips

- 2-3 medium sized baking potatoes, peeled, cut into chips
- 3 tbsp olive oil

For the burgers

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 350g/12oz minced cat
- 100g/4oz minced anyone who mentions Zionism (shit, I just did)
- 4 fresh sage leaves, finely chopped
- 3 tbsp olive oil

Method

Preheat the oven to 220C/425F/gas 7.

For the chips, bring a large pan of salted water to the boil, add the potatoes and boil for five minutes. Drain, then toss in the olive oil, season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper and spread out on a baking tray.

Transfer to the oven for about 20 minutes, or until golden-brown and cooked through.

For the burgers, mix together all of the burger ingredients apart from the olive oil. Season with sea salt and freshly ground black pepper, divide the mixture in half and shape into two large burgers.

Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and fry the burgers for 4-5 minutes on each side, or until golden-brown and cooked through.

Serve the burger with the chips and tomato ketchup.

Note: for all those in underfunded council area's RATS or Pigeons can be used in the mix.

Crosswords

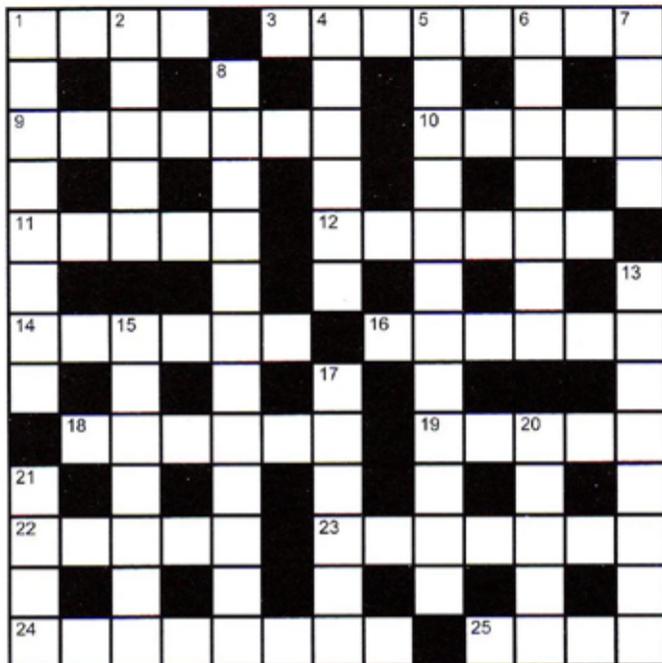
1

Across

- 1 Uttered aloud (4)
- 3 Example (8)
- 9 Taste experience (7)
- 10 Small, open pies (5)
- 11 Country, capital Cairo (5)
- 12 Violent effort (6)
- 14 Extend in one or more directions (6)
- 16 Less tame (6)
- 18 Turn into (6)
- 19 Telling fibs (5)
- 22 Natives of Kuwait, for example (5)
- 23 Family appellation (7)
- 24 All people (8)
- 25 Sleeping places (4)

Down

- 1 Experienced pain (8)
- 2 Country, capital Rome (5)
- 4 Small group of words expressing a single concept (6)
- 5 Butterfly or moth larvae (12)
- 6 Wed (7)



- 7 Bird's construction (4)
- 8 Without ceasing (12)
- 13 Advance (8)
- 15 Make ready (7)
- 17 Human being (6)
- 20 Mental representation (5)
- 21 Cook in an oven (4)

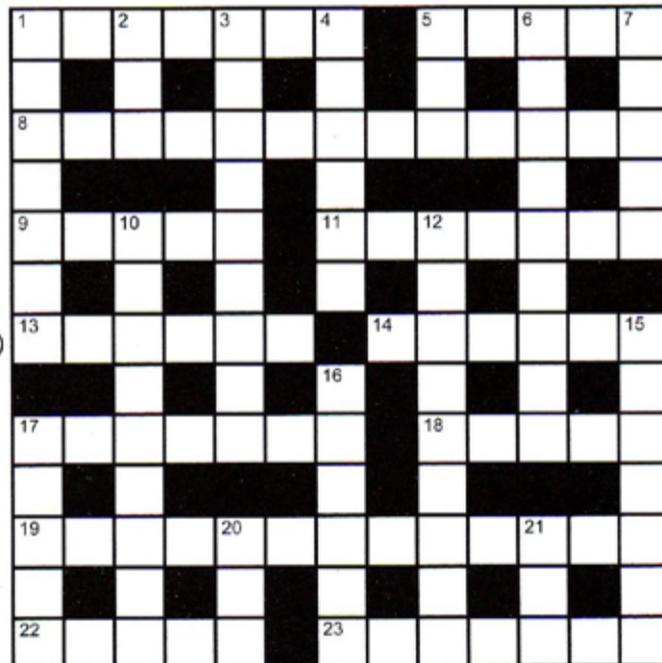
2

Across

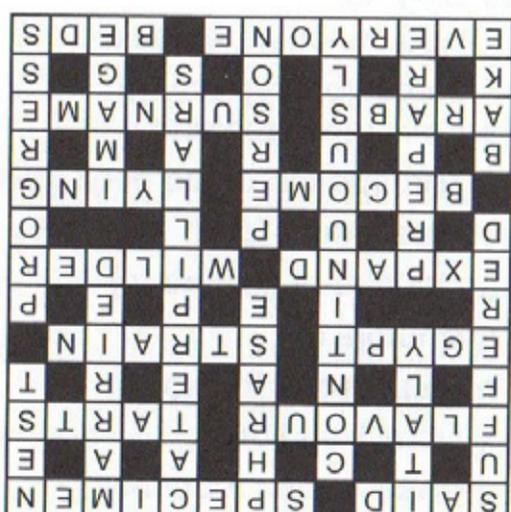
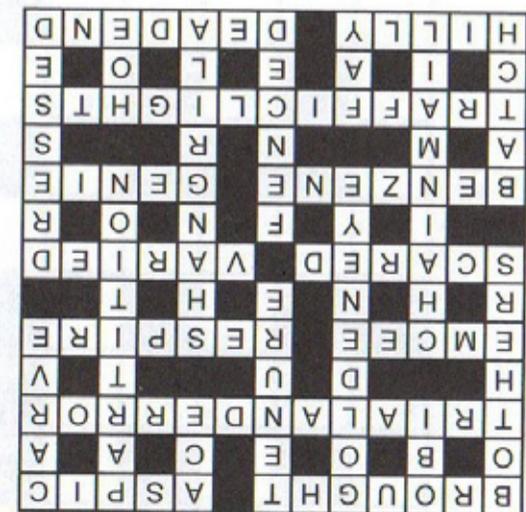
- 1 Fetched (7)
- 5 Savoury jelly (5)
- 8 Experimenting until a solution is found (5,3,5)
- 9 Compère (coll) (5)
- 11 Breathe (7)
- 13 Frightened (6)
- 14 Assorted, diverse (6)
- 17 Colourless liquid obtained from coal (7)
- 18 Aladdin's spirit (5)
- 19 Set of automatic signals for controlling vehicles (7,6)
- 22 Craggy, mountainous (5)
- 23 Cul-de-sac (4,3)

Down

- 1 Takes the trouble (7)
- 2 Kimono sash (3)
- 3 First James Bond film in which Pierce Brosnan starred (9)
- 4 Period of occupancy (6)
- 5 Playing card (3)
- 6 Vertical structure that divides or separates (9)
- 7 Cut into slices (5)
- 10 Flexible armour made of interlinked metal rings (5,4)



- 12 Place of complete bliss (7-2)
- 15 Clothed (7)
- 16 Fought with épées (6)
- 17 Collection of cakes, for instance (5)
- 20 English actress and recipe author, Ripley (3)
- 21 Garden tool (3)



2



Greeted with the usual newspaper cheer this morning on the garage forecourt

Don't get me wrong, I would welcome anti-Semitism being driven from not just the Labour Party, but ALL institutions. I don't believe bigotry towards, or hatred of, ANY faith has a place in the 21st Century. Down that road lies more violence, more conflict and more suffering.

But there appears to be a deliberate conflation at work in certain areas of the media which is in ITSELF anti-Semitic.

For instance, to fundamentally disagree with the Rothschild Bank's often voracious drive for obscene wealth is NOT anti-Semitism, it only BECOMES anti-Semitism if a third party infers from this opinion that you are, by your stance on

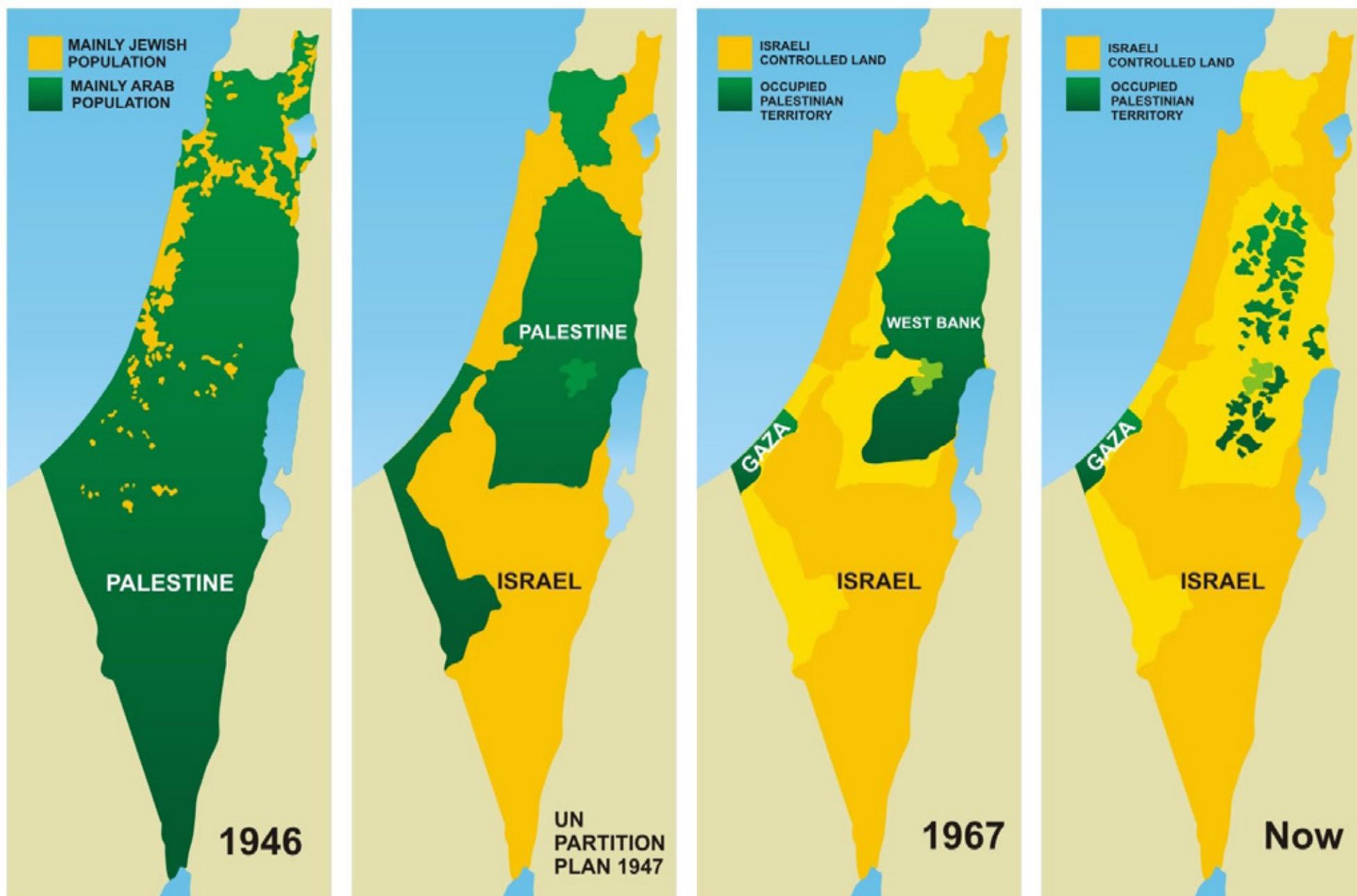
the issue, somehow smearing an entire faith, and only then if they attach the laziest of racist stereotypes in order to make the accusation. At this point the third party has used racism to turn a position on aggressive Capitalism into an act of anti-Semitism and they THEMSELVES are the ones guilty of being anti-Semitic.

Likewise an opinion on the Israeli state's treatment of the Palestinian people is a simple act of political criticism and not an attack on the Jewish faith, OR the people of Israel.

Or maybe the D***y M*** would disagree.

Let's face it, if anyone knows about anti-Semitism it's them.

Joe Solo



By Stephen Sedley

Shorn of philosophical and political refinements, anti-Semitism is hostility towards Jews as Jews. Where it manifests itself in discriminatory acts or inflammatory speech it is generally illegal, lying beyond the bounds of freedom of speech and of action. By contrast, criticism (and equally defence) of Israel or of Zionism is not only generally lawful: it is affirmatively protected by law. Endeavours to conflate the two by characterising everything other than anodyne criticism of Israel as anti-Semitic are not new. What is new is the adoption by the UK government (and the Labour Party) of a definition of anti-Semitism which endorses the conflation.

In May 2016 the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, an intergovernmental body, adopted a 'non-legally-binding working definition of anti-Semitism': 'Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities'. This account, which is largely derived from one formulated by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, fails the first test of any definition: it is indefinite. 'A certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred' invites a string of questions. Is anti-Semitism solely a matter of perception? What about discriminatory practices and policies? What about

DEFINING ANTI-SEMITISM

perceptions of Jews that are expressed otherwise than as hatred?

These gaps are unlikely to be accidental. Their effect, whether or not it is their purpose, is to permit perceptions of Jews which fall short of expressions of racial hostility to be stigmatised as anti-Semitic. Along with the classic tropes about a world Jewish conspiracy and Holocaust denial or dismissal, the IHRA's numerous examples include these:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

Applying double standards by requiring of [the state of Israel] a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.

Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of a state of Israel is a racist endeavour.

The first and second of these examples assume that Israel, apart from being a Jewish state, is a country like any other and so open only to criticism resembling such criticism as can be made of other states, placing the historical, political, military and humanitarian uniqueness of Israel's occupation and colonisation of Palestine beyond permissible criticism. The third example bristles with contentious assumptions about the racial identity of Jews, assumptions contested by many diaspora Jews but on which both Zionism and anti-Semitism fasten, and about Israel as the embodiment of a collective right of Jews to self-determination.

In October 2016 the Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs published a report entitled 'Anti-Semitism in the UK' in which it broadly accepted the IHRA's 'working definition' but proposed that two qualifications be added in the interests of free speech:

It is not anti-Semitic to criticise the government of Israel, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.

It is not anti-Semitic to hold the Israeli government to the same standards as other liberal democracies, or to take a particular interest in the Israeli government's policies or actions, without additional evidence to suggest anti-Semitic intent.

The government in its published response adopted the IHRA definition but brushed aside the select committee's caveats, taking the exclusion of

'criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country' to be part of the IHRA definition and to be a sufficient safeguard of free speech.

A recent opinion obtained from Hugh Tomlinson QC, a prominent human rights lawyer, by a group of NGOs concerned with Palestine and Israel, concludes that the IHRA definition is unclear and confusing (it could be suggested, in fact, that it is calculatedly misleading), that the government's adoption of it has no legal status, and that the overriding legal duty of public authorities is to preserve freedom of expression. He also argues that, even taken on its own terms, the definition does not require characterisations of Israel as an apartheid or colonialist state, or calls for boycott, disinvestment or sanctions, to be characterised as anti-Semitic.

Fake News



There is a guy that works down the chip shop that swears he is Elvis.

I know this because
I saw it on the BBC
I read it in the newspaper
I heard it on the radio

It's being discussed on Facebook and Twitter too

So... I gave a 'letter to the postman, he put it in his sack but by early next morning he bought my letter back! It was wrote upon it: 'return to sender', address unknown no such number, no such zone!

I was caught in a trap, but I can't walk out ... because I love chips too much baby. Why can't they see what the news was doing to me? I don't believe a word they are saying.

We can't go on together, with suspicious minds I thought.

I was all shook up
My mind was spinning and my knees went weak
I was itchin' like I was on a fuzzy tree
my friends said I was 'actin' wild as a bug
Ooohh, I was all shook up

Is the guy that works down the chip shop that swears he is Elvis, really Elvis?

This thought was 'always on my mind'. It was always on my mind.

So I Twittered and Facebook-ed it again. Elvis serves chips and calls them fries!

Apparently Elvis, has been working in the fish shop since, well for ages, for ages, serving fish, chips and the occasional scallop

It's 'now or never'! I thought. So, I went on a long lonely highway to find out.

It's a long lonely highway when you're travellin' all alone
And it's a mean old world when you got no-one to call your own
And you pass through towns too

small to even have a name, oh yes
But you gotta keep on goin', on that road to nowhere

Eventually I arrived at ' No Where' fish n chip saloon. It was no great shakes to be honest, I was not impressed. It was in a small alleyway, had one fish and one chip fryer, a counter made from Formica and a picture of a waterfall on the wall. I braced myself and marched in.

I looked Elvis up and down... that's 'dodgy', I thought, a wax work, wearing a pin stripe overall serving me fish and chips and offering me scallops.

Do you want something to eat or not? 'He said.

'How much does it cost 'I asked?

'Euros, the pound a few dollars...' 'We also take bit coin here' he spat ...

The he said again but a bit more forceful...' do you actually want something?'

'Are you Elvis? 'I asked

'Do I look like Elvis' he said?

'A bit, 'I replied

'Another bloody Facebook and Twitter tourist' he sighed.

I thought...

A little less conservation a bit more action,

All this aggravation am not satisfacting me
A little more bite and a little less bark
A little less fight and a little more spark
Close your mouth and open up your heart and, baby, satisfy me
Satisfy me, baby

'Fries and curry sauce with salt and vinegar please.' I replied.

There's a guy works down the chip shop swears he's Elvis he aint not so that's a lie, can I be sure about you?



THE AWAKING OF THE MUM

Written by Michelle Dorrell

When people ask me, why did you become involved in politics?

That's when I remind them that I am a mum...and my most basic instinct is to ensure I do everything I can, to make sure that not only do my children grow up to become good citizens but that they can go on to have a bright future ahead of them.

Everything I am doing as a mum, I feel is being undermined by my own government; And that's a scary prospect.

I'm raising my children, so they work hard for what they want to achieve, that they abide laws and play fair, so they have a bright future ahead of them... but currently I'm watching them facing a worse outcome than I, or even my parents and grandparents had.

That terrified me into action, and I started by expanded my reading habits.

I read a book called The Raggy Trousered Philanthropist by Robert Tressell. It was written over 100 years ago, but as you read the pages the parallels between then and now are overwhelming. To the point, you can imagine the characters in Morden society and as if the pages of the book are playing the scenes out now in 2018.

When I'm looking at my children's future health care prospects, with the ever increasing possibility of them facing the same system as our American Cous-

ins. With Private Health Care providers and Insurance schemes taking over the system. Looking towards the outcome being determined by the amount of cover you can afford or the financial prospects you have becoming the judge and jury for the treatment you receive. Our NHS won't survive another 3 years of this current government, look around your GP surgeries and hospitals now (that's if they haven't been closed or centralised)

So, I know they won't have the same opportunities we've enjoyed since 1948.

What do we say to our children when they attend school? We tell them to "do their best, listen to the teachers and get a good education" but how on earth can we expect them to stand a chance, when they're being pushed into ever larger classrooms, with less resources, less teaching staff and assistants available to help and encourage their progress.

It's like your fighting a losing battle; and it should never be a case for parents to have to move to a new house over decreasing numbers of "good and outstanding" school places for the best prospects, because all children should have the right to a decent education no matter who they are or where they live.

And then for their future housing? Where will they be able to live...will they be able to earn enough to rent or buy somewhere? Will they be able to stay local or forced to move miles away from their family and community?

What will the prospects for them be, when you look at the prospects for people now!

I am a socialist.....I always was, I just didn't know it.

Years of main stream media and print press conflating socialism with communism, was enough for me in my former years never to bother looking it up or learning its true meaning beforehand.

But when you come to realise the actual meaning, it's smacks you in the face.

It's about sharing! You know that things most parents teach their children from a young age.

The idea that everyone, no matter who they are should have a decent house to live, somewhere they can call home, lay roots and build a community.

The idea that everyone should have the right to good and decent education to maximise their potential.

The idea that everyone should be paying taxes, if they have more they pay a little more and if they have less they pay a little less.

None of this cutting back on public spending, leaving the elderly and vulnerable in precarious states.

No more allowing large corporations and businesses to avoid paying tax on earnings just because their registered offshore. You earn here, you pay here; We have too!

Working for minimum wage and with Zero hour contracts, unable to budget for living expenses because you don't know how many hours work you'll get.

Homelessness rising at alarming rate and people dying on the streets.

No changes in school funding, so that many face losing teachers, teaching assistants, bigger classrooms and less resources.

What happened to us as a society to start normalising the existence of FoodBanks

What next WORK HOUSES??

That's just some of the reasons I'm now more than just "Chelle the Nail Lady" I was inspired to throw off my chains, wake from my slumber and rise.

Not just for my children, but for yours too.





KINNOCKS

Neil Kinnock was way ahead of the Opinion Polls back in 1992 and everyone fully expected Kinnock and his charming wife to go straight into Number 10 Downing Street... However, the morning after that British general election was the dawning of a nightmare - a strange drab man - JOHN MAJOR - who had accidentally ended up being an unelected Prime Minister [following a coup on Margaret Thatcher] was ushered into Downing Street...

The morning after, Kinnock was broadcast on TV with Welsh pensioners, he could hardly hold back his tears, as it was obvious that the 1992 British general election - like so many others - had been RIGGED. Kinnock might have become somewhat of a loose cannon at that point - but luckily he managed to become a multi-millionaire - courtesy of the EU and British tax payers...

Even the Times of London expressed shock at the result... But soon after, Kinnock and his wife, and other friends and close family became mysteriously and suddenly became multi-millionaires.

The rumours about how the 1992 general election was stage-managed and rigged evaporated as fast as the Kinnock bank account swelled into an overflowing nest egg now worth an estimated £10 million...

Margaret Thatcher was the victim of a coup in Downing Street, following her defiance of Buckingham Palace and the Royals' love of

the E.U. SuperState. Thatcher said NO! to a Federal Europe, NO! to a European Currency and NO! to handing over any more of Britain's law-making powers to Brussels. Within hours of Thatcher's "No, no, no!", she was Out! Out! Out! A new gaggle of grey men in grey suits were ushered in by Buckingham Palace, they kneeled and swore allegiance to the crown, and were headed by an incestuous trio of traitors; John Major, Norma Major, and his lover Edwina Currie. Kinnock and his charming wife, disappeared. No criticism of the 1992 general election shock result was ever broadcast after that moment... And for a working class Welshman, Neil Kinnock popped up in the most amazing place: BRUSSELS!

Kinnock was set-up in the 1992 Labour Party rally which was held at the Sheffield Arena, and attended by 10,000 Labour Party members. Kinnock was seen prancing down an aisle packed with gregarious supporters and it was a triumph of the working class Welsh boy-made-good - the whole event and televised event being designed by Kinnock's spin doctor

Philip Gould, who was involved in the subsequent successful election campaign of Bill Clinton later that year. The party leader, Neil Kinnock, was flown into Sheffield by helicopter, and this, ladies and gentlemen, was the beginning of the Big Bang in Kinnock's career - instead of becoming Prime Minister, Kinnock became an EU COMMISSIONER - appointed indirectly by Buckingham Palace with no electoral appointing system - Kinnock became a millionaire almost overnight - and was delivered a massive blow by all of a sudden having to back-manage an age-old scandal at the European Super State - Kinnock was suddenly facing several EU employees who were exposing in books and blogs that the EU had SECRET BANK ACCOUNTS and millions of pounds of British and European tax payers' money had mysteriously gone missing.

Luckily, Neil Kinnock had his millionaire wife, Glenys, by his side in Brussels. His wife had represented Wales in the European Parliament from 1994 until 2009, where she was a member of the PES political group. Together they had to stand a torrent

of investigative journalists who were investigating the EUROSTAT SCANDAL in which millions of pounds had mysteriously been paid to EU-linked companies in the tax haven of Luxembourg, and Neil Kinnock was cornered with the publication of a series of books exposing SECRET BANK ACCOUNTS by a former Dutch Member of the European Parliament, Paul Van Buitenen.

Buitenen's book *Calling The Whistleblowers*, suggested that his exposure of the multi million pound Eurostat scandal was stifled by Neil Kinnock and his associate unelected multi-millionaire EU Commissioners. Buitenen assembled an impressive dossier showing nepotism was the methodology in selecting [not electing] EU Commissioners - his dossier proved that senior EU staff working for Edith Cresson, the former French prime minister, and then appointed EU education commissioner, were engaged in fraud and the awarding of contracts to friends and relatives. Amazingly, Madame Cresson's former dentist and close friend Rene Berthelot - registered as living at the same address - was hired as a

consultant to the Commission and the dentist's son was also awarded a EU work contract! The scandal exploded Cresson's EU Gravy Train salary - but it was just the start of the Kinnock Family dynasty at the top banqueting table of the EU...

Glenys and Neil Kinnock managed to out-live the Eurostat scandal until November 2006, when Glenys Kinnock was criticised in the press for "taking an EU junket" to Barbados.

The EU Fraudsters...

Luckily, the free trip to Barbados scandal - all paid for by Welsh tax payers and EU citizens - was nowhere near as bad as the 2004 Expenses scandal which cited Glenys Kinnock in a statement by fellow MEP Hans-Peter Martin claiming to have caught 194 colleagues receiving the European Parliament's attendance allowance.

Kinnock was among those MEPs whom Hans-Peter Martin filmed leaving the EU HQ just moments after they had signed-in for the day to qualify for their £175-a-day allowance, in addition to their £70,000 salaries as MEPs.... Oh dear... That's a crime - it's called FRAUD.

LEFT WING EVENTS

Stop the Arms Fair has had huge success this September, with hundreds of people taking action to block the set up to the DSEI arms fair. Over 100 people were arrested during the week of action, and we need your help to support them as they face charges.

Court Solidarity Demonstrations

Join us outside Stratford Magistrates Court to support the defendants at their plea hearings at the following times:

- 21-23rd February 2018
- 7-8th March 2018
- 11-12th April, 2018
- 18th April, 2018

You are invited to join Angie Tshiyane and Tendai Maunganidze of Zim Voices for a series of singing and drama workshops. Come along to have fun, meet people, share stories and create a performance for Refugee Week 2018 (June 18- 24th), celebrating migration and the contribution of diaspora communities to Newport.



Saturday 7th April is a launch event - a chance to find out more and register your interest, and to hear Zim Voices perform.

To book a place on the workshops or find out more, contact Rosie at the Welsh Refugee Council on rosie@wrc.wales or 07377790619

This workshop is part of the arts development programme funded by the Arts Council Wales, People's Postcode Trust, the Riverfront Newport and Wales Millennium Centre

Marxism 2018 is a festival of socialist ideas involving four days of debate, discussion and culture.

Email the Marxism 2018 office at info@marxismfestival.org.uk or ring 0208 840 5620 for more info. 15th APR We Rise Public · Hosted by Hyde Park Book Club and 2 others Hyde Park Book Club 27-29 Headingley Lane, LS6 1BL Leeds

Jewish Voice for Labour Jewish Voice for Labour is a new organisation for members of the Party who believe that the Party must listen to a range of Jewish voices including those that support Palestinian rights and oppose witch hunts.

You can join at www.is.gd/join_JVL

An evening with Kate Hudson, CND General Secretary

Join us for a frank discussion about security, jobs and energy and to celebrate CND's 60th birthday. Refreshments provided. All views welcome.

<http://www.cndcymru.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/cnd-cymru/27th March>

This is the programme for the London Real Estate Forum that takes place in Berkeley Square on the 13th and 14th of June 2018 - this is where our bent politician...

The theme for LREF 2018 is "Constant Change" and the conference programme will investigate how rapid technological,

economic and societal changes are having a profound impact on the way that we design, build and manage our city to ensure a successful and sustainable future for all.

LREF.CO.UK

The Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival returns on 20th - 22nd July 2018, with another inspiring programme of discussion, music, performance, children's activities, speakers, radical history school and more.

This year we will also be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Trades Union Congress.

Tickets will go on sale from 1 April 2018.

- Booking Fee £2.50
- Weekend wristband £40.00
- Friday only wristband £15.00
- Saturday only wristband £30.00
- 5-15 year olds £5.00
- Under 5's free or donation
- Tent tag £20.00
- Campervan tag £40.00
- Parking Fee £10.00

Chris the careerist



Brazil: March 14th was a tragic day in Brazil if you were black, poor, LGBT and especially a woman. Why? Marielle Franco was assassinated, aged just 38. As a young, black, councillor in Rio de Janeiro she was 'a beacon of hope in her Rio favela and for Brazil' 1#

She was described by Brazil's former president Dilma Rousseff as a "tireless social warrior." Saying also "Sad days for a country where a human rights defender is brutally murdered."

A day after her killing hundreds of thousands flocked to the streets of central Rio to pay their respects, cry and embrace friends as Franco's coffin was carried through the city.

The world looked to Brazil to continue to improve the lot of the poor, particularly in the favelas in its cities after the 2016 Olympics which highlighted Brazil's problems.

This tragedy 'occurred in in one of the most unequal societies in the world, where six men possess as much wealth as half the population; it occurred in the last country in the Western Hemisphere to abolish slavery, where only 10 percent of congress members are black, despite Brazil's being majority black or mixed.' 2#

Drugs and the extrajudicial killings of mainly young, black men by the police has been highlighted in a 2014-2015 Amnesty International report titled "You Killed My Son: Homicides by Military Police in the City of Rio de Janeiro." The report goes on to say that a "culture of racism" within Brazilian society, coupled with a narrative that discriminates against and criminalises the poor, contributes to the legitimisation of these deaths.

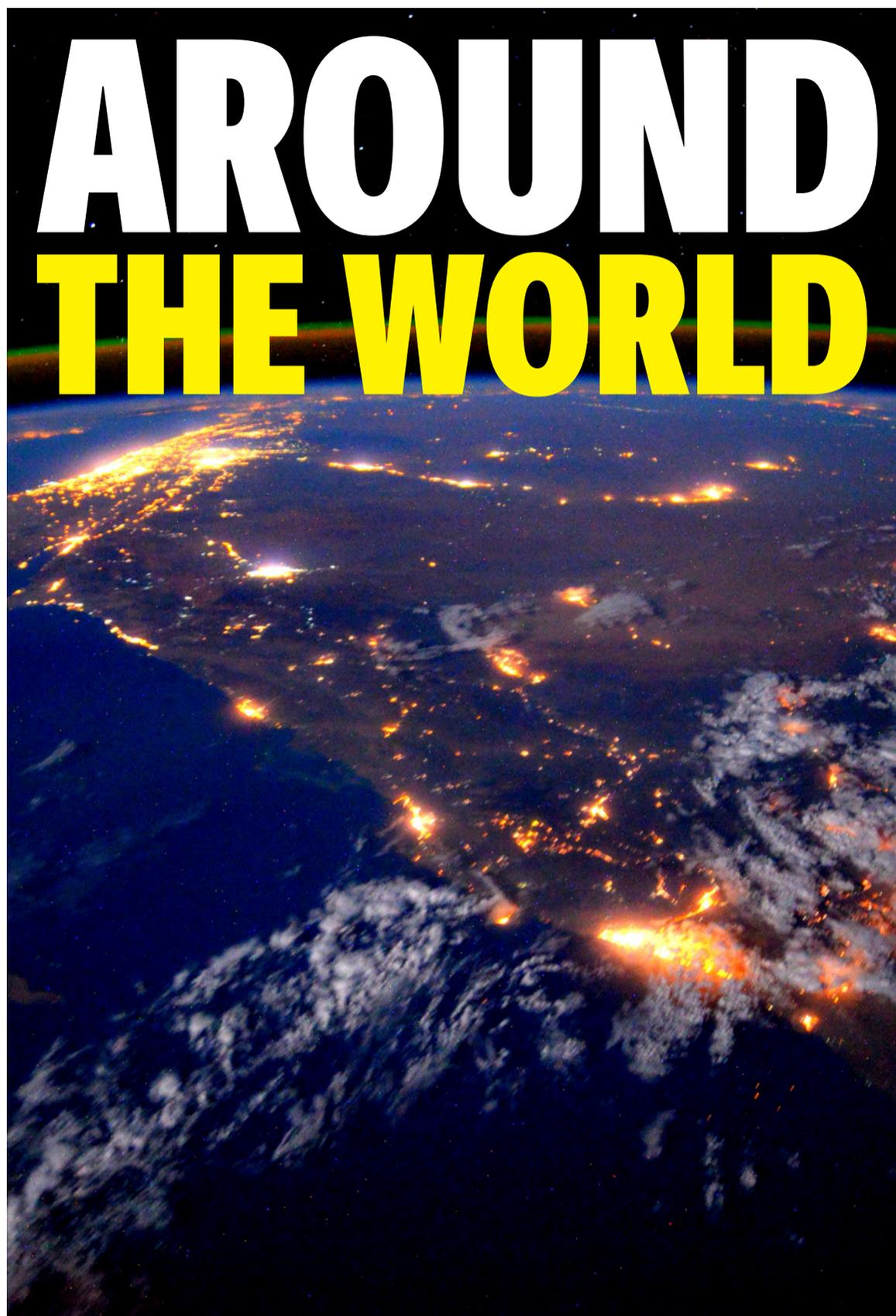
#1 New Internationalist 19/03/18 #2 Washington Post.

Russia: On Sunday 25th. March a fire broke out in the cinema hall area of the four-story Winter Cherry shopping mall in the centre of Kemerovo, Siberia. Fatalities could be as high as 64 (not confirmed yet), many of them children.

Reports show a catalogue of negligence with fire exits were blocked and an alarm system turned off. Sputnik, a state-funded news outlet, reported the head of the city's fire department Sergei Yakovlev as saying the blaze had spread via flammable thermal insulation, making it difficult to put out.

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Kemerovo early Tuesday as thousands gathered in the Siberian city, demanding answers from their government about the shopping mall fire. Putin, who met with local officials and visited a hospital treating some of the dozens who were injured, was sharply critical in public remarks, blaming the fire on "criminal negligence, sloppiness

He also declared a national day of mourning for Wednesday.



Nigeria: We need to temper any celebration of the news this week that Boko Haram # has released 91 out of 110 schoolgirls they abducted on February 19th. in Dapchi, northern Nigeria. This was not an act of kindness as the militants told the parents 'this is a warning to you all', 'don't ever put your daughters in school again'. Furthermore 100 out of 276 girls taken from Chibok in 2014 have not been returned yet.

What is significant about this news is it came just a day after an Amnesty International report accused the Nigerian military of failing to heed several warnings of the attack. The response of the military was that the report was 'an absolute falsehood'. There has been a feeling since President Buhari came to power among many Nigerians I have spoken to that his Government had contacts with,

and influence over, the terrorists who captured the girls in Chibok. Furthermore supporters of Buhari possibly thwarted the previous President, Goodluck Johnson, from finding the abductors of those girls.

The bigger picture is that human rights and rule of law are deteriorating in Nigeria. The army has pursued a policy of intimidation against Igbo separatists campaigning, in the main peacefully, for the right to create an independent state. Another Amnesty Report catalogues killings and shows a video of shootings at a protest march.

The President (from a Felani background) has done nothing to halt the killing of farmers in the middle belt and south east of Nigeria by Felani herdsmen. He has allowed them to continue with an hereditary right to graze animals wherever they wish. These herds-

men, armed with semi-automatic weapons, seem to be able to maim and kill farmers who object to the damage done to their crops, with impunity from the law.

Amnesty has also reported the failure of the state to investigate the massacre of over 350 Shi'a muslims two years ago and hold the perpetrators to account nor release Shi'a leader Sheikh Ibraheem El-Zakzaky and his wife from internment.

Boko Haram means 'Western education is forbidden' in the Hausa language.

Japan: Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, faces renewed scrutiny over a scandal last year that a regional branch of his finance ministry had sold off a plot of land very cheaply to an ultra-nationalistic education company run by a friend of his wife. Although it was discounted at the time on March 12th this

year Taro Aso, Finance Minister, confirmed a newspaper report that he had 'mislead' the Diet, Japan's parliament and that 14 documents relating to the sale had been doctored. Mr. Aso, a former prime minister has refused to resign despite 71% of the public thinking he should.

Ms. Abe has resigned as the school's honorary president. However there are links to Nippon Kaigi, a group espousing the same sort of nationalism as the education company she was with.

These links extend to Prime Minister Abe, Aso and the head of the school. The curriculum of the school includes bowing to pictures of the emperor, showing disdain to China and S. Korea and reinstating the Imperial Rescript recited by children before the second World War.

The scandal might stop Abe becoming Japan's longest serving post war prime minister and his controversial plans to amend the clause in the constitution committing Japan to pacifism.

Economist March 23rd.

Australia: Parliament agreed same sex couples can legally marry after 62% of Australians gave approval in a national postal survey. Courtesy of Amnesty.

Iran: The government will stop using capital punishment for some drug trafficking offences in a move that could spare the lives of hundreds of people. Courtesy of Amnesty.

Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories: Israeli occupation forces demolished two school buildings in the Abu Nuwwar community on 4 February, located in an area of the occupied West Bank, east of Jerusalem.

"The demolition of educational buildings is one of the means Israel uses in its attempt to expel Palestinian communities from their homes, so that it can concentrate the residents in enclaves and use the territory for its own needs," the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem stated.

The school was built with funding from the European Union and the Palestinian Authority in September, but neither have done anything to hold Israel accountable for the destruction of the classrooms.

This is in keeping with the EU's inaction over the tens of millions of dollars of projects it has funded that Israel has destroyed in recent years.

The EU made no statement condemning the demolition.

This is the fifth time Israel has demolished that school. It has been rebuilt every time with the help of funds from the EU and nongovernmental organizations, according to Reuters.

Source: The Electronic Intifada (EI) is an online Chicago-based publication covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It describes itself as not-for-profit and independent, providing a Palestinian perspective on the conflict.



Welcome to the Mad March Hatters tea party! March 2018 some terrible travesty has occurred in the UK. A picture of Jeremy Corbyns hat has appeared on mainstream media news! Jeremy Corbyns hat is no ordinary hat. It is Jeremy Corbyns hat! A hat that that looks Russian, you know, all made in Russia and a Russian looking type of hat.

News Alert!

Some bloke and his daughter got poisoned because of Jeremy Corbyns hat. Even Wikipedia are reporting on the event!

'Former Russian military intelligence officer Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were poisoned in Salisbury, England, on 4 March 2018 with a chemical determined by the Government of the United Kingdom to be a Novichok nerve agent. As of 26 March 2018 the pair remained critically ill in hospital. An investigating police officer also fell seriously ill and was released on 22 March. Thus far, 38 people have been identified by UK intelligence officials and police as being affected by the nerve agent.'

Yet, main stream media news, only reports about three poisoned? Guess that's to save print space? Novichock, appears a deadly dastardly, poison that kills everyone in its vicinity except

those that stand over the thin blue line, for example the fire fighters, medical staff and all the news reporters. A heinous Russian substance to say to say the least!

News alert!

Some dead fish were thrown in the Thames, poisoning and polluting the UK nations waters! 'Nigel Farage dumped a net load of dead fish into the River Thames in Westminster from a small boat on a Wednesday morning in March 2018 And it is was reported:

"You know Brexit is getting serious when Nigel Farage returns to chuck haddock into the Thames" reports: The Independent

We should have seen this 'haddock event' brewing to be honest and took Farages wife's advice back in 2014

"In this exclusive interview from May 2014 - thought to be her first ever newspaper interview (and the only one she has so far given) - Kirsten Farage talked about her husband Nigel's drinking, alleged racism, how his work affects the family and why he loves Dads' Army so much..."

Point to note! Never trust a Farage with a Fish ...[Farage the fish monger cheats!

News alert!

Cheating may have swayed a Brexit poll - Christopher Wylie, said:

"Vote Leave and other pro-Brexit groups had a "common plan" to get round spending controls."

This appears reminiscent of the #Tory election fraud scandal #the panama papers and #corporate tax evasion. Yet, don't get me started on those news alerts. If you get me started on that discussion then I'll discuss that:

'Election laws exist to protect our democracy and ensure a level playing field. Candidates and parties must declare all their campaign spending, and stick within spending limits, to stop richer parties gaining an unfair advantage.' (Channel Four: 23 June 2016) and then I will point out that : Christopher Wylie, says Cambridge Analytica "don't care whether or not it's legal as long as it gets the job done." I know this stuff because read about it in the ' Business Insider on: the 27th march 2018) I would send you a link but my data is running out.

Meanwhile

Meanwhile, in Wales, Brexit is also a subject : 'Push for single market access, AMs urge Welsh Government'

:The External Affairs Committee's report also calls on the Welsh Government to continue to push for "preferential access" to the EU's single market. A bit like the DUP and free school meals deals I guess.

Food what happened with food?

I'll tell you what happened with food.

What happened was the: Conservative manifesto that was what happened.

Do you remember ' Thatcher the milk snatcher' ? well we are now on the second sequel 'Theresa the lunch stealer.' Kids don't need food in schools and academies . Its a fact, it was voted on by the Tory party. From March 2018 it is official, that children in school and academies don't need food in the UK. An exception to this fact is in Northern Ireland.

Meanwhile

Nicola Sturgeon is a bit irate at the moment. The Scottish First Minister has responded to the news that Clara Ponsati, a former Catalan minister who returned to St Andrews University recently, is the subject of a European Arrest Warrant.

Everyone appears to be getting arrested or poisoned somewhere in in Marches news. Some people, from Syria, to Libya to Eastern Ghouta. Palestinians are also in prison and denied food. Some where someone is also are being evacuated from some gun controlled war zone. I guess it is something to do with the American constitution. The second amendment and the NRA. Is this a trend? Or a phenomenon?

Meanwhile in England: The local elections are drawing near so Owen Smith, Chukka Umanna, Jess Phillips and Jon Landsman are out on the troll.

News alert!

Ahed Tamimi is in an Israeli prison on a charge of slapping. Ahed has agreed her sentence with the Israeli criminal system pending approval by the Israeli military court. Ahed Tamini is a young woman fighting against occupation of her home that was a Balfour Declaration, that was decreed generations, even before she was born.

News alert!

Boris Johnson, the foreign secretary for the UK Conservative party is on the prowl again ... Mr Johnson is comparing Putin to Hitler! In response:

'Moscow's ambassador to Britain has condemned Boris Johnson for likening Vladimir Putin to Adolf Hitler, accusing the Foreign Secretary of "insulting the Russian people'

Analysis

The Mad hatters March. Discussing everything and nothing except homeless, the disabled and the hungry and the dead.

Conservative policy kills not Jeremy Corbyns hat.

YOUR QUESTIONS TO OUR NEW EDITOR: TONY BLAIR

Q) Why did you lie to the British people about WMDs in Iraq? Or has that one been asked already?

A) Ok...yar...well, we are where we are. And...if I may say so we need to move on.

Q) How does Tony Blair intend to assist Jeremy Corbyn become Prime Minister?

A) Well the Labour party is a broad church and let me put it to you we need to understand that to be elected we need to be in the centre.

Q) Dear Tony what's your favourite career saving poison, novichok or ricin? Asking for a friend (not a friend)

A) Yes...well we need to stand up to Russia.

Q) Why are you not in jail for war crimes - or are you above the law?

A) Well...you see...my wife is a Barrister.

Q) Ian Hickenbottom asks, Please tell me this fawning over Blair the war criminal is parody?

A) I have agreed to edit a left wing Corbyn supporting paper on Sunday April 1st.

Q) Ian Hickenbottom The fact that you think he is a wonderful person. He should be under arrest for war crimes for the Iraq war, he lied to parliament, used the position of prime minister to line his own pockets, advises dictators, criticises and undermines Corbyn at every opportunity, warnts to ignore a democratic vote, saddled the taxpayer with PFI. Shall I go on. If this is true, I shall no longer subscribe to The Word.

A) Oh dear.

Q) Alex Taylor asks, Dear Tony what is your own personal favourite war crime, and



how can someone who would really like to follow in your footsteps get along (without going to prison)?

A) Moving on...next question!

Q) Can you tell us again, how many houses do you and your family now own? Are you planning on increasing your portfolio?

A) I have earned every penny by blood and toil. I deserve it all.

Q) At which point during your premiership did you decide to relinquish party values and cannonball yourself down a semi conservative careerist path of self servitude and allow

yourself to convince your nation, under demonstrably false pretence, to invade another country and co-author a series of events that would rupture the entire middle East, cause untold economic damage and the loss of thousands of civilian lives and thus be entirely implicit in the dramatic and super-charged rise of extremist Islam, and subsequently and hopefully inadvertently become a main instigator for the cause of the rise of outward extremist nationalism that has since divided our country politically?

Also, do you still play the guitar?

Sincerely

Gale

(Not a fan)

I never really could play guitar.

Q) Dave Hargreaves wanted to know, How do you reconcile your Catholic Faith and the war crimes you have committed? Can you have absolution over the hundreds of thousands of deaths you and Bush instigated?

A) I pray.

Q) Phill Challinor asks, 1) What is your favourite food?

2) What is your favourite song.

3) Do you still think you were right to fabricate evidence on Iraq's non-existent WMD's and start a war the repercussions of which are still ongoing and which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and soldiers while you went on to have a lucrative career as an after-dinner speaker and...(cough... choke...) a Middle East peace ambassador?

My favourite food is caviar, my favourite song is simply red's version of money's too tight to mention and as I am rich I don't care about answering anything else you.

Jewish community leaders issued a set of demands

Jewish community leader Jonathan Arkush has made a number of demands before meeting Jeremy Corbyn to discuss anti-semitism in the Labour party.

They have said they are ready to meet Corbyn but the list of demands they want are to be met before agreeing on a time and place.

These demands include the expulsion of Ken Livingstone, the former London mayor who has been suspended after refusing to withdraw claims that Jews collaborated with Hitler. On Tuesday,

Arkash said: "Ken Livingstone really cannot remain. His views are shameful and disreputable. He will have to go."

Demands for the the expulsion of Jackie Walker, a former vice-chair of Momentum, were also expected. Walker has been suspended after being filmed saying there was no definition of anti-semitism "that she could work with".

Arkush said he would also like action to be taken against those who minimise reports of

antisemitism, including the Unite general secretary, Len McCluskey, who suggested it was "mood music" to undermine the leadership; and the Labour MP Chris Williamson, who claimed the Labour right was "weaponising" antisemitism.

It was informally agreed that the recommendations from Shami Chakrabarti's report (pdf) into antisemitism and other forms of racism in Labour must be implemented in full. That will require a significant overhaul of party machinery, including appointing a

general counsel, and an in-house team of lawyers to ensure procedure is followed properly. It is understood Corbyn will make that a priority for the party's new general secretary, Jenny Formby.

"It is now accepted that there are two things going on," said one shadow minister. "The problem [of antisemitism] is real, and it is also being used deliberately by Corbyn's opponents. But because it's true it's being used against Jeremy doesn't mean there isn't a problem. That's what people had

to grasp."

However you view this and not all the Jewish community agree with Jonathan Arkush the timing stinks.

Again we will see Labour's local election campaign derailed and sidelined.

The Mural was first reported in 2012 if it's waited this long why now? So on that bases there are questions to be asked Why not in one weeks time? after the Local Elections!

It is clear that Jonathan Arkush voice is not the voice of all the

Top 5 Gay sports stars

1. Nicola Adams

The first woman to win an Olympic boxing title, Adams made no secret of her sexuality. «No ones ever cared about me being bisexual. I only came out because I had always been out; its just the general public didnt know,» she said. «Im quite fearless. Im like, «Let's just go out there and do this and see what happens.»



2. Gareth Thomas

When former Wales captain Thomas came out in 2009, it sent shock waves through one of the most macho sports in the world, but he received a huge amount of support from within the game. "I don't want to be known as a gay rugby player. I am a rugby player, first and foremost. I am a man.»



3. Tom Daley

GQ Strike! episode nine: Wenger vs Putin



4. Casey Stoney

Inspired by Tom Daley, former England women's captain and Arsenal defender Stoney came out in 2014. She told the BBC, "It's really important for me to speak out because there are so many people struggling who are gay... You hear about people taking their own lives because they are homosexual. That should never happen.



5. Jason Collins

When basketball star Collins came out in 2013, he became the first openly gay athlete in a major American team sports. In an interview with Sports Illustrated, he said, "I'm a 34-year-old NBA centre. I'm black. And I'm gay."



Australia captain Steve Smith and vice-skipper David Warner have been banned for a year for ball-tampering.

Cameron Bancroft, who carried out the cheating in South Africa, was given a nine-month ban by Cricket Australia.

The three had already been sent home from Australia's tour - before a fourth Test begins on Friday - amid

widespread condemnation stretching beyond sport.

Australia's prime minister Malcolm Turnbull had said the affair "bitterly disappointed the whole nation".

Smith, 28, and Bancroft, 25, have also been suspended from captaining Australia for at least the next two years.

Warner, 31, will not be considered for "any team leadership positions in the future", Cricket Australia said.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET SCANDAL

More Russia bashing

Anti-racism campaigners want Fifa to investigate the abuse of French players, including Paul Pogba, by Russian fans.

Monkey chants could be heard from the crowd in St Petersburg on Tuesday when black French players touched the ball in a friendly against Russia. The abuse was also audible on a TV broadcast after Pogba scored France's second goal in a 3-1 win.

"There should be enough there for Fifa to initiate proceedings," Piara Powar, head of the anti-discrimination Fare Network, said Wednesday.

It does seem interesting that no mention seems to be made of the slave traders demonisation of black people to justify their evil trade or the many incidents of racism and racist chants still being seen in the English game.

England women's football

England will bid to host the Women's European Championships in 2021, says the FA's head of women's football Baroness Sue Campbell.

Austria and Hungary are also bidding to stage the tournament, with the decision set to be made by December.

Campbell also told The Word she was "confident" there would be a women's football side representing Team GB at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

"We've worked with the home countries. They are really supportive," she said.

The Word understands that the Scottish FA would be against the selection of Scottish players in a GB team, but would not stand in the way of a squad comprised only of English players.

The Irish FA refused to comment while attempts have been



made to contact the Welsh FA.

Team GB reached the quarter-finals at London 2012 but did not enter a team for the Rio 2016 Games because the four home nation football associations could not reach an agreement.

"We're going to make sure that through selection and the way we scout, we'll look across the whole of Great Britain and we'll give every player with an aspiration to play for Team GB the chance to do so," Campbell added.



ENG1 - OITA

Writes Stanley Acrimonious from World Football Headquarters in Accrington

The match played last Tuesday between nations who have previously won the World Cup was marred by the imposition of an erroneous ruling of a robot with a camera, interfering with the proper running of our sacred game.

Jamie Vardy scored what turned out to be the winner, after the Professional Association of Legislators Involved with Legally Overturning Results Of Friendlies (P.A.L.L.L.O.R.O.F.) ruled decisively that VAR had no right to award a penalty already refused by the ref. The goal by Italy is therefore invalid and the result is a win for England, in all fairness.

Where was this VAR robot in 1966 when it could have quieted four generations of Germans still protesting that Geoff Hurst's second goal hadn't crossed the line? Where was it when the cheating Maradona (Like a Virgin) handled the ball into goal and claimed that God had done it. Yeah, we've all heard that one before, lady. Tell your mum and dad another one.

So now, just when we are bettering the world, up pops a camera to tell us that debuting defender Kruncszczarsel had somehow committed an offense which merited a chance for Italy to level the scores when everyone in the ground, including the ref, but not the Italian team and their staff, had seen no foul. The Italian who 'scored' from the penalty did better than England Manager, ex-defender, not Rio, Sol, Phil or Gary, but, yes! Neville! Neville Southbone, famous for being famous, selected after a load of names of ex-players were written on balls and shaken in a very small sack, and pulled out. As he often did as a player, he found himself quite disappointed at the result but thought that 'we' had played well enough to win. As 'we' have believed ever since 1970.

Southbone writes the names of Englishmen on a lot of little balls and puts them in the same small sack and pulls a few of them out. He

LAWYERS OVERRULE ROBOT REFEREE

has an even smaller, green sack for 'keepers. Once recently, my name was allegedly written on a couple! Balls seem to be the thing the English set-up seems to lack; we need more of them and a bigger sack. International games are full of Johnny Foreigners who play at this or that Premiership club, and the English squad is no longer full of enough chaps with proper British names like Geoff, Brian, Johnny, Trevor, Deli, Marcus, Mohammed, Ishtikar, Ravi and Shankar, the last one of whom went off to manage Carlisle United, Grimsby Town, Workington and Huddersfield Town, dying in 1981.

It was Shanks, as he was known locally, who said, "Some people think football is a matter of life and death. I don't like that attitude. I can assure them it is much more serious than that."

And I can empathise with that. We need more of these colourful characters in the game, to be red, white AND blue, just like our new, French-Belgian passports.

So much has changed in football, and in life, since the days before we had these robots and computers inflicting their so-called superior infallibility on us. Even the Pope is backtracking on that concept, but

not Football, oh no. I suppose we shouldn't bite the hand that feeds us. My old dog, Jasper, would, I think, agree.

At the match was 'Macca,' a guy who has it seems, been playing the part of ex-Beatle Paul McCartney for the past 51 years! (ever since 1967) You will have read elsewhere in this guide to reality (The Word) that his first action on joining was to turn his new band (The Beatles) into a version of his old one (Billy Pepper and the Pepper Pots) with himself playing the part of Sgt Billy Pepper, a role he has never relinquished.

But for those of you tired of the way I have digressed after the editor phoned me up during a long whisky session with members of several nationally important 'Forgotten Bands' to tell me specifically to write up the big match, I must return to the topic.

Meanwhile, here's a photo of Alan Badger. Newcastle United's next signing.



TOFFS AND TOUGHS OF THE TRACK

Cliff Jones

News of the death of Roger Bannister reminded me of one of Britain's greatest athletes, Alf Tupper. A welder by trade Alf would often have to work all night to finish a job. Then he would grab his kit, especially his spikes, and hitch a lift on the back of a lorry to get to a meeting. Before entering the stadium he would buy fish and chips, always wrapped in newspaper, often eating them by the track much to the disgust of some official in neatly pressed trousers, a double-breasted blazer and a panama hat.

The race was then between the tough and the toffs. The 'guttersnipe' had to endure snobbish remarks and attempts to ex-

clude him from membership of his local Harriers but, overcoming all adversity, he would cross the line first exclaiming, "I'VE RUN 'EM! I'VE RUN 'EM ALL".

We can be sure that all of this is true because it was recorded in both the Rover and the Victor.

Back in 1954 when Bannister ran the first official sub four-minute mile we were one year into the New Elizabethan Age. The year before had seen the Stanley Mathews Cup Final, the first ascent of Everest and, of course, the Coronation. The meeting between Oxford University and the Amateur Athletic Association was filmed. The pacemakers were Christopher Brasher (he did the first half mile) and Chris Chataway (he did the next lap). It was a great

and well-planned event. Both Bannister and his pacemakers went on to become very famous and established figures. That event became embedded as a national identifier.

Meanwhile, in Sheffield a month earlier a bloke who worked for a firm making paint, training with other blokes, was timed a couple of tenths faster than Bannister. He reported that he and the other blokes thought it 'interesting' that he had achieved that time. His name was Ken Wood. His athletic achievements were phenomenal. Four times he won the Emsley Carr Mile. At one time or another he beat all the greats. So how can we measure his fame?

Do a search. You will be asked if you mean Kenwood mixers.



THE WORD BRAIN TEASER

What was Elvis wearing?

Not solvable with an IQ below 150
The bastard! He was wearing a space suit The full moon landing regalia,! I think he is a spy for the Mars federation. And they dare serve fish chops and the occasional scallop! I can't do dry whilst I'm wearing wellingtons in water



NIL SATIS NISI OPTIMUM

....ok Everton lost but watching in the pub among Liverpool supporters I was so pleased to see how much genuine support they gave Everton. I am a supporter of Liverpool FC whose godfather played for Everton and who spent most weekends supporting Tranmere. YES, I can be partisan and it has taken me a long time to cope with the disabling foul upon Billy Liddell by Alex Forbes in the early minutes of the 1950

FA Cup Final.....BUT the game really does have nobility....I keep thinking of Matt Busby who lived round the corner from me (not quite at the same time). As captain of Liverpool he would have had to go down a back entry to catch a bus into work....and I think it was Lawrenson who had to knock on Paisley's front door in order to join the team....he said that the door was opened by this man in slippers, a cardigan and holding a

mug of tea....he immediately told himself that he could work for a man like that....the retirement of Shankly saw the entire Liverpool team walk into the Punchbowl pub in Sefton Village...Brian Hall who i had played with and against at Liverpool University came over to communicate the shock they all felt...How I hate the squeezing out of this combination of sentiment and values. Footy is not just money!



The Word predicts that a prominent premier league footballer is in negotiations with sponsors to come out sometime next season. Our sources have told us that they expect to make millions of pounds in sponsorship and image rights as soon as the deal has been done.

The history of homophobia in and around football has been horrendous but now the culture change within the younger generation and the undoubted rise of spending power amongst the gay community has made it inevitable.

The gay rights group Stonewall published a report in August 2009 which described English football as "institutionally homophobic."

Even heterosexual players, such as Graeme Le Saux and Sol Campbell, have been the victim of homophobic abuse; Le Saux by fellow player Robbie Fowler, and Campbell by opposing supporters.

Since Justin Fashanu took his own life in 1998, eight turbulent years after coming out while at Leyton Orient, the climate has been confused. In a more enlightened culture we have seen much progress, certainly outside of football, where swimmer Tom Daley and Welsh rugby international Gareth Thomas have come out to enormous support and celebration. Swedish defender Anton Hysén, son of Liverpool's Glenn Hysén, came out in 2011 just as his career was beginning and has had an overwhelmingly positive response. As has Robbie Rogers, who came out just after retiring from Leeds and was promptly signed up by LA Galaxy.

According to the office for national statistics one in 50 people in the UK now identify themselves as gay. There are 500 players registered in premier league squads. This should mean there are 10 openly gay footballers in our top league. Where are they?

THE FIRST GAY FOOTBALLER IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE WILL COME OUT NEXT SEASON?