

ENGLAND MANAGERS ARE LIKE TORY LEADERS

**You Don't Like Them
You Don't Want Them
They Balls It All Up**

After Allardyce the corrupt we get Southgate the boring. The establishment's choice to be a safe pair of hands for the establishment. Let's look through the records of these managers and parallel the patterns. Theresa May equates to Southgate: both would be able to bore you to death by simply talking to you. Both come from the comfortable but not too posh middle class. Both had the same last result, a nil all draw away in Europe. Next we have dodgy Dave and dodgy Sam. Enough said. Go back further in time and we had an assortment of mercenaries from Sweden and Italy. The obvious parallel here is the Prime Minister of the time, Blair, a money grubber and grabber of the sleaziest order. In those days we fought wars away from home all the time without ever winning an-



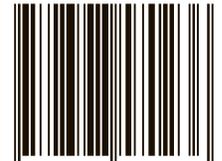
anything.

Contrast England's forlorn football team with what happened in Germany. Their manager, Joachim Low, an undistinguished player who was the right man to manage his country. Result, they won the world cup. England's only win came about in 1966 under Alf Ramsey. The Prime Minister of the time, Harold Wilson, who was from the right of the Labour party, did not follow the establishment line in everything. He had the sense to keep us out of the Vietnam War. Imagine Rochdale beating Real Madrid in the Champions league final and you will understand what happened in Vietnam.

The point being is to appoint someone in charge who does the right thing because it is the right thing and not for the money or the power. Roll on the 2022 World Cup.



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THE WORD

Why do we hate our kids? **p. 14**

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George Galloway Speaks **p. 10**

Issue 7, October 2016.

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER

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NEVER TRUST A TORY

INSIDE



THE PETERLOO PROJECT

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

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

THE
WORD

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NEVER TRUST



NEVER TRUST A TORY

Just remember those words the next time you hear a pro-Conservative piece in your daily newspaper.

NEVER TRUST A TORY

Just remember those words during any election campaign being held.

NEVER TRUST A TORY

Just remember those words during a Conservative conference.

NEVER TRUST A TORY

Just remember those words during a party political broadcast by the Conservative party.

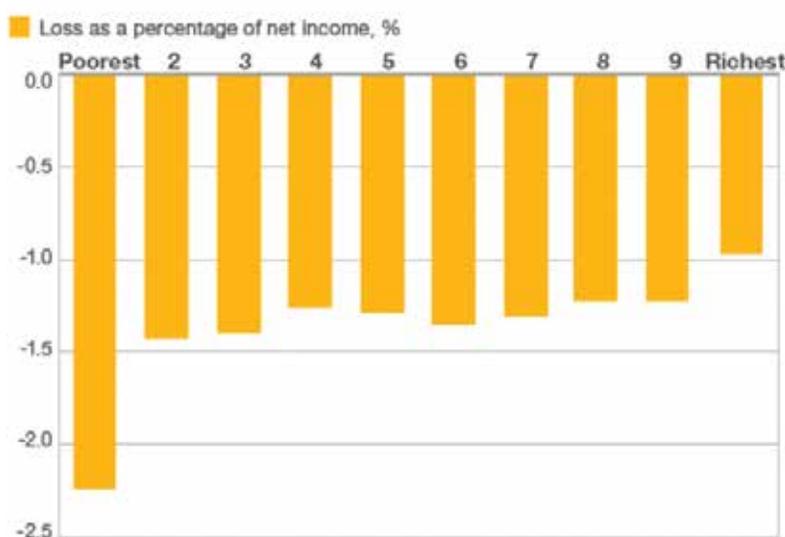
In 2010, throughout the election campaign, the Conservatives via David Cameron repeatedly stated that his party had "absolutely no plans to raise VAT".

During the same campaign the Lib Dems made opposition to a VAT tax hike a centrepiece of their general election campaign.

In 2011 the coalition brought in the 20% VAT tax hike that hit the poorest hardest, proving again that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Both sides opposed a VAT hike separately, but agreed it in coalition.

Alan Johnson, the new Shadow Chancellor: "Will the timing of the spending cuts that are to be announced next week be exactly as laid out in June's emergency Budget, and will the Chancellor confirm that the aim continues to be that the deficit will be eliminat-

Effect of VAT rise by income groups



Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies

Published: October 13, 2010 *The Treasury Questions exchange, as recorded in Hansard.*

ed by 2015?"

George Osborne: "First, I should welcome the right hon. Gentleman to his new role on behalf of all Government Members. I did the job for five years, and I hope that he does it for even longer than I did. The answer to his question is yes."

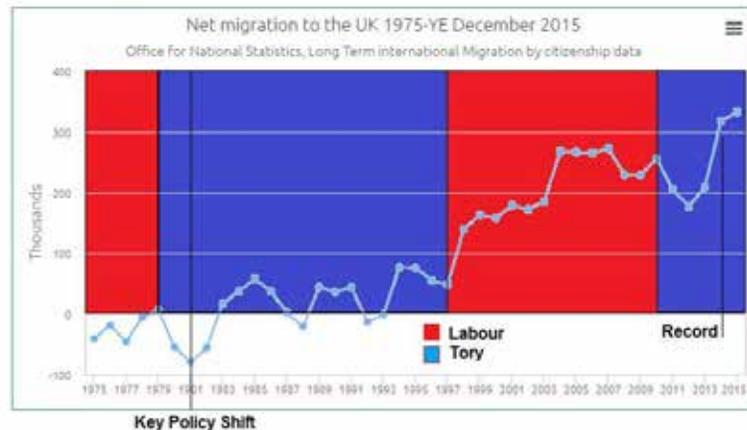
In Oct 2015 George Osborne's deficit-cutting drive was blown apart after official (ONS) figures showed the worst October for the public finances in six years. The BREXIT door opened up and George Osborne made a quick getaway before anyone could question his economic competency.

David Cameron complained about the net immigration figure under Labour being about 200,000 per year, stating that it was too high despite Labour leaving office with net immigration falling. He declared that he wanted

A TORY

graph below shows how current levels of net migration compare to previous years levels.

Figure 1: Net migration to the UK 1975-YE December 2015



it in the tens of thousands. Cameron with Theresa May in the home office solved this problem by increasing it to record levels of over 300,000.

If you were being cynical, you could say that they were inviting a larger pool of migrants to scapegoat and demonise. In any case these increased levels of net immigration probably tipped the finely balanced EU vote into a narrow BREXIT from remain.

In the 2015 Conservative manifesto they planned to have "a crackdown on tax evasion and the "aggressive" avoidance of tax". Tax avoidance stands at a conservative estimate of £35 billion with some economists estimating that the real figure is over £120 billion. George Osborne's tax avoiding family firm seemed to be exempt from this clampdown as well as David Cameron with the Panama papers exposing the worldwide colossal scope of tax avoidance. George had a miniscule amount of success when he managed to raise Google's effective tax rate from 0% to just over 1%. Theresa May is now carrying on the Tory tradition of promising to clamp down on tax avoidance.

Theresa May's husband is a senior executive at an investment fund which manages \$20 billion of shares in tax avoiding companies such as Amazon and Starbucks.

There are now 30,000 cases of illegal tax evasion awaiting court hearings and the backlog is growing. Cuts in HMRC mean that most cases take years to come to court, and the convoluted tax avoidance laws result in cases dragging on for

many years with appeals upon appeals - delaying tactics employed by expensive tax avoidance legal teams. And Theresa May, like her predecessor, proposes ineffective measure.

The cascade effect bypasses local opposition to fracking.

Leading fracking company Exxon Mobile pays the lobbying company American Enterprise Institute \$1.5 million.

American Enterprise Institute is now a pro-fracking lobby company and gives donations to communities secretary Sajid Javid. Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): travel £4,251.83, accommodation £1,010.63, hospitality £140.33; total £5,402.79

Mr Javid has just granted the right to private companies to frack under people's homes in Lancashire against the protests of more than 18,000 local residents and over ruling the local county council. Do you believe in coincidences?

Other promises include house building, but delivering the lowest level of house building since the 1930s. Or the promises to protect working tax credits only to introduce cuts once in power. How about the promise to be the greenest government ever with Cameron cycling to work and plonking a mini wind turbine generator on his house? Instead, he cut support for solar panels on homes, scrapped the Green Deal to help people insulate old homes, scrapped green building standards for new homes and cut support for industrial solar projects. Compassionate Conservatism promises have led to 1 million people using food banks, countless benefit sanctions leading to suicides and deaths, and a doubling of homelessness.

Never trust a Tory!

Opinion: What stands out to you when you look at the 2015 intake of newly elected Labour MPs?

Opinion: What stands out to you when you look at the 2015 intake of newly elected Labour MPs?

A large class by schoolroom standards with 53 pupils.

And as newbies to the House of Commons they were just that - pupils.

Any new job takes time to settle in, find one's feet, understand what is expected of you and recognise the many boundaries as you work out who the bullies are.

Yes there are always bullies in any workplace.

A glimpse into life in the House of Commons aired on BBC TV Saturday evening was interesting viewing. It was of course controlled footage showing the best and established protocols and ceremony of the Commons. And it was filmed in 2014.

The Commons must be a daunting place for new members and kudos to those wanting to work in such a place. However it is easy to see how some will quickly end up out of touch with reality, living in some ways in a fantasy world of perks, back scratching, plots and the potential to make "loads a money."

So back to that image of the class of 2015.

The late Jo Cox jumps out at me.

A pretty, petite mother of two wearing a bright red dress and smart blazer. As always there is a cheeky impish look on her face. Who would have believed in 2015 that Jo Cox would have or even could have been brutally killed on the streets of her Yorkshire constituency in 2016?

But she was, a day after campaigning along with her husband and two children for the UK to stay a member of the EU. Jo Cox remains a shining light for all and a reminder that TOGETHER the Labour Party, its supporters, members and voters are stronger and more able to fight against political extremism.

Veteran MP Harriet Harman is the next person in the above image catching my attention.

Her inclusion highlights that the image is not only post the 2015 General Election but Labour Party leader Ed Miliband's resignation. Ms Harman took temporary control of the Labour Party overseeing the election of Mr Miliband's replacement.



On September 12 2015 veteran Labour MP Jeremy Corbyn was elected party leader and it was game on.

Throughout the election many people away from the Westminster bubble knew Jeremy would win. There was and still is a will among many people for real political change and they see that as possible only under Mr Corbyn.

Harry Harpham was also a newbie though not a youngster. A former coal miner he was elected Member of Parliament for Sheffield Brightside and Hillsborough in May 2015 but sadly died nine months later aged just 62.

Looking back to the class of 2015 image how many MPs do you recognise and why?

Many are just faces to us all unless you are a big-time political activist.

For me Richard Burgon, Clive Lewis, Angela Rayner, Rebecca Long-Bailey and Cat Smith stand out as MPs who have been loyal to the party leader and to those who have voted for him, twice now, to be party leader.

But sadly most of the others that jump out at me from that image do so for the wrong reasons.

Jess Philips is one of those. She has courted the mainstream media, allegedly claimed a huge amount in expenses, has blocked so many people on Twitter that there is now one account clocking how many and who, yet she still somehow manages to get trolls abusing her on social media that she then writes about in the msm

<http://labourlist.org/2015/05/meet-labours-53-new-mps/>

and has attacked Jeremy Corbyn along the way.

Wes Streeting, Connor McGinn, Melanie Onn, Stephen Kinnock, Ruth Smeeth and Anna Turley prefer fighting Jeremy Corbyn to fighting the Tories too. And there are a few others.

Some as newbies will have been sucked into a gang or two. That is part of life at work.

Some may have been egged on by others who were recent newbies such as Gloria de Piero from the class of 2010.

Anti-Corbyn plotters from the class of 2010 include Rachel Reeves, Chuka Umunna, Michael Dugher, Karl Turner, Heidi Alexander and John Woodcock. That list is not exhaustive.

Gloria de Piero is a former TV presenter and in the Summer of 2016 she wrote a piece which was posted in the Sun begging people to join Labour to help oust Jeremy Corbyn although ultimately those who did were excluded from voting when a January membership deadline was put in place.

But when you are the new kid on the block if you are wise you watch and listen and learn before you jump.

The class of 2015 were elected in a turbulent time in the history of the Labour Party but for whatever reason some have added to instability and will not be forgiven easily if at all.

[Tom Watson's "unity memo" dig in his conference speech and Sadiq Khan's much filmed arrogant appearance at conference show for some, newbies and veteran Labour politicians, it is still game on and the plotters continue to plot]



Big Tax Dodgers

By Georgie Harrison

What tax dodgers earn, and what they keep

Source: SEC FILINGS, ENDERS, COMPANIES HOUSE

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.'

Proverbs 31:8-9 (NIV)

This is second nature to most of us, or at least I used to think it was. I make no apology for quoting from the Bible; I believe that this reference is particularly relevant to all, regardless of creed.

Sadly, many people in today's society do not aspire to this. They appear to jealously protect their own needs, even if they are aware that it impacts negatively on others. Some may even give generously of their time, talents or treasure to worthy charities yet pour vengeful scorn, hate even, on unfortunates who find themselves sinking below the breadline.

A young Christian recently told me "It's annoying how the poor spend their money unwisely" and

another young woman of the secular variety, who works and plays hard, is adamant that "everything will be sorted when the NHS is privatised". I despair of their ingrained, unshakeable and ill-informed opinion.

There is much work to be done to address the poverty and low standard of living that many endure in the UK. Even those who are relatively comfortable financially do not appear to appreciate the riches of life, such as art and science, or even a simple sunset. They are being sold short by greedy advertisers and the mainstream media; instructed to aspire to manufactured pop and reality

TV shows; that money is the key to life and those without it are worthless and lazy; whereas celebrities are to be idolised. Told subliminally that they themselves are nobodies unless they possess the latest mobile phone, TV or car.

Those struggling to feed their families or heat their homes are cut off from society and berated for attempting to belong by getting hold of satellite TV or perhaps a grant for a well-deserved break or more likely pawning what little they have or setting up debts with menacing figures.

Possessions are not prescriptions to fill that "hole in the soul". Their appeal is transitory and this

must delight those profiting from sales and marketing.

It is widely known that many of the companies raking in millions from their products are skilled in tax avoidance and evasion; thereby creaming off from our nation with minimal punitive action from the Tory government - according to Christians on the Left, there are around 300 HMRC employees chasing £4.4 billion of tax evasion and over 3000 of their colleagues are hounding £1.2 billion of alleged benefit fraud. This illustrates the

government's priorities and their reluctance to offend their wealthy cronies by returning to our nation the billions that are rightfully ours. Unlike their economy, this attitude does trickle down and pervade our society. It causes division and strife.

There is always hope and it comes in the shape of Jeremy Corbyn and his talented team. We have a "mountain to climb" but we will all share in abundance and blessings once we have reached the summit.

	UK SALES	UK PROFITS	NORMAL UK TAX	ACTUAL UK TAX	LOST UK TAX
Apple	£6bn	£1.3bn	£370m	£10m	£360m
Amazon	£3.2bn	£150m	£42m	£0.52m	£41.48m
Google	£2.1bn	£750m	£210m	£5m	£205m
EBay	£800m	£180m	£50m	£3.4m	£46.6m
Facebook	£100m	£51m	£14.2m	£0.4m	£13.8m

XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 7

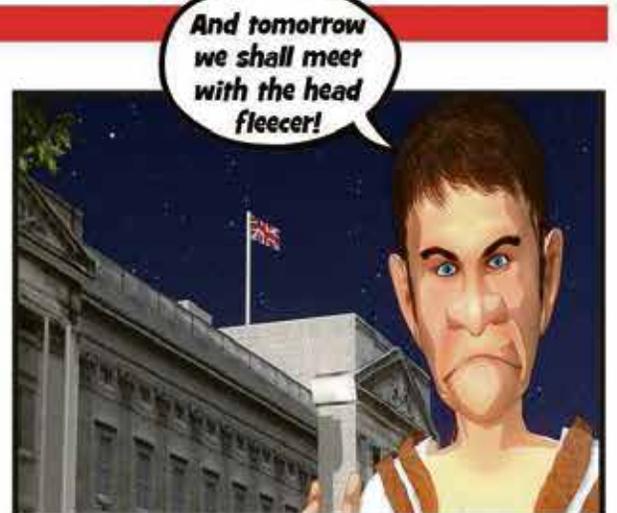
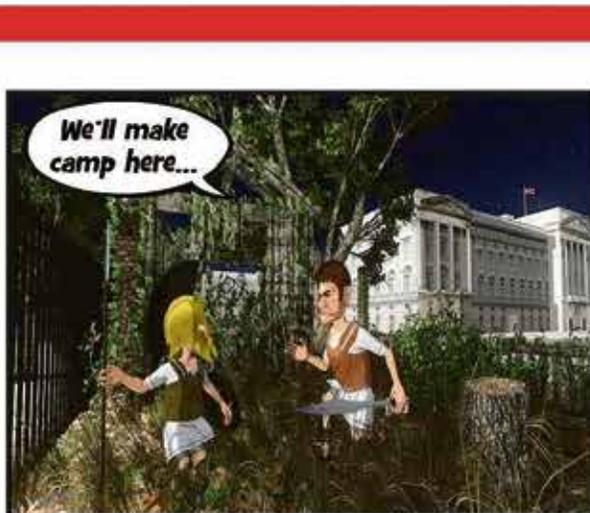


PREVIOUSLY: Our heroes, searching for the ghost of Xerxes in the Underworld, were overcome by a mysterious incense that plunged them into a deadly world of skeletons and hotpots... As the diesel fumes clear, our heroes continue on their journey towards Hades.. or quite possibly the Jubilee Line...



Xenophon salutes Jean Alexander: 1926-2016

The adventure continues...





Part One

Opinion Polled

The Brexit debate was one of extremes. It was centred near entirely upon opinions well-honed in the years leading up to the campaign. It remains a test of our national mettle - but it is not a test we can actually pass.

Britain has always had reservations about the European Union - too much of our cultural identity is tied to enduring *The Coming Tide* of European Madness. This has repeated throughout our national memory from Julius Caesar, Augustus and Claudius to Napoleon, Wilhelm and Hitler.

European history is so rich that every neighbour has been a bad one; each nation has eyed its neighbour with suspicion. The European Union started life as a means to end millennia of mistrust and bloodshed, to once and for all forge a common bond between all of us. In a very real sense it is a Neighbourhood Watch, with most of its regulations covering neighbourly transfers of cups, both sugar and milk - and all varieties thereof. Currently our weapons point away from our nearest neighbours, for perhaps the longest period in over two millennia. Europe has not shared such common culture since the Romans marched across it.

A great many Europeans have lost family through conflict with their fellows. The European Union has put an end to that, at least for now. Yet people lose sleep when guard dogs begin barking, which appears to be happening across our bloc. Our national memories are long, our identities strong, our languages divided. Our trusts misplaced.

Most media outlets today would have us all believe the EU is crumbling, that its agenda is ul-

21ST CENTURY FEUDALISM

timately one of subjugation, that its creeping unity is somehow divisive. We do not know the end game, beyond the clear intention of developing one cohesive national identity, one united power, one body politic. The idea itself isn't so scary; we've had it in Britain for centuries. The truth is we do not trust those in power. As a nation we feel too far removed, too independent, too proud and too good to be just a part of the next superpower - even a large part. And in truth, the British have never believed themselves European.

Opinion Sold

The media message resonates powerfully within our people. It steers our debates, colours our daily thoughts with eternal repetitions of fear, mistrust and reminders of past brutalities. Our families have all suffered terrible fates at the hands of our nearest neighbours. My Grandmother lost four brothers in the World Wars. My Grandfathers both served in - and thankfully survived - the Second. They all knew a great many less fortunate.

Our daily papers remind us

often - with endless images of Churchill and Spitfires - our television offers countless hours of scrutinised broadcast war. It is a constant reminder in our lives (Nazis, War, Europe, Chamberlain and Churchill) of mistrust and misplaced pride. The media has been building us towards Brexit for decades.

This arguably began with Boris Johnson, who, upon leaving Eton and Oxford (editor of Eton's school paper and President of the Oxford Society Union) used his deep establishment connections to begin his career as a journalist - first at *The Times*, where he was swiftly fired for faking a quotation that embarrassed his own godfather - then at *The Telegraph*, whose editor was an Oxford friend. In 1989 he was made a European Correspondent, based in Brussels. Here Johnson specialised in synthetic outrage; incessant, vehement criticism of the EU - for no more reason than he found that he could:

"I saw the whole [European Union] change. It was a wonderful time to be there. The Berlin Wall fell and the French and Germans had to decide how they were going

to respond to this event, and what was Europe going to become, and there was this fantastic pressure to create a single polity, to create an answer to the historic German problem, and this produced the most fantastic strains in the Conservative Party, so everything I wrote from Brussels, I found was sort of chucking these rocks over the garden wall and I listened to this amazing crash from the greenhouse next door over in England as everything I wrote from Brussels was having this amazing, explosive effect on the Tory party, and it really gave me this I suppose rather weird sense of power." *Boris Johnson*

Boris mastered media manipulations of synthetic outrage *as a career* before he even entered politics. He was frequently accused of fabrication, making things up to suit his own ends, all the while socialising exclusively with his wealthy elite chums.¹ Moreover, he wasn't actually the Euro-sceptic hardliner he pretended to be:

Academic Tony Travers, of the London School of Economics, described Johnson as "a fairly classic

- that is, small-state - mildly Eurosceptic Conservative" who like his contemporaries Cameron and Osborne also embraced "modern social liberalism".

'Modern Social Liberalism' goes by two other names - the first is Neoliberalism; the second, more specific name is *Libertarian*.

"[I am] free-market, tolerant, broadly libertarian (though perhaps not ultra-libertarian), inclined to see the merit of traditions, anti-regulation, pro-immigrant, pro-standing on your own two feet, pro-alcohol, pro-hunting, pro-motorist and ready to defend to the death the right of Glenn Hoddle to believe in reincarnation."

Boris Johnson

Elitist compatriot and close colleague of Johnson's, Michael Gove, specialised in similar strategy over at *The Times* (and was President of the Oxford Society Union a mere two years after Johnson).

Boris Johnson and Michael Gove. How could we possibly trust career propagandists, proven professional liars; known con-men, with our future security?

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

CHRIS THE CAREERIST #07



Best facebook groups

<https://www.facebook.com/Nye-BevanNews/>

Great news page that has many videos and news items that are excluded from the main stream media.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/519949641500248/> {We support Jeremy Corbyn}

This is one of the best forums for lively debate by democratic socialist Labour members.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/770925089714393/> {THE WORD - supporters group}

Come and discuss the paper. Voice your opinion. Volunteer to write articles, proof read, draw graphics and generally promote the paper.

Best blogs

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

Blog by Ste Matthew Murray. He specialises in dissecting the news and political programs and presenting an alternative view of the same news.

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/> This is a blog by a prolific writer Thomas G. Clark, with an independent and forthright Yorkshire voice who speaks about political, economic and philosophical issues.

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/> Mike Sivier has been a newspaper reporter for the best part of 20 years now. he switched to freelance work in 2007 in order to become a carer for his disabled girlfriend. He is interested in politics, with an emphasis on people rather than the movement of money.

Military Blogger Alleges U.S. Now Aids ISIS to Oust Assad

<https://off-guardian.org/2016/10/13/military-blogger-alleges-u-s-now-aids-isis-to-oust-assad/>

By Eric Zuesse

A highly informed anonymous military blogger, who goes by the name of "bernhard" and blogs at his widely followed "Moon of Alabama" website, is alleging, in a post October 12th ("The 'Salafist Principality' – ISIS Paid Off

To Leave Mosul And To Take Deir Ez-zor?"), that the Obama Administration has negotiated with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, and with Saudi Prince Salman (who is the decision-maker in Saudi military matters), to provide safe passage into the large Syrian city of Deir Es Zor, for the ISIS jihadists who have been occupying the city of Mosul in Iraq.

On September 17th, U.S. and UK jets had bombed the compound of Syrian

government troops who were fighting to oust jihadists from that City, and 62 Syrian soldiers were killed, and over a hundred were injured, in that U.S.-led bombing attack. Subsequently, Syria brought more troops to that location and retook control there, but if and when the ISIS jihadists from Mosul take control there, the forces of Bashar al-Assad will be beaten not by U.S. bombs, this time, but by ISIS jihadists.

Uk: Children And Families Denied Access To Justice

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/uk-government-denying-children-and-families-access-justice-legal-aid-cuts>

Imagine having to represent yourself in court. Now imagine you're 18. Or you have learning difficulties. Or you're fighting for custody of your child in a legal sys-

tem you don't understand.

This is reality for thousands of people across the UK every year. Government cuts to legal aid are denying you your right to access justice - and vulnerable people are being hit hardest.

Your access to justice is a victim of government cuts. Driven by economic con-

cerns, the government drastically reduced access to legal aid without proper regard for the impact it would have on people.

Now thousands of children, men and women across the UK have been abandoned - forced to navigate the complex and labyrinthine world of the legal system on their own.

When it comes to fracking, does democracy count for much?

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/climate/when-it-comes-fracking-democracy-doesnt-count-20161006>

Posted by Hannah Martin – 6 October 2016

Today marks a new low in the government's plan to force fracking on the UK.

In a move that makes a mockery out of the government's claim to champion local democracy, Westminster politicians have overturned Lancashire council's decision to block fracking -- and decided that fracking firm Cuadrilla should be allowed to drill.

The news came through this morning. Sajid Javid, the government minister who oversees local councils, announced that he would allow drilling at Cuadrilla's

site at Preston New Road, near Blackpool. And he added that he was minded to grant permission to frack at another proposed site too.

For half a decade now, there are thousands of us across the country who've worked determinedly to keep the fracking industry out of our towns and out of our countryside. Together we've raised awareness of the risks this destructive industry poses to the environment and to our climate. And together we've used just about every democratic tool in the book to push back against government plans to roll out fracking on our doorsteps.

And it seemed that, in Lancashire at least, all that work had paid off. Because last year, Lancashire county councillors listened to the concerns of local residents

and voted against fracking firm Cuadrilla's plans.

It was a huge win for people power. And it was a crucial moment for local democracy too.

But today marks a turning point. In a single move, Mr Javid has not only silenced elected council officials. He's also ignored 14,000 people in Lancashire who've said they don't want fracking on their doorstep. And he's snubbed a 180,000-strong petition that called for Lancashire council's block on fracking to be upheld.

Through overturning the decision, Westminster politicians have effectively declared that fracking industry profits are more important than the concerns of British people.

Best of

Best Websites

<http://www.thecanary.co/> A formidable left wing news website with fresh and well written articles it is funded by online donations.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/>

The website of Amnesty International working to defend people's human rights all over the world. Promoting and protecting freedom of speech and working to stop torture and inhumane treatment of people.

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/>

Greenpeace fights to defend the natural world and promote peace by investigating, exposing and confronting environmental abuse, and championing environmentally responsible solutions.

<http://novaramedia.com/>

Novara Media examines the social and economic issues of the 21st century.

They provide political commentary and stories that you won't find in the mainstream media.

The pluralist discussion can feed back into political action.

<http://www.democracynow.org/>

Democracy Now! is a national, daily, independent, award-winning news program hosted by journalists Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez. Pioneering the largest public media collaboration in the U.S., Democracy Now!

<https://off-guardian.org/>

Critical look at our allegedly liberal and free press.

<http://evolvepolitics.com/>

Evolve Politics is a truly independent, shared equity media outlet, providing incisive news reporting and investigative journalism that highlights and exposes injustice, inequality and unfairness within UK politics, and throughout society in general. It has come into existence to provide an alternative to the pro-establishment dominated media.

Why the Movement for Scottish Independence Has to Remain Radical

<http://novaramedia.com/2016/10/13/why-the-movement-for-scottish-independence-has-to-remain-radical/>

By Liam Young
@liamcyoung

Estimated read time: 4mins
Tweet Article Facebook Share Send to Kindle

On 18 September 2014 Scotland voted to reject independence and remain part of the United Kingdom.

The referendum witnessed the birth of a huge grassroots movement involving well-attended meetings held in communities up and down

the country, with many people getting active in politics for the first time. In large part, this mass participation was due to the nature of the campaign which placed equality, democracy and poverty reduction at the heart of a radical vision for the future.

#Indyref2 and the EU.

A major argument against independence was the threat it would pose to Scotland's EU membership. The recent vote to leave the EU has proved the reverse to be the case, and in the process raised the possibility of another independence referendum. Before the EU referendum the first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, clearly stat-

ed that if the UK voted to leave and Scotland voted remain, she would consider the scenario grounds for calling another vote on independence.

These early indications suggest the focus of a future pro-independence campaign will be the issue of preserving EU membership. On the surface this would appear to make sense: one of the groups least likely to support independence in 2014 were non-Scottish residents, who might now be more easily persuaded. But this presents a challenge to the independence movement - according to a recent poll, 10% of Yes voters said they would no longer support independence if it was tied to EU membership.

What drove the Yes vote in 2014?

However the main threat to delivering a positive vote to leave the UK may instead come from the inability of a timid mainstream campaign to enthuse the many working class people who were previously inspired to vote Yes. The independence referendum saw a turnout of

84.6% - the highest ever recorded in a UK vote since universal suffrage was introduced. This is an indication that many participants in the independence referendum had never previously voted, many of whom came from some of the most deprived communities in Scotland.

It is also notable that people who were unemployed or from poorer areas were much more likely to vote for independence. It is clear the referendum captured the imagination of many of those with nothing to lose and everything to gain from challenging the status quo.

'McKenzie Friend' crowdfunded project aims to fight the Labour Purge – and you can help

<http://voxpolygonline.com/2016/10/14/mckenzie-friend-crowdfunded-project-aims-to-fight-the-labour-purge-and-you-can-help/>

14 Oct 2016

Posted by Mike Sivier

Labour Party members who were suddenly suspended for flimsy reasons in the run-up to this year's leadership election have a new hurdle to overcome.

It appears Labour's National Executive Committee is now passing lists of suspended members to Constituency Labour Parties for them to... what shall we call it? Investigate?

It seems the member will attend a "hearing" with the CLP.

Not only does this smack of the NEC trying to absolve itself of responsibility, now that the volume and type of suspensions is coming

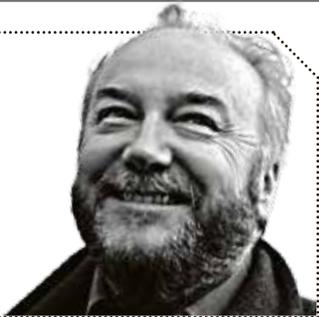
to light, but it also suggests - to This Writer - that members of individual CLP hierarchies who also want to cause distress and humiliation to suspended members will now have a chance to do so.

That is no way to behave.

The Labour suspensions group has decided that people should not face these hearings alone - especially if they are vulnerable, elderly or disabled.

George Galloway

Corbyn's Best Day Yet!



The British political battlefield has seen fierce action since I last wrote for The Word.

Jeremy Corbyn has been convincingly re-elected as Labour leader and all but the most rebarbative internal critics have accepted this.

Many resignees have returned to the fold and the front bench. A new Chief Whip, veteran fixer from the Blair/Brown era has been reinstated. I know him well and have a high regard for his party management skills.

Following on from his last "best day yet" - over the Tories "back to the 1950s" plan for grammar schools - Corbyn has been running rings around the Tories over Brexit. Theresa May is all at sea, unable to move forward or back. Trapped between hard-line Europhobes and free-market zealots on the one hand and turmoil on the markets on the other May looks like a rabbit caught in the headlights.

Corbyn and his team to be fair exploited that well and have the Tories in trouble.

There was less success on the other big battleground, the war on Syria. The Tories (including a Boris Johnson who recently in his Telegraph column praised the "ruthless clarity" of the Russians in Syria) have emerged full trumpet as the friends of ISIS/ Al Qaeda.

Labour is still too tentative about calling that what it is, treason.

If the fanatics in Syria succeed there they will soon be here, there and everywhere. A decisive crushing of these mainly foreign terrorists is a necessary though not sufficient condition for stability in the Middle East and therefore the world. It is not sufficient (this would still leave the pattern of corrupt kings and puppet presidents in place) but it IS necessary.

The US mania of "regime change" has catastrophically failed in both Iraq and Libya. Only a fool believes that it would be any more successful in Syria. To the contrary it would provide a critical mass of broken states, utterly failed states and generalised fanatic Islamist uprising across the whole region.

Head chopping, heart-eating, crucifying extremism is the enemy of all of us, Muslim and not, and must not be allowed to succeed. Not only should the governments of Iraq and Syria be supported in their fight to survive, but their allies in particular Russia should be helped to win and finish the war. If Corbyn grasped this nettle and found the right words to express it he would be amazed at the traction in the country.

It would slay the idea that he is a "pacifist" (which he is not) and establish that Labour will fight where necessary and when the ends are legal, just and will make things better rather than worse.

Corbyn has been running rings around the Tories over Brexit. Theresa May is all at sea, unable to move forward or back

A Bonanza Of Royal Court

By Jack Cornes

The legendary Royal Court Theatre in London is to celebrate its 60th Anniversary with a special one-off gala performance. There are some wonderful Actors performing at this gala including Maxine Peake, Meera Syal, Andrew Scott and Kate O' Flynn, in which these Actors perform different scenes from across the history of the Royal Court's varied pieces of theatre.

This gala will be preceded by an online auction designed to raise funds for the theatre with many prizes on offer,

including dinner with performers Stephen Mangan and Tamsin

Grieg, work experience at the Royal Court as well as a writing masterclass with Playwright Simon Stephens, among many other prizes.

The work that has been produced at the Sloane Square venue over the last sixty years has been of utmost importance to our British identity. It was the Royal Court who gave voice to the angry young men movement when John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* was first staged there in 1956, forevermore transforming the landscape of British Theatre from middle-class dominated drawing room comedies to working class kitchen sink realism.

From here the Royal Court gave voice to such revolutionary

productions and playwrights as Edward Bond's 1965 play *Saved*, a play that would help lead to the abolition of the Lord Chamberlain Censorship Laws in 1968, as well as playwright Sarah Kane, many years later, whose play *Blasted* debuted at the Royal Court in 1995.

In an era when the head table of our arts community seems to be moving back to a more elitist footing, the work which the Royal Court continue to do is crucial in highlighting the brilliant diversity of our societies up and down the country. Happy 60th Anniversary Royal Court and here's to another sixty years. The gala takes place at Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, London on November 2nd.

Number 5: "Labour Value"

Valuable stuff doesn't just come from Human labour - Nature does most of the work. Karl Marx pointed that out.

So - Let's talk about a REAL Working Class- Nature. Specifically - the universal symbols for Workers - Bees.

Even bees didn't get here on their own. It took almost 4 billion years for Life to make oxygen, water and soil.

Like us, bees gain their energy from Solar power processed by plants and 65 million years of evolution and work developed a world of flowering plants that depend on them.

The Research and Development, material building and mas-

sive organisation continues today and - like us - bees exploit it. Bees processing that material is 'Labour value'. Yes: Honey is Labour value.

Things like bears always killed the hives to steal the honey and from 15 thousand years ago to the 18th Century, so did we (the wax was handy too). Nowadays, we replace the honey with sugar stolen from plants and keep bees at subsistence level.

Like many Capitalists, in making Wealth Creation more efficient, we've damaged the bee's survival. Removing hedgerows and shrubs, we've stopped the bee's food-source whilst Sygenia and Monsanto have developed Insecticides

which kill bees. Attempts to stop them are blocked by Money.

As bees die out, honey becomes a luxury and the ecosystem dies. Our standard of living drops and we face extinction whilst Scarcity is Profit for the Rich.

Bees are often called Communists, but for the last two hundred years of supporting us, they've become the Working Class And - as the Working Class are excluded from basic resources to Maximise profit, that's becoming more true now than ever.

DON'T SAY: "Labour is an unnecessary expense"
DO SAY: "A little wealth is the product of Labour"

f Acting Talent At Gala Performance

The Master Returns

By Jack Cornes

The world stood still a couple of weeks ago, well for me it did anyway, as it was announced that one of my main acting inspirations - the three time Oscar winning - Sir Daniel Day - Lewis would be returning to his first role since his monumental performance as honest 'Abe' in the 2012 biopic *Lincoln*. It was announced that Day - Lewis would be returning to the big screen in a yet to be titled film based within the 1950's fashion world. Directed by the visionary Paul Thomas - Anderson, this will mark the second collaboration between the pair after Anderson directed Day - Lewis in possibly the greatest film of the last decade - 2007's *There Will Be Blood* - a film in which Day - Lewis creates one of, if not the, greatest film roles of all time earning him his second Oscar for Best Actor. With Sir Daniel not working often this is always a happening when he takes on a role.



Being an Actor I have immeasurable admiration for this man's work, so much so that I do not wish to talk about all of the sensationalism that people muster regarding this Artist's approach to his work. I want to talk about the immense dedication Day - Lewis puts into the roles he creates; he fully explores and builds a character that isn't simply a performance but a life, a three dimensional person of depth, of purpose and of emotion. The two aspects of his work that I admire is the careful selection of the work he chooses, Sir Daniel doesn't make films often and will only do so when he can't fully disengage from the premise of the project or the character he is approached for. He has only made 5 pictures in the last fourteen years but when he does it is a character portrayal of such sublime truth and authenticity. Truth is the operative word that leads me to my second aspect of his work that inspires me. Day - Lewis does not do franchises, you won't see him in the latest Marvel release or fantastical adventure; many of his pictures take place in the past and are always grounded in a world both true and real. I feel that Sir Daniel Day - Lewis is one of the foremost Artists in the world today and his work should always be celebrated. Independent film label Focus Features have brought the worldwide rights to this story set in the fashion world of the 1950's and it is expected that production will begin in 2017. I watch the progress of this project with great anticipation and excitement.



A New And Ultimate Theatre

By Jack Cornes

Trying to forge a career in the Performing Arts Industry is incredibly difficult, many deeply talented and gifted drama practitioners have simply faded into oblivion. Over the past nine years I have had many experiences in Performing Arts; I came from a time of utter confusion and non - acceptance from my school years. I found in my first years of performing that I was set free from my own personal shackles; treading the boards allowed me to fly my own personal journey. Acting and Drama gave me a true gift - I realised my deep down abilities, gaining self confidence for the first time in my life; it allowed me to feel a fully fledged, fully living organism - completely in harmony with life, and con-

tributing to my own reality. The idea that gave me the most inspiration was creating a new Theatre Company. My journey became not only one of performance, but one of creation.

Upon watching the performances of *Cirque du Soleil* I was mesmerised by the possibilities of what a performance company can - if only for a short time - make real, and I began to imagine a theatre company of enormous scope, potential and expansion in terms of the realities, the worlds - the productions - we choose to create.

This new theatre company is called *Carnival of Eternal Light*. It is the aim of this company to provide original and breathtaking theatrical productions which

create worlds of wonder, through versatile and diverse performance mediums. It is our aim to provide opportunities for aspiring performance and production artists from diverse backgrounds, seeking a career in the performing arts. *Carnival of Eternal Light* seeks to provide educational opportunity and support to aspiring artists, and volunteer schemes to people interested in professional theatrical production. In keeping with this ethos, I felt the perfect debut story was *Alice in Wonderland*, itself a tale of surprising journeys, physical changes and colourful new worlds.

After many months of assembling a production and perfor-

If you would like to see more on this company, you can support us via *The Looking Glass* at crowdfunder.co.uk

mance team of brilliant aspiring artists, we have been able to craft a breathtaking theatrical experience called *The Looking Glass*. *The Looking Glass* is a multi - arts production based on the Lewis Carroll Novels *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass*. *The Looking Glass* will show us the magical and surreal world of the novels in a way never explored on stage before. This production will encompass many different performance disciplines; Acting, Circus Skills, Dancing, Contortion and Ballet.

For this performer, this new creation is the most challenging yet. And it is by far the most rewarding.

THE BLACKGUARDING OF JACQUELINE WALKER



By W Stephen Gilbert

It's crucial to remember that anti-Semitism is the McGuffin, a plot device that fifth columnists in the Labour Party deploy to further their aim of undermining Jeremy Corbyn. The Jewish community has for centuries been one of the most progressive, radical and creative contributors to Britain's politics and culture, and there has been a natural and easy affinity between Socialism and Judaism. What Marx called "the Jewish question" has always attracted lively interest and sympathy on the left. This has not changed since Corbyn became Labour leader; not one iota.

Though anti-Semitism has frequently been expressed on the right of British politics, racial and/or tribal and/or cultural distinction has rarely before caused dissension on the left. It's true that male chauvinism and homophobia have been more difficult for the left to grasp, but not for all on the left; James Connolly, the Irish patriot and Socialist thinker who was executed a century ago this year, wrote wisely and well about feminism though he, like all thoughtful men, would not claim to himself an organic, lived understanding of women's politicisation: "The worker is the slave of capitalist society, the female worker is the slave of that slave" [The Reconquest of Ireland 1915].

The latest Labour stalwart to find herself tom down by anti-Corbyn attack dogs is Jacqueline Walker. Walker is the daughter of a part-Jewish, part-black Jamaican mother and a Russian Jewish father. Both her parents were Civil Rights activists in the States before her mother brought her as a child to Britain where she has lived ever since. Her partner is Jewish. I suggest that she speaks with more authority and personal experience of abuse and discrimination than anyone who presumes to judge her. The presumption of judgment arises from the notion that she spoke in anti-Semitic terms at an event at the World Transformed fringe event, organised by Momentum and sponsored by Red Pepper, alongside the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool. As with the extended row about the supposedly offensive tweets of Naz Shah MP last spring,

many of those who deliver themselves of a dogmatic opinion have neither heard nor read the words that are supposed to have given offence. They simply swallow what they are told by the media.

Well, here's what Walker actually said, transcribed verbatim: "May I just say, I came in here and I was looking for information and I still haven't heard a definition of anti-Semitism that I can work with ... [at this point, others in the audience, of which she was part, spoke over her and she could not be heard] ... and in terms of Holocaust Day, wouldn't it be wonderful if Holocaust Day was open to all people who experienced Holocaust ... [more speaking over] ... in practice it's not actually circulated and advertised as such ... [more speaking over]"

It's disingenuous to judge the position of a person who is shouted down before she has the opportunity to develop and complete her point. But taking what she was able to say, in what sense and to what extent was it an outrage, or untrue, or offensive, or indeed specifically anti-Semitic? Out of eleven million slaughtered in the camps by the Nazis, six million were Jewish people. The other five million comprised black people, Slavs, priests, those with mental or physical disabilities, criminals, lesbians and gays, Communists, trade unionists, sex workers, Romanians, pacifists, twins, members of the resistance in Poland and elsewhere, Freemasons, immigrants, vagrants, Jehovah's Witnesses, anarchists, misogynists, alcoholics, spies and others. In what way does it reduce the Jewish ownership of Shoah to remember also (but not instead) those murdered who were not Jewish?

In 1979 (it opened the day Thatcher came to power), Martin Sherman's searing stage play *Bent* (made into a less effective movie) re-established the fact of the persecution and destruction of gay men by the Hitler regime that was determined to eliminate Berlin's Weimar reputation as the decadent capital of Europe. Sherman, a London-based American, is Jewish as well as gay and he deliberately chose to raise the issue of the neglect of Nazi victimhood that was additional to that of Jews. It was a brave decision and

one that did much good. Was he being anti-Semitic? Was the vogue in the 1970s for wearing a pink triangle - the mark imposed on gay inmates in the camps, as Jews were obliged to wear the yellow star - an anti-Semitic gesture?

The meeting at which Jackie Walker spoke from the floor was described as a training session, was not intended as an event for the general public and certainly not for the media. Such an event, you might think, would invite questions broached in a safe spirit of enquiry and of the search for enlightenment and engagement. Was it Walker's question about the inclusivity of Holocaust Memorial Day that led to people accusing her of anti-Semitism?

It is true that, on the web page 'Why mark 27 January Holocaust Memorial Day?' the opening rubric is this: "It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur". It is also true that, on the same site's page entitled 'The Holocaust', there is no mention of any Nazi victims who were not Jewish: "Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis attempted to annihilate all of Europe's Jews ...". Depending on where you look, Walker may or may not have a point about the advertising of HMD. But was it anti-Semitic to raise the point?

Mike Cushman, a Jewish member of Free Speech on Israel, wrote this: "It seems to me that Jacqueline Walker as a woman of dual heritage has to deal with the inherited pain of two Holocausts, the Jewish tragedy and the African horror story. Dealing with one is difficult, managing to live with the impact of both doubly so. No one has developed a language for this. Jackie is trying to provide one, a difficult task in the best and most supportive environment; an almost impossible one when every utterance is malevolently misinterpreted".

And six people issued a statement: "We are Jewish Labour activists who were with Jackie Walker at the training session on anti-Semitism ... Like her, some of us were heckled when we raised questions

unpalatable to others in the audience ... We were shocked at the way the level of barracking rose as soon as Jackie began to speak. Jewish Labour Movement supporters demonstrated contempt for her as a Jewish woman of African heritage who is a lifelong anti-racist advocate for the rights of minorities ... We unreservedly condemn allegations of anti-Semitism made against Jackie Walker. Calls for her to be disowned by the Momentum movement of which she is vice-chair ... are reprehensible instances of the witch hunt to which she and other Corbyn supporters have been subjected".

This brings us back to the real issue. The myth of anti-Semitism is being used as a stick with which to beat Jeremy Corbyn, not just by the Tories (Theresa May accused the Labour Party of anti-Semitism in her keynote speech to her party conference), not just by the lackeys of the Tory press and the anti-Socialist mainstream media, but also by elements within the Labour Party who would rather lose the next election than win it led by Corbyn.

At the very outset of its report on the synthetic 'row' in the party, The Daily Telegraph described Walker as "one of Jeremy Corbyn's most senior allies". You may look in vain in the paper for Mark Clarke, the Conservative Party officer accused of bullying thirteen fellow youth workers (including one who took his own life and six cases of "sexually inappropriate behaviour"), as "one of Theresa May's most senior allies". The paper also described its video of the event as "a secret recording obtained by The Telegraph". This implies that the meeting was somehow illicit and subversive; on the contrary, it was open to anyone with an interest in the matter and the fact that whoever recorded the footage on his phone was not prevented from so doing confirms that. This is very different from the clandestine recording of confidential Momentum meetings broadcast last month by Channel 4, an exercise that proved to be a damp squib, save that it prompted a jump in Momentum membership (much more informative would have been some fly-on-the-wall video of Progress meetings). To attempt further to skew the response to its story, The Tele-

graph's website page was illustrated by a shot of Walker singing The Red Flag, as if this were somehow transgressive and not something that all Labour Party members do, even the paper's beloved Mr Blair.

Someone who has not emerged from this nasty business with much credit is Jon Lansman, founder and chair of Momentum. Many members of Momentum and beyond looked to him to see the wood for the trees and to call out the witch hunt against Walker for what it is. Instead he allowed himself to be swayed by those in the Labour Party who do not take an objective stance either on the interpretation of Jewish history or on the politics of Israel and Palestine. Walker has now been dismissed from her vice-chairship of Momentum, formalising the group's acceptance of the anti-Corbyn faction's rout. Lansman's weak position allowed the scurrilous blogger Guido Fawkes to mock "the bizarre moment when Momentum are taking anti-Semitism more seriously than the Labour Party".

There are many who contend that the most mild questioning of Jewish tenets or Likud policy and Netanyahu actions is anti-Jewish and hence anti-Semitic, rather as supporters of the Republican Party in the United States would accuse those who found fault with the presidential positions of George W Bush of being "anti-American". This kind of careless elision of stances leads to damaging and meretricious accusations. The lie that Labour is anti-Semitic is taking root, just as other lies have done: that Labour crashed the economy, that Corbyn is unelectable. Once again, the Labour Party is only damaging itself by omitting to kill a lie for good.

Jeremy Corbyn - Accidental Hero 2nd edition now available from Eyewear Publishing; new chapter also on my blog at www.wstegcommonsense.blogspot.co.uk

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OCTOBER 9, 2016 STUART DYE

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance's fifth report on the UK, released on 4th October, drew attention to the role of British newspapers in the growth of xenophobia and hate crime in the country. It made 23 recommendations to the UK government and can be viewed at

<http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/GBR-PR-V-2016-226-EN.asp>

As the Council of Europe's website explains:

ECRI is a human rights body of the Council of Europe, composed of independent experts, which monitors problems of racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, intolerance and discrimination on grounds such as "race", national/ethnic origin, colour, citizenship, religion and language (racial discrimination); it prepares reports and issues recommendations to member States.

The report observed, as have all those of us who haven't spent the last six months comatose in a foxhole;

"...considerable intolerant political discourse in the UK, particularly focusing on immigration. It said that hate speech continues to be a serious problem in tabloid newspapers, and that online hate speech targeting Muslims in particular has soared since 2013.

"It is no coincidence that racist violence is on the rise in the UK at the same time as we see worrying examples of intolerance and hate speech in the newspapers, online and even among politicians," said ECRI Chair Christian Ahlund.

"The Brexit referendum seems to have led to a further rise in 'anti-foreigner' sentiment, making it even more important that the British authorities take the steps outlined in our report as a matter of priority."

This seems measured, accurate, proportionate and generally quite obvious, so naturally the tabloid papers criticised in the report reacted in an entirely predictable, disproportionate and hysterical way by misrepresenting the main points of concern, attacking the EU for daring to suggest newspapers should behave responsibly and implying the Commission was motivated by a desire, for reasons of political correctness, to protect the identity of terrorists. Both human rights and the Council of Europe are, in the eyes of our crazed right-wing newspapers, expendable, unnecessary, leftist, bureaucratic and, worst of all, foreign, so the ECRI report is about as red a rag to a bull as it is possible to wave in their ruddy faces at the present



Furious Mail And Express Respond To Racism And Intolerance Commission's Accusations Of Inciting Hatred – By Inciting Hatred

time..

The Daily Express responded with a double-barrelled counter attack on the EU for apparently assaulting the freedom of the press and a reminder that it's important to link Islam with terrorism. 'Now Brussels clamps down on freedom of British press'. 'FREE SPEECH CRACKDOWN: Europe tells British press NOT to reveal if terrorists are Muslims'.

Monitoring, reporting and recommending pass through the right-wing tabloid prism to become, MEDDLING, ORDERING and TELLING.

<http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/717627/free-speech-crackdown-EU-report-British-press-hate-crime-violence-terror>

Never mind the minor detail that ECRI is a body of the Council of Europe, which is based in Strasbourg, not Brussels. Presumably Express readers would find the idea of being told what to do by a French city as well as a Belgian one just too much to take, die of apoplexy and not be able to buy billionaire tax-dodger Richard Desmond's diversionary xenophobic mind-poisoning paper any more..

The freedom to incite hatred is of course valued so much more highly by our newspaper moguls than the responsibility to accu-

rately represent an assessment of a serious problem, albeit one carried out by foreign bogey-men, and maybe consider toning the language down a bit. Using that same report as ammunition to fire up even more hatred is typically despicable. The Daily Express is a despicable publication, cleverly targeted at the stupid and gullible to give them something to get cross about, but it's not the only one delivered daily to Britain's newsstands.

Another, The Daily Mail, also chose to lash out in response by again conflating Islam with terrorism. The report had pointed out that by continually doing so it was inciting hatred against Muslims. This was interpreted by the Mail's Matt Dathan as meddling and ordering the UK government what to do, in spite of his having used the word 'recommendations' only a few words back.

Following the release of the report on the morning of 4th October the Daily Mail put out the Press Association's story 'EU referendum 'has led to rise in anti-foreigner sentiment in UK'.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/pa/article-3820636/EU-referendum-led-rise-anti-foreigner-sentiment-UK.html>

But so incensed was the Mail,

and so acutely aware that the combination of the EU, human rights, Muslims and interference in the freedom of the press are meat and drink to its slaving readers, that it put its own men to work and threw them a couple more articles on the subject, this time using Mailspeak. First, John Stevens' 'European human rights chiefs' slur against Britain after they claim the immigration debate fuelled 'anti-foreigner' sentiment.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3822028/European-human-rights-chiefs-blasted-slur-against-Britain-claim-Brexit-debate-fuelled-anti-foreigner-sentiment.html>

Then Dathan's indignant, incendiary 'European human rights chiefs order the British Press NOT to reveal when terrorists are Muslims in crackdown on freedom of speech.'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3823706/European-human-rights-chiefs-orders-British-press-NOT-reveal-terrorists-Muslims.html>

Even then its ire was still not sated:

'How dare these Eurocrats call Britain racist while the Far Right's marching in their own backyard', fumed (without question mark) renowned libertarian Brexiter

Daniel Hannan on 6th October, completely ignoring the fact that the Council of Europe's ECRI Commission also reports on every other European country, including some outside the EU. It published reports on racism in Denmark and Serbia last week as well as its 23-pronged attack on tolerant, welcoming Blighty and its blameless newspapers. Presumably Hannan was unaware of this, so busy was he perfecting his impersonation of plum-voiced fifties film star Michael Denison while getting steamed up about foreigners interfering in his plans to turn the UK into a freemarket dreamland.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3824396/How-dare-Eurocrats-call-Britain-racist-Far-Right-s-marching-backyard-writes-DANIEL-HANNAN.html>

The Mail and Express are always eager to remind their readers that support for terrorist atrocities is a cornerstone of the Muslim faith, knowing that this will get the danders of their stupid readers up, thereby ensuring that they get angry about something other than the chronic excesses of anarcho-capitalism.

More disgracefully still, with the ECRI report published on Tuesday 4th October, the Conservative Party spent the rest of the week fanning the fires of hatred at its conference, but found time to defend its media buddies: "the Government is committed to a free and open press and does not interfere with what the press does and does not publish, as long as the press abides by the law". Never mind that it is the party of government -largely thanks to the efforts of its media baron friends- and should be making conciliatory noises in the direction of foreigners of all shapes, sizes, creeds and colours in order to keep the lid on the pressure cooker and the prevent this country achieving the status of offshore leper colony. So anxious was it to seize the opportunity to scoop up drifting support from squabbling, directionless UKIP that it chose to stick the boot in to Johnny Foreigner at every opportunity. Amber Rudd's paraphrasing of Mein Kampf probably being the lowest point in a week of dredgings from the sewer.

The reaction of the government and the right-wing press to the report, which was a fair assessment of the worrying state of affairs in Britain, should be of deep concern. People are being subjected to verbal abuse and violence as a result of the confidence inspired in the thick-racist element by ongoing xenophobic media output and the Brexit vote, but there is clearly no intention among those who lit the fire to start putting it out.

Why do we hate our kids?

By George Christoforou

Why do we allow our government to push our children into creches, playgroups and toddler groups at the age of 2,3 and 4 just so that parents can be forced into the labour market. The sound of a toddler screaming for her mum when she gets abandoned in a creche so she can be freed up for work, does that sound not touch you?

Or that scene where a posh boy gets abandoned at a board-

ing school, some at the age of 7, to grow up without his parents. Some prominent psychologists say the experience is comparable to a child being placed into care. Boarding School Syndrome is the term.

What about our comprehensives with their tests upon tests? Teachers try to cram in more and more lessons into our young children's minds. There are not enough hours in the day so the teachers send the children home with homework. Teachers don't trust pupils, so they test them over and over until the children are sick

to death of tests.

Our local authorities employ many under qualified teachers. The local authority tries to ensure standards by having school inspections. The headmaster will inspect the teachers work. And in this pyramid of distrust, we end up spending a lot of time and money in an effort to prop up low paid and under qualified teachers by the use of inspections and tests.

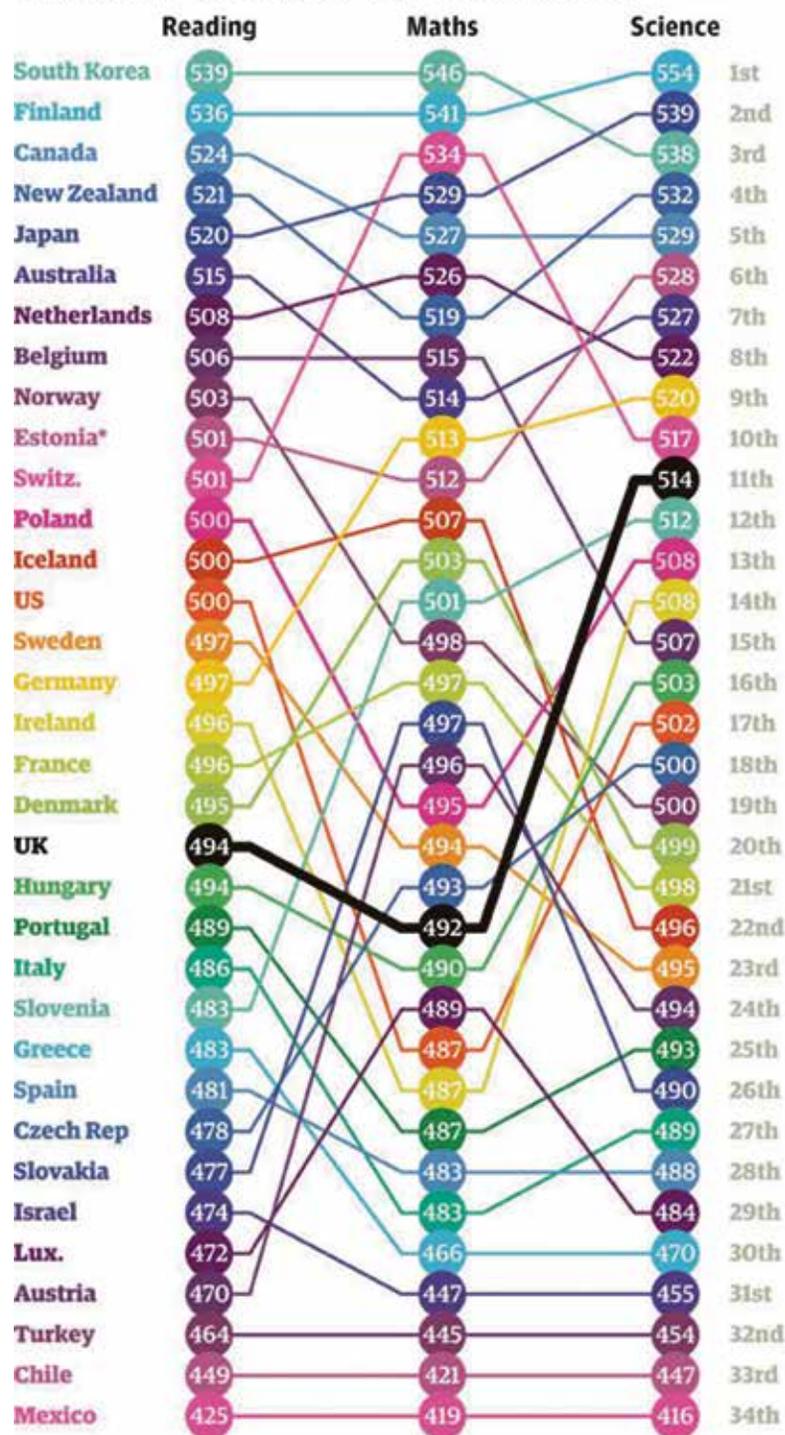
Our children's experience of school is of a tightly controlled environment where they are forced to rote-learn masses of information that they never have chance to put into practice. Most kids hate school and many play truant. What happens then? We call in the psychologist to fix the child.

There is no admittance that there might be something wrong with our education system. The lesser able children who cannot keep up become stressed out, while brighter pupils hate constantly memorising "necessary" facts, leaving their minds disengaged.

The result of this system is failure, misery and stress for both our children and our teachers. Do we not value our children and their education? By international standards (PISA) our children are below average. Some of our children do well, but most do not. Sadly much pain with no gain.

Is there a different way to

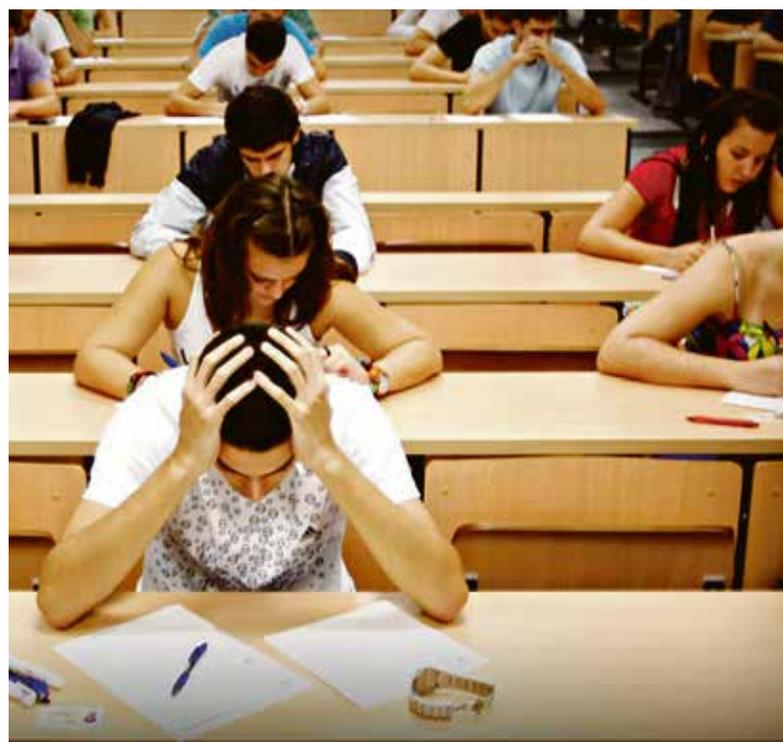
How the UK scored against other OECD countries



SOURCE: OECD PISA 2009 DATABASE. RANKING IS JUST WITHIN OECD COUNTRIES. *MEMBERSHIP PENDING

teach our children? Is there a way to teach our children with love, kindness and personalised attention, where even the most disad-

vantaged child gets extra help? Yes there is - and Finland is the country that has shown us the way forward.



Finland between 2001 and 2009 scored top in reading, science and maths on a standardised international test for 15 year olds (PISA). How did they achieve this?

1. All teachers in Finland are educated to masters level. They spend 3 years at University and 2 years in postgraduate studies. Then they are vetted to see if they can actually teach in a child centred way. Furthermore, Finnish teachers are highly respected by the parents and the children. The teachers are trusted to get on with their job with no interference.

2. There are no school inspections. The children are hardly ever tested. Sample tests are taken occasionally by their teachers themselves to see if their teaching methods work.

3. Formal education does not start until the age of 7. Before that school is optional but most attend nurseries where the children play and socialise.

4. There are no mandated standardized tests in Finland, apart from one exam at the end of the students' senior year in high school

5. Class sizes of 20. In many classes a second teacher will join the class to give special attention to any child with special needs.

There is no segregation. The same teacher for a given subject will be teaching the same children over many years.

6. There are no private schools. All schools are state

	2000		2003		2006	
1	Finland	549	Finland	543	Korea	556
2	Netherlands	537	Korea	534	Finland	547
3	Canada	535	Canada	528	Hong Kong	536
4	Hong Kong	532	Australia	525	Canada	527
5	Australia	528	Liechtenstein	525	New Zealand	521
6	Ireland	528	New Zealand	522	Ireland	517
7	New Zealand	526	Ireland	515	Australia	513
8	Japan	525	Sweden	514	Liechtenstein	510
9	United Kingdom	524	Netherlands	513	Poland	508
10	Korea	522	Hong Kong	510	Sweden	507

Source: OECD PISA results for 2000, 2003, and 2006

schools. Every child in the whole of Finland will have the same level of education as every other. A country where truly no child is left behind.

7. There is no competition be-

tween children, no competition between schools and no competition between districts. Instead there is co-operation where teachers work together to help each other out and learn from

each other.

8. Since there are no tests and inspections the teachers just get on with the job of teaching the children in their own time and in their own way. The emphasis is on the children understanding the subject matter and asking the children to put what they have learned into practice.

9. In Finland there is trust and kindness between teachers and pupils. The schools are relaxed and informal. The children are cared for by the teachers. The children enjoy the school experience.

Surely our children deserve the best too.

Commodification, that's the name of the game

RESPONDING TO THE BETRAYAL OF A GENERATION HOW EDUCATION IS FAILING YOUNG PEOPLE

By Patrick Ainley

This is a good book and I like it.

WH Auden (1971)

Patrick Ainley has written a book that makes clear critical sense of what has been happening to education and provides insights warning us to change direction. His book is invaluable for those that would oppose the use of education to further fracture society. He gives us facts aplenty and well-constructed argument. I am glad to say that the book certainly won't be his last word on this matter. It is an important contribution to our thinking about how to move forward. It is also, I suggest, a driven book: driven by a growing sense of urgency and outrage that education has been used to deceive a generation. The betrayal is not confined to one country and readers will also find themselves driven: driven to think and to act.

I now encounter:

more and more advice on how to use the internet to gain qualifications, especially in business, with a promise that a 'fulfilled life' will ensue;

more and more use of words such as 'excellence', 'leadership' and 'successful' to describe organisations and institutions wishing to generate a higher income from fees; and

less and less use of words such as 'co-operation', 'inclusion', 'community' and 'accessibility' to remind us that learning is an activity with a social purpose.

Over the years words and concepts such as 'improvement' have become subject to official sanction. At one time the phrase 'differentiation by outcome' signified open and accessible questions in response to which students might engage with an examiner and offer for consideration something that had not been anticipated. Now we say 'student outcome', meaning scores obtained by providing 'correct' answers. In this model educators become instructors and learners purchase chunks or parcels of education. Unfortunately, de-

spite brilliant packaging and tempting labels, the contents do not satisfy.

Michael Barber's most famous book is called *Instruction to Deliver* and his philosophy is caricatured as *deliverology*. He likes that even although it merely represents the hitting of a target set by governments that construct policy on an exclusive basis. Michael Barber transferred his approach from education to government in general. It now has worldwide currency and it comes at a price.

While reading *Betraying* I was constantly reminded, stimulated, sidetracked and drawn into imaginary arguments with a succession of betrayers: betrayers not only of a generation and society but also of education itself. Accompanying betrayal has been governmental incompetence and placing blame elsewhere is now a necessary political skill.

For me the book brought to mind John Major's transformation of GCSE from a support for education to a means of measurement. He did not like coursework (some people think it is cheating) and as a result of his intervention the nonsense of tiered papers was introduced. Before making his speech at the Café Royal in 1991 he could have consulted someone like Kathleen Tattersall. She was probably our most experienced manager, leader and practitioner in public examinations and would have explained accessibility and the basic concept of enabling all students to 'demonstrate what they know, understand and can do.' Major was driving us back to the days when public examinations were intended to produce rank orders rather than make sense of learning. Consulting an expert was seemingly out of the question. Michael Gove?

The book also reminded me of Gilbert Jessup's application of false public examination equivalences. Double-decker buses are not the same as bananas and neither were NVQs the same as GCSEs. Working for the Manpower Services Commission Jessup was one of many who had no understanding that while teachers worked off their socks to help students climb normative curves examination boards were protecting their

probity by maintaining the grade boundaries decided upon, often badly, at the first Award of Grades meetings. With the possible exception of Estelle Morris I believe that politicians have been similarly ignorant.

To read what Ed Balls and Kenneth Clarke have to say in their autobiographies about their time in charge of education is to be depressingly reminded once again of an inability to penetrate below the surface or to engage with research and question their own assumptions. Clarke has no idea of the long-term damage that he caused when, brushing aside the research for which his department was paying, he simply imposed his personal expectations upon levels of performance in National Curriculum assessment. His successor then changed them to give an appearance of improvement.

Politicians impose expectations while examination boards trade on their perceived high standards and teachers are punished if they do not deliver what their customers have been promised. Standards, curricula and methods of assessment change at the whim of politicians while the gap between rich and poor widens. It is almost fifty-five years since C.B. McPherson warned us about *possessive individualism*. Despite its advocacy by so many people with the power to shape education, financial and social policies its great promise turned out to have been destructive and education has been deployed to deceive as a guarantor of success.

The book provides us with far more than I have mentioned. It is a serious and comprehensive work that covers key players and events. Patrick Ainley's references are wide and deep. The issues raised connect class, education, fiscal and monetary policy and remind us how experience, expertise, emotional commitment and a huge capacity for making education fulfilling and fun have been misused. The book also recharges us and points a way forward.

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The Grammar School

by Ian Cockerham

I went to a Grammar School in the 1960s and took 'A' Levels in 1970. I passed the 11 plus exams around my eleventh birthday; all my pals failed. This left me something of an isolate for a while.

I remember two major events from my education: one was that the Chemistry master's wife had a baby while we were in his lesson. He rushed out of the room and came back in to tumultuous applause from the boys. The other thing was a sixth form debate where unknown to the others, our side had smuggled in the dead body of a cat, partly preserved in formalin, to throw on the table should our arguments appear to be falling on deaf ears. The date was May 1969.

You might have heard the expression "Dead Cat Strategy" credited to Lynton Crosby (Tory Party adviser, born 23 August 1956) who could theoretically have been in our second form at the time, but wasn't. Perhaps he heard about it from someone who was. But if push comes to shove and I need to evidence my claim to the phrase, I am sure I could find a bloke who helped me to throw the cat around, although these days I have no contact with anyone who might have been at school with me.

My friend John was at the Secondary Modern next door. We travelled together on the same school bus. His school contained girls who became quite pretty, and then they became gorgeous; I was tongue-tied in their presence, though loud and aggressive in our all-boys classrooms. At the Secondary Modern they didn't do GCEs, there was no sixth form, and the teachers were older, whereas ours were young and humorous,

and much better qualified. John did things like woodwork, whereas we studied physics and Latin. I got eight O levels and five A levels. John got some CSEs and went off to work as what he called a 'navvy' in London. He was earning money six years before me; we're the same age and I've never caught him up financially. I got two degrees and a shed load of professional qualifications; he eventually took over a pub.

Did Secondary Moderns work? I think they did. Grammar School only appeared to succeed because half of us went off to University or took jobs that involved sitting down indoors. Some became doctors, one or two became head teachers, and one became an architect. Another was a drug dealer. About half of us became customers of the drug dealer, or people like him, and we all went on to live in houses built by brickies and joiners, ate food grown by farm labourers or caught by trawlermen, and burnt coal dug out of the ground by miners. These are the true wealth creators.

I suspect that the whole idea of Grammar Schools is more about abducting young people who pass exams easily and making them feel that they aren't really working class any more. Last century Mrs Thatcher dangled home ownership in front of council house tenants and let them think they were bourgeois. This century's post-Thatcherites want to dangle Grammar Schools in front of ordinary people in the same way. I remember my parents' pride when I passed those exams. They were never the same afterwards, believing that the system was right, because it seemed to be working for their son, but I'm not sure what I received was the appropriate education it might have been.

STUDENT STRESS Is our teacher stress rubbing off?

Shareen Ashraf

Whether the term "stress" is used loosely or whether students are actually medically suffering - I have personally seen an increase in the amount of students with this issue.

With constant assessments and exam pressure that our students are under, there is no doubt that this is causing some level of anxiety within them. But what about teacher burnout? Is our stress related to their stress?

A recent research study examined the relationship between teacher burnout and students' stress levels. They found that classrooms where teachers experienced more burnout or feelings

of exhaustion led to an increase in the levels of cortisol in students - a stress related hormone.

Of course, we can't blame teachers for student's stress but there is definitely a link there. Research has indicated teaching is one of the most stressful professions. Teachers are under immense stress due to the amount of workload, the level of support or poor resources.

This issue can be seen from the other perspective - are students causing teacher burnout! Whichever way we view this we need to support both our students and colleagues by creating a positive atmosphere for each other, whether that is by talking to someone or by offering a resource, to alleviate the stress from each other.

POETRY CORNER

How many roads must a man walk down
Before you call him a man?
How many seas must a white dove sail
Before she sleeps in the sand?
Yes, and how many times must the cannon balls fly
Before they're forever banned?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many years can a mountain exist
Before it's washed to the sea?
Yes, and how many years can some people exist
Before they're allowed to be free?
Yes, and how many times can a man turn his head
And pretend that he just doesn't see?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

Yes, and how many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
Yes, and how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes, and how many deaths will it take 'till he knows
That too many people have died?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind

BOB DYLAN

In appreciation of the late, great Jean
Alexander's immortal creation Hilda
Ogden.

For all the times you made us laugh
And cry, or tear our hair
Remembered in this epitaph
Excellence so rare
Wily Hilda, wife of Stan
Eager ears alert
Last of all the Ogden clan
Loved to dish the dirt
Hair in curlers, mop in hand
Into everything
Leader of the gossips' band
Doleful news to bring
And - how she loved to sing
Oh, that voice - like breaking glass
Grating on the ear
Devoid of melody or class
Epitomised this northern lass
None other held so dear
Rest peaceful for, despite our woe,
In smiles and tears we'll always know
Perfection lived in Mrs. O.

Rob Atkinson

Blame Jeremy Poem
Jeremy Corbyn, even your name is boring.

Yes, you believe politics should be kind.
But look at your shoes, they're not even shined!

Sure, you say democracy should be fair.
But you messy scoundrel, just look at your hair!

You have 40 years experience in true public service.
But the newspapers tell me that you are a Communist.

You have forced many U-turns on David Cam.
But you have an allotment and even make jam!

We're Europe's biggest party because of you.
Yet you do not eat meat and won't drink a brew?!

For the sick and disabled you genuinely care.
But for the national anthem, you stay in your chair?!

You think that abundance should always be equal.
But you support Human Rights Act, which clearly is evil.

You will not nuke babies, you just stand for peace.
But in your suit, there is always a crease.

You don't worship the few, you love the whole crowd.
But at PMQs, your voice isn't loud.

You'll stop austerity, poverty, pain.
But you may not have sat on the floor of a train.

I need a polished P.R. man, with insincere spin.
Not an honest, good person, like Mister Corbyn.

Annabel Andrews, Hove

Show me a prison, show me a jail
Show me a pris'ner whose face has grown pale

And I'll show you a young man
With many reasons why
There but for fortune, go you or I

Show me an alley, show me a train
Show me a hobo who sleeps out in the rain

And I'll show you a young man
With many reasons why
There but for fortune, go you or I

Show me the whiskey stains on the floor
Show me a drunk as he stumbles out the door

And I'll show you a young man
With many reasons why
There but for fortune, go you or I

Show me a country where the bombs had to fall
Show me the ruins of buildings so tall

And I'll show you a young land
With many reasons why
There but for fortune, go you or I
You or I

PHIL OCHS

Insanity

You may think that I am mad but
I do believe in fairies.
Beautiful winged creatures, they shine.

Also I talk to myself late at night;
I say things, alone.

I pretend to eat people and drink
their blood. Do you think I'm
mad?

"Yes vicar, I do."

KEVIN JOHN

STAND UP FOR FAIRNESS, OR BE DIVIDED FOR GOOD

By Ian Hodson, National President, BFAWU.

The only people responsible for the hardship and division that currently exists within our communities are the Conservatives. No amount of immigrant-bashing can hide the real truth that Tory ideology continues to drive people in this country into total despair.

Since 2010, the Tories have redistributed wealth from the poorest to the wealthiest. Whilst doing this, they have set out to destroy any rights that have been won by working people in order to ensure that power remains in the hands of the few, rather than the many.

Contrary to what Theresa May might say in speeches, this will continue on her watch. This unelected Prime Minister spent six years at David Cameron's side as Home Secretary and during that time, she proudly sent out 'advans' telling illegal migrants to "go home".

Is it therefore any real surprise that she is now calling for employers to declare how many foreign workers they employ?

Articles

Stand up for fairness, or be divided for good

Living wage 'a disaster' for low paid workers

Press Releases

Statement from Ronnie Draper, General Secretary of BFAWU

Union responds to suspension of general secretary by Labour

Opinion Former Video

Serving up Change: The Fight for Workers' Ri...

The film explores the exploitative reality of zero hours contracts



More videos

Her colleagues were no better. Education Secretary Justine Greening made a particularly unconvincing case for grammar schools; a system that will deny quality education for children from low income families.

Not to worry though; if you lose out in the 11+ exams, Defence Secretary, Michael Fallon will be there to help. He talked about setting up army cadet centres at state schools, which means that if all else fails, you can sign up to be cannon fodder. Worryingly, we are already hearing about schools sending home letters to parents asking them to declare the nationality of their children.

In terms of the NHS, the good news just kept on coming. Jeremy Hunt, still in situ because no-one else would touch his job with a ten-foot barge-pole, basically told non-British doctors to go home; but not until they've trained their

replacement 'native' doctors first.

Oh, and if you leave the country to work abroad before then, you'll be fined. There was no strategy to deal with the widening gulf in pay between Executives and those on the front-line and no announcement on re-instating nurse bursaries. Just lots of hollow praise for 'hard-working' staff and a bit of immigrant bashing.

For all her fashion sense, I don't think Theresa May would be able to find a blouse with a big enough collar to hide her brass-neck. To hear her trumpeting about "British jobs for British workers", whilst outsourcing the building of Trident to French companies was laughable enough, but the fact that she was once happy to employ a Brazilian cleaner when she was Home Secretary smacks of sheer hypocrisy.

This woman also has the gall to praise those in the armed forces, whilst her government turns its back on them when they return home from service with mental and physical ailments, forcing them to rely on charity, whilst facing insecurity for the privilege.

The final insult was her proclamation of how unfair it was that working people on low incomes had disproportionately faced austerity, rather than the wealthy. She was part of the government that sat on the front benches in the House of Commons, cheering and back-slapping George Osborne

after every devastating budget statement. If she's now admitting that this austerity was unfair, she should at least have the good grace to apologise for supporting it.

The bottom line is that local council budgets aren't being cut because of immigrants. The number of foodbanks in operation has nothing to do with immigrants. Immigrants are not to blame for the number of homeless people sleeping on the streets of our towns and cities. The NHS isn't in crisis because of immigrants. The cancer of zero-hours contracts in the labour market isn't because of immigrants. All of this is down to one thing and one thing only. Political choices.

The Conservatives have always been masters of political engineering and divide and rule. It's what they do best. The Tories exist to serve those at the top of society and they achieve it by getting you to blame your neighbour, or the person who looks different to you for your misery.

All this is underpinned by a right-wing media, owned in the most part by wealthy, tax-avoiding non-doms, who ensure that scorn is placed on those who cannot defend themselves and make sacrificial lambs of them, in order to distract you from what is really going on.

They tell us to blame the unemployed, the disabled, public sector workers, Trade Unions and immi-

grants for the state the country is in and time and again, people fall for it and still end up questioning why their lives continue to stink, whilst looking for another demographic to blame for their plight.

We, as a nation are facing a genuine and very real crisis. The vision currently on offer for this country and being trumpeted by the media, is the one that we fought against and resisted during World War II.

Do we really want our children to be taught that anyone who isn't 'British' is somehow inferior? Do we want them to grow up, looking down their noses and being suspicious of 'foreigners'? Do we want a culture of hate and scapegoating that will more than likely result in working-class people on low incomes being blamed for their own poverty? Do we want to live in a country where your entitlement to good education and healthcare depends on how much you can afford to pay?

It really doesn't have to be this way. We are better than this. We are intelligent enough to open our eyes and see what is really happening to our society. Unless we decide to use our collective power to stand up for fairness and equality, I fear that we will be divided for good and our voice will be lost forever. Believe me, that is exactly what they want and we need to stop them in their tracks, now!



By Miriam E. David

I would not be seen dead walking down the street with a feller carrying a shopping bag. It's a woman's job.

This was fifteen-year-old Agnes to me not long after the passing of the Equal Pay Act (1970) as I automatically reached for the bags from the chip shop. We had taken the order from her classmates who used to come back to school in the evening to make progress with their exam projects (coursework). Homes were sometimes crowded and noisy. It was a school for girls in a very Catholic part of Liverpool. We had a contract with Radio Merseyside to turn some of these projects into programmes to be broadcast. They were often family based, containing interviews with grandmothers as guardians of both family history and values.

Agnes was more assertive than me and on home ground. The fact that my mother's mother had been born a hundred years earlier on the Protestant side of the road gave me no authority. But I was her teacher and insisted. We compromised on one bag each.

Reading Miriam David's brilliant book reminds me that even back then it was not enough to believe that what we thought of as 'progress' (abolition of slavery, the factory acts, extension of the franchise and the Welfare State, for example) was demarcated by Acts of Parliament and great 'events' and clearly defined 'movements'. I suppose that in the 1970s we might also have heard a lot the phrase 'women's lib' and felt that here was a classification that matched all circumstances. It did not. Agnes was not out of date and neither was I an arbiter with the power to make her fit my preferred social template.

MAINSTREAM OR TRIBUTARY

A feminist Manifesto for Education

This is not a long book but neither is it a compressed summary. Miriam David skilfully provides great detail using the perspectives of time, place, culture and scholarship. And yet it is a very readable page-turner. It is also a critical sense-maker revealing the influence upon education of instrumental, target driven, possessive individualism. For too many politicians feminism is a pressure group whose historical significance has faded. The recently proposed A-Level Politics syllabus did not totally exclude feminism: candidates could, if they were bothered enough or had even heard of it, write about feminism as an example of an interest group. It seems the decision has been taken that education is to be less collective, less inclusive and less social. It is now about doing better than others. We might think that feminism is in the interests of all. Some powerful decision makers have reduced it to a nuisance that, if it makes enough noise, might be placated from time to time.

We learn about the global and historical complexities, changes of direction and differing emphases of feminism and also about

the hard issues of violence that we must confront. Pick up the book and probably the first word you will see is *Feminist* but *Manifesto* and *Education* are crucial to its meaning. Miriam David makes manifest that education is key to creating change.

It is divided into two parts. The first concentrates upon *Socio-Cultural and Political Contexts*. Feminism is never context free. Politics is about the arrival at and establishment of public values so who might take part in that process? Whose voices are heard? We are given a comprehensive account of research on gender. We are also shown how research, social action and formal codification of rights may have generated statistical evidence for the appearance of increased equality but not led to its normalisation. The rise of female participation in education, including the rise in the number of women occupying senior positions, has, for some, been a disturbing phenomenon. When David Willetts, former Minister of State for Universities and Science, noticed this rise he did not celebrate it; he did not regard it as unremarkable and normal; he saw it as an unwel-

come challenge to which government should respond.

The second part is *Feminist Waves about Gender Equalities and Gender Violence*. Among many the work of Olive Banks is acknowledged here. Biography, life history and the concept of waves of feminists continue to be important keys to understanding. We might also recall Banks' first book, *Parity and Prestige in English Secondary Education* (1955) and her other work on education. She personified the intersecting struggles and issues of class, gender and limited access to formal education. She retired the only female professor in the University of Leicester.

Miriam David draws our attention to a lack of commitment on the part of governments to take consistent, comprehensive and supportive approaches to gender related violence. Why has it been such a struggle to persuade politicians to even circulate to secondary schools information about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?

The 1970s political education movement promised for a while to provide a social/educational

context for the normalisation of gender in the curriculum. The later suppression of thematic approaches to learning has, in my view, made it more difficult. Work is being done on, for example, mental health and well being in education. That might help. But even if schoolteachers undertaking masters degrees wish to bring into the classroom what they have learned about feminism the hand of officialdom remains dead and discouraging.

Agnes's home ground? Later, boys and girls there helped plan the largest housing co-operative in Western Europe. Academic credit came by means of a customised GCSE. It was stopped: not mainstream. It also generated a brilliant GCSE in Women's Studies. It was not, we were told, a subject worthy of study.

Do read this strong and important book. I have touched on so little that it offers. The issues have not gone away: they have become more urgent.

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TOP 5

WORST PRIME MINISTERS

THIS EDITION WE HAD A VOTE ACROSS THE FACEBOOK GROUPS AND YOUR CHOICE WAS AS FOLLOWS:



Best known for snatching milk away from schoolchildren, starting wars and hating unions. Thatcher turned the UK into a culture of greed. She easily wins the popular vote as our worst ever PM.



David Cameron. Anyone still remember he was going to be the greenest PM ever? Certainly the meanest, pensioners, the disabled, the homeless and the poor just a few victims of this millionaire cousin of the Queen.



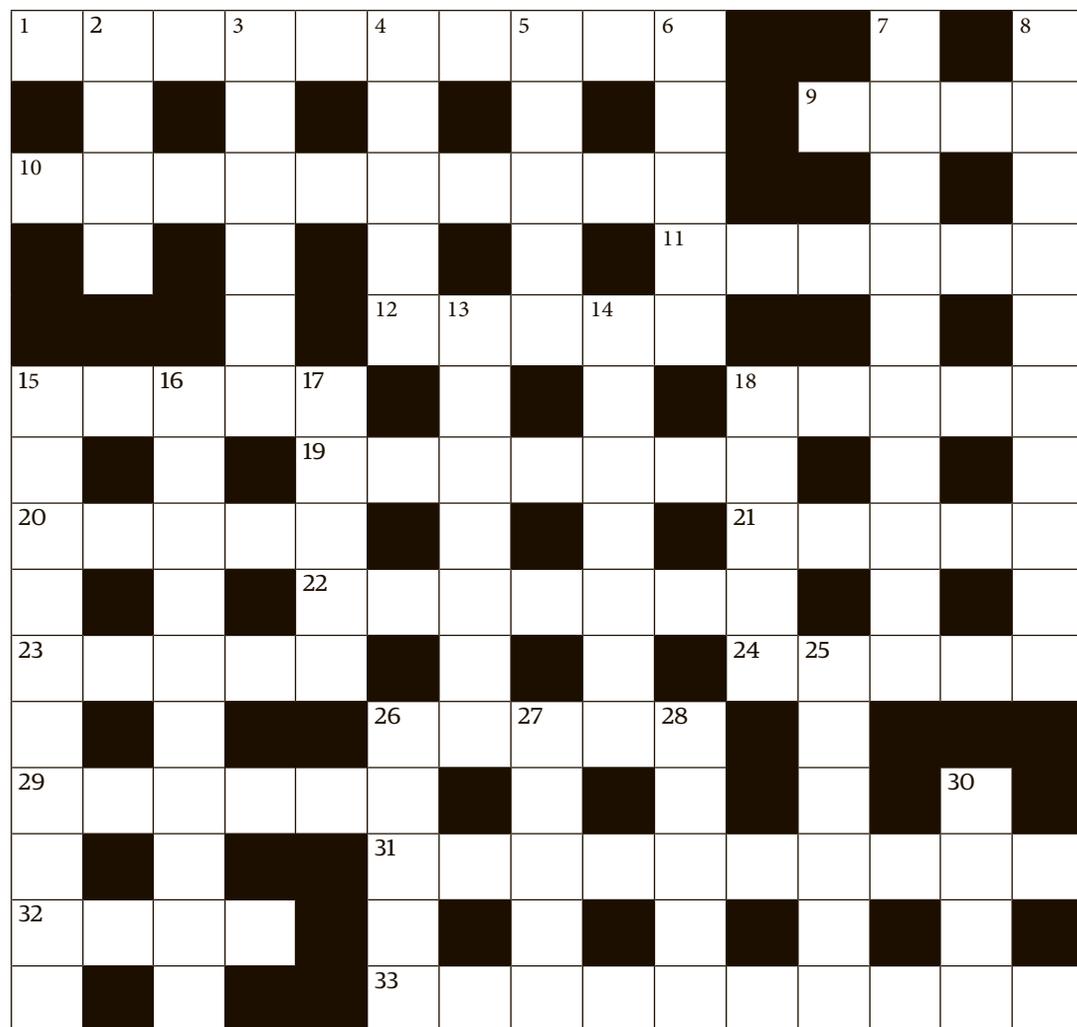
Tony Blair. Started more wars than any other PM in the country's history. His other crimes include almost destroying the Labour party and starting the NHS sell-off.



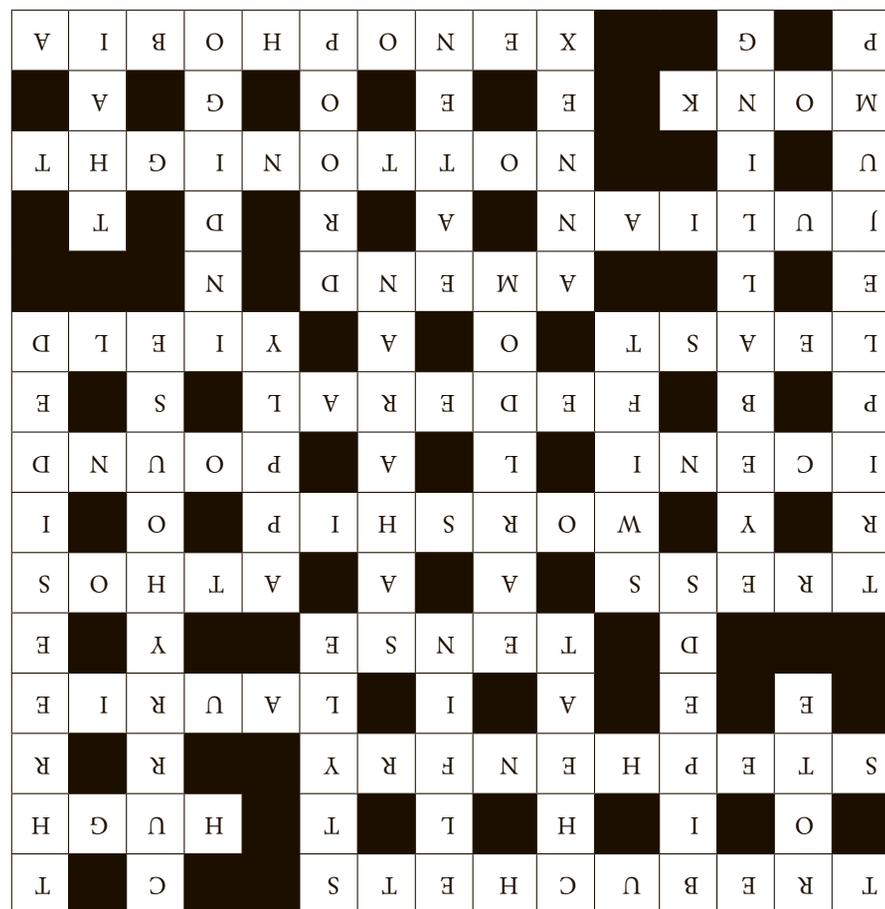
Winston Churchill. Nearly started World War 3. Compared the Attlee government to Nazis as well as sending in troops to fire on striking miners. Nearly lost World War 1 single handed.



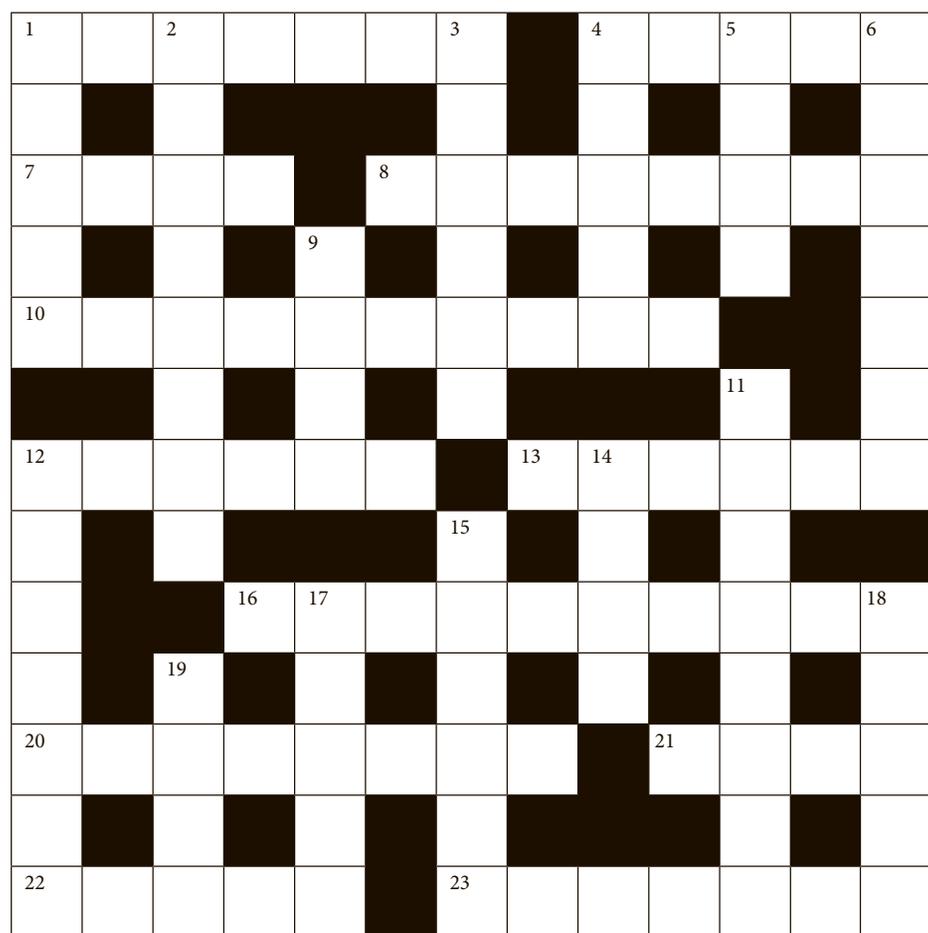
The Duke of Wellington. Called the soldiers that died for him "scum of the earth"



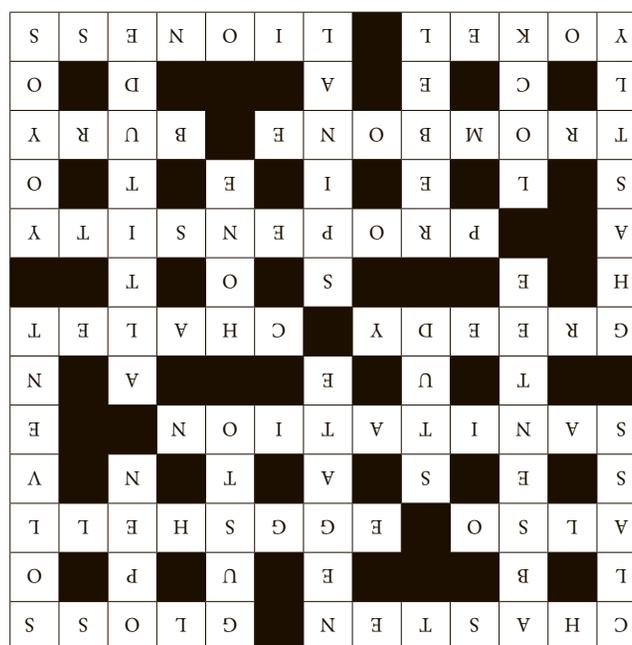
Cryptic crossword



- Across**
- 1 Vile butchers get badly set upon with assault weapons (10)
 - 9&11 Played second part of 7 (with 10 frequently) (4,6)
 - 10 Popular entertainer keeping pace with poultry cook (7,3)
 - 11 See 9
 - 12 It is present in this clue (5)
 - 15 A hint of red in romantic heroine's hair (5)
 - 18 Shot a rebellious king's guard (5)
 - 19 Argument about vessel used for Sunday Service (7)
 - 20 Tribesmen raiding twice nightly (5)
 - 21 Beat poet (5)
 - 22 Going wild about extremely Europeanised form of government (7)
 - 23 Said to mend things as soon as possible? (5)
 - 24 What you get for messing around with inside of eyelids (5)
 - 26 Typical religious response to divorce starting to change (5)
 - 29 Old calendar girl has a point (6)
 - 31 Odd thing Tonto said to Josephine (3,7)
 - 32 Primate lacking tail. Capuchin, for example (4)
 - 33 A pox be on his endless posturing and bigotry (10)
- Down**
- 2 A way of learning basic rules of thumb effortlessly (4)
 - 3 They stand up for teachers receiving very little money (6)
 - 4 Conman caught intense police attention (5)
 - 5 Diminutive the Spanish applied to a Scandinavian, we hear (5)
 - 6 Farm building built on the French model (5)
 - 7 Swear about your stew outside hotel eatery (5,5)
 - 8 Did the seer dispute this figure? (5-5)
 - 13 Listening device left by MOD when turning over Lord's estate (7)
 - 14 Desert-like conditions with ash swirling over islands (7)
 - 15 Pupil met Jr. Minister for Sport (6,4)
 - 16 Staring at setter and crying out loud (10)
 - 17 Satirist is very quick (5)
 - 18 Put on nearly all fruit? Yes (5)
 - 25 Popular archaeological site has nothing to provide shade (6)
 - 26 Steal neighbour's property and girl with a kiss (5)
 - 27 Swallowed up in great endeavour (5)
 - 28 Poor defeated leader raised flag (5)
 - 30 7 perhaps announcing draw (4)



QUICK CROSSWORD 3



- Across**
- 1 Subdue (7)
 - 4 Paint (5)
 - 7 Furthermore (4)
 - 8 Shade of white (8)
 - 10 Sewage management (10)
 - 12 Gluttonous (6)
 - 13 Mountain dwelling (6)
 - 16 Tendency (10)
 - 20 Musical instrument (8)
 - 21 Inter (4)
 - 22 Bumpkin (5)
 - 23 She-cat (7)
- Down**
- 1 Social status (5)
 - 2 Person not present (8)
 - 3 Deny (6)
 - 4 Relish (5)
 - 5 Finished (4)
 - 6 Financially sound (7)
 - 9 Horse farm (4)
 - 11 Height (8)
 - 12 Horrible (7)
 - 14 Fine-tune (4)
 - 15 Relating to the backbone (6)
 - 17 Revolt (5)
 - 18 Children's toys (2-3)
 - 19 Security device (4)

QUIZ



1). Which footballing Philosopher and theologian said "Okay so we lost, but good things can come from it-negative and positive".. Glenn Hoddle, Kevin Keegan, or Dave Sexton ?.

2). Which former England Manager taught us: "This game's about winning and losing-and if you win, that means you've beaten someone "- Bobby Robson, Glen Hoddle or Graham Taylor ?.

3). Which great football Administrator said 'We have more non-English players in our League than any other country in the world "- David Davies, Graham Kelly, or Gordon Taylor ?.

4). Which former Wales manager spoke of "the most humiliating feeling you could ever wish for " Bobby Gould, John Toshack, or Terry Yorath ?.

5). Which commentator, with the carefully rehearsed spontaneity that has become his trademark said: " It's a one man show, except there are two men involved-Hartson and Berkovic-and a third man the Goalkeeper?.

6). Which of Arse'ne Wenger's former acolytes praised the Gallic Sage for giving him "unbelievable belief"- Christopher Wreh, Paul Merson, or Ian Wright?.

7). Which former Southampton supreme said "Kevin Keenan has now tasted the other side of the fence "- Ted Bates, Lawrie McMenemy, or Dave Merrington ?.

8). Which great poet gave us : "You wonder if the sands of time are catching up with them "- Omar Khayam, Percy Bysshe Shelley or Kevin Keegan ?.

9). Which Television commentator painted the dazzling picture evoked by the words : "Seamen, like a falling Oak, manages to change direction"-?.

10). Who according to Neil Webb, gave England's World Cup Squad "a shoulder to cry on" ?.

10). Eileen Drewery .

9). John Motson .

8). Kevin Keegan.

7). Dave Merrington .

6). Ian Wright .

5). John Motson .

4). Bobby Gould.

3). Gordon Taylor.

2). Graham Taylor.

1). Glenn Hoddle.

11). Who said incredibly : There was only one team in the world that I would have moved to after Benfica, and that was West Ham " ?.

12). Who said "Eyal's a friend and a quality player ?.

13). Which Premiership manager wrote in his 1998 autobiography: "David Mellor is someone I'd happily take a swing at " ?.

14). Which Cottager (craven) said : "You can't do better than go away from home and get a draw "- Mohamed Al Fayed, Kevin Keegan, or Tommy Trinder ?.

15). Which agent said : "I have no morals when it comes to dealing with my clients ?.

16). Who said to his team at the start of the extra time in a European Cup Final "If you pass the ball to each other you will beat them " ?.

17). Who on being criticised by Matt Busby, told him "Make me Captain and I'll be responsible" ?.

18). Who said, on leaving Manchester United : " I have been sacked for falling in love " ?.

19). Who told Margaret Thatcher : " These people are Societies problems and we don't want your hooligans at our sport " ?.

20). Who on taking stick from Sunderland Supporters for not agreeing to a proposed transfer from East Anglia to Wear-side said "just because I'm a professional doesn't mean I'm not a ...a human being " ?.

20). Mick Mills.

19). Ted Croker.

18). Tommy Docherty.

17). George Best.

16). Sir Matt Busby.

15). Eric Hall.

14). Kevin Keegan.

13). Harry Redknapp.

12). John Hartson .

11). Scott Minto .



JOKES



The elderly Italian man went to his parish priest and asked if the priest would hear his confession. "Of course, my son," said the priest. "Well, Father, at the beginning of World War Two, a beautiful woman knocked on my door and asked me to hide her from the Germans; I hid her in my attic, and they never found her." "That's a wonderful thing, my son, and nothing that you need to confess," said the priest. "It's worse, Father; I was weak, and told her that she had to pay for rent of the attic with her sexual favors," continued the old man. "Well, it was a very difficult time, and you took a large risk -you would have suffered terribly at their hands if the Germans had found you hiding her; I know that God, in his wisdom and mercy, will balance the good and the evil, and judge you kindly," said the priest. "Thanks, Father," said the old man. "That's a load off of my mind. Can I ask another question?" "Of course, my son," said the priest. The old man asked, "Do I need to tell her that the war is over?"

It's 1957 and Bobby goes to pick up his date, Peggy Sue. Peggy Sue's father answers the door and invites him in. He asks Bobby what they're planning to do on the date. Bobby politely responds that they'll probably just go to the malt shop or to a drive-in movie. Peggy Sue's father suggests, "Why don't you kids go out and screw? I hear all of the kids are doing it." Bobby is shocked. "Excuse me, sir?" "Oh yes, Peggy Sue really likes to screw. She'll screw all night if we let her." Peggy Sue comes downstairs and announces that she's ready to go. About 20 minutes later, a thoroughly disheveled Peggy Sue rushes back into the house, slams the door behind her, and screams at her father, "Dad! The Twist! It's called the Twist!"

Did you hear about the Mexican train killer? He had locomotives.

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

If you want to catch a squirrel just climb a tree and act like a nut.

Scone recipe



Ingredients

- 1lb self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 4 oz salted butter
- 4 oz grated strong hard cheese (parmesan is good) plus extra for the tops
- 1 tsp each salt & black pepper
- 1 tbsp English mustard
- 1/2 pint milk
- 1 egg yolk combined with a little milk for brushing

Method

Sift the flour and baking powder into a large bowl. Cut the butter into 1 cm cubes and rub it into the flour using only your fingertips, scooping up from the bottom of the bowl. On no account are you to squish it between your palms! Add the salt, pepper and cheese and stir to combine. Next whisk the mustard into the milk and then add to the flour and cheese mixture until it is all incorporated. Now, comes the smooshing part. "Smooshing" you ask? Yes, smooshing. You gather the dough all in at the sides and smoosh it up and together. Then you smoosh it down - see photos 2 and 3. (Rox has inherited my tendency to make up 'technical' terms). This kneading of the dough was one part I found surprising as I'd always been led to believe that the less you handled scone dough, the better. When the dough is smooth and 'dry', i.e it does not stick to your hands at all its ready to roll and cut out. You're looking for a thickness of a good inch. Choose your own cutter size to suit your needs. This will dictate how many scones you get from your batch of dough. With any left over dough you can make yourself a little twist - see photo 5, above - a treat for the cook. Brush the tops with the egg yolk and milk mixture and then scatter on your extra cheese. Then, the second surprising part - to me at least - you leave them to rest for 15-20 mins. Contrary to this I'd always thought you had to get scones into the oven pronto but as I said, this method definitely works so hats off to Rox.

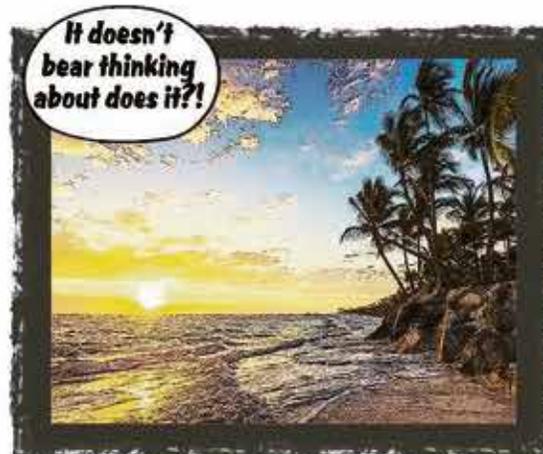
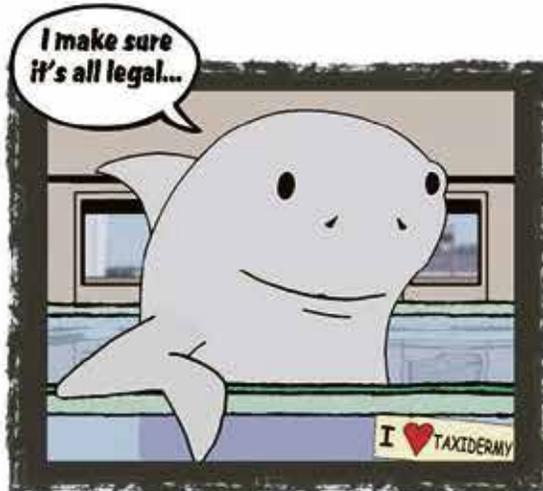
Bake at gas mark 5 for 15-20 mins. Check them at 15 mins and keep a close eye on them, they can go from golden and delicious to burnt in a very short space of time. They are best eaten hot, but as the people in my office can confirm, they're not bad cold either.



LIARS SCHOOL



PART 7



SOUTH WEST ROUNDUP

GP surgeries at risk in Plymouth

There's growing anger in Plymouth as the number of GP surgeries at risk continues to grow. Over recent months three surgeries have been earmarked for closure and a further three identified as being at risk. Surgeries at Cumberland, Hyde Park and St Barnabas, which NHS chiefs say are too expensive to keep open, are facing the axe, whilst three other practices - Trelawny, Ernesettle and Mount Gould - are at risk. How there's new that a fourth surgery in Keyham has been added to the possible closure list.

In Plymouth and across the South West countless thousands of patients face having to find a new surgery due to impending closures and this is causing growing concern across the region.

Whilst protest is growing many fear that it's too late to save the area from these cuts to NHS services. Many campaigners are appalled that these cuts are building pace now, so soon after the contentious 'Brexit' campaigners claim that up to £350 million a week could be spent on the NHS if people voted to leave the EU. So in a region where the majority clearly voted for 'Brexit' these closures are sure to cause a backlash.

Labour anger at Tory bin collection claims

Labour councillors in Plymouth reacted with astonishment this week when Tory leader, Ian Bowyer, claimed that had Labour held onto the council in May, that they too would have cut bin collections to fortnightly. However that claim has been described as "a complete fabrication" by the Labour leadership.

The Labour group leader on

Plymouth City Council, councillor Tudor Evans commented "In our election manifesto I said we are not going to fortnightly bin collections".

Checking back on manifesto commitments it is clear that Labour had plans to expand recycling and enhance the refuse service, so Cllr Bowyer may have a tough job making this one stick. Even tougher will be the task facing UKIP leader John Riley, whose party campaigned for weekly bin collections across the country during the last general election. However since forming a coalition with Plymouth's Conservatives, UKIP have remained tight lipped on this issue.

Devon County Council Under Fire

Cash strapped and Conservative run Devon County Council has come under fire for spending nearly £600,000 on hiring meeting rooms last year, whilst implant-

ing millions of pounds of cuts. The council, which is based at County Hall in Exeter, said it was impossible to hold all of the meetings at headquarters or in free spaces such as libraries.

Another 'tombstoning' tragedy in the South West

The body of a 39 year old man has been washed up near Plymouth, believed to have lost his life whilst 'tombstoning' from nearby rocks. His body was found in the water on the seafront near the Citadel on Thursday afternoon, police said.

The area around Plymouth Hoe is popular for 'tombstoning', where thrill-seekers leap from height into the water. However most locals warn against the practice, which has claimed many lives and also led to permanent disablement to others.

Assistant Chief Constable Paul Netherton of Devon and Cornwall

Police tweeted that he was "really saddened" and "we lose too many people being washed off cliffs as it is". The coastguard's latest figures show that tombstoning has led to an average of two deaths a year over the past 10 years.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency warn that water depth alters with the tide; the water may be shallower than it seems and that submerged objects like rocks may not be visible. They can cause serious injury if you jump onto them. Also some people drown because the shock of cold water may make it difficult to swim and strong currents can rapidly sweep people away.

Charity begins at the Ganges Restaurant in Plymouth

Local Labour Party activists who got together with Plymouth mental health charity CHIL Plymouth, pledged a new kind of community politics last week, after raising over £250 for a local good cause. Plymouth Labour councillor Chaz Singh co-hosted the event with another activist and declared the event a huge success. The evening comprised an 'eat all you like' menu at the Ganges and was attended by a number of activists new and old. They now plan to host similar events on a regular basis, in order to support local communities and to continue to work towards ensuring that Labour is part of every community. A spokesperson said "Labour needs to show leadership and activism in every community in order to defeat the Conservative's. However it's not enough for us to simply campaign for people's votes, we have to become an integral part of every community."

NORTH EAST ROUNDUP

The New Library will be called"The Word".

Sir Ridley is delighted at the Exhibition of his work with a state of the art media Tower with 21 screens showing clips from his movies :Alien:BladeRunner:Gladiator:Robin Hood:Thelma and Louise.and the Martian.

Sir Ridley hopes to come and visit the Exhibition in his Honour before it closes in May 2017.

"IDaniel Blake "The Social Com-

mentary movie by Film Producer Ken Loach goes on General Release this Friday (21st).Directed by Ken Loach and written by Paul Laverty it is the Winner of the Palme D'or

The Guardian said of "I Daniel Blake" "There are shades of Dickens and Orwell in this emphatic drama about a disabled man strangled by the red tape of the benefits system".This movie tells the fictional story of Daniel Blake , a middle aged widower in the North East

who can't work or get benefits after a near fatal heart attack,and the story is told with stark and fierce plainness:unadorned,unapologetic,even unevolved.

"Flash Crash"(Retail).The Journal Mike Ashley'sSports Direct has warned that "extreme movements "in the pound will result in lower full year profits.

CBI Director Carolyn Fairbairn

has held up Sports Direct as an example of bad business

Copy Cat "Killer Clown " Pranksters have been following Children .Criminal charges have begun.

Police in South Tyneside are launching a crackdown on hate Crime.As part of National Hate Crime Awareness Week Officers have been visiting Community

Groups to talk about hate crime -offences linked to race,faith,religion,disability,gender identity,age or sexual orientation and the support that is available to those who think they have been a victim .

Due in town Bad Company at the Metro Arena (Twenty Seventh) of October.

Ireland

There's no place like home

Recently, I spent the first six months of 2016 living in Spain.

For many years, more than I care to remember, I've had a love affair with Spain and most things Spanish.

I speak the Spanish language and I love the sunny climate, the people, the Spanish *ambience*.

My plan, when I devised one, was to go the land of sun sea and sangria, find work and make a new life, a new existence in another world with another peoples.

Sun, Sea, Sand... good.

I had tired of many aspects of my 'Irish' life, such as a boring job and a tendency to drink, but it wasn't just my job and my drinking habit that I was tired of.

I was tired of Ireland. *My home.*

Ireland, my home.

My beautiful, green pastured, fertile, happy go lucky, leprechaun filled, Ireland. Home.

Yet as I grew up I became aware that there was no rainbow, no pot of gold and Ireland was as much at the mercy of global economics as any 'place' in the globe.

I realised it was fast becoming an unpleasant place to live.

Not a bad place to live, like a crisis zone. God help the Irish that article! No, Ireland was no crisis zone like the 'Calais jungle' sale and all that ...

Yet the Irish Government, themselves were conducting a massive sale.

Buy a crisis, get one free.

Financial crisis, Homeless crisis, Unemployment crisis, Hospital bed crisis, Austerity, Water charges, Paedophile scandals, War on Drugs, Tax scandals. A seemingly endless list of Irelands Crisis.

So I was, I arrived in Spain needing a new rainbow, a new breath of fresh air.

I had what we Irish like to call 'a few bob,' meaning I had some money in the bank. I was excited. A new life beckoned. Life in the sun. Life on the beach. I had lots of thoughts but the overriding thought was, 'Holy Cow,' the drink is really cheap here!

Cheap drink + Irishman = ...

There is a long answer to that equation and someday I might reveal it.

For now all I'll say is despite the often sinking feeling that goes hand in hand with life in modern Ireland, the simple fact is *I missed it*. I missed my community and friends. I realised that there is 'no place like home' when the world is an alienated and an economically dominated place

L. Frank Baum was an American Author best known for writing 'The Wizard of Oz.' He was less well known for his papers calling for the genocide of the Native Americans.

'Wipe these untamed and untameable creatures from the face of the earth.' That is how I felt as an Irish man in the system

Strong words from the man who created the beautiful girl in the blue dress and ruby slippers. Challenging words for me.

L. Frank Baum however, did offer us a much more pleasant, relatable quote.

"There is no place like home."

There's an old saying that tells us home is where the heart is. When I look around my beautiful IRISH country and see so many wrongs, when I listen to the lies and deceit of our politicians, when I read of the homeless, the jobless and so many of my countrymen struggling to make ends meet, I ask myself, does my heart really want to be here?

I still answer yes!

Regardless of where you are situated in the world

. The people you meet and the people

you join with, whether I am in Spain

or Ireland nowfeels like...

"There is no place like home."

By Ian Cockerham
Part 3

Ian Cockerham was diagnosed with metastasised prostate cancer in 2013. He has become something of an expert on the NHS with regard to cancer. He looks at the whole topic with a 'Post-Marxist Eye.'

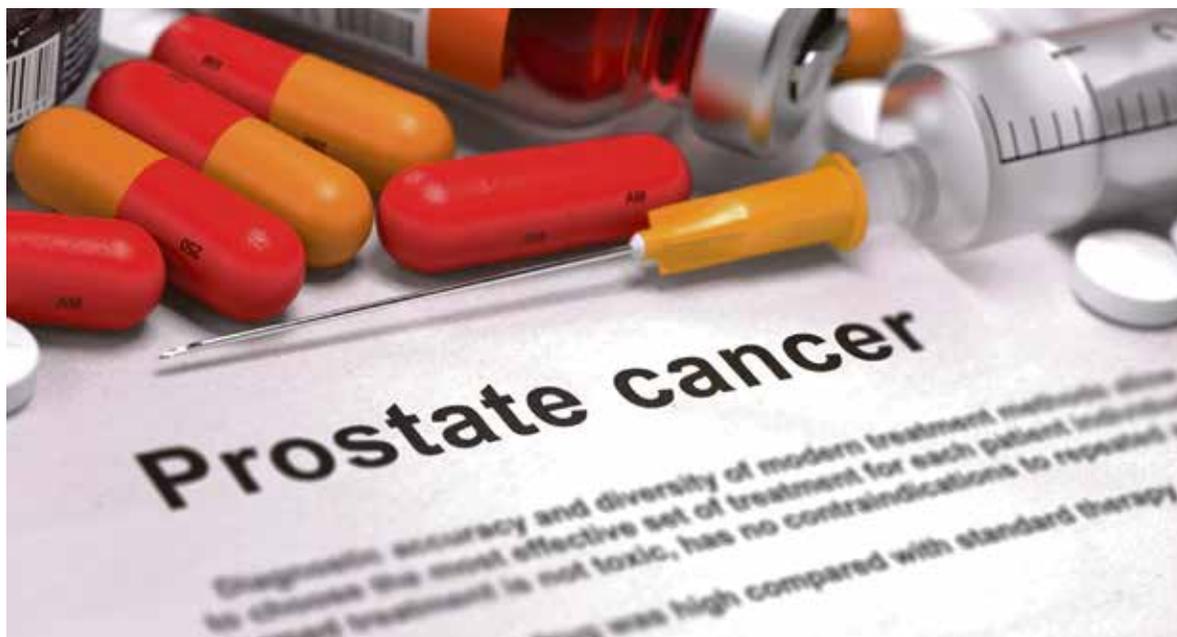
My on-going treatment is with hormones which reduce a lot of the cancer's activity, driven by the male hormone testosterone which has to be eliminated from the body. By-products of the treatment are reduction in muscle mass, and a tendency to put weight on around the tummy and pectoral region. It is harder to lose weight, and working out at the gym is out, as pumping iron generates testosterone. An old pal (now dead) found this out to his cost. But walking and swimming are good exercise. I've played something called 'walking football' which is amazing.

Although sex is possible, it is no longer a primal urge. I eat well, but now have to be careful about the calories that the most attractive foods contain, and my bladder won't let me have caffeine. My kind of cancer thrives on the male hormone testosterone, which is produced by various parts of the human body, in men and in women, in different ways and for different reasons.

In men, evolution has decided that testosterone is made in the gonads, in order to ensure that the initially gender-free foetus be-

LOVE AND PEACE

(with a little bit of Revolution)



comes inescapably male, grows up to have a beard and a muscly body, and produces sperms and semen which much of the time he desires to export to others, for purposes of procreation. His obvious male appearance is designed to attract females and begin a process which gets them pregnant. In this way his genes can live for ever. Why then at around the age of fifty this testoster-

one begins to fill his ears and nostrils with greyish brown hairs, causes his eyebrows to go bushy, and begins to accelerate any male pattern baldness he has inherited from his dad, and his dad's dad, and to a lesser extent from his mum's dad, no-one has satisfactorily explained to me.

Personally I suspect it is evolution's way to cramp his style in the mating game, which by now

he has perhaps got quite good at, and to give his gauche, complex ridden and overshadowed sons a chance with the women they meet, as they have probably a better prospect of protecting the family's genes in the next thirty or so years than he has. Why evolution hasn't found a way to hit randy old men in the wallet is less clear, as this really would put the

tin hat on it for the kind of men who like to go on into old age attracting females and impressing them with their big spending, palatial houses, fast cars and hairy ears and noses. Maybe divorce lawyers are evolution's new way to perform the final function of rendering old men unattractive through removing their ultimate pulling power.

Prostate cancer also takes men out of the game, and I suppose we should be grateful for that much.

The drug I was given was a synthetic hormone, a LHRH agonist (Luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone analogue.) A twelve weekly injection of this drug into belly fat (more about that later) sends a message to my pituitary gland to ignore any persuasion from its good friend the hypothalamus, or anyone else, and to cease sending out any by now inappropriate hormones to the testes saying "Walk like a *Man* and Make *Testosterone*," and also partly by convincing the brain that we have far too much of the stuff already. Perhaps we do.

To be continued....

What is a City?

By Julie Stephens
Part 2

A UK city appears to be for the consumption and distribution of cash and resources. Cities are also a strategic place for the promotion of political prestige and power. The elite city makers, achieve both of these functions via the creation of profitable and political places within and through a spatial, capitalist ideology. Capitalist ideology therefore, culminates in the geographical form of cities. Cities, in this instance, can be understood as a solidified

form and function of an ideological, capitalists' thought process.

A City forms and functions, through capitalist thought process, by creating 'spatial dynamics of world capitalism' and in doing so puts into effect, physical geographical 'national' boundaries for this aim. For example, financial capital needs spaces to locate its institutions, financial head offices and production and service industries and 'national based' cities, cities appear to serve that purpose. Why? And How? Well, because

global capital and national finance depends on a network of command posts. These command posts are situated in cities. Cities, like London, in a place called the UK. For all the myth of virtual space and instant time, that 'internet news' and 'virtual global news networks' create, capitalist dynamic ideologies, are grounded in national geographies. London for example has a real geography, a real coastline and real people working for and existing within those borders. Neo liberal, ethnocentrism, has willing governmental actors to enforce these geographies. London, in the UK has the right socio political environment to expand that capitalism politically and socially into.

Politically the United Kingdom's role in world affairs through institutions such as NATO the UN the past G8, the IMF and World Banking, systems have been grounded in one of the longest standing, financial and trade centres in the world, the Stock Market in London City. Therefore there would be little reason to assume that UK political actors, The Tory government for instance, would be against globalising strategies that restrict their space, slow down their financial accumulation and or disenfranchise their position as global political players.

'Au contraire Mon ami'. Why would a city lose its financial status if its sole aim

is to reproduce finance?

Why? Because London, for example, has complexity and diversity that a city status needs. International business and population links spanning the globe with little or nearly no industry, high unemployment and degenerated work force. Therefore, little backlash from trade unions and communities tired of disenfranchisement in a franchised system called 'CITY'.

Culture defines time and spaces and Cities currently define UK culture.



By John Wilkins

I would like to look at a few women who made a real difference in political life and are often, if not ignored, relegated to 'also rans' for their contributions.

My knowledge of this subject is limited, so I was grateful to come across a book review in the New Internationalist about Ellen Wilkinson (1891-1947) entitled 'Red Ellen' by Laura Beers (Harvard University Press). Having read the review, which ends '...I had never heard of Ellen Wilkinson. Now I wish I could have met her'. So it will be on my Christmas list for my family to buy me.

Ellen was born into a Methodist family in Ardwick, Manchester. Bored with religion and although her father was a supporter of the Conservative Party she joined the Independent Labour Party, aged 16. Despite ill health she studied hard and with the help of scholarships got to Manchester University to study History.

Politics now became the passion in her life. So I will confine myself to briefly listing the causes she became involved in and whet your appetite to learn more about this remarkable woman, diminutive in stature, but a colossus in what she achieved.

Ellen became active in the suffragette movement, and continued to fight for equal rights for women throughout her life. She was a pacifist and against conscription in the First World War. She was one of the first trade union officials in the early 20th. Century and was elected

Women Who Made A Difference



onto the Manchester City Council in 1923. Then a year later was elected MP for Middlesbrough East and in 1929 was elected Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health. However she fell out with Ramsey MacDonald over the creation of a National Government and lost her seat in the 1931 elections. Her view of Labour's loss of power then was 'it was not socialist enough'. (85 years later people have similar views perhaps?)

She spent the next few years writing books on politics and news articles and forming ties with the left wing of the party, leader Stafford Cripps, helping form the Socialist League in 1932. Other members included Aneurin Bevan and the lady he later married, Jenny Lee, who would be another woman whose achievements should be more revered.

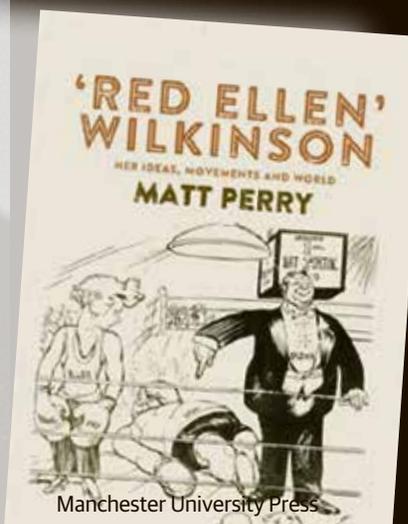
Ellen was re-elected to be MP for Jarrow in 1935 at a time when 80% of insured people were unemployed! She helped organ-

ise the march of unemployed to Westminster and later wrote about the 'Jarrow Crusade' in a book called 'The Town That Was Murdered'.

With Clement Atlee and others she visited Spain to support the Republican forces against Franco and reported on the bombings in Valencia and Madrid. She was fiercely critical of imperialism and visited Gandhi in India and supported his vision of independence.

Although a fire-brand socialist she was also a pragmatist and found practical ways of helping the poorest in society. This included in 1938 getting the Hire Purchase Act passed making terms published and limiting interest charged. The list goes on from the introducing air raid shelters in the war to the School Milk Act in 1946. As a member of Sir Clement Atlee's cabinet she became the first woman Minister of Education. She wanted to raise the school leaving age to 16 but had to settle for 15. She was at odds with some of her colleagues over going for full comprehensive education. It was a time of re-building after the war and the pragmatist in her saw the establishment of a tri-partite system would enable more social mobility without the cost of building huge new schools. (she never heard of PFI thank goodness some might say!)

Sadly worn out with a life time of ill health she succumbed to a bronchial disease, and died in 1947 after an overdose of medication which the coroner at her inquest declared was accidental.



by Julie Stephens

Early philosophical and scientific understanding viewed 'space' as a container, as dead, as immobile or space as absolute. Space was finite, something to be filled into.

Structuralist theories, such as those posed by Karl Marx, tended to view places as being *imposed* upon 'common' people by a bourgeoisie elite. Place making therefore consisted of a top down system of ideological and political processes. For example, a bourgeoisie ideological belief in 'capitalism', culminated in a structural form called *an industrial city place*. Modern thought however, offered a more complex, socially constructed view of time and place and argued that place/s are and continue to be formed within the 'then' capitalist realm and the 'now' neoliberal one. A bit like a person with felt tip pens and a colouring book. Someone has already drawn the lines and 'we the people' fill in the colour. A different picture but the same colouring book.

Late modern theory however, informed us that there are many

A Praxis for Social Change OCCUPYING SPACES

spaces coexisting within a place. So we, at 'The WORD' newspaper, asked the question:

'Do people dutifully refuse to colour over the lines? If they do not? HOW is something a bit more creative, emerging?'

This article, therefore, is grounded in the socio-political 'geographies' of individuals and communities, within a theoretical framework of *'Occupying Spaces'* both physically and ideologically.

We asked this question because 'late modern' or 'postmodern' theorist, (post 1950s) tend to view places as less economically and structurally determined as Karl Marx argued. Late modern theorists tended to focus our attention on the idea that places are not wholly, determined through structure. Upon their view 'places'

began to appear appropriated by rhizomatic movements, emerging through need and social action.

Rhizomatic movements *are grounded in social action*. Social action like that of the root of a plant that reaches out and spreads across the earth. Not a root that is contained in a plastic pot. Nor an artist that keeps within the bold lines of a colouring book image.

Late modern theorists, attempted to break down the *determinist, root in a pot, artist within the lines*, view of the political structural procedures. Procedures, they argued that made a place by which schools, libraries and parks are decided, upon and within by and for the function of 'use'. They also questioned the function of 'use' value by pointing out the emerging *everyday practices* of 'local' people

within spaces. For example, Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002) offered the notion of 'unofficial' spaces and called these 'Habitus'. Micheal Foucault (1926-1984) called these 'unofficial spaces' 'Heterotopias'. Both Bourdieu and Foucault, argued that although 'Habitus' and 'Heterotopias' may be set in a determined culmination of historical and political processes, we may have disregarded the extent of social, cultural and individual *everyday practices* between and in the process of creating space. Soja encapsulates this debate quite well with his theory of 'Spatial Justice'.

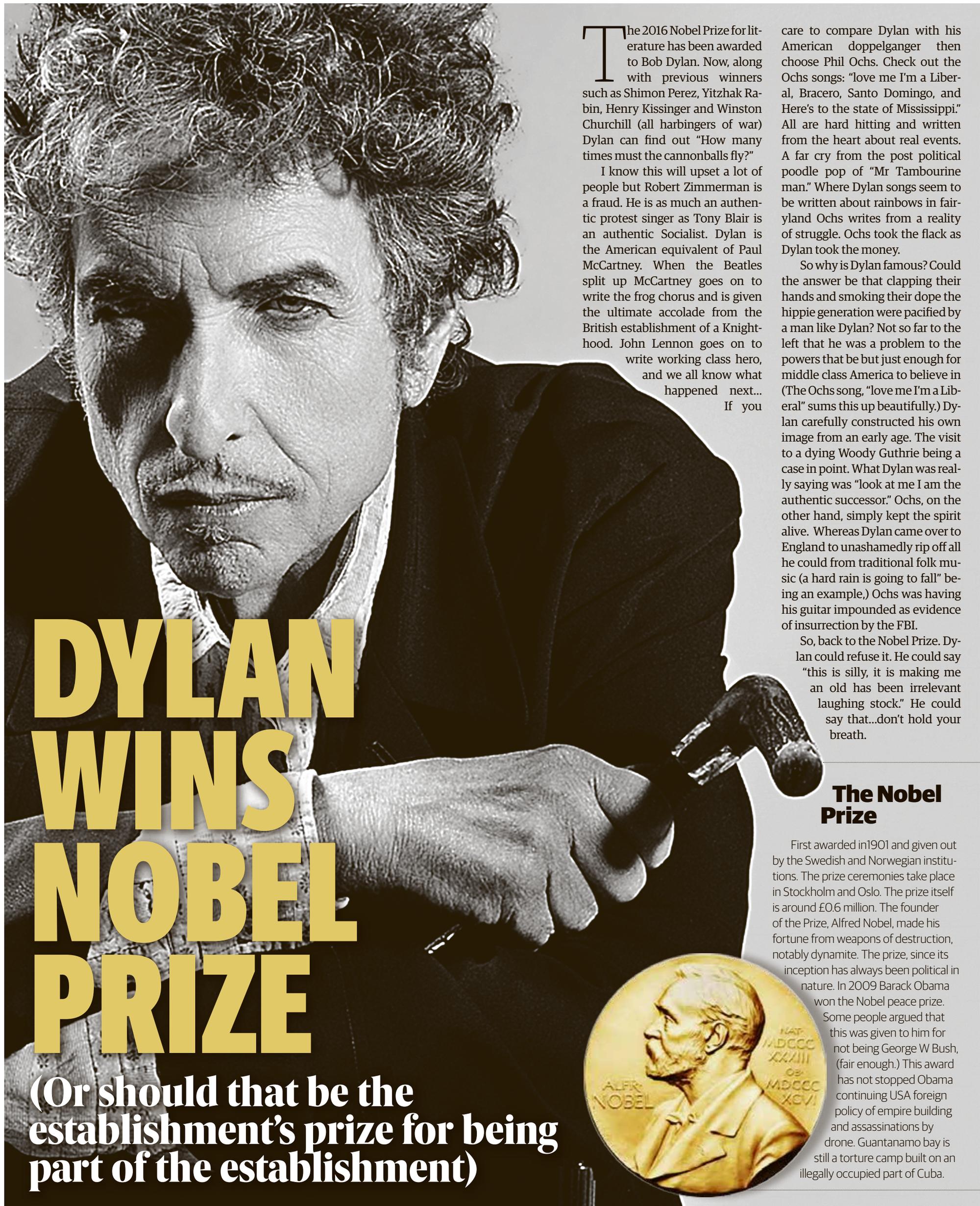
Soja, (2008) argues that modern place-making, city design and urban planning have for too long emphasised: "flat cartographic notions" of space and he challenges this idea by arguing that place making is actual-

ly an: "active force shaping human life." Soja (2008:1). Doreen Massey (1944-2016) also argued that space consists of more complex multiplicity of spatial relations than bourgeoisie planners and policy makers plan for when she stated that; "Space is the sphere of the possibility of the existence of multiplicity; that is space 'as the sphere in which distinct trajectories coexist; as the sphere therefore of coexisting heterogeneity" (Massey, 2005: 9) furthermore, that spaces also consist of 'geometries of power',

Space, therefore, may not be a container, dead, immobile or space as absolute. Space may be infinite, something not to be filled into but expanded outwards.

Over the next few issues 'The Word' newspaper shall be discussing and offering examples of how emerging, rhizomatic, groups, movements and individuals are 'Occupying Spaces' outside of the normal function and form that, top down 'political procedures' recommend.

Join This space.



The 2016 Nobel Prize for literature has been awarded to Bob Dylan. Now, along with previous winners such as Shimon Perez, Yitzhak Rabin, Henry Kissinger and Winston Churchill (all harbingers of war) Dylan can find out "How many times must the cannonballs fly?"

I know this will upset a lot of people but Robert Zimmerman is a fraud. He is as much an authentic protest singer as Tony Blair is an authentic Socialist. Dylan is the American equivalent of Paul McCartney. When the Beatles split up McCartney goes on to write the frog chorus and is given the ultimate accolade from the British establishment of a Knighthood. John Lennon goes on to write working class hero, and we all know what happened next...

If you

care to compare Dylan with his American doppelganger then choose Phil Ochs. Check out the Ochs songs: "love me I'm a Liberal, Bracero, Santo Domingo, and Here's to the state of Mississippi." All are hard hitting and written from the heart about real events. A far cry from the post political poodle pop of "Mr Tambourine man." Where Dylan songs seem to be written about rainbows in fairyland Ochs writes from a reality of struggle. Ochs took the flack as Dylan took the money.

So why is Dylan famous? Could the answer be that clapping their hands and smoking their dope the hippie generation were pacified by a man like Dylan? Not so far to the left that he was a problem to the powers that be but just enough for middle class America to believe in (The Ochs song, "love me I'm a Liberal" sums this up beautifully.) Dylan carefully constructed his own image from an early age. The visit to a dying Woody Guthrie being a case in point. What Dylan was really saying was "look at me I am the authentic successor." Ochs, on the other hand, simply kept the spirit alive. Whereas Dylan came over to England to unashamedly rip off all he could from traditional folk music (a hard rain is going to fall" being an example,) Ochs was having his guitar impounded as evidence of insurrection by the FBI.

So, back to the Nobel Prize. Dylan could refuse it. He could say "this is silly, it is making me an old has been irrelevant laughing stock." He could say that...don't hold your breath.

The Nobel Prize

First awarded in 1901 and given out by the Swedish and Norwegian institutions. The prize ceremonies take place in Stockholm and Oslo. The prize itself is around £0.6 million. The founder of the Prize, Alfred Nobel, made his fortune from weapons of destruction, notably dynamite. The prize, since its inception has always been political in nature. In 2009 Barack Obama won the Nobel peace prize.

Some people argued that this was given to him for not being George W Bush, (fair enough.) This award has not stopped Obama continuing USA foreign policy of empire building and assassinations by drone. Guantanamo bay is still a torture camp built on an illegally occupied part of Cuba.

DYLAN WINS NOBEL PRIZE

(Or should that be the establishment's prize for being part of the establishment)



Biography JELA started their career down in Uzes, South of France in september 2010 where Lucas Bernard (singer/guitarist) and Arthur Marechal (drummer) met in high school.

They started out playing covers with musician fellows, ranging from The Doors, The Beatles, Radiohead, The Strokes, The Clash, etc. While studying, they met David Roberts who wrote lyrics and was originally from Manchester, UK. Straight away, surrounding themselves with different musicians on the bass, guitar and keyboard, JELA started out playing their own songs with a very unique style, mixing



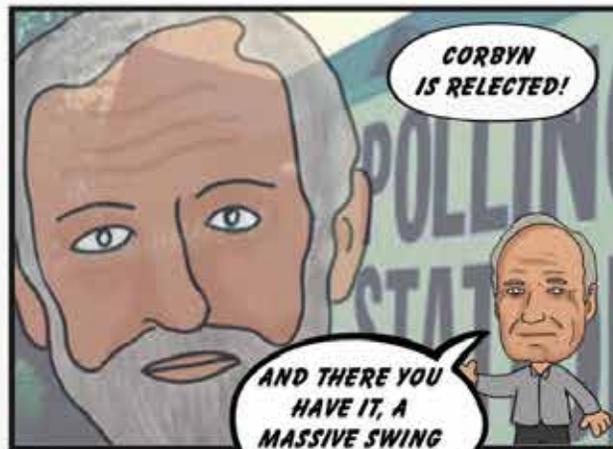
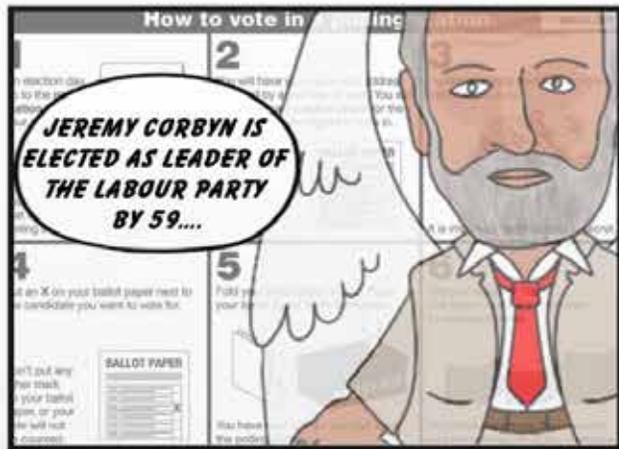
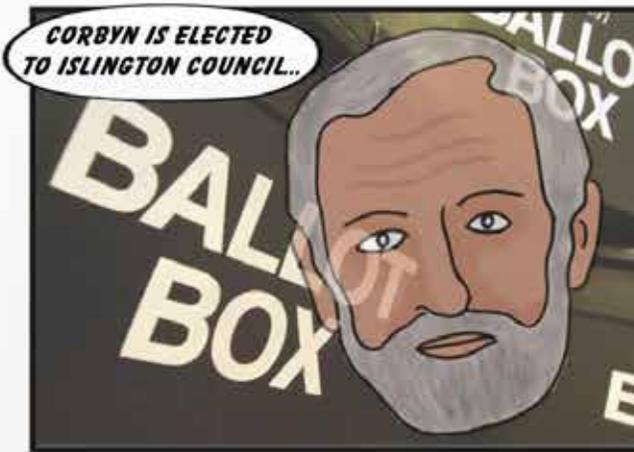
JELA STARTED THEIR CAREER DOWN IN UZES

rock, folk, blues and their wide musical tastes, the whole thing driven by catchy melodies. After their examinations, at seventeen years old, they decided to leave the sunshine and the cicada songs for the lovely dirty old town of Manchester where they're now based. There, they wrote around 25 original songs and played as many venues as the city has to offer (Night & Day, the Roadhouse, Kraak Gallery, the Ram, Fuel Cafe, Gullivers, ...) as well as doing residencies (Antwerp Mansion, Live Stockport). They released independantly their first single "No Longer Blind" online in the summer 2013 thanks to Nuno Carvalho production. In September 2014, after playing with different musicians from various locations, Sam Artigau (Lucas' cousin) joined JELA on the bass in their british odyssey. After two years dedicated to playing every day, JELA's now shaped into a strong trio playing an energetic rock set heavily colored by a blues/folk background



St. Jeremy of London

By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir



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HOW DO WE, THE PEOPLE, WIN?

"As a life long Tory I am now completely sick and tired of unfair Establishment attacks on Corbyn like this and I find defending him quite amusing but it must be done."-Tory commentator on the internet

It's a kerfuffle, because even if they push a yearly re-election and Corbyn keeps winning,... even as he gathers crowds bigger than Michael Jackson, .. even as intelligent people across the country wake up and vote... and the grassroots increase Labour membership to unprecedented levels in the history of political parties,...there always remain two major issues we keep banging our heads against. They are cleverly built fetters in the way of democracy. So that we have a mimicked democracy--like a TV show, but every time people want to take matters into their own hands and change their fate, they can't.

1. The PLP. This is obvious, but let me explain: that the grassroots movement is trying to reclaim democracy in a bid for survival because they, unlike some of the dormant middle class, will not accept the "happy-go-lucky consumerist delusion"--is irrelevant because the pro war, pro austerity MPs, most of which Blairites, have contempt for the masses and want to promote their own neoliberal interests at the expense of the mass:

"Who cares about the grassroots?" - John McTernan, close cumbuddy of Tony Blair.

They have the logistical and bureaucratic and financial expertise (like control of the NEC which in all truth overrules the party leader need be) to step over the will of the nation. They sabotaged Labour post Brexit, a crucial time, and wasted everyone's time in a failed chicken coup. Everyone knows they won't stop. They're therefore a significant powerful obstacle.

2. The second grand obstacle in the way of democracy is, perhaps a consequence of 1) and in way a process closely related: the extensive brainwashing of the crowd.

TRUTH

it's the new hate speech

"During times of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

George Orwell

I shall refer to a specific strain: words over actions. People care more about hurt feelings than lives lost. What I mean is: Trump's laddish remarks about women, somehow being labelled more dangerous to women than Hillary Clinton's huge rape friendly record. Like that time when she defended a rapist in court and got him almost jail free by lying although he violently raped a 12-yr old. Like standing up for Bill Clinton and characterising the women who complained he raped them as trash no one would believe. Like profiting from wars everywhere that actually KILLED millions of women in horrible ways. She conducted policies that lead to the proliferation of ISIS, who systematically raped sold into slavery and pushed into extinction thousands of yazidi women. How is man boasting about liking women and groping them worse than killing them in the thousands in horrible tortures and selling them into soul crushing sex slavery which is what ISIS do? Please research the DNC leaks and the Podesta leaks. This woman has female blood on her hands; Trump probs felt up some women up with his. Proportion please.

I'm not pro Trump at all: but I emphasize that people forget what matters most: lives over feelings. And often times they care more about words than realities.

It reminds me of how they jump up in arms and call Frankie Boyle offensive when he touches on delicate subjects (like Palestine): this is a basic human error

since the dawn of satire; confusing he who calls attention to evil, with evil himself. The psychological mechanism that allows this stupid error is people's attachment to their own delusions and warm realities. Every attempt to shake the public from the Great British Bake off, Waitrosed and interior designed reality with sprinkles on top is viewed as "offensive". People dislike having to think of uncomfortable truths; like, what mass devastation across the world FUELS the little nice urban paradise with mocha latte and decadent cinema to inebriate us on pseudo-intellectually? Correct answer from the little starving kid at the back : it is war. And your decadence fuels it.

Historical myopy and logical fail that's happening with Labour.

I had enough of silly accusations floating around the media about supposed antisemitism Labour has an issue with. Labour doesn't. What's happening here is a historic and highly successful PR trick: that of taking criticism of a government's actions (which people kinda always do, still) and making it condemnable as racism. I may condemn the butchery of innocent Palestinian kids by Israel government but my favorite people like Noam Chomsky, Jon Stewart, writers on Family Guy, Norman Finklestein, Jill Stein, my ex flatmates, ..etc. they're Jewish. The government is NOT the people. The government of this country went to war in Iraq despite millions of people protesting against it on the

streets. So antisemitism invoked when Israel criticised is a feeble logical argument which scholarly Jew Tony Greenstein also debunks on his blog (please google).

None of the so called Labour antisemitism has been demonstrated and at best, certain vague remarks pro Palestine were quoted. Antisemitism is a serious thing. Based on the hatred that not just "hurt the feelings" of millions of jews, but killed them. It's a denigration of the term to claim antisemitism in vaguely uncomfortable, ambiguous words is the same as the real evil achieved by historic antisemitism. A denigration of life itself.

We cannot build a society based on constantly protecting each others feelings. What each individual feels in reaction to what others say is most often their business. If we start to censor ourselves so as not to offend anyone, where do we stop? Will we ever have opinions anymore?

We cannot call stupid stupid anymore, fat is BBW, obviously male TS and TV are offended when you address them as men, acquiescing a racial feature is alone viewed as an act of racism (!!--it's obvious black people perform better in sports; this isn't racism, it's a genetic advantage of people who have not been mollified and domesticated by civilisation--like US). At the same time we live in the most violent and tragic age in history. Getting righteous indignation over tweets and "feelings" is respectable. Bringing up the slaughter of kids and women in the middle east is pariah. LOGIC?

Speaking freely has become an act of dissidence.

Giving honest bitter sentiment in the face of Apocalypse is taboo.

People judge people on how well they fake happiness. If you call attention to reality, they brand you a bit negative, pessimistic. "Can't you enjoy life a little more?!" We as Labour Corbynistas need to understand these poor folk have been a bit lobotomised by small luxuries and grand TV lies, and we



need to wake them up.

We have a duty to not pretend all is good, and to stop smiling like we're being held at "pretend-happy" ransom in a culture that values fake consumerist happiness over anything else. Even human life. We need to educate people. Bring forth the uncomfortable things that need to be discussed, and most of all, refuse to silence our worries and legitimate peace efforts because of these sinewy verbal ticks that shut down debate. They're tricks and manipulation, and no sane intelligent person should censor their long term solution to real gut wrenching problems like the world we live in is littered with, for fear of upsetting an old lady's delicate sensibilities who doesn't like her tea and crochet evening anything but dozey dull "respectability".

Participating in a local BLP meeting, me and my partner were holding hands as we were discussing serious matters like, are we on the brink of nuclear war? A lady approached my partner after in reprimanding tones that holding hands wasn't inappropriate. But nuclear war is? Who cares what inappropriate is? We have the darkest age in humankind looming, and we suppress a bit of last-resort human affection in hard times? Solidarity and real emotions are second class to uppity "propriety"?

Unless we call bullshit and wake people up, we won't be able to show these people they're being duped into voting for their aggressors. DISTURB THEM, I say. CONFRONT THEM, I ask of you.

No matter is too serious for discussion in these times we live in. Forget what's "appropriate" and do what's "right". If anything, it's a sin to talk about Pokemon when nuclear war is threatened by a presidential candidate who might just profit from it.

The Fall of America

"I pity the man who wants a coat so cheap that the man or woman who produces the cloth or shapes it into a garment will starve in the process." - **Benjamin Harrison**

"I would rather belong to a poor nation that was free than to a rich nation that had ceased to be in love with liberty." - **Woodrow Wilson**

"Being a politician is a poor profession. Being a public servant is a noble one." - **Herbert Hoover**

"The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the larger centers has owned the government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson. The country is going through a repetition of Jackson's fight with the Bank of the United States - only on a far bigger and broader basis." - **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

"Liberty without learning is always in peril, and learning without liberty is always in vain." - **John F. Kennedy**

"A president's hardest task is not to do what is right, but to know what is right." - **Lyndon Johnson**

"Think about every problem, every challenge, we face. The solution to each starts with education." - **George H. W. Bush**

"One of the great things about books is sometimes there are some fantastic pictures." - **George W. Bush**

"Grab them by the pussy." - **Donald Trump**



By Guido Paine

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed. This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children. The cost of one modern heavy bomber is this: a modern brick school in more than 30 cities. It is two electric power plants, each serving a town of 60,000 population. It is two fine, fully equipped hospitals. It is some fifty miles of concrete pavement. We pay for a single fighter plane with a half million bushels of wheat. We pay for a single destroyer with new homes that could have housed more than 8,000 people. This is, I repeat, the best way of life to be found on the road the world has been taking. This is not a way of life at all, in any true sense. Under

the cloud of threatening war, it is humanity hanging from a cross of iron....Is there no other way the world may live?" - **Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the United States of America.**



BRITAIN NEEDS A REALITY CHECK ON BREXIT

By Alexander Dommerholt

The times are trying for anyone attempting to make sense of what Brexit means and what the government intends on doing. The government has however given us a few sneak peeks of what they have in store for us.

Newly appointed Brexit secretary David Davis announced that Britain would be "incredibly successful" outside of the single market, hinting at the strong possibility of a so-called 'hard Brexit' where Britain chooses to rely on WTO trading rules instead of remaining part of the single market.

This fits in with Theresa May's message during the Conservative conference, announcing that controlling immigration has priority over the economy. She scathingly remarked that "citizens of the world are citizens of nowhere", a strong indicator that the Tories are intending to capitalise on the rise of xenophobic attitudes in Britain.

The Prime Minister has gone so far in her intended measures against foreigners in Britain that even UKIP feels that she is going too far. Roger Helmer, UKIP MEP for East Midlands, stated that he did not support May's plans to make companies report on the number of foreigners they employ, saying "in some ways she's gone far beyond what we'd done".

Amidst the anti-immigration rhetoric of the Conservatives and their intention to trigger Article 50 next year, the value of the Pound plummeted to levels never seen before. Whereas the Pound's value was in the region of \$1.50 before the referendum, its value has since decreased by 20% and may dive even further amidst the messages that the economy will take the backseat in the Brexit philosophy.

The language of Brexit-backers has remained largely unchanged since the referendum, with assertions that "the EU needs us more than we need them" and "we can keep access to the single market AND limit immigration" still being heard on almost a daily basis.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the EU countries are not panicking over Brexit. Joris Luyendijk wrote in *The Guardian* that they have no reason to, as he writes "why do EU leaders look rather relaxed when Brexit comes up?" It certainly is undeniable that the various EU countries have

made no attempts at bargaining with Britain at all on Brexit.

Instead, leaders like German Chancellor Angela Merkel have frequently repeated their stance that the EU is not intending on making exceptions on i.e. the freedom of movement, as she recently said "if any one country was allowed an exception [...] all countries will put conditions on free movement with other countries", which would be the beginning of the end for the European Union.

Not only the big countries think this way, the little ones think no different. If Theresa May triggers Article 50 in the spring of next year, Malta (450,000 inhabitants) holds the EU presidency. Maltese PM Joseph Muscat was recently quoted saying that the principles of free movement of capital, goods, services and people "cannot be negotiated" adding that "the idea that Britain can come back with a superior deal, or even the same deal, is not acceptable".

Even once a deal is being agreed upon with Britain, every single EU country will have to ratify the agreement for it to take effect. This places the power in the hands of any of the 27 EU members to veto agreements made with Britain.

The reality of the matter is that the cards are not firmly in the hands of Britain, but they are firmly in the hands of the European Union. Instead of the possibility of the EU being held hostage by demands that Britain can impose, the reality is the exact opposite.

As the British government refuses to face up to this reality and instead pushes an agenda that is evidently not in the interest of the British economy, it already leaves the economy in an unstable position. The fact that a quote by Theresa May can make the value of the Pound plummet is reason for worries.

As Luyendijk asserts, the bombastic talk of the ministers and MPs is becoming an increasing source of annoyance to the EU leadership, which rapidly decreases the goodwill of the various EU countries towards the UK - this can only have negative impacts.

Luyendijk concludes that "whatever the political darlings of the billionaire-owned British press tell themselves and their followers, Brexit will mean what the EU decides it means". The British government will do well to realise this sooner rather than later.

Dutch news round-up

By Alexander Dommerholt

Scary clown craze reaches Holland



The American "scary clown craze" has now reached Holland, and various reports have been made of men dressed up in horrific clown costumes. Often, these 'pranksters' chase passers-by in streets and parks, armed with plastic machetes.

In the city of Almere, the police have been informed of someone who had dressed up as the demonic clown 'Pennywise' from the Stephen King horror novel. Other sightings were reported in Arnhem, Groesbeek and Oss. In Landgraaf, a man dressed up as a clown was reported to have chased a young boy with an axe.

Dutch McDonald's restaurants have decided to remove the Ronald McDonald mascots while the craze is ongoing, while the Dutch Clown University (NCU) has called on everyone thinking of joining the hype to refrain from doing so.

Dutch Pegida member fined for spreading hate



German anti-Muslim and anti-immigration movement Pegida is gaining influence in the Netherlands as well, and frequently holds marches and demonstrations to spread its message of hate.

A Dutch woman speaking on Pegida rallies has now been ordered by a judge to pay an €800 fine as she called Islam "an insane ideology" and a reason to "despise and hate all Muslims" as she addressed a crowd at a recent Pegida demonstration.

The woman, named as Ms Chohan, said that her remarks were "mere warnings", but the judge chose to give her a higher fine than required as she also put her hateful remarks on her Facebook page.

Biker gang accused of intimidating magazine boss

Motorcycle gang 'No Surrender' has been accused of threatening 'Panorama' editor in chief Frans Lomans and making him sign a contract under duress.

Panorama would publish a number of articles on No Surrender in a regular feature on the gang, in cooperation with No Surrender but the feature stopped

after only two articles had been published. It is alleged that high ranking members of the gang went to the Panorama office after they felt enraged about what they interpreted to be 'negative publicity'.

Editor in chief was threatened by the gang members and made to sign a contract that Panorama would cease publicising articles on No Surrender. It is alleged that the intimidation happened at the direct orders of No Surrender president Klaas Otto.

Otto is already in prison as he has been accused of money laundering, extortion, arson and attacking a fellow No Surrender member with a grenade. He denies all charges and blames former gang leader Willem van Boxtel.

Dutch man sues Spanish government for £11 million

Romano van der Dussen, a Dutch national who was wrongly imprisoned in Spain, is suing the Spanish government for £11 million as compensation for his suffering.

Van der Dussen was arrested in 2003 in Spain after being accused of robbery and raping a woman. Despite maintaining being innocent, the court sentenced him to 15.5 years in prison - it was only in February this year that he was released.

His release was based on DNA tests conducted in Britain, which proved beyond doubt that Van der Dussen could not have committed the crime he was sentenced for. The real culprit was revealed to be a British national who was already being held on suspicion of murder.

Dutch residential home refuse inspections

A recent inspection of the Inspection Agency of Mental Health Facilities (IGZ) revealed that many Dutch residential and nursing facilities are failing to deliver care to the expecting standards.

Instead of rallying to improve the standards of care facilities, the branch organisation of residential and nursing facilities ActiZ has announced that it is no longer willing to cooperate with IGZ inspections, unless they are informed what IGZ intends to do with the data they collect.

An ActiZ spokesman has explained this surprising move as follows: "the IGZ only published bad news. The carelessness with which they categorised and published their lists earlier this year have had a profoundly negative effects on staff, residents and their families. We're therefore hesitant to cooperate any further; first we need clarity".

IGZ has voiced its surprise about this move. "We cannot imagine that residential facilities are not supporting openness and transparency."

'Vindicat' controversies continue

Student association 'Vindicat' keeps surrounding itself with controversy; in September an aspiring member got severely injured in hazing ritual incident as one of the other members stood on the man's head. Also, members circulated a so-called 'banga list' of female members.

Recently, a new incident occurred when a Vindicat member used an airgun to shoot at one of the student association's buildings. He has been arrested and was interrogated by police.

Vindicat has suspended over a dozen of its members over the ongoing controversies and is put under increasing pressure by the authorities and universities to completely abandon its hazing rituals.

HOLLYWOOD

in Berlin

By Alexander Dommerholt

That the Nazis were racist murderers is a well-documented fact. Less well-known is that the Nazis singlehandedly destroyed the thriving German film industry, which rivalled Hollywood until Hitler assumed power.

The German film industry developed rapidly after the immediate end of World War I; inspired by the horrific events of the war, many talented German actors and directors sought to express their feelings of loss in the newly introduced medium of full-length feature films.

This led to pioneering films that explored completely new genres. *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* by Robert Wiene and *Nosferatu* by F.W. Murnau from the early 1920s are widely recognised as the first horror films ever made, typified by the actors wearing exaggerated make-up while performing in front of warped and distorted set designs.

Science-fiction was explored too; *Algol: The Tragedy of Power* (1920) tells the story of an alien giving a miner unlimited power, which he goes on to abuse. Director Fritz Lang explored the possibilities of space travel in *Woman in the Moon* (1929) - it very accurately shows the launch sequence of a rocket, decades before spaceflight actually took place.

Along with Murnau, Lang was one of the most influential directors. He first made furore with *Dr Mabuse - The Gambler* about an almost invisible criminal mastermind instilling fear and chaos in society. With *Metropolis* (1927), he made one of the very first dystopian science-fiction films. His film *M*, his first sound film, features Peter Lorre as a child killer being hunted by both the Berlin police department as well as the city's criminal underworld. Both movies are now considered to be among the best films ever made.

On the other side of the spectrum was Georg Wilhelm Pabst, who chose to depict every-day

realism in a very straightforward and gritty way, not shying away from controversial topics as prostitution, abortion and drug abuse.

As the German films did very well in box offices worldwide, it launched successful careers for its actors, such as Marlene Dietrich, Greta Garbo, Peter Lorre and Conrad Veidt. The very first Academy Award for Best Actor even went to a German actor - Emil Jannings, who rose to fame in the 1920s. Apart from the actors, directors as Lang, Murnau, Wiene and Pabst were in high demand - Murnau even helped a young Alfred Hitchcock develop his signature style.

The creativity of German cinema came to an abrupt halt when the Nazis assumed power. Joseph Goebbels, Minister of Propaganda, saw the film industry as a perfect tool to get the Nazi viewpoints across. It meant that the entire filmmaking process was put under strict Nazi control - and unsurprisingly, all Jews and those with communist sympathies were banned from filmmaking.

It led to an exodus of talent. Fritz Lang fled to America, Robert Wiene to France. *Nosferatu* star Gustav von Wangenheim sought refuge in the Soviet Union. Peter Lorre and Marlene Dietrich left Germany behind and became Hollywood stars, as did Conrad Veidt who hated the Nazis to such a degree that he insisted on being typecast as an unlikeable Nazi villain. It led to him having a prominent role in Hollywood classic *Casablanca* in 1942.

Not all those who would have wished to flee

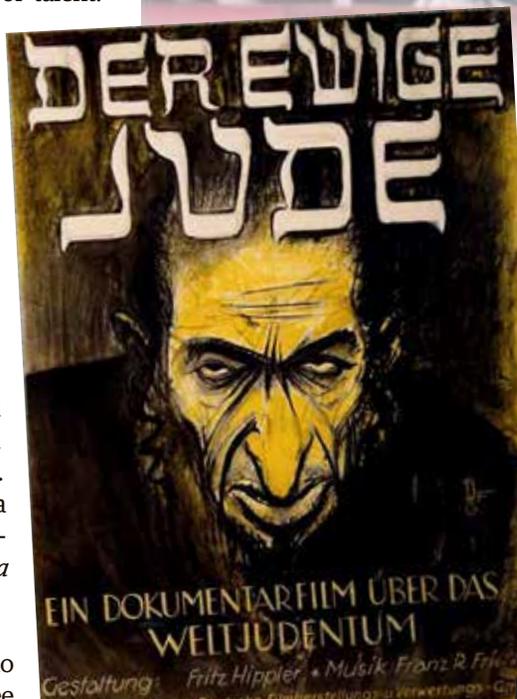
where as lucky; Jewish actors like John Gottowt perished in a concentration camp whereas silent movie star Georg John died in the Jewish ghetto.

Similarly tragic was the fate of the cast of *Emil and the Detectives*, the 1931 film based on the best-selling novel by Erich Kästner. Four of the boys starring in the film were barely twenty years old when World War II broke out only a few years later. All of them were drafted into the German Wehrmacht - only one of them survived.

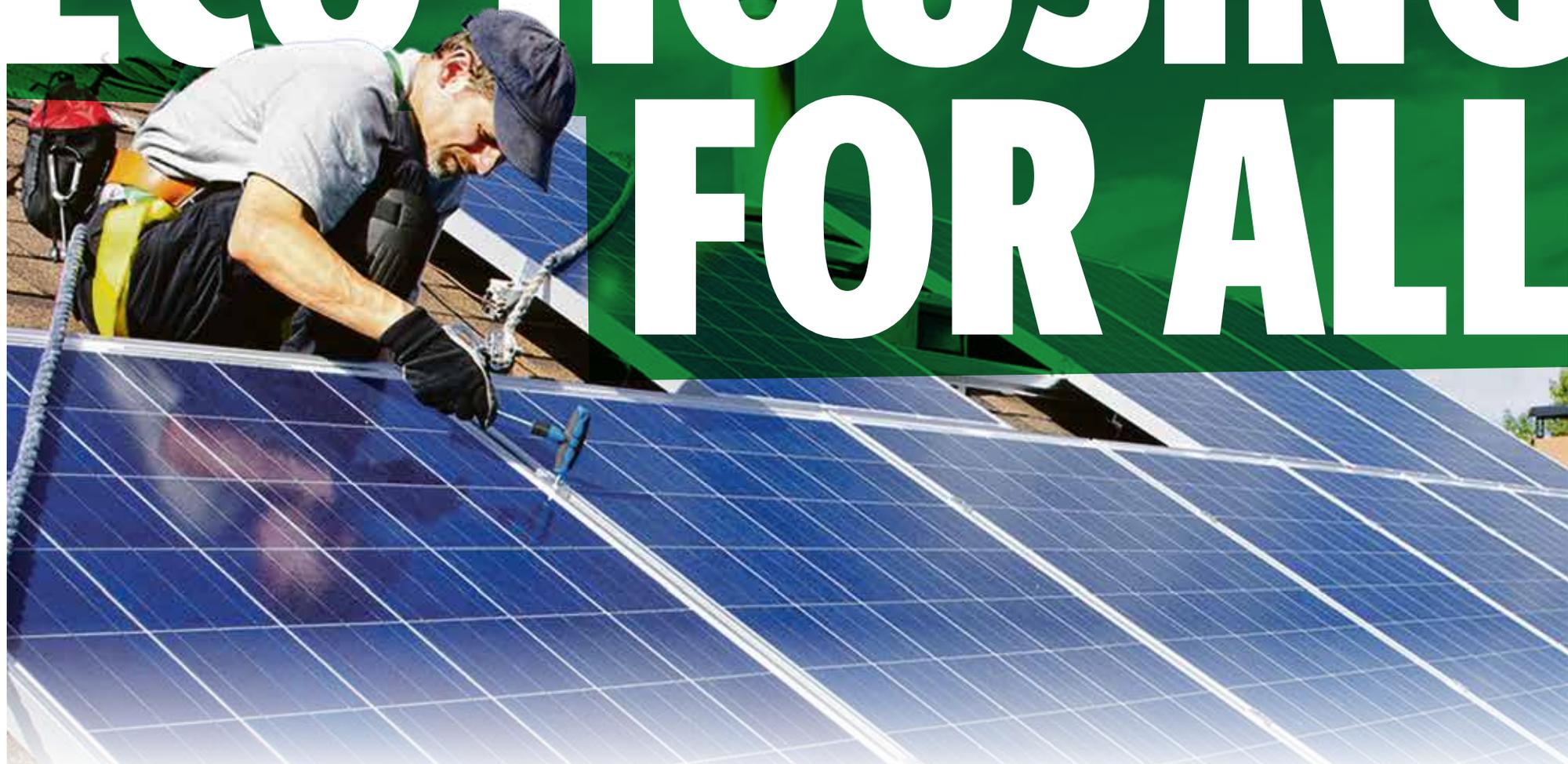
Goebbels was undeterred by this talent drain, though most German movie studios went bankrupt. The ones that remained produced over 1,000 films during 12 years of Nazi rule, varying from propagandistic drivel to 'epics' meant to inspire the German people to get behind the war effort. Apart from *Triumph of the Will* by Leni Riefenstahl, which is a documentary rather than a feature film, and *Jud Süß*, a fiercely anti-Semitic film, no Nazi films were produced that anyone will easily remember.

The few actors that did remain in Germany either kept a low profile or collaborated with the Germans. Celebrated actors like Emil Jannings and Werner Krauss starred in forgettable films and after the war they died in obscurity after having become unemployable due to their cooperation with the Nazis.

The stifling of talent and creativity by the Nazis is still felt to this day - the question how German cinema would have developed and how many more iconic films would have been produced if it weren't for the Nazis, is one that will never be answered. It did however teach the world a valuable lesson as to what happens to culture and creativity when anti-Semites, racists and fascists assume power.



ECO HOUSING FOR ALL



By David Carr

With Jeremy Corbyn now re-crowned as the leader of The Labour Party, a great deal of attention is now being turned to his opposition - Theresa May's government.

In early August, Corbyn launched his ten pledges, each of them addressing inequalities and providing solutions to the problems endemic in the UK today. The second and sixth of these pledges, namely:- to create 1 million new homes, half of which are to be Council houses, and that of moving to a 'low-carbon economy' with green industries at its heart particularly stand out. There is a chronic housing need across the country and annexing green technologies within this building programme is absolutely essential.

In July, the Sevenoaks Labour Party Executive adopted and put forward a Momentum 'Swanley' proposal: - *"Labour's proposed national house building programme should be based on eco Council housing where all properties have solar panels and other green technologies."* This is hardly at the zeitgeist, but it is a very welcome shift. The environment is often banded about

by politicians, though seldom committed to - as evidenced by a government that rubber-stamps Hinkley Point's nuclear energy expansion. Where is government that will invest in our future and harness the energy freely available to us all? Green energy is not a huge leap of faith, but it may be a political party funding issue though - given the donations and lobbying of the fossil fuel multinationals. Individuals, and indeed some businesses, have already chosen to invest in carbon reducing eco-programmes. Photovoltaic cells (aka solar panels) have become more commonplace on our homes and buildings; wind turbines and rainwater harvesting systems less so. There is a massive win-win opportunity sitting before the Labour Party if they choose to adopt Swanley's proposal.

Cost Effective Energy?

The Tories continually stating that the consumer should "shop around for the best energy deals" is a facile phrase when addressing energy prices. However, this barely masks the stranglehold of the 'Big 6' energy suppliers. Consumers are increasingly

aware of rising energy prices and many homes have cascaded into the fuel poverty bracket - all this whilst shareholders receive escalating dividends. The neo-liberal mantra of market economies benefitting the consumer flies in the face of the reality of the bill-paying public's opinion. Put simply, bill-payers receive unjustifiable, immoral price spikes from a predominately fossil-fuelled industry that shows little genuine regard for the climate.

Future Energy

With our energy demands already incomparable to previous decades, we have to acknowledge that the need for energy shows no sign of abating, thus green energy and technologies need to be at the forefront of any new building programmes. Household bills can be reduced, widening fuel poverty lessened, or eradicated altogether - furthermore, excess green energy can be sold back into the National Grid and, in the case of Council housing, paid into the Local Authority coffers. Solar panels and wind turbines MUST be a non-negotiable necessity. It

MUST be foremost in any housing project. The term 'housing' MUST mean 'eco-housing' to all of us - especially in every Local Authority planning department.

Water Rates and Protection

Utilising rainwater harvesting systems more effectively, along with flood prevention, construction and landscaping measures, will also help arrest the insurance premium hikes, and make the new homes more robust to the challenge of climate change and help reduce water rates.

Clean Green

The green think-tank 'Environmentum' was established to encourage the Labour Party to adopt a mass eco Council house building and refurbishment programme. When challenged on the costs of these additional green measures, Nick Southgate, a spokesman for them said: "The initial outlay is recognised as adding more financial cost at the beginning; however, some of this will be recovered and our climate right now, and in the future, should not bear the brunt of our excesses. Fossil fuel needs must

be reduced and clean, green technologies embraced. Some of the possible avenues for financing this housing revolution include a Land Tax for those Corporations and landlords strategically sitting on land (such as supermarkets blocking rival competition); removing the cap on National Insurance and making it progressive, and a tax on companies that have failed to mitigate against pollution and continue to pollute our environment. We also believe that a second home tax, comparable with that used in Iceland, is necessary. This will help release 'additional' homes as many owners may well elect to sell their immoral cash-cows, or seldom visited second 'home'. This will benefit urban areas, but it will also impact positively in areas such as Wales and the West Country where, for far too long, they have felt the 'double-whammy' housing pinch of low housing stocks being swallowed up by non-locals. Affordable housing in the UK and tackling climate change within our world are perhaps the greatest problems ahead of us now. The housing programme is essential as is coupling it with a green revolution."

LINKS

Find out more here: <https://swanleydistrictlabourparty.org/eco-council-housing-program/>

U.K. Class OF '79 Part 3



And during the parent-teacher meeting, the teachers would explain that the children were lacking aspiration, had gotten lazy. But as the ranks of the dispossessed children had grown over time, some of the parents started to question these teaching practices. Each parent had grave doubts about their child's teacher so sought out second opinions from the other teachers. The other teachers gave the same scripted answers as to why their children were failing.

Then the parents spotted the new teacher, who looked wiser and more honest. So several parents chatting amongst themselves wanted to speak to this new teacher. But everytime they approached this teacher a different teacher would intervene and be dragged to a side room and told what the new teacher was about. But the intervening teachers never gave a true account of what Jerry's teaching practices were. What the parents heard sounded far fetched. They heard that this new teacher was dangerous and would damage the young children's minds.



The parents left the parent teachers meeting with a deep feeling of dissatisfaction and distrust of all the teachers. Some were fearful but strangely fascinated about the new teacher.

The teachers saw how popular the new teacher and his ideas might be so they concocted a plan to create a fake bunch of parent letters that the new teacher's ideas were dangerous and not wanted by the parents to get him to resign. He refused to resign because his love of teaching young minds was a passion for him and he knew that he was right.



And of the few children that attended the new teacher's class, when they went home at night would tell tales of this wonderful teacher. Slowly the word spread about his new approach to teaching. There developed a new following by the parents who would push for their children to be taught by the new teacher.



The Taylor Tapes – Andy Tsege

Andy Tsege is a political refugee and huge critic of the Ethiopian Authorities



Alex Taylor interviews Yemi Hailemariam partner of Andy Tsege

In summary

In June 2014 Andy Tsege was travelling from the UK to Eritrea (Eritrea is a small country bordering Ethiopia) when he went missing just before boarding a plane in Yemen (Yemen is 20km from Eritrea across the red sea). For seven days his family in London could learn nothing of what had happened to him despite frequent contact with the Yemeni embassy. On the seventh day they finally learned from the Yemeni ambassador that he had been 'transferred' from Yemen to Ethiopia. They later learned that he had been taken to Ethiopia on the same night that he arrived in Yemen, possibly at passport control.

Andy would at no point have

been in Ethiopian territory, and was travelling as a British citizen with a UK passport. There is no legally valid process by which he could have been removed under these circumstances. We tend to call this 'rendition' these days, but 'kidnap' would serve us just as well.

Andy's partner Yemi explains that he had been a vocal opponent of the Ethiopian government and an interested member of the opposition movement known as 'Gimbot 7'. He was also not unknown among the general population having published a book outlining issues of freedom and equality in Ethiopia. His book gained a wide audience, he published it - unusually - in the mother tongue, rather than the often used English.

In 2005 'fair and free elections' were held in the Ethiopia, European observers noted significant improvements in freedoms compared to previous years. However,



as the results rolled in a significant gains by opposition groups became apparent those freedoms evaporated. Amid claims of vote rigging the Prime Minister declared a state of emergency, outlawed any public gatherings, and drafted army units into the capital city. According to the European observers the state media publications published statements by the ruling party claiming victory to spite the fact that vote counting was still under way.

In the next few days thousands of people were arrested and accused of spreading 'political unrest'.

Show trials began to be used by the Ethiopian authorities; individuals and whole groups of people were tried in their absence in

the court system. Made up names from social media accounts even appeared in the listings.

Andy Tsege was first tried in 2007 receiving a life sentence, next in 2009 receiving the death penalty, and again in 2012 again receiving a life sentence, all in his absence. So roll round to 2014 and you can imagine how pleased Ethiopia must have been to have successfully seized him.

The UK government has been remarkably passive in its reaction to the illegal removal of a UK citizen to a foreign jail, without any recognisable legal process. Andy has only seen one visitor - the British ambassador - 8 to 10 times in over two years of detention.

Aged 61, with medical needs, being denied access to a doctor,

held in solitary confinement for one year, with no contact with his family, imprisoned without trial, kidnapped from a foreign territory, and held without prospect of release shows the urgency of this case. It is vital that the campaign spearheaded by his partner Yemi gains as much support as possible in Britain.

REPRIEVE (Founded in 1999 by human rights lawyer Clive Smith) have a petition - please sign: <https://reprieve.bsd.net/page/s/andy-tsege-official-register>

Also please see:

Website: <http://freeandargachew.com/>

Twitter: @freeandargachew

Video: <http://freeandargachew.com/1070-2/>

Tel: 07771656804



SPEAKER'S CORNER

Got something to say? Say it through Speaker's Corner.

Send your letters to us on facebook at The Word Letters Page, or by email to letters@thewordmedia.org.uk

I bought a new newspaper called The European...thought it might be good, Will not buy again large article in the middle by Alistair Campbell!!!

Marie Archer

He is simply not wanted along with being detested, I never like the smarmy c**t then I dont like him now, I am pretty confident I won't like him anytime soon either

Paul Kendrick

Someone just asked me if we

have someone called Francine in our local Labour party. How the hell am I supposed to know? We've got sodding thousands of members now. We used to only have 50. I could have answered the question in those days. We all know who is to blame for the unwieldy length of membership lists these days.

Claudia Hector

Dear "The Woord",

I have been perfectly happy learning about Nazi Trots and Communist Fascism, and particularly the abusive anti-Semite terrorist Jeremy Corbyn, from the Daily Mail, The Sun, The Evening Standard, Metro, Nigel and Katie on LBC, the New Statesman, the Economist, the Spectator, the In-

dependent, the Guardian, and the Star.

Why would I ever want to purchase a filthy rag of ill-repute full of damn lies? Make no mistake, I blame Corbyn. Human Rights? Damn your eyes Sir!

Yours furiously,
Lance-Brigadier Morningwood-Thrasher (retd).

Simon Robinson

Mr. Blair, I suggest you REDUCE your exposure to the World that you have shafted, not increase it. You have about as much credibility as Theresa May's vision of a better Britain for all. You are as big a cretin as she is. Dig a hole and disappear is the best thing you can do.

Steve Baker

Please no. It is really is such a sad affair that Robin Cook resigned

as foreign secretary on the eve of war that Tony Blair lead our country into; a legacy of hopelessness and catastrophe that still haunts and its ramifications today Do go to the grave with a conscience heavy I've no doubt Mr Blair. May Mercy be yours.

Catherine Holman

Do you think he will be leading the new party? He will be able to take the bliariteaccolytes with him. Unfortunately I dont think he will be asking Watson. He knows first hand what a back stabber he is.

Karen Meanwell

This week I have had the most terrible cold. And do you know what? I know exactly who's to blame. It's that Corbyn man. With the release of that video of the interview he gave, where he couldn't stop heavy breathing and sniffing,

it's just proven that he was the one to start the new bug that's been going round. The fact that he catches colds and exhales germs should instantly stop him from ever becoming PM.

Sophie Maria

New Feature Coming Soon

The Word is bringing you a Citizen's Rights page, dedicated to tackling the challenges of modern life. If you have an issue involving consumer rights, mental health, employment advice - or anything else - we would like to help. Send your real life queries to us at The Word Letters facebook group, or to letters@thewordmedia.org.uk and we'll get our team of professionals to help with support, advice and guidance.



LIFE ON OTHER WORLDS

Where Is It, And What's It Like?

By John Jones

The number of habitable "exo-planets" in our galaxy is estimated to be around 40 billion. These figures are constantly being revised.

The problem for our habitable-planet detectors is, of course, distance and detection. Traveling at 13,000 kph it would take a spaceship over 100 years to reach Alpha Centauri, our nearest neighbouring star.

Currently, the existence of "exo-planets" outside our solar system is deduced from light and gravitational anomalies of the stars they orbit.

Enter "Project Blue". This is a private-finance initiative that will take the first photograph of an exo-planet in the so-called 'habitable zone' - the zone or shell around a star in which life can develop.

If all goes well, planets orbiting Alpha Centauri, our nearest star, will come under its spotlight in a few years. Project Blue will be unable to photograph planets at much greater distances however, where the bulk of potentially habitable planets has been detected.

Planets must fall in the "habitable-zone" where there is liquid

water - vital for all life. Also vital for the development of life is a reasonable gravitational field that can hold on to an atmosphere.

Mars was mooted to have liquid water but because of its low gravity lost its atmosphere billions of years ago and has now effectively dried out. Life had little time to develop. Venus also has water, but as super-heated steam: good for cooking maybe?

"To anaerobe, or not to anaerobe?" The presence of oxygen is not vital to life. Anaerobic life-forms don't use oxygen for energy. Aerobes, like us, use oxygen. Anaerobic bacteria can be found at the bottom of mines and stagnant lakes and, unlike we air-breathing aerobes, get their energy from chemical reactions that do not use oxygen.

Recently, at some 2.8km beneath a gold mine in South Africa, scientists found *Desulforudis audaxviator*, an anaerobe that biochemically captures the reaction between sulphur and uranium in the absence of oxygen. Contrary to some media reports, they do not use radiation, which is destructive to all life.

This bodes well for life on Enceladus, a world that may sustain anaerobic life-forms. Enceladus is an ice-covered moon of Saturn which

is undergoing constant flexing and warming of its body from the giant planet's enormous gravitational field. This heat has created what scientists believe to be a vast subterranean lake of liquid water under its icy skin. This water, together with the natural presence of metals, hydrocarbon gases, oils and sulphur, may sustain anaerobic life.

Another moon in our solar system that was considered to be a contender for life is Titan, the largest satellite of Saturn. Titan has an atmosphere as thick as our own and is composed of nitrogen, no oxygen, and some petroleum-like gases which rain down on the surface. Water is present as ice and so the prospect for life is minimal.

It is unlikely that any anaerobic life forms will develop into active, large intelligent creatures. The energy sources they utilise simply do not provide the level of energy that oxygen-based or aerobic, active life-forms possess.

"What will extra-terrestrial life be like?"

We have already covered aerobic and anaerobic life-forms - two major categories of life-forms, and their differences. Maybe its time to dispel a few common myths.

Concerning extra-terrestrial life, even that oft-considered

bastion of biochemical common sense, Richard Dawkins, has fallen prey to a popular and wild speculation, promising us that extra-terrestrial life may not always be carbon-based but based on silicon, even robotic, and, aside from possibly being intelligent, may be nothing like we have seen before.

No, please, Mr. Dawkins. First, although silicon falls in the same chemical group as carbon it is quite unable to form the extended chemical chains that characterize large complicated molecules, without which life remains at the level of soup. It also forms no gases - gases are important for our biochemistry. Carbon dioxide is a gas, whereas silicon dioxide is a completely inert solid - sand. Nice idea though, Mr. Dawkins.

And second, "robotic" life? This unabashed animism - paint a face on some metal, make it move like us and presto - personality! is surely the best evidence we have that the religion of today's western culture is animism, even for atheists like Mr. Dawkins.

Let's be reasonable. We know what extra-terrestrial intelligent life will be like. It will be just like us, like all life. It will scratch, have domestic tiffs, take a break or have holidays.

Maybe we have the anthropocen-

tric old-colonial "fight for survival" media naturalists to thank for selling us the image of a socially unaware savagery at the root of the non-human and alien animal kingdom. Richard Attenborough fans take note.

Currently, the presentation of all alien life forms in the entertainment industry is intensely personal-centric, where a whole species takes on the characteristics of, funnily enough, individual human personalities, generally the bad ones.

"Kill the nasty alien" is a common cinematic refrain. Truth be told, all species are alike in that no species, alien or otherwise, adopts a single personality trait as its universal behaviour pattern.

Finally, 'oh what to do with these extra-terrestrial life forms on exo-planets'... should the army go in, for democracy and freedom? Should psychiatry offer drug therapies for chemical re-balancing? Or maybe we can just settle for controlling species that cause environmental "damage", and maybe do some genetic improving? Culinary opportunities abound. Financial opportunities appear endless.

Fortunately, these worlds are just too far away. Too far away.



Speech Codes for Football Fans

By Robert Saffron

Last week I stumbled across an online article on the Liverpool Echo's website titled REVEALED: Liverpool fans warned over offences that will get you a lifetime ban.

My first reaction upon reading the title of the article was to sigh at the obvious sense of boredom that must have been experienced by the writer as he sought to provide and explain the rules of fan conduct while visiting a football stadium. The term 'slow news day' didn't spring to mind as much as it violently bashed me about the head. After a moment of consideration however, a thought occurred - perhaps the writer seeks to highlight the broadening of behavioural rules in society and the dangers that they pose to freedom of expression and individuality. Eagerly I read on, hoping to find something that would prove to be stimulating; perhaps a scathing, Howard Beale style attack on the top-down dictatorship of behaviour that is infiltrating all social and professional spheres. Sadly, I was left wanting; overall the article proved to be barren, black and white, and bland, with little that could be described as either a shining endorsement or a hostile rejection of the new regulations. There was however a subtle seal of approval included in the article which took the form of a photograph of Liverpool FC fans stood in the newly rebuilt Anfield Main Stand with scarves proudly held aloft. This photograph was footed by a quote from Liverpool FC's 2016/17 Supporter Charter: "Liverpool FC strives to maintain Anfield's safe and welcoming atmosphere." Indeed, a highly agreeable, positive-sounding and inoffensive statement, one that surely holds no unnerving undertones...

Also contained in the article was a screenshot of the behavioural guide included in the LFC supporter charter; this guide was presented as a grid, with the list of offenses filling the left column, the list of punishments filling the top row and the grid between containing circles used to indicate which offences will result in which punishment. I had never seen such a thing related to a football club, something so corporate, so sterile and unnatural. I felt the need to do something that I

have never done before, something that I imagine very few football fans ever have done - I downloaded the current supporter charter and read the rules that I'm expected to follow during a visit to a football stadium.

Located on page 7 of the 22 page document was the graph used on the Echo website which charts the punishments for actions that LFC consider an "Offense." While certain offences included in the graph were understandable, such as "the throwing of objects (including coins, and alcohol/drinks) in the stands, or on the concourses or onto the pitch", the graph included other "Offenses" which should sound alarm bells in the ears of anyone who is capable of recognising Orwellian measures to control public discourse. Of the twelve separate offenses included on the graph, four hold a maximum punishment of receiving a lifetime ban from the stadium, one such offense being "Discriminatory behaviour or language" which is described as "Racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, anti-disability, offensive chanting or abuse."

"Offensive chanting and abuse." Offense is a notion that we could discuss until the cows come home, a term so vague that any action or chant could be described as a qualifier. Regrettably the supporter charter gave no clear examples of a chant that would be considered offensive. Perhaps the reason for this is that offense is an abstract concept, and that which is offensive to one person, will not be offensive to another. Perhaps the only way for LFC to cover themselves was to criminalise all chants that could be deemed offensive by any individual. With this said, I'm confidently expecting LFC to crack down on fans chanting "Who are ya, who are ya?" at the players of rival clubs. Such cold-hearted and belittling chants surely have no place at Anfield, whose "safe and welcoming atmosphere" LFC wish to maintain.

Reading the simplicity of the rule regarding "Discriminatory behaviour or language", I was reminded of a scene in the American adaptation of House of Cards. In this scene President Underwood discusses with two lawyers his plan to fund an employment program by syphoning money reserved for disaster and emergencies which is protected by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-

lief and Emergency Assistance Act. Underwood argues that unemployment constitutes an emergency as it leads to malnutrition and improper medical care; his position is supported by one of the lawyers who confirms that so long as the argument can be made that the reallocation of money will save lives and protect health and safety; they should be able to get away with it. When asked by the president if there is enough leeway, the lawyer, in reference to the Stafford Act, replies: "Yes, the language is sufficiently vague..."

While the vagueness of the language in the supporter charter is cause for concern, the specific types of prejudices listed also provide food for thought. While LFC consider racist and anti-Semitic chanting or abuse to be unacceptable, the rule includes no mention of xenophobic chanting and abuse. Since LFC presumably spent a lot of time preparing this supporter charter and considering the actions that could be punishable by a lifetime stadium ban, it is fair to assume that those involved with the writing of the rules didn't overlook xenophobia, but rather felt that it wasn't necessary to include. Good news for any football fan who wants to hold a banner displaying the words "Foreigners go home", as this technically would not constitute a breach of the rules. The same principle applies to Islamophobia. While LFC were happy to include "anti-Semitism" in their list of things that would not be tolerated, Islamophobia was excluded.

To avoid accusations of hatred and bigotry and double standards, Liverpool FC will surely have to amend their charter to include "Xenophobia" and "Islamophobia" on their list of prohibited prejudices. The game of identity politics will be cranked up to 11, and with the ever-growing list of "Identities" as recognised by the politically correct faction of society, Liverpool FC will have no choice but to continue to expand their list of offenses, so as to avoid accusations of "bigotry" and "intolerance" and maintain an image of being "Inclusive" and providing a welcoming atmosphere at Anfield. Perhaps within five years, the LFC supporter charter will comprise of 44 pages, rather than 22.

The highly nebulous term of offense is supported by the marginal-

ly less nebulous term racism. This term, which also refers to an abstract concept, is open to being used unfairly, abused, even. This is something that Liverpool FC, more than any other club, should be aware of; it wasn't long ago that former Liverpool player Luis Suarez' name was dragged through the mud by British media bodies for allegedly racially abusing another footballer. This "Abuse" took the form of the Uruguayan Suarez using the word "Nigrito" when addressing a black footballer, a term that is widely used throughout the continent of South America and holds no racist connotations. The demonization of Suarez and the media's manufactured controversy is something that all of us, LFC included, should remember, and one would hope that Liverpool officials would be aware of the dangers of false accusations of racism being made.

When you open the door and begin to criminalise things that are "offensive" and punish those who are guilty of causing offense, the number of things that will be described as such will quickly escalate, and the person whose decision it was to introduce such a rule will realise that they didn't open a door, so much as they opened a floodgate. This is exemplified perfectly by the current climate on university and college campuses which are populated by hypersensitive, attention-seeking teenagers who all seem determined to outdo each other in an 'I'm offended' contest.

When common sense is thrown out of the window and replaced by an obligation to write everything down in black and white, things become complicated. If I were to attend a football match and happened to be stood next to an excessively intoxicated individual who began to swear and threaten the stadium's stewards, he would most likely be forcibly removed. It is unlikely that I would object and ask to see a copy of the rule book and for a club official to highlight the rule that the intoxicated individual had breached, it is unlikely that I would engage in a discussion as to whether the man's actions constituted a breach of the rules, as written in the rule book, or if they had been unfairly misinterpreted as a qualifier for a breach of the rules. Instead I would most

likely say "Serves you right, go home and sober up." And that would be the end of the matter. Regrettably however, the rule of law is such that everything must be written down in black and white; everything must be solidified for the purpose of categorisation and management. The saying "It goes without saying" can no longer be applied when every action we take and every sentence we utter is placed against a code of conduct and inspected with a fine toothcomb. The writing down of rules has not made life any easier; it has complicated matters to a frightening extent. Either the rules are so vague that they can be interpreted in a thousand ways, or they are so long and detailed that it becomes impossible to derive information from them.

Ultimately, Liverpool FC officials have three options; the first is to leave the supporter charter as is it, and explain why "Islamophobia" was excluded from the list of offences. The second is to perpetually increase the number of offenses so as to appease the self-appointed PC police who feel obliged to dictate the behaviour of others, and in doing so, conform to a corporate standard of cowardice. Finally, Liverpool FC could remove the list of rules from the supporter charter altogether. LFC is a world famous football club, located in a city that is known for being both friendly and cosmopolitan. Anfield itself is known for its incredible atmosphere; this reputation was established over many decades and the fans that are responsible for it didn't need a PR approved code of conduct to help them. They acted intuitively, freely, using their own common sense. They shaped the vibe of the stadium through their passion and their collective consciousness, something that cannot be defined through language and therefore cannot be audited by any lawyer. This is the Liverpool FC that I want to see once again, one that is more natural and less corporate, one whose owners do not view the fans as customers who must be managed and made to abide by a set of rules (that are in themselves both offensive and patronising), but rather as the lifeblood of the club, and as such deserve greater respect. This is the Liverpool FC that the sporting world deserves to see preserved. This is Anfield.