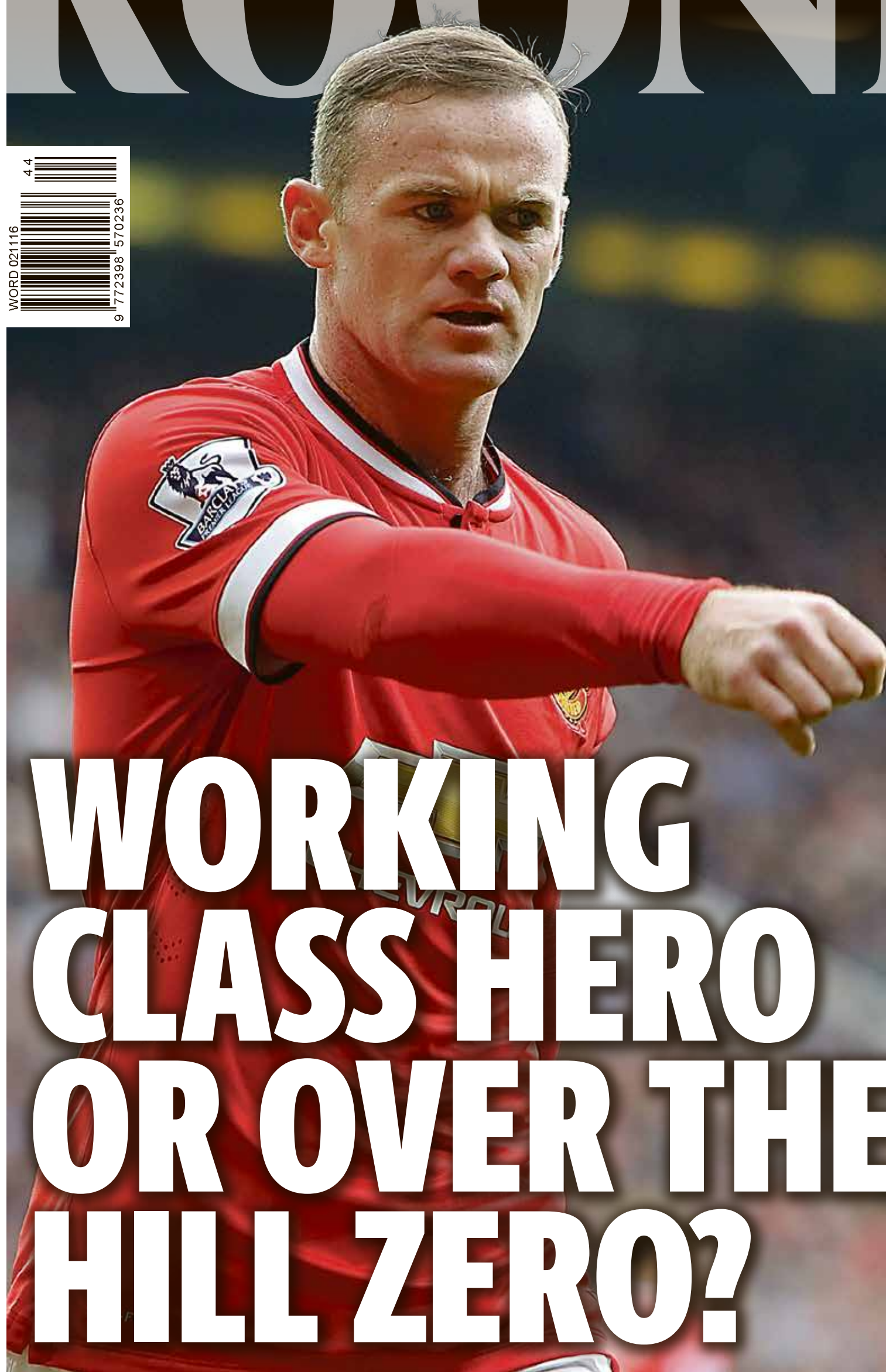


# ROONEY



## WORKING CLASS HERO OR OVER THE HILL ZERO?

*Alan Davies*

He has scored more goals for England than any other player. He is his Nations captain. Yet Wayne Rooney seems unloved by everyone other than the very forgiving Coleen. Why is this? The dislike of Rooney seems to be consistent across all stations of society, from the middle class who call our beautiful game, footy, to the ordinary Man United fan who has been priced out of Old Trafford. Wayne Rooney seems to have become a unifying force. Middle class comedians have satirized him (if you call that kind of thing satire) for having the looks and body shape of a King Edward potato, ordinary supporters bemoan his lack of stamina and inability to fit into a stable team position. Rooney was ridiculed in every football ground he played at for his payment of £1000 for a threesome with "good time girls" Helen Wood and Jennifer Thompson. The chants were cruel and accurate and totally deserved. Rooney further made his self-look stupid by his hair transplant from hell in 2011. Sometimes he goes missing on a football pitch, the best example being against Iceland in the summer - yes, he really was playing. He likes to smoke his fags, surreptitiously, behind the manager's back. He sends one of his minions to buy his 40 Marlborough light's.

Wayne Rooney is one of the world's top earning sports stars with a rumoured income of £300,000 a week. (Yes, a week.) I would argue that the reason he has become so unpopular is two-fold: from the point of view of the ordinary supporter there is the pang of jealousy that says, why him and not me. From the point of the "footy brigade" it is the frightening thought that someone from a Croxteth council house can reach that level of success. It is the same logic that lets us have a Tony Benn or Michael foot as these originate from the right strata of society in our rulers eyes. What is forbidden, what terrifies them, what keeps them awake at night, is a left wing version of Wayne Rooney eating at their table.

# THE WORD



Issue 8, November 2016.

THE PEOPLE'S PAPER [www.thewordmedia.org.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.org.uk)

# WORLD WAR III HAS STARTED



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.



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[www.thewordmedia.org.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.org.uk)

# WORLD

The US missile defence shield is being placed ever closer to Russian's borders in Romania and Poland while early warning radar stations exist in Turkey. Nato is deploying troops in Baltic states on the Russian border. The US is hoping that its early detection system will be capable of intercepting and destroying any Russian or Chinese interballistic nuclear missiles heading our way or towards US territory; an attempt to nullify Russians nuclear deterrent.

In response now Russia undertakes annual civilian evacuation exercises. Up to 40 million people undergo evacuation drills to effectively disperse the population. Most major Russian cities have an extensive missile defense system to protect from nuclear attack. Russia has ramped up military spending and is busy extending and renovating its nuclear arsenal.

The Syrian war has moved the focus away from the South China Seas where China is creating land masses and building military bases to counter the build up of US military bases surrounding China in Japan and South Korea. The sailing of aircraft carriers through the South China Seas has caused a lot of complaints from the Chinese. This will surely lead to the Chinese Authorities ramping up their military to secure their backyard.

The imminent defeat of the US backed Free Syrian Army and Al Nusra forces in Aleppo, their last stranglehold in Syria, because of the Russian intervention is a defeat in US military eyes. Now Turkey's belated invasion accompanied by Al Nusra into Northern Syria to stave off this imminent defeat is a last ditch attempt to save the US's project of regime change in Syria. US and UK media are silent on this invasion.

Russia has created a no fly zone for Turkish jets who have been warned will be attacked and destroyed by Russian jets and the Russian S-400 missile defense system set up in Syria.

This has created a difficult diplomatic situation for the Americans trying to justify using a bigger proxy than

before in the form of Turkish military forces. While Russia's proxies in the form of the YPG the Syrian branch of the Kurdish militias are securing towns and villages previously dominated by the Islamic militants of various shades.

The US is banking on Turkish forces being able to square up to Russian and Syrian forces but potentially Chinese and Iranian forces. The US is politically on a knife edge in Syria. To make headway it needs to provide air support for Turkish ground forces. That can only be realistically supplied by the use of its own military hardware which would see it in an open conflict with Russia.

The situation is just as tense in Ukraine with the US backed regime in Ukraine in a standoff with Russian forces. Neither NATO or Russia wants an all out conflict in the European arena as opposed to what the US see as the expendable Middle East.

The development and deployment of smaller tactical nuclear weapons to annihilate solely military targets by the US and the development of thermonuclear weapons by Russia which are just as powerful but non-nuclear has increased their likelihood of first use.

The question is which US candidate is more likely to provoke a conflict with Russia and China? Clinton or Trump? Clinton's emails reveals her blind support for Israel and she is part of the political clique that has close ties with the intelligence services, US military and arm manufacturers. Wikileaks has revealed her financial and military support for states that support ISIS in Libya, Iraq through to Syria.

On the other hand Trump is a Maverick, not a natural politician and unpredictable. Trump is selling himself as the American Putin, putting his country first. But is he just another gaffe prone Bush?

Many impartial observers make the observation that the presidency makes little difference to US foreign policy, that the military-intelligence complex has too much autonomy and is headed towards world war 3.

John Pilger describes the threat from Clinton thus:

"Clinton has the form, as she often boasts. Indeed, her record is proven. As a senator, she backed the bloodbath in Iraq. When she ran against Obama in 2008, she threatened to "totally obliterate" Iran. As Secretary of State, she colluded in the destruction of governments in Libya and Honduras and set in train the baiting of China.

She has now pledged to support a No Fly Zone in Syria — a direct provocation for war with Russia. Clinton may well become the most dangerous president of the United States in my lifetime — a distinction for which the competition is fierce.

Without a shred of evidence, she has accused Russia of supporting Trump and hacking her emails. Released by WikiLeaks, these emails tell us that what Clinton says in private, in speeches to the rich and powerful, is the opposite of what she says in public."

Be afraid, be very afraid. Clinton is an old and sick woman with an enduring inner pain from her husband's humiliating infidelities. She wants the world to know that she will not be walked all over be a man ever again, she wants us all to know how tuff she is inside. She has nothing to lose. Be very afraid.

# DWAR III

**Estimated fatalities:**  
**5,778,170**

**Estimated injuries:**  
**3,421,250**

Radiation radius (green): 3.14km. Without medical treatment, expect between 50% and 90% mortality from acute effects alone. Dying takes between several hours and several weeks. This covers much more of London, including Camden Town, Vauxhall, the City and some of Southwark.

Fireball radius (orange): This time a nuclear fireball would reach Chalk Farm in the north and Camberwell in the south. The fatality rate is 100%.

Air blast radius (red - 20psi): 8.91km. Heavily built concrete buildings would be demolished in Balham, Dulwich, the Isle of Dogs, Crouch End, Hammersmith and White City. The fatality rate is still 100% or very close.

Air blast radius (grey - 5psi): 20.7km. A lesser air blast radius would still cause the collapse of all residential buildings within a 20.7km radius. That means houses would collapse in Barnet, Dagenham, Sutton, Hounslow, Bexleyheath and Harrow. Injuries are universal and fatalities widespread.

Thermal radiation radius (lighter orange): 60km. This would mean third degree burns «throughout the layers of the skin», which could cause severe scarring, disablement and even amputation. This would reach Chelmsford, Maidstone, Maidenhead, Luton, Southend and some of Guildford.



# THE BREXIT PARADOX

Andrew Wallace

According to Ashcroft polling, the single biggest reason for voting leave in last June's EU referendum was "the principle that decisions about the UK should be taken in the UK".

This has traditionally been understood in terms of parliamentary sovereignty, with our national parliament seen to be top dog and highest point of the law making body politic. However this understanding has moved into more complex waters, given the profusion of powerful intergovernmental bodies in the immediate post-war period. With our accession to the EEC in 1973, it became apparent that sovereignty as hitherto understood would no longer be of the old school nation state which had given countries a certain amount of latitude to pursue directions felt to be commensurate with their long term interests. Of course it always was a fiction to understand this sovereignty as untrammelled. Nevertheless the post-war social democratic era was always predicated on an understanding of sovereignty that afforded it a tangible degree of economic democracy within its respective domain.

The flipside to this being the idea of pooled European sovereignty within a wider alliance of aligned nation states, with enormous ramifications for the respective domestic parliaments. Cue for romantic effusions aplenty about our parliamentarians' heroic Byronism as custodians of the national interest. And if we are to believe centuries of liberal theory, the idea of sovereignty must ultimately reside with the fine citizen-electors of the country. This Whig radicalism has of course captured the imagination of a previous generation of the Labour left with Tony Benn and Michael Foot as eloquent proselytisers of democracy, as well as figures from the right like Enoch Powell who were equally indignant about the would be usurpers of our proud national heritage.

Our latter-day parliamentarians seem to have thrown this tradition aside in favour of a new era of intergovernmental complexities. The left for their part were won over by the idea that transna-

tional corporations had rendered domestic management of the economy all but obsolete, whilst many on the right had always envisaged a means of governance which would effectively contract out large areas of economic policy from the political arena so that crude majoritarian demands and electoral cycles would no longer challenge fiscal and monetary parameters.

This impoverished conception of democracy and popular accountability had to be weighted in favour of a set of gatekeepers suitably attuned to the elite, whilst token respect had to be occasionally acknowledged in the direction of the boisterous hoi polloi. This democratic centralism is conspicuously and notoriously unproportional in allocation of seats won and often openly hostile to those rare occasions when direct democracy is given a say.

And so a bizarre paradox is visited upon us at the heart of Brexit. This is the enormous chasm that has been exposed between our political class and those they aspire to govern. Our MPs are overwhelmingly pro-EU and in theory they could decide to ignore the referendum from last June. However this nuclear option to sideline the majority verdict would obviously demonstrate the falsity of popular sovereignty, as indeed it is the parliamentarians who have legal weight behind them, the referendum is only advisory. But MPs have to be seen to at least nominally complying with the idea of legitimacy behind the popular will, lest they risk bringing the whole edifice crashing down all around them. Therefore they will endeavour to obfuscate and resort to arcane byzantine procedural measures in order to frustrate the moves to Brexit. So we now have the strange situation of the Theresa May government having to do a very strange dance indeed and deliver in so far as it can on Brexit, whilst having to resort to all kinds of fancy

footwork to defy the collective defiance of MPs. In times past we might have expected to support the parliamentarians against a dictatorial government cabal. However as we can now see, the wider parliament is at present seen to be more out of kilter with public opinion than Mrs May and her leading ministers.

The Labour Party has for a variety of varied and complex reasons often found itself on the wrong side of the divide here. In particular Corbyn and the Labour left have abandoned their previous anti-EU positions in favour of accepting EU membership, albeit with a watered down, soft Euroskeptic focus. This would seem to be largely attributable to Corbyn having to accede to the overwhelming centre right liberal worldview of his parliamentary foot soldiers.

And the left more generally seem to have been strangely co-opted into supporting a global cosmology which is highly congenial to a transnational corporate elite. Thus the cherished 4 EU freedoms of labour, capital, commodities and services which remain fundamentals to transnational corporations are also strongly supported by the Labour Party, whilst poorer voters and hard pressed regions voted often by quite handsome margins for Brexit. Only a handful of heterodox leftists seem willing to question this

strange incongruity.

## The open borders controversy

For the most part the contemporary Western European left seem to have largely accepted the idea of open borders/no borders utopian possibilities of internationalism. However this has always proved more problematic with indigenous populations, not least because of the way capitalism has ruthlessly exploited flexible labour markets to subdue wages and inflation. As Takis Fotopoulos notes

*...it was particularly in the last few years that the ideology of open borders was massively promoted by the media of the Transnational Elite, accompanied by a mass (supposedly humanist) campaign to save the refugees™ who were of course created by the Transnational Elite through its wars in the Middle East! Needless to add that "open borders"™ the policy promoted by Soros, the Transnational Elite, Varoufakis and the likes™ in fact exploits an old libertarian ideal, completely distorting its essence in the process. Open borders is meaningful only in a democratic world order where the peoples of the world are really self-determined, controlling themselves the productive resources at their disposal including human resources. That is, a world with no exploitation and no inequality, where peoples determine by themselves how best to meet the needs they decide to meet, through social control, rather than through the anarchy of the markets. Clearly,*

*the world we live in today is exactly the opposite of this kind of ideal world and those fighting for open borders are in fact the elites and their associates aiming to maximize their profits through the free movement between countries not only of capital and commodities but of cheap labor as well. The inevitable effect is the equalization "to the bottom" of the real value of wages and salaries (their "cost of production") all*

*over the world.*

This rather uncomfortable insight does not sit well in the orthodoxies of polite liberal left company, yet it does rather explain the all too obvious rupture between the metro liberal leanings of the current opposition and to those whom it would nominally claim to represent. Takis Fotopoulos has gone straight to the elephant in the room whereby leftists of various hues are adept at tying themselves in convoluted knots. As good internationalists leftists have generally been shy of overt criticism of open borders as they feel to do so inevitably means entering reactionary territory that belongs firmly to the nationalist right. However we now have the spectre of various nationalist parties (France's National Front, Poland's Law and Justice Party) taking up economic platforms that are substantially to the left of the official left parties!

*This is the essence of the bankruptcy of the "Left", which is reflected in the fact that, today, it is the neo-nationalist Right which has replaced the Left in its role of representing the victims of the system in its globalized form, while the Left mainly represents those in the middle class or the petty bourgeoisie who benefit from globalization. Needless to add that today's bankrupt "Left" promptly characterized the rising neo-nationalist parties as racist, if not fascist and neonazis, siding fully with the EU's black propaganda against the rising movement for national sovereignty. This is obviously another nail in the coffin of this kind of "Left" as the millions of European voters who turn their back towards this degraded "Left" are far from racists or fascists but simply want to control their way of life rather than letting it to be determined by the free movement of capital, labor and commodities as the various Soroses and Varoufakis of this world demand!*

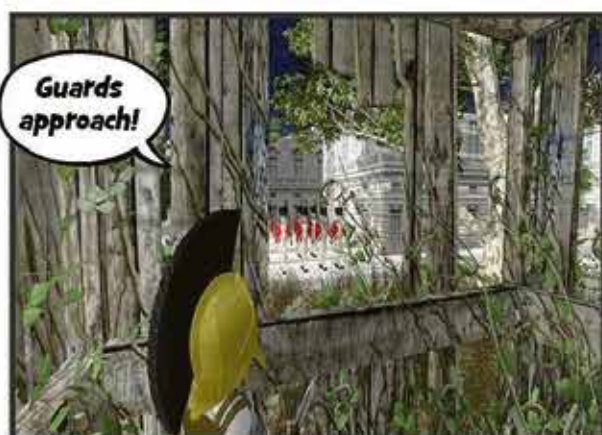
By abandoning the field of national sovereignty to the right, this has become a self-fulfilling prophecy for nationalist parties to exclusivity capture this territory, with leftists either unable or unwilling to articulate a critique of globalisation shorn of reactionary content. Naturally this suppression of opinion inevitably resurfaces as a return of the repressed, with the consequent pathology of UKIP and other undesirables.



# XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 8



**PREVIOUSLY:** A disastrous trip into the underworld, or possibly the underground, leaves our heroes mourning the loss of Lysander after an ill-advised assault on a tube train. Soon after they discover the whereabouts of the Queen of Fleecers! Now, camped in the grounds of the House of Buck, they plot their next daring raid on the royal coffers...



## Part two

**Death Tolls**

The problems with media bias and false pamphleteering are numerous. One of the largest issues is the establishment of false narrative, through constant reinforcement of the same message - hard-wiring us to certain ideas without any valid, reasoned justification.

"When one side only of a story is heard and often repeated, the human mind becomes impressed with it insensibly." - George Washington

Over time this results in the pamphleteers themselves - mired as they are in the conspiracy - falling foul of their own delusory arguments. In the UK Michael Gove is a great example, with his historical revisions of World War One:

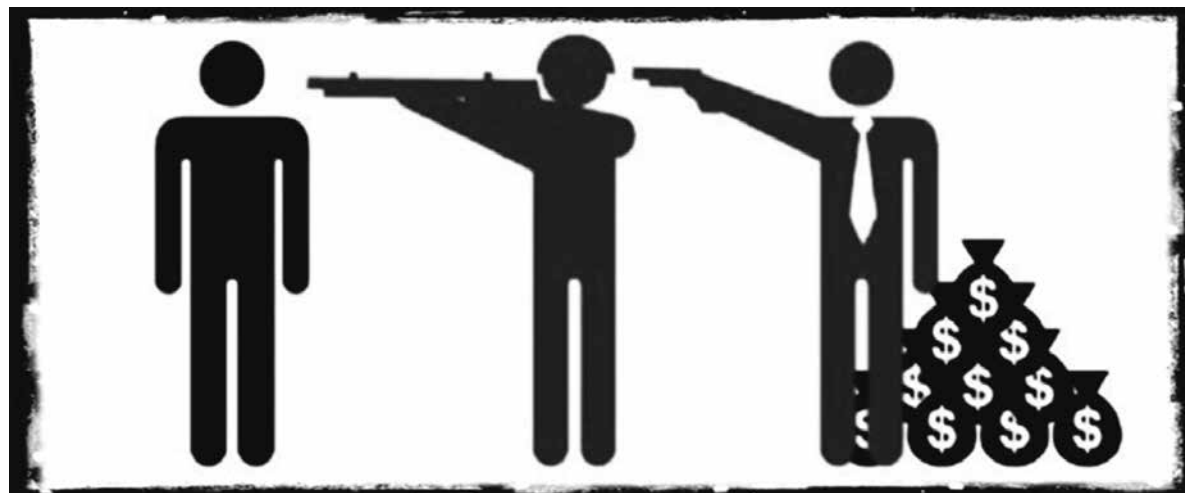
"The conflict has, for many, been seen through the fictional prism of dramas such as *Oh! What a Lovely War*, *The Monocled Mutineer* and *Blackadder*; as a misbegotten shambles - a series of catastrophic mistakes perpetrated by an out-of-touch elite. Even to this day there are Left-wing academics all too happy to feed those myths."

Those 'out-of-touch elites' ordered hundreds of thousands of their countrymen to be *shredded* by German machine guns, and they did so repeatedly.

A second major issue with such polemic is the simple obser-

*"The real out-of-touch elites are in fact very much in-touch, themselves creating the narrative you are fed each day."*

vation that the more entrenched it becomes, the more advanced the narrative, the more alien it becomes to the uninitiated. Imagine catching the first few episodes of a complex new TV show,



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY FEUDALISM

then seeing the middle of season three with no knowledge of the bits in-between. You may know some of the characters, the environment - but the plot points, the drama, the essence of the show is now impossible to understand. This is how Gove's drivel reads to a non-subscriber: the notion of entrenched, beleaguered 'Left-

They couldn't be - they haven't received the required conditioning.

The blog *Another Angry Voice* had this to offer in response:

"The conflict has also been seen through the great volume of testimonies from people who served during the Great War, from the works of great war poets like Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon to the first hand testimonies collected by the Imperial War Museum and collated in books like *Forgotten Voices of the Great War*, *The Soldier's War* and *Britain's Last Tommies*. Many of these first hand testimonies are pervaded by a sense of horror at the tactical blunderings of the generals that resulted in the mass-slaughter of millions of men. Gove is desperate to discount the

first hand testimonies of those who were actually there in order to present his favoured interpretation; that the war was noble and necessary, that generals like Douglas "butcher" Haig did a good job under difficult circumstances, and that the battle of the Somme was not a tragic and futile waste of life.

Despite his efforts to resuscitate the reputation of Field Marshall Douglas Haig, some of us are aware that Douglas Haig once said **"the machine gun is a much overrated weapon"**. On the first day of the battle of the Somme 60,000 British troops were killed or injured, the great majority of them by machine gun fire.

Gove's protestations that the tactics of the Great War didn't

amount to **"a series of catastrophic mistakes perpetrated by an out-of-touch elite"** is easy to understand, given that the administration of the government in which he serves can easily be seen as **"a series of catastrophic mistakes perpetrated by an out-of-touch elite."**

And here is the rub - despite the well-entrenched dynamics of 'rabid right and loony left witterings', most such arguments are baseless, being inappropriate labels when it comes to the level of deception and corruption in modern politics. Such stereotypical labelling is readily encouraged by those 'in power', as these labels weigh us to tried and tested circular logic - in essence limiting your thought, limiting your debate, limiting your perception of the very thing that causes you such anger.

The simple truth is no-one can claim to be a total righty or a total lefty - there are always the hard questions that will sway us from that 'one true path'. As a young man Michael Gove was turned down for a job at the Conservative Research Department, being told he was "insufficiently political" and "insufficiently conservative", even though he had previously been a member of both Oxford Conservatives and Young Conservatives. One would have thought him perfect.

The real out-of-touch elites are in fact very much in-touch, themselves creating the narrative you are fed each day. And they are very, very happy that you are fighting amongst yourselves; divided, pre-occupied with conquering one another. The real out of touch elites are neither right nor left; they are something else, entirely a law unto themselves versed and practiced and professional at selling the lie - to you - at every chance.

## How broad do we want the Labour Party to be?

I had been to a meeting of my Branch Labour Party, where a very old lady told me she'd been a member of the Party for 66 years but had no time at all for the current Leader of the Party, whom she proceeded to bad mouth for several minutes. Then she said she was frightened of him because she is Jewish.

I told her two things: that Jeremy has no intention of 'doing anything' to any Jewish member of the Party, or anyone else for that matter; that she could sit in between me and my pal Charlie and therefore no harm could possibly come to her from Mr Corbyn or anyone else, should they unthinkably decide to come all the way up

the motorway to get her. And then I looked around me.

I live in the most Jewish suburb of one of the largest Jewish populations in the UK. The Branch Labour Party meeting for our Ward is held in a sheltered housing complex, which shares its highly unusual name with a resident who attends the meetings; there's surely a story there somewhere. A number of people who attend the meetings amble down the hall and settle into the Lounge where it is warm and bright and our meetings are held. These old chaps and one old lady consider themselves to be red-hot socialists. They've been so for at least half a century. They sit quietly and absorb the noise and

the movement and feel like they're still politically active. In a way they truly are.

Then there are Charlie and I; members for about a year but lifelong Labour supporters, on the Left of the Party observing the uneasy peace that exists after two bitterly fought leadership contests which our man won by a landslide each time. We know that a number of Westminster MPs and those who support them are still looking for an opportunity to divest Jeremy of his position; I can tell you, though Charlie and I are not naming our sources at this stage, that there are approximately twenty, no more than that. I could name them;

they're openly non-socialist and still prepared to commit acts of disloyalty should it suit them. Their shame is something they neither see nor feel upon them.

Do I want these people to remain in the Party; is it be a broad enough 'church' to hold them and to hold around 400,000 members like me? I shall tell you.

Our Party can stretch from horizon to horizon, and contain all shades of opinion from the Centre to the Left, with the paring knife falling at the exact point where someone says, "That lot over there don't belong in our Party." The MPs who look at members of Momentum and accuse them of being a rehash of

Militant Tendency; the idealists who look over at more pragmatic types, and accuse them of being Tories; anyone who commits an act of speech or deed or omission which can be shown to be anti-Semitic, racist, sexist or other discriminatory behaviour; the people who maliciously or mischievously choose to label anything or everything as anti-Semitic, racist, sexist or discriminatory. Indeed, people disqualify themselves from belonging in our Labour Family simply by *\*denying the right of other socialists to belong\** excluding themselves by being less than inclusive.

So to those 20 MPs who are still agitating; I know who you are and I'm watching you; anyone else feeling threatened can sit in between me and my mate Charlie.

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

## CHRIS THE CAREERIST #08



## Best facebook groups

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

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.

## Palestinian Villages 'Get Two Hours Of Water A Week'

<http://breakingdownthnews.blogspot.co.uk/2016/10/palestinian-villages-get-two-hours-of.html>

STE MATTHEW MURRAY BDTN  
22:46:00

Israeli control over water supplies in the occupied West Bank has left Palestinians desperate.

Enas Taha, a resident of the Palestinian village of Kafr al-Deek in the occupied West Bank, has become desperate.

"Since the [water] crisis started in

June, the municipality has been able to supply water for only one hour twice a week," Taha told Al Jazeera. "I am checking the weather forecast every day; they announced rain three weeks ago, but it has not come yet. The only thing I can do is to pray to God."

Many West Bank communities are facing similar problems, amid an acute water shortage that has lasted for months. In the Salbit, Jenin and Hebron governorates, some villages have gone as long as 40 days in a row

without running water.

In mid-July, residents in the Bethlehem area staged a sit-in for days to protest against the shortages, sparking clashes between Palestinian youths and Israeli forces.

"It is a very stressful situation. I have to consider and prioritise every single drop of water I use," Taha said. "We have barely enough to drink, cook, shower and use the bathroom. Sometimes I don't do the laundry or clean the house for weeks. It is hot and dusty. This is exhausting."

## 10 big reasons a new runway at Heathrow is bad for the UK

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/10-reasons-heathrow>

*Posted by India Thorogood*

1. A new runway will fuel climate change

This month the world ratified the most ambitious climate agreement ever. The Paris agreement couldn't come soon enough- 2016 was the hottest year on

record and the Arctic sea ice reached the second lowest minimum ever.

Heathrow would fuel more climate change, creating over 50% more flights at what is already Europe's largest airport. Scientists have warned that this will drastically undermine the UK's ability to meet emission targets agreed upon in the Paris Agreement.

The threat of these emissions can't be put off—a study out this week said that

climate change could drive 122 million more people into extreme poverty in as little as 14 years time.

2. There are alternatives

Shockingly, almost a quarter of flights from Heathrow are to destinations less than 500 km away and are accessible by train!

Substituting these flights for train services and investing more in our train network would reduce the need for extra capacity at Heathrow. Train travel is up to ten times less damaging to the climate than flying so it's the obvious choice if we're to protect our planet. [enpeace.org.uk/10-reasons-heathrow...](http://enpeace.org.uk/10-reasons-heathrow...)

## Calais Migrant Camp: The State So Far

<http://novaramedia.com/2016/10/29/calais-migrant-camp-the-state-so-far/>

*by Alex Fusco*

Before the Calais migrant camp - also referred to as the 'Jungle' - is erased, both from the patch of earth on which it stands and from the perennially amnesic popular consciousness, it is worth reflecting on what the camp represents and the issues it raises in the wider context of the migration debate and policy.

Sangatte.

As a port town, historically Calais has been a place of migration, a transit point, a place through which people pass, ei-

ther order to reach the UK or alight on French shores. Since the 1990s, Calais has been a major hub for people wishing to claim asylum in Britain. Toward the end of that decade, the French Red Cross opened a refugee camp (a warehouse) in Sangatte, on the eastern edges of the town, to house the thousands of refugees sleeping rough in and around Calais. The camp soon reached its maximum capacity, but people continued to arrive and conditions grew steadily worse. Periodic outbreaks of violence and unrest found their way into the mainstream media, and pressure grew on the French government to do something about the camp. Sure enough, San-

gatte was closed in 2002 (on the orders of the interior minister, a certain Nicolas Sarkozy) after a deal was struck with the UK in which it was agreed that a proportion of the refugees would be granted asylum in Britain.

But Calais did not suddenly lose its strategic importance, and the demolition of Sangatte did not solve the issue. Many migrants simply relocated to various smaller camps in the surrounding area. One of these camps continued to expand, and for the most part managed to avoid the periodic expulsions and demolitions that put paid to some of the other temporary settlements. This tent city, of course, came to be known as 'the Jungle'.

# 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.

## Do Brexiters love sinister corporate power grabs or not?

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2016/10/do-brxiters-love-sinister-corporate.html>

## Iain Duncan Smith IS living in cloud cuckoo land – while accusing the rest of us of doing the same

<http://voxppoliticalonline.com/2016/10/29/iain-duncan-smith-is-living-in-cloud-cuckoo-land-while-accusing-the-rest-of-us-of-doing-the-same/>

*Posted by Mike Sivier*

Iain Duncan Smith's claim that I, Daniel Blake is not factually accurate really is beyond the pale.

The former Work and Pensions Secretary, who lied, bluffed and fabricated his way through nearly

### Before the EU referendum:

Brexiteers **slam the EU** for negotiating the TTIP corporate power grab and describe the proposed deal as **an attack on British sovereignty**.

### After the EU referendum:

Brexiteers **slam the EU as an "utterly dysfunctional" basket case** because **Belgium has asserted its sovereignty to halt the CETA corporate power grab**.

six years of accusations that his department's decisions were causing the deaths of benefit claimants, appears to be continuing in the same vein now.

So when he said, on the BBC's Today programme, "The film has taken the very worst of anything that can ever happen to anybody, lump it all together, and say this is life absolutely as it lived by people and I don't believe that," I knew to take that with a hundredweight of salt.

His claim that "This idea that everybody is out to crunch you has really hurt a lot of Job Centre staff" is a classic Tory tactic - "Look, you're hurting people just like you! Stop it!" Except, of course, Job Centre staff aren't all just like us - especially those who give the orders and set the target numbers to be cleared off the benefit books.

(I certainly hope nobody is stupid enough to try to deny that this happens, as we have photographic evidence of it.)

## The DWP has been forced to reveal how it manipulated the media to silence criticism of welfare cuts

<http://www.thecanary.co/2016/10/28/dwp-forced-reveal-manipulated-media-silence-criticism-welfare-cuts/>

*by Sophia Akram*

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has been forced to release internal reports detailing the way it manipulated media reporting of benefits cuts, following a Freedom of Information (FOI) request.

The Disability News Service (DNS) first put in a request to see

the department's media evaluation reports - which are produced monthly by the DWP's communications team to keep an eye on how it manages its press and social media coverage - more than a year ago. The DWP refused to release them, claiming they were "commercially sensitive". But after The DNS complained to the Information Commissioner, the DWP has made them available.

Jonathan Pring from The DNS has seen the documents - and their revelations are extraordinary.

The reports reveal how the

DWP's press office worked well to quash any negative media about it. For instance, in one month of 2014 alone, DWP press officers managed to kill 44 stories.

It also quashed interest in a work and pensions committee report on benefit claimant deaths, which have caused widespread concern, and on whether sanctions were being applied fairly. The summary of the report stated:

"The Committee reiterates this recommendation, originally made in January 2014 but rejected by the Government, in the light of new evidence which raises concerns about the approach being adopted in a number of individual Jobcentres, and more broadly, including concerns about whether targets for sanctions exist."

*By George Galloway*



It seems clear there are no limits to how low many on the Blairite far-right of the Labour Party will go to undermine Corbyn, even to the point of risking fatally wounding their party and therefore their own electoral chances, not to mention their own reputations by aligning themselves with

For on what better issue could he take on the traitors than on Saudi Arabia? One where public opinion is so strongly in his favour they have no leg to stand on for opposing him and breaking a three line whip, with even *The Evening Standard* endorsing the Labour leadership's stance. But Jeremy must be bold and act firmly and quickly. If he does not stand up to the plotters now, they will stand on him forever.

# I DANIEL BLAKE REVIEW

If you get chance to see the film it is brilliant and award winning. Films like this are often not on at the Cinema for long but buy the DVD when it comes out and spread the word. Government policy will not change unless we make it change. I hope that Ken Loach's film will have contributed to this.



*I Daniel Blake Film 2016 Dir. Ken Loach*

## Tory Child Poverty On Target

*Guido Paine*

The number of extra children forced into poverty reached 250,000 in a single year of Tory-led Government, according to HMRC. The number of children in low-income families rose from 2.5 million to 2.75 million in the year from 2013-14. The overall proportion of children in poverty had then hit 20% - one in every five kids.

According to refigures from the DWP, this figure was matched the following year, with another 200,000 children forced into 'relative poverty' in 2014-15. The overall proportion of children in poverty has now hit 25% - one in every four kids.

These figures exceed the target of 200,000 per year set by the Tories in 2013:

"We estimate that the uprating measures in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 will result in around an extra 200,000 children being deemed by this measure to be in relative income poverty", claimed then Conservative MP Esther McVey, with stark accuracy.

The Tory government are on target to hit another 200,000 children in 2015-16.

# The whitewashing OF RACISM

By Jacqui Walker

Suddenly it's become alright, and downright fashionable to have leaders, even from the extreme right, call out left wing, campaigning activists, as 'racists'.

In the last year we've seen the biggest focus on racism the country has known, and people of colour have barely registered in it - except as the accused; at best being called plain ignorant where racism is concerned.

No longer is racism linked to power, or the lack of it, we are told. No longer are racists people who demand migrants are deported, who disdain refugees or complain of a reporter wearing a headscarf. No, it's the left who are the culprits in this new racism and, we are told even more emphatically, it is these people who must be defeated.

Well, I'm old school, and frankly I'm averse to right wing revisionism, I have been ever since 'New' Labour. Stick a 'new' onto a political descriptor and you can, it appears, get away with ideological and reputational murder.

Listening to the media at times has seemed more like bear baiting than interviews. With debates often facilitated by people not exactly known for their egalitarian credentials, many Labour party supporters have been left, not surprisingly, confused. After all, aren't 'we' supposed to be the 'good guys' here? So what's going on in the Labour Party with race? Well of course the answer as ever is, it depends where you're coming from.

Of course, there are no hierarchies where racism is concerned - all racism is abhorrent. That said, it does not follow that the effects



of racism are felt by all minorities in the same way - of course they are not - and here lies much of the contradiction, and complexity, which has hamstrung anti-racists. Because, while there may not be a hierarchy of racism, there appears to be a distinct, and very well policed, hierarchy of what kind of racism concerns the British media and establishment - certainly at the moment - and, conveniently for some, it's not the racism that

dirty's its hands dealing with the oppressed.

So it is a mark of real courage, and to be applauded, that Jeremy Corbyn has gone some way to addressing this by his consistent support for refugees and his most recent appointments to the Shadow Cabinet. But does this mean the voices of oppressed, black and minority ethnic people will now start to come through? We can hope,

but I'm afraid the answer is, it's unlikely - for the time being at least.

Black organisations remain marginalised and relatively powerless. They don't have big financial backers or a sympathetic media. Their members are made up of the most low paid and the least powerful in our society. In relation to black caucus groups, for example in trades unions, they exist under the behest of those who have pow-

er - their white comrades.

I cannot tell you how many black trades union groups have sent their support to me privately - binding me to confidentiality, for fear of what their executive might say and, let's be clear, do. And the same runs true for other organisations of the left where fear of media condemnation, a lack of understanding and an inability to listen too often silences the voices of the very few blacks who make the effort to join.

It's also clear black representation is not a solution in itself. After all, it's not as if black people sing from the same political hymn sheet, and in truth, if you speak truth to power, climbing that greasy political pole without slipping - or being pushed - will work for the very few and far between.

When you have structural racism embedded within a society, welded to the way organisations work, having black Shadow Ministers is just the start of what needs to be a very long term, radical process. And a national media that is overwhelmingly reliant on white writers and editors, hand picked from the elite, is not likely to give any politician of colour an easy ride unless, and here's the nut of it, they are reasonably compliant, some might say complicit, with the established order.

So the media and establishment can happily run with a partial anti-racism as long as it suits their agenda and popularises the cause of a racism stripped of any notion of history, of colour, of oppression or exclusion. Perhaps the heading for this article should have been 'racists take racism to the next level'. For me, as never before in my adult life, racism against people of colour remains a central moral agony and a litmus test of how far we on the left still have to go.



By Alex Taylor

POLICE arrested two men following a racist protest on Saturday 22nd October, organised by a far-right group called White Lives Matter, previously declared a hate group in the USA. Promoted by the "East Kent English Patriots" the blatant racist intent was openly on display, and ever hopeful of sparking an aggressive response, the group was typically unsuccessful in Margate.

Flanked by more police escorts than marchers for most of the day, the demonstration was - as is often the way - a very damp squib. The belligerent bedroom dreams of the attendees soon fizzled out into a rather pathetic display of abnormality as they traipsed through town, not really knowing where to go next.

One local commentator, who wished to be known as Wills Home, wrote of the day: "It was pathetic. A couple of dozen "marchers" shuffled off, an hour late, from Margate station while rather more anti-racists stood politely where the police told them to, on the roundabout opposite. Obviously defeated by the hill up to Cliftonville, they stopped by the art gallery where a woman mumbled a long list of place names [...] The town appropriated White Lives Matter's hashtag of #WLM as We Love Margate and local businesses plastered their windows with signs saying "We choose love". It was a lovely sunny day, let's hope the marchers found somewhere nice to have afternoon tea so their whole day wasn't wasted. There's lots of choice in Marvelous Margate."

# "WHITE LIVES MATTER" A DISMAL FAILURE



# CAN THE UK CROSS THE FINNISH LINE?

**Notes from a lecture to top Latvian educators by the Director General of Finland's Ministry of Education, Pasi Sahlberg:**

The fact that Finland ranked number 1 in world ranking in the international PISA tests is all the more surprising because they never had a goal of scoring high in academic tests.

In the 1970s Finland had a below average school system. But in the 1980s Finland decided to implement a radically different school system - different than the rest of the world.

Even during times of economic downturn, Finland maintained spending on their education system, seeing it as a way to make the most of any economic upturn; which has been the case seeing quick economic recoveries.

Equality of educational opportunity has been the primary driver of education policy in Finland.

Finland does not allow the student's economic or family background to determine their educational opportunity.

Children's family background of social, economic and cultural background is the biggest determining factor in how well a child does in

school. Finland's education system intervenes to prevent any disadvantage to a child based on family background. Everybody goes to the same school. No private schools are allowed. There was a lot of criticism and opposition to these policies when they were first implemented in Finnish wider society.

Key policies of the Finnish education system:

1. Positive discrimination in funding - providing resources to those in most need

This is the opposite of some countries which provide extra resources to children who are doing well because of their background

2. Early intervention and support

In the seven years of life, steps are taken to support children before school

3. Well being first before academic results in the first few years of schooling

Only when children are healthy, happy and feel good will they be able to learn

4. Inclusive special education

Up to one third of children are in special education in the first few years of schooling

In Finland teachers spend less time teaching than other coun-

tries. Finland teachers spend 2 hours less than those in the United States. This allows time for teachers to collaborate and examine the quality of their own work. This results in less classroom time. On top of that Finnish children start academic learning at age 7, resulting in 2 years less in school than children in other countries. This demonstrates that the actual time spent in the classroom has little effect on academic performance. Less homework. More time to play.

Teacher professionalism is a big factor in Finnish education. Teaching has high status in Finland. The panel selection process for teachers is very rigorous. Out of 2400 applicants only 120 are accepted for primary school teaching places in Helsinki.

"It takes 10,000 hours of practice to become an expert teacher". In the USA most teachers will leave the profession after 5 years so will not become expert. Provide professional support so that teachers can continue to learn. After 7-10 years teachers become expert but not before.

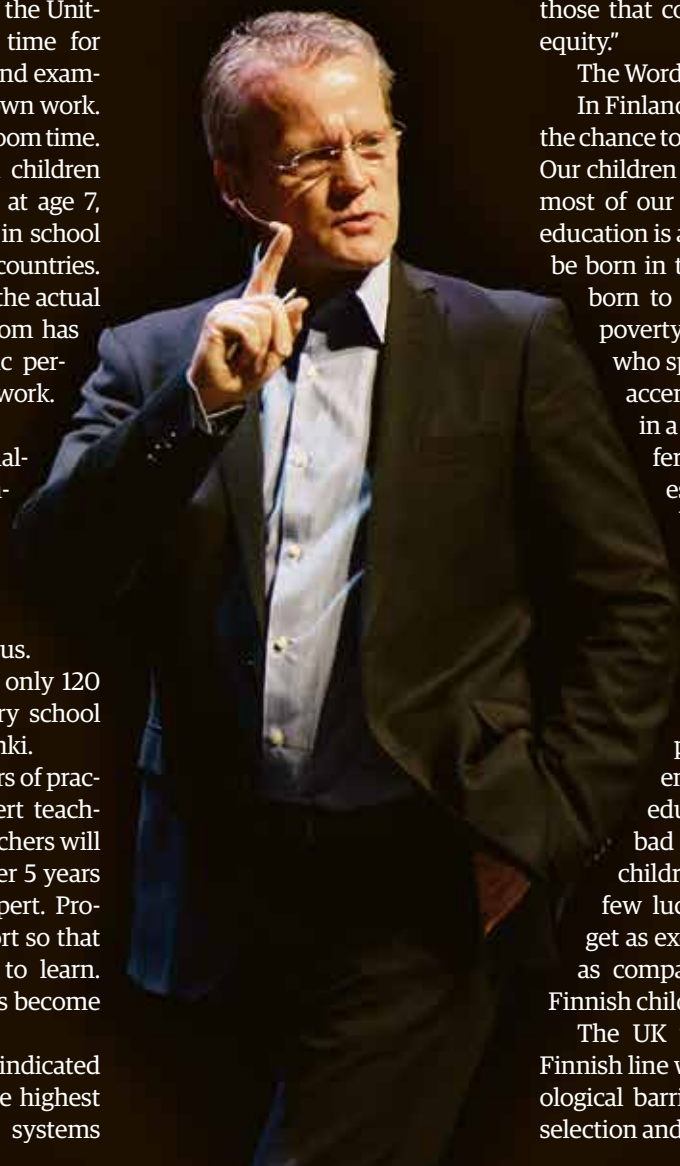
The OECD has vindicated the Finnish model, "The highest performing education systems

across the OECD countries are those that combine quality with equity."

The Word Concludes:-

In Finland every child is given the chance to be the best they can. Our children are not so lucky. For most of our children in the UK, education is a lottery. They might be born in the wrong postcode, born to parents blighted by poverty, born to parents who speak with the wrong accent or language, born in a broken home or suffer perhaps the greatest misfortune being born in a country with the wrong philosophy in regards to education policy. Instead our children have to rely on having parents determined enough to obtain an education that is less bad than other parents' children. Even so, those few lucky children do not get as excellent an education as compared to the average Finnish child.

The UK will only cross the Finnish line when it removes ideological barriers such as elitism, selection and privatisation.



## A return to the 50's – Grammar schools and privilege



By **DEREK FRASER**  
(in a personal capacity)

(A Manchester teacher speaks out)

The recent announcement by Teresa May that she wants to see a return to the Grammar school system to enable working class pupils to fulfil their potential would hold some water if her government wasn't intent on widening the gap between rich and poor with more Austerity and focus on a narrow measurement of pupil attainment. Her vision is really about a return to the schooling of

her youth and harks back to a day when children were pigeon-holed at age 11, with those going to Grammar school given greater choice and the classics, whilst Secondary Moderns with given woodwork and cooking.

The government's plans are all part of the Tory plan to continue to recreate the class divisions their party do so well by with a icing of so called 'raising expectations' for bright poorer children. What is increasingly making teachers, parents and carers jobs worse is the increasing austerity driven ideology, making class siz-

es larger, pupils coming to school hungry or worried about parents with insecure jobs and ever decreasing benefits.

Teachers recently went on strike against this Tory government and may well again over their attack on pay and conditions, but more than anything, we need a united campaign from parents, teaching unions and the wider community to stop austerity in it's tracks, then we will be able to make sure 'Johnny' comes to school hopeful his future may potentially be brighter than his parents.

# THE PATIENT'S EYE



By Ian Charles Cockerham

It's now fully three and a half years since I received a diagnosis that broke my world in half. Life Before Diagnosis was a hurly-burly meld of career and family, managing rock bands, teaching in a busy inner-city Secondary school, recording musicians, co-ordinating a youth project, doing-up the terraced house my daughter and son-in-law live in, managing the demands of aged parents in care homes from West Yorkshire to East Kent. Then there was a stay in St James' Hospital in Leeds after my admission from A&E. A hurried series of tests, MRI, ultrasound, biopsies, CT, Bone and PET scans, then finally, "You've got cancer, inoperable, incurable and aggressive; it's spread to another small gland, to your bladder and to an area of bone. There are also 'metastases' in the lungs."

My window looking into a misty garden of dreams and plans became a flat fog. Suddenly I had no vision of the future.

That was 43 months ago, and since then I've had a different kind of busy, with radiotherapy, hormone treatment (I'll tell you

ALL about that another time, ok?) and supplements to ensure that my bones, now going soft, don't become weak and crumbly, as will happen if I don't sort out my Vitamin D status (woefully low) and Calcium intake. I attend many appointments. I attend meetings. I'm involved with the delivery and facilitation of patient self-help programmes. I'll tell you about them sometime. I speak to groups of medical personnel, cancer nurses, the pharmaceutical industry. Wouldn't you like to suggest what I might say to *them*? Answers on a postcard please...

I joined the Labour Party; and am a member of the Co-operative Movement and its political party.

I go to any meeting I can, and go out leafleting. I've met four members of the shadow cabinet and have become Facebook friends with a couple of them. I still record bands and artistes, but I also write short stories, poems and memoirs, mainly for catharsis.

Although I don't believe that the Past or Future exist except as components of the Present, I'm very focused on the NEXT 43 months; isn't everybody in the

Labour Party? We have to make the time count, and what we do in that time is vital to our success.

Unlike a lot of more prominent members of the Party I really do believe that Labour and Jeremy Corbyn not only *can* win a General Election in the spring of 2020 but *WILL* win it. I read a lot of negative stuff from people who should know better, and some who know nothing at all. I consider that if any so-called socialists, or even Labour party members don't think we can win, then please would they move out of the way, and when they've done so, just keep quiet for a bit. Please. What we don't need is our own people telling us we're heading for the tip. If the only thing they can suggest is that we need to turn back policy to 2014, 2013 - before the electoral winning streak that we're currently on - I'm not going to take their advice seriously.

But we can fail. Clive Lewis has said that we can unite as a Party and win or lose in 2020, but if we don't unite then we'll be annihilated. Some people would love that, which is why they continue to try to sow divisions between us. We have to give those people a serious ignoring.

## Leading Tories target NHS for sell-off after Brexit

by Tom Pride

Uh-oh!

Here's a recent article on the Conservative Home website by former cabinet minister and leading Brexit campaigner Owen Paterson calling for an end to the NHS:

It's time for the Government to face up to the grim truth. The NHS simply isn't fit for purpose.

Not surprising, as before the Brexit referendum leading Brexiters had already made clear their desire to sell off the NHS to privately owned corporations.

But now after the referendum result, senior Brexit supporters in the Tory Party are openly calling for the end of the NHS.

Incidentally, Paterson is in the pay of a private healthcare company called Radox Laboratories, which is paying him £4,166 a month for 8 hours work:

### Register of Members' Interests

Last updated: 17 Oct 2016.

#### 1. Employment and earnings

Payments received in my role as consultant to Radox Laboratories Ltd, a clinical diagnostics company, of 55 Diamond Road, Crumlin, BT29 4QY. This role began on 1 August 2015 and I received my first payment on 9 September 2015 (see below). Until further notice I now expect to receive £4,166 a month, for an expected monthly commitment of 8 hours. I consulted the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments about this role. (Registered 07 October 2015)

9 September 2015, received payment of £17,121.40. Hours: 32 hrs. (Registered 07 October 2015)

#### 3. Gifts, benefits and hospitality from UK sources

Name of donor: Radox Laboratories Ltd  
Address of donor: 55 Diamond Road, Crumlin, BT29 4QY

Amount of donation or nature and value if donation in kind: Tickets and hotel accommodation for my wife

Be afraid.

# POETRY CORNER

**Ibbyjustibby**

**I Died**  
 Let it be known  
 If I die today  
 I died under despair  
 I died amongst destruction  
 I died under defeat  
 I died destroyed  
 I died decapitated  
 I died demonised  
 I died and victory was declared  
 I died with disgrace  
 I died decapitated  
 I died as collateral damage  
 I died due because I didn't make enough dol-  
 lars  
 I died distraught  
 I died not in decadence  
 I died despondent  
 I died then disappeared  
 I died disappointed  
 I died as my skin was too dark  
 I died under derision  
 I died because of economic decisions  
 I died because I was disabled  
 I died in the age of democracy  
 Decades later if this message is discovered  
 Do better please do better

**The railway**

Play up your own end of the street you don't live  
 round here. The journey begins

I love my country: patriotism, first stop. Alight here  
 for world war and casualty departments.

And if they keep coming here it will be a black  
 country: this stop nationalism, racism and the bus  
 service to ethnic cleansing.

Their values are different we need to teach them a  
 lesson: This junction for fascism, fundamentalism  
 and murder.  
 Last stop: Auschwitz, all change.

**Kevin John**

**Good Idea lets prune the tree**

Accounting, Anthropology,  
 Development of cultural being  
 Well informed of human kind  
 In science understanding keying,  
 Locks on doors that needs must bind.  
 Bookkeeping for the actions taken  
 Accounts of monies left behind,  
 A reckoning on our administration,  
 By god knows who, and by whom designed.

With cultural knowledge, and discernment,  
 They would Analyse our days gone by,  
 Digging into, what alarm are us?  
 God's forbid, and the reasons why!  
 In citizenship, there's a vested interest,  
 A conduct unbecoming test,  
 Understanding rights and duties,  
 How to conduct, one's self at best.

Critical Thinking, clear and rational,  
 Will inform with open mind,  
 Investigations well inspired,  
 To undermine our good intention,  
 Expose the evidence required,  
 Communication of specific issues  
 Literacy, science and the layman's curse,  
 Shines a light on all in politics  
 How and why, we hold the purse.

Computer science is the answer  
 Teaching peasants how they work  
 Don't teach them how to use them wisely  
 Too much access, they will go berserk.  
 Creative writing, Imagination  
 Gets folk thinking in the round,  
 Last thing needed is flying Rustics,  
 Keep their feet nailed to the ground!

Don't let them look at our Art history,  
 Just records our deeds of past  
 Stop them now when young and flaxy,  
 Do restrict such knowledge vast.

**Paul Ross**

By John McDonnell Shadow  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

JEREMY'S RE-ELECTION AS LEADER OF THE PARTY with an increased mandate was a huge tribute to the determination of rank and file Labour Party members, supporters and trade unionists. They showed yet again that, despite all that the establishment has thrown at us, we will not be cowed into submission. I chaired Jeremy's campaign committee again and I am currently assessing some of the lessons learned as we now unite the Party and prepare for a General Election, which could come at any time.

One lesson is pretty obvious. We need to develop a practical strategy to respond effectively to the level of media bias against us. If anyone on the left dares to raise the question of media bias they are immediately pounced on as paranoid whiners and conspiracy theorists. I am sure that this article will be seized on in the same way. However we can't let this risk prevent us having an honest debate about this issue.

This time around it has been invaluable that two independent detailed analyses of the media coverage of Jeremy and his campaign have exposed that the traditional media treatment of Jeremy and his supporters has gone beyond anything we have previously witnessed. A quote from one report says that the media has gone from being a watchdog to an attack dog when it comes to reporting Jeremy Corbyn.

Both the LSE study on the press and the Media Coalition study of the BBC coverage confirm the role played by the media in misreporting and even denigrating Jeremy and his campaign. The Media Reform Coalition report, led by Dr Justin Schlosberg from Birkbeck University, demonstrated:

» twice as much airtime given to critical, rather than supportive voices;

» huge imbalance in favour of issues pushed by Corbyn critics on early evening BBC and ITV bulletins – especially pronounced in headline stories;

» strong tendency within the BBC main evening news for reporters to use pejorative language when describing Jeremy Corbyn and his supporters;

» domination of views opposed to the Labour leadership in all but one of the online outlets sampled, and across both left and right leaning titles.

The report concluded: "Overall, our findings strongly suggest that in a period of intense conflict and instability within Britain's largest

# OPENING UP A SERIOUS DEBATE ABOUT MEDIA BIAS



political party, mainstream news gave disproportionate prominence and attention to voices critical of the Labour leadership, and systematically marginalised or maligned opposing views. While this does not appear to have 'harmed' the Labour leadership according to recent polling of its members, it raises serious concerns regarding the diversity of political news coverage to which the majority of citizens are exposed."

Although the media may not

have harmed Jeremy when it comes to polling party members, it is pretty obvious that it has had an impact on the overall poll ratings of Jeremy and the Labour Party among the general public. There is some evidence for this in a recent YouGov poll on Labour's economic policies. What this shows is that there is significant and usually majority support for Labour's economic policies among the general public as long as you do not refer to them as Labour's policies.

The polling demonstrated, "with regard to taxation and spending, 45% of people support Labour's anti-austerity platform (reversing the government's planned spending cuts and increasing tax for the wealthiest). This compares to just 13% who support the current levels of cuts, and 22% who think the cuts should continue but be scaled back. On the subject of public/private ownership, 58% of people oppose any form of private sector involvement in

the NHS while 51% support some degree of public ownership of the railways, mirroring Labour's position on these issues since Jeremy Corbyn became leader. However, when asked which party 'currently has the best policies on taxation and spending', 30% identified the Conservatives compared to 16% for Labour."

The Media Reform Coalition which commissioned the poll felt the reason for this was that, "We feel that much of the media have been more preoccupied with dismissing Jeremy Corbyn as 'unelectable' than with seriously reporting on the policies he represents. This is not about a failure of communication on the part of Labour so much as a failure of nerve on the part of a great swathe of the news media. Without a change in approach, our democracy is in deep crisis".

In the coming months it will be absolutely critical for us to ensure we communicate our narrative, messages and policy programme effectively. We have used social media successfully and, with Jeremy's packed meetings around the country, we have virtually reinvented word of mouth as a means of mass political communication. I have also repeatedly said that we always need to improve how we seek to get our message across via the traditional media, both press and broadcast media.

Nevertheless, there is still a need for a campaign that doesn't just expose the media bias that exists but, working co-operatively with journalists and broadcasters, also develops strategies to overcome it.

Holloway argues that we 'scream', we are born screaming and our life is a scream against: "the mutilation of human life by capitalism". We scream because of the mutilation of our lives by those with 'power- over' furthermore, this scream: "carries within itself a hope, a projection of a possible otherness" The opportunity we scream for is hope for a possibility of an autonomous 'I' that may exist "against- and -beyond" the system with which we are signified within. 'I' may not exist autonomously because 'I' is currently infiltrated by the numerous reflected images of 'we' imposed upon 'us and me' by a capitalist system. The weight of this imposition is too much to carry and therefore we scream; 'NO!' We hear these screams in the activist and revolutionary practices around the globe. These screams may be the first pre figurative idea of a sense of a self-realization of a future of 'I'.

John Holloway was born in Dublin, Ireland in (1947) He is a Sociologist and social philosopher.

Holloway is a contentious writer, taking his inspiration from Marxist, Anarchists and anti capitalists. Yet he differs from Traditional Marxism, in his understanding of how power may be achieved for the working classes. He offers an alternative view. Other than taking a single, revolutionary act

# THE SCREAM



to seize control of the state apparatus of power; we can, he argues, also resist power on a daily basis. In doing so, create 'cracks' in capitalism till it is so weak, it collapses in on itself.

We have often heard the term

'he/she was the face of the movement' this is based on a centered identity, a unitary ideology of a homogenous them and us that emerged out of Marxist ideas of class and the state Holloway, argues we can no longer rely on this

form of unitary ideology and particularistic practice. We are flies caught in a web of social relations, gone is the certainties of the old revolutionaries.

Power in a social web is more

dispersed and less certain than it was previously thought to be. The bourgeoisie or 'power -over' who were once central to any unitary revolutionary and activist practice have become complex and de centralized themselves. The state itself exists as only one node in a global, capitalist web of economic and socio-political relations. The states' identity itself, is an illusion being pieced together to make an illusion of a whole system, that is merely a fragment of it. In turn 'our' resistance methods have to become a reflection of that. So how might resistance movements adapt to this change? Go, read Holloway and find out.

A fascinating and enlightened read with examples of 'everyday practice' of 'resistance'.

You can read:

Holloway, J (2010) 'Crack Capitalism', Pluto Press.

on line @ <https://libcom.org/files/Holloway%20-%20Crack%20Capitalism.pdf>

Holloway, J (2002) 'Change the World without Taking Power', Pluto Press.

## WORST 5 tax avoiders, as voted by you



**GEORGE OSBORNE**

The ex-chancellor who once claimed expenses for a DVD copy of his own speech, The Company that he owns company, however, has reportedly not paid UK corporation tax since 2008



**GARY BARLOW**

In June 2012, it was revealed that the Tory supporting Barlow along with Take That band mates Howard Donald, Mark Owen and over 1,100 other people, Barlow had invested £26 million in music industry investment schemes. The news attracted controversy when it was understood that the schemes could serve as tax shelters for wealthy people.



**RUPERT MURDOCH**

The 33rd richest person in the USA, this Australian who became a US citizen to evade American law on newspaper ownership, boasts that he decides who our Prime Minister is without paying a penny of tax in this country.



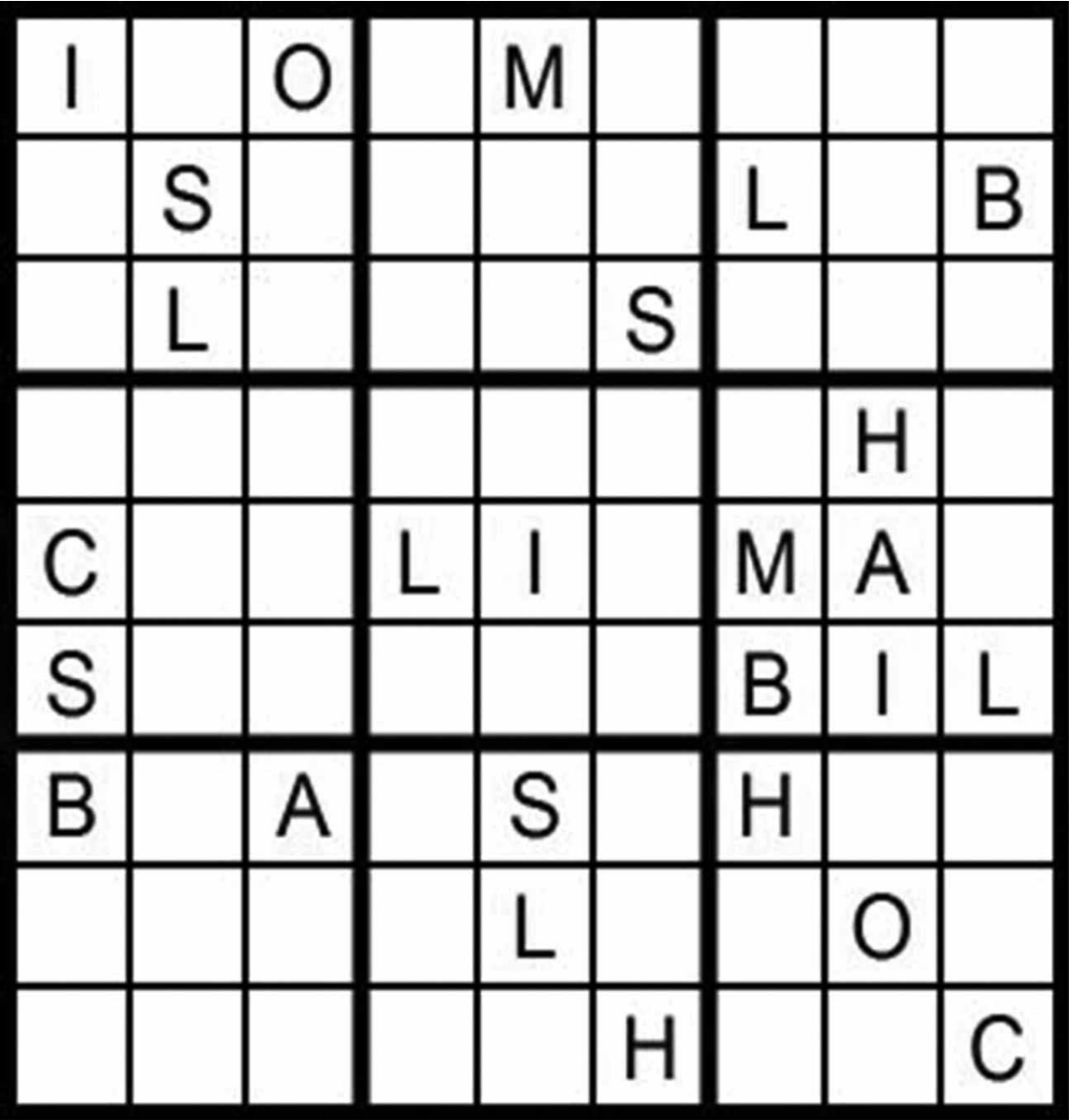
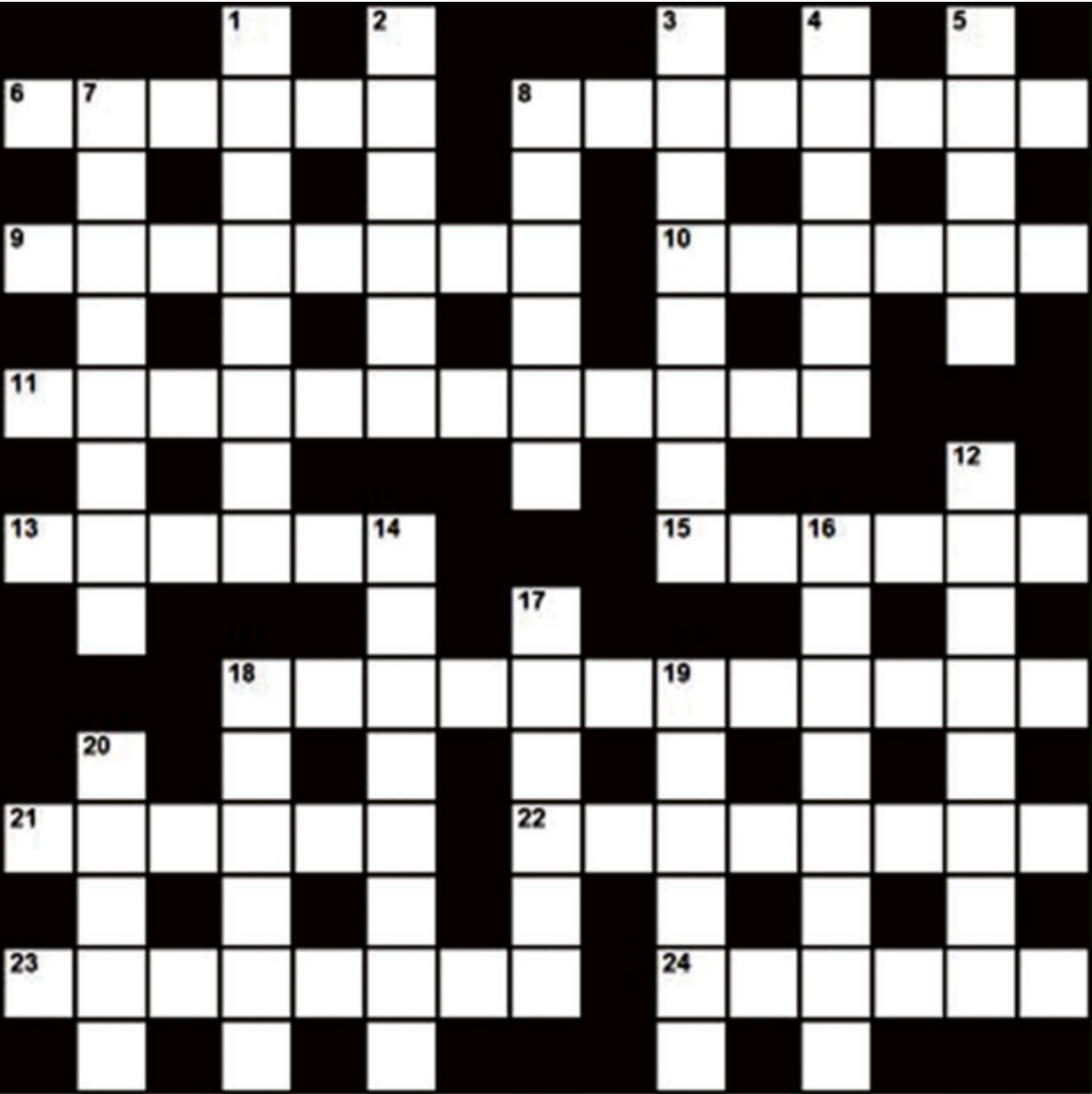
**PHILLIP GREEN**

Former adviser to the Tory government and thief of BHS pension fund Green's, Taveta Investments, the company used to acquire Arcadia in 2002, is in the name of Green's wife, Tina Green, a Monaco resident, resulting in a significantly lower tax liability than the £150 million that would be payable if a UK resident owned the company. When Green paid his family £1.2 billion in 2005, it was paid for by a loan taken out by Arcadia, cutting Arcadia's corporation tax as interest charges on the loan were offset against profits.



**DAVID CAMERON**

David Cameron's father ran an offshore fund that avoided ever having to pay tax in Britain by hiring a small army of Bahamas residents to sign its paperwork. This investment fund was called Blairmore holdings (irony.)

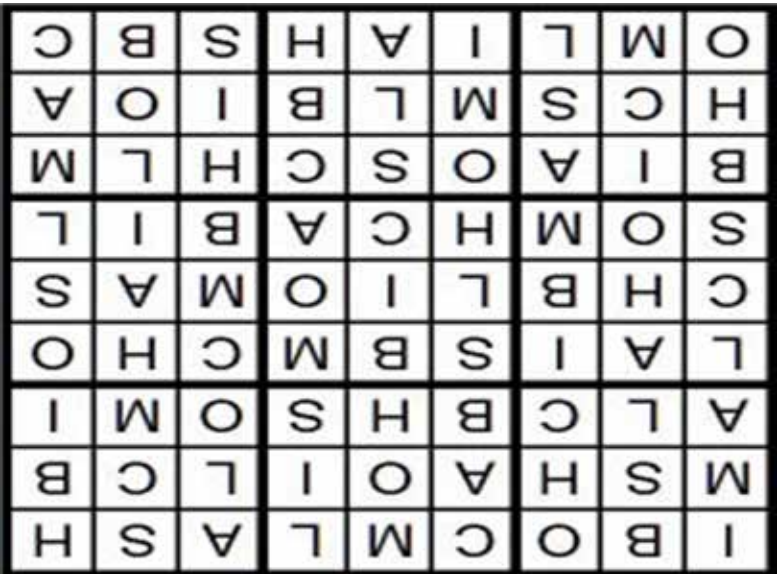
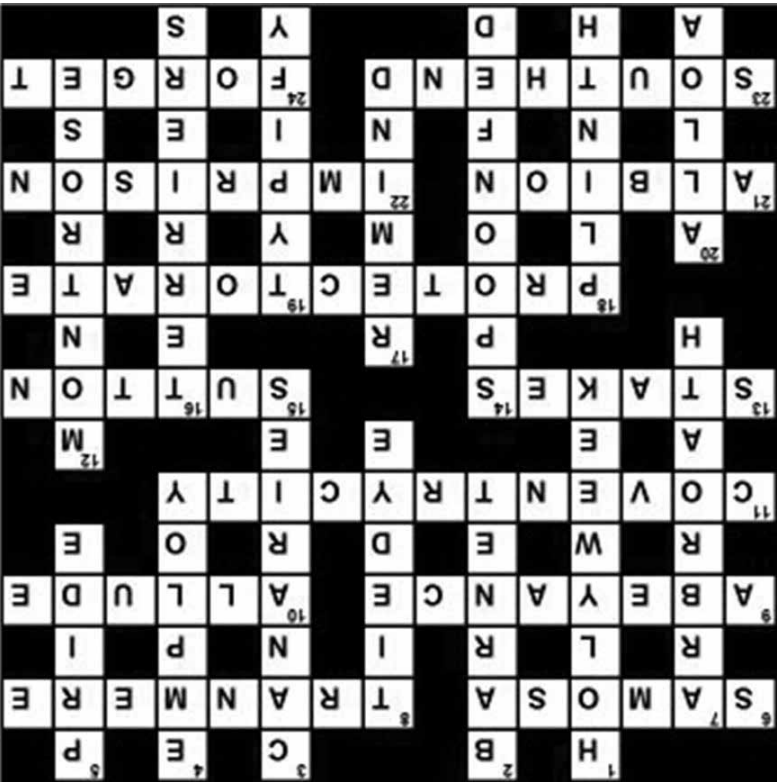


# Word Up!

Football themed crossword with 12 football related clues

By Davidioso

- Across**  
**6** Minor prophet in South African spicy snack (6)  
**8** These rovers confuse men rater (8)  
**9** A destiny child replaces orange with apple in state of temporary disuse (8)  
**10** Blunt looking back in hospital, call attention (6)  
**11** Sent to isolation at London airport for sky blues (8,4)  
**13** Lost a kestrel internally, these investments can be high! (6)  
**15** We French reversed at races for united 5th level outfit (6)  
**18** A port to Crete at sea for enclave (12)  
**21** Bag men found inside real bionic man (6)  
**22** Lock up stamp endlessly before offspring (8)  
**23** United in the sound for shrimpers (8)  
**24** Model T slip of the mind needs someone to 17 (6)
- Down**  
**1** Concealing whole key before Easter (4,4)  
**2** No wifi for these bees (6)  
**3** Sounds like this starsign is able nickname for players of Balls (8)  
**4** Commission deep sleep with no rest starts ruse (6)  
**5** This park fills these rams with honour (5)  
**7** Smokies support back with real promise (8)  
**8** Neat with two drugs used for cloth patterns (3-3)  
**12** Elk with heart of heart of approach at links park (8)  
**14** Horse involved in parody requires no effort (8)  
**16** Riding outfit makes mistake in levels which dogs this alias (8)  
**17** If you 24, deep sleep in dark will conjure up (6)  
**18** Base, one of London four, in Chaplin thriller (6)  
**19** Try april fry ups that oddly epitomise (6)  
**20** Everybody only adores athletic wasps (5)



# QUIZ



## Name the years

- 1) Battle of Trafalgar
- 2) Year England won the world cup
- 3) Battle of Cable Street
- 4) Moon landing
- 5) Battle of Stamford Bridge
- 6) Beatles first number one single
- 7) Thatcher first became Prime Minister
- 8) Peasants revolt
- 9) Karl Marx was born
- 10) Vietnam war ended
- 11) Jeremy Corbyn was born
- 12) All women in UK got the vote
- 13) Titanic sunk
- 14) Shakespeare died
- 15) Manchester united munich crash
- 16) The Jeremy Thorpe trial
- 17) The channel tunnel opened
- 18) Falklands war
- 19) Wayne Rooney made his debut for Everton
- 20) The mutiny on the bounty

**All answers will be published on our website at midday on November 11th. The first person to answer all correctly plus the bonus question which will be on our website will win a year free PDF files of THE WORD.**  
**[www.thewordmedia.org.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.org.uk)**



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

**A Roman walks into a bar and asks for a martinus.**

**"You mean a martini?" the bartender asks.**

**The Roman replies, "If I wanted a double, I would have asked for it!"**

**Helium walks into a bar,**

**The bar tender says "We don't serve noble gases in here."**

**Helium doesn't react.**

**A linguistics professor says during a lecture that, "In English, a double negative forms a positive. But in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, in no language in the world can a double positive form a negative."**

**But then a voice from the back of the room piped up, "Yeah, right."**

**Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocaine during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.**

**Three violin manufactures have all done business for years on the same block in the small town of Cremona, Italy. After years of peaceful co-existence, the Amati family decided to put a sign in their shop window saying: "We make the best violins in Italy." The Guarneri family soon put a sign in their window proclaiming: "We make the best violins in the world." Finally, the Stradivarius family posted this sign outside their shop: "We make the best violins on the block."**

# Healthy Banana Muffins



*By Roxanne Checkley*

## Ingredients

- 4 medium bananas
- 2 tbsp honey or molasses
- 300g wholemeal self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon (or whatever spice you prefer - nutmeg, ginger, caraway seeds, etc)
- 4 oz seeds, toasted in a dry pan
- 4 oz dried fruit of your choice
- 2 eggs, beaten
- A little milk

## Method

Mash the bananas in a big bowl with the honey - use a potato masher. Stir in the beaten eggs followed by the seeds and fruit. Sieve in the dry ingredients. This will leave some bran in the sieve, just throw it back into the bowl. Add enough milk to achieve a dropping consistency. Stir to combine and quickly divide between 12 prepared muffin cases set in a muffin tray. Bake for 20-25 minutes until well risen and then remove the muffins onto a cooling rack or you'll get soggy-bottomed muffins, and no-one wants that. As soon as they are cool either put them in an airtight container or pop them into the freezer in a zip-lock bag. If you take one (or two) out and pop it in your lunch box it will be more or less defrosted by the time you get to work but you can always give a gentle warm in the microwave if it's a tad on the cold side.



# LABOUR HIJACKED

## By Blairite Outgoing Nec Chair At Conference



**ANN BLACK, THE MOST POPULAR NEC MEMBER REPRESENTING CLPs RECOGNISES CONCERNS ABOUT RULE VIOLATIONS DESIGNED TO CAPTURE LABOUR NEC FIXING ARE BOTH "LEGITIMATE" AND "SERIOUS"**

At conference, there were several deceptions and at least one rule violation used to unlawfully capture the labour party by the pro war & tacitly pro austerity wing of Labour. Paddy Lillis, the conference chair at the time, denied a card vote on the floor of conference. This can be seen on the Tuesday morning conference video. This is a violation of Chapter 3 clause 3 rule 3 of the labour party rules 2016. This violation can be viewed on the Tuesday morning video of conference which is still visible on the Labour party youtube channel at exactly 31:20 to 34:40 at which point Paddy seeks to explain his violation. At 43:55, a delegate rises to explain the rule



violation which just occurred and then again in further detail 48:15. Watch this at <http://bit.ly/2fjvU-sa> including a long serving NEC member, Christine Shawcroft, rising to the stage to assert that a card vote must be taken.

The effect of the rule is to add two Blairite members from Scotland and Wales to the NEC, meaning that the Corbynites who controlled approximately 40% but were set to control 50% after a huge vote in favour of EVERY left slate NEC representative in June Corbynites now therefore will only enjoy 48% control again and therefore NOT be able to stop the purges and other illegitimate moves to select warmonger MPs and fix internal leadership elections including denying people the vote they had been promised.

Brecon CLP has now heroically condemned this move and details about this can be found on both the Vox political blog and the Skwawkbox blog. The motion passed states clearly that due to the NEC being corrupted in this manner, Brecon has resolved that it is no longer bound by NEC decisions.

Several other CLPs are in the process of moving similar resolutions including Lewes CLP. Con-

tact The Word newspaper if you'd like to participate in this struggle to rectify the corruption of the NEC or have any further information on it.

There is evidence provided by Vox Political and Skwawkbox that the CAC was misled by party staff and therefore misled conference when they announced that the NEC had agreed that several rule changes including the NEC fix rule change and several other rule changes that had been hard won would be voted on as a single block of rule changes.

Ann Black, the most popular elected NEC member in the recent CLP NEC elections acknowledged recently on the Vox political blog that these concerns were serious and legitimate. That isn't enough. Until MANY CLPs reject and dismiss the new NEC like Brecon has, its abusive rule will go unchallenged and Corbyn will be vulnerable to its attacks.

There is an anonymous, minimally censored discussion of this article and drafting of motions similar to the Brecon CLP motion ongoing at <https://goo.gl/WbiApl>. Thanks to Vox political and Skwawkbox for their work on highlighting this.

## English colonialism



*'Once upon a time there was  
Irish ways and Irish laws  
Villages of Irish blood  
Waking to the morning  
Waking to the morning'*

The opening verse to a Christy Moore song called 'Irish ways & Irish laws,' painting an idyllic picture of the Emerald Isle.

The second verse is about the arrival of the Vikings but this article skips the Viking invasion and goes directly to the tyranny, the oppression, the murder and the starvation of Irish people by our closest neighbour, England.

It's an article written by an Irishman, using the English language, a language that was beaten into my ancestors. Early records refer to an education system established in the 1830's, where a child would be sent home for using Irish, with a tally board around their neck on which their parents would place a mark for every subsequent use of Irish. Each mark would merit an extra blow from the teacher the following morning.

Ironically, a century later the new education system engaged in a similar strategy to re-teach Irish, a tad less violent but not far removed from the ancient brutal manner.

*'Eight hundred years we have  
been down*

*The secret of the water's  
sound*

*Has kept the spirit of a man  
Above the pain descending  
Above the pain descending'*

Another Christy Moore verse from the same song. The pain descending is not so severe now that we have achieved partial independence but an 'independence' that has come at great cost, huge loss of life, the creation of a new breed - The Ulster Unionist - and horrific war that has seen murder and mutilation of so many people in Ireland and England.

*'Today the struggle carries on  
I wonder will I live so long  
To see the gates being opened  
up*

*To a people and their freedom  
A people and their freedom.'*

Today England has a new struggle to pull away from other nations. More Irony. Gone are the days of Imperialism, Colonialism and Rule Britannia!

England, look what you and your colonialist ideology has done to my beautiful country.

I know we need to move on. To forgive. It's not so easy to forget. A lingering image from my Irish history education is that of skeletal men, women and children dying in ditches, their mouths stained green from eating grass.

On that note this article ends. The memories, the pain, the heartache do not.

We recently drew attention to the difficulty that some people were having in getting their letters published in Tameside's only weekly newspaper, the [Tameside Reporter](#) & Chronicle, that is owned by the registered social landlord New Charter Housing Trust, via 'Quest Media Network Ltd'. The CEO of New Charter Housing, Ian Hamilton Munro, is a Director of 'Quest' and was a Director, when it went under the name of 'Piccolo Communications Ltd', which had the same registered address as New Charter. The Trust, has very close links with the Labour controlled council in Tameside and also owns and controls Tameside Radio.

There is evidence, that Tameside Council have been involved in censoring the local news. In Autumn 2008, **'Private Eye'**, revealed that agents acting on behalf the council, had been holding regular meetings with local newspaper editors to suppress news stories.

*The following (insert) was written for the document 'Guidance for local authorities on community cohesion contingency planning and tension monitoring' by the then Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in May 2008, and was written and signed-off, by the then assistant chief executive of the council, Steven Pleasant.*

We are publishing below, in full, a letter that was sent to the newspaper from the trade union body, *Tameside Trades Union Council*, in August 2016, which wasn't published. We would be interested to hear from anyone who has experienced similar problems in getting letters published in this newspaper, as we are investigating what could amount to a potential conflict of interest and duty and are considering making a complaint to the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

**14th August 2016**

**The Editor,  
Tameside Reporter,  
Cavendish Mill,  
Ashton-under-Lyne.**

**Dear Sir,**

**In last weeks Tameside Reporter, you reported upon the weekly protest that is taking place outside Ashton Jobcentre, which has just completed its second year.**

# ROTTEN BOROUGH CENSOR NEWS IN TAMESIDE



# CHS- ING I DE?



We would wish to point out that this protest, which began in August 2014, was launched to highlight how benefit sanctions are being used in what many consider to be an unfair and unjust way by Jobcentre staff. We know from speaking to many claimants who use Ashton Jobcentre that people have been sanctioned for the most petty and trivial of reasons:

For example, a young job-seeker was told by Ashton Jobcentre that he would lose his benefits if he continued to protest with us, outside Ashton Jobcentre. Another was sanctioned for three months, when he arrived 2 minutes late for an

interview, and a man was given a 3-month benefit sanction, by Ashton Jobcentre, for making a spelling mistake.

A nineteen-year-old lad from Ashton, recently told us that he'd been sanctioned for one-month, because he'd applied for too many jobs and hadn't received enough interviews. As a result, this young man lost his home and finished up on the streets.

In the case of Tameside Trades Council delegate, Charlotte Hughes, her 19-year-old daughter, had her benefit stopped by Ashton Jobcentre when she told a prospective employer - who was offering her an unpaid work placement - that she was 23-weeks pregnant. This case was the catalyst that led to this weekly protest outside Ashton Jobcentre.

Although the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP), claim that they are making work pay, some 40% of Jobcentre workers, according to their own trade union the PCS, qualify for the state benefit Universal Credit, because they are "fantastically low paid." Some Jobcentre staff that are in receipt of Universal Credit, are now signing-on, and are facing possible benefit sanctions, because of the requirement to satisfy "in-work conditionality" which is currently being piloted at Ashton Jobcentre as part of the roll-out of Universal Credit.

The Government deny that Jobcentre staff set people up for sanctioning or have national targets for sanctions. But this is refuted by the PCS union that represents Jobcentre workers. They say that staff come under pressure to sanction jobseekers or face disciplinary action. Alan Davis, a former Jobcentre worker from Leicester, told a recent Channel 4 'Dispatches Programme', broadcast on 2nd March 2015 -

*"The pressure was enormous. I just felt what they were asking me to do, was totally wrong - they were asking me to 'hammer people' who in their own way were doing their best to get a job."*

**Yours faithfully  
Brian Bamford,  
Secretary Tameside TUC**

## George Galloway speaks



As I write this, another week is drawing to a close in which once again new depths of treachery were plumbed by the "enemy within the Labour Party". 100 "Labour" MPs, overwhelmingly without a valid excuse or a pair on the benches opposite, broke a three-line whip and abstained on the party's motion calling on the British government to "condemn the reported bombings of civilian areas (...and...) suspend its support for the Saudi Arabia-led coalition forces in Yemen until it has been determined whether they have been responsible for any such violations".

It would seem a no-brainer. It was a watered-down motion that did not even affect arms sales, and after all, what Labour MP, whether left, soft-left or Blairite, socialist or liberal, could publicly refuse to condemn the head-chopping, woman-hating, medieval Saudi tyranny? And if they had voted in support of their party's motion, as the SNP, Plaid Cymru, Greens and Liberal Democrats did, the motion would have passed, the Tory government been rocked, the Saudi regime embarrassed on the global stage.

Yet refuse they did. Self-declared feminists such as Angela Eagle, who are always telling us Jeremy Corbyn has a woman problem, gay MPs such as Chris Bryant and the militant liberal Ben Bradshaw, broke a three line whip and protected the world's most misogynistic, homophobic, illiberal regime. You really could not make that up.

It seems clear there are no limits to how low many on the Blairite far-right of the Labour Party will go to undermine Corbyn, even to the point of risking fatally wounding their party and therefore their own electoral chances, not to mention their own reputations by aligning themselves with a dictatorship which this year has beheaded more people than ISIS. Through their actions, they snatched defeat from the jaws of victory for their own party, saved the Tories and the Saudis...and of course the blushes (if not the profits) of many an arms dealer.

However, some cases are harder to explain. Where was Clive Lewis, the Shadow Business Secretary? And what about Nia Griffiths, the Shadow Defence Secretary may I remind you, dear reader, absent on a crucial vote on British foreign policy? These and others need urgently to answer the pressing questions of Labour party members and the British public as to why they abstained.

And on this point, the time has come to say now what I have withheld so far: Jeremy Corbyn must stand up now to those undermining him, both openly and indirectly. Not only those in open rebellion against his leadership, but those within his own circle who pledge their support publicly but undermine him in private conversations with all and sundry, or publish passive aggressive article in national newspapers. The plotters have crossed a rubicon with this cynically calculated mass abstention, but this latest act of treason also presents Corbyn with an opportunity, which he must take if his leadership is to survive, at least in any meaningful sense.

For on what better issue could he take on the traitors than on Saudi Arabia? One where public opinion is so strongly in his favour they have no leg to stand on for opposing him and breaking a three line whip, with even The Evening Standard endorsing the Labour leadership's stance. But Jeremy must be bold and act firmly and quickly. If he does not stand up to the plotters now, they will stand on him forever.

*It seems clear there are no limits to how low many on the Blairite far-right of the Labour Party will go to undermine Corbyn*



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# EDVARD MUNCH: THE SCREAM. A DEVIANT OR NATURAL EMOTION?

By Julie Stevens

**T**he 'Scream' some critics argue, is an existential depiction of a person suffering from social alienation. Alienation from itself and the mechanical workings of society that manifest its self in a deviant 'Scream'. The scream from this perspective is a form of internal/external sense of condition that the psyche can no longer bear, such as anxiety, loneliness and despair at the alienation of their life bought upon by the mechanical workings of Capitalism and its loss of human emotion. However, maybe the 'Scream' is liberation, not just alienation? A natural not deviant emotion?

Marx argued that 'Alienation' is the estrangement (Ger Entfremdung) of people from aspects of their Gattungswesen ("species-essence") as a consequence of living in a society of stratified social classes. A theory of the alienation of 'man' from his 'natural' labour. Yet even Marx, understood that 'The Woman' question was long from being understood. For this reason even a Marxist interpretation of a scream, arises from a view of the other deviant 'other'. As an example: A man that is watching his child being born may scream for the worry of his earnings, his alienation from the world through the graft of responsibility of another mouth to feed and his partners pain. Yet a woman that screams in 'natural labour' is screaming from physical, emotional, financial pain and graft. Plus she may just not want a child. Not all moms love, not all fathers are grafters. For this reason, this analysis argues that everyone experiences their scream in different degrees of emotion.

Emotions have been mostly ignored by scientists and academics. They have not been understood as a rational force for personal and social change. Instead critiques, academics psychologists and mental health specialists have often viewed screams as a sign of 'ill health' or 'disease'. This 'mental health' issue appears to have originated from the 'rational', structuralist or psychiatric, paradigm that

has viewed humans as rational beings with some 'Spock' like tendencies, whereby a scream is 'irrational', devoid of passion, fuelled with mental health issues. Emotions, certainly crying and screams consist within this 'paradigm' of an emotional typology of rationality. A typological hierarchy of rationality where some emotions rise as 'signs of 'civilised' cultivation' such as 'stiff upper lip' 'old chap' and others as 'outrage', in the form of violent, deviant behaviour. This typology has then been set against a 'system of oppression', a system of gender, a system of ethnicity, and so on so forth to the point that only the 'civilised' system of: shut up and put up has been seen as rational! Every other emotion has then been graded lowered down this system as 'sign of weakness', or mental health. Emotions, such as 'screams' have become a deviance. Screams have become a deviant emotion in the 'rational, civilised, existence.

The Scream, has become a deviant emotion. A scream has been classified as a feeling that needs analysing in any social or culture norm. For example, a man screaming because he is worn out by his job and has another mouth to feed, is seen as a weak: 'Man up, get a grip!' A woman screaming in child birth is seen as natural. A woman screaming after her child is born is seen to be 'deviant' in need of: 'mental health' assistance.

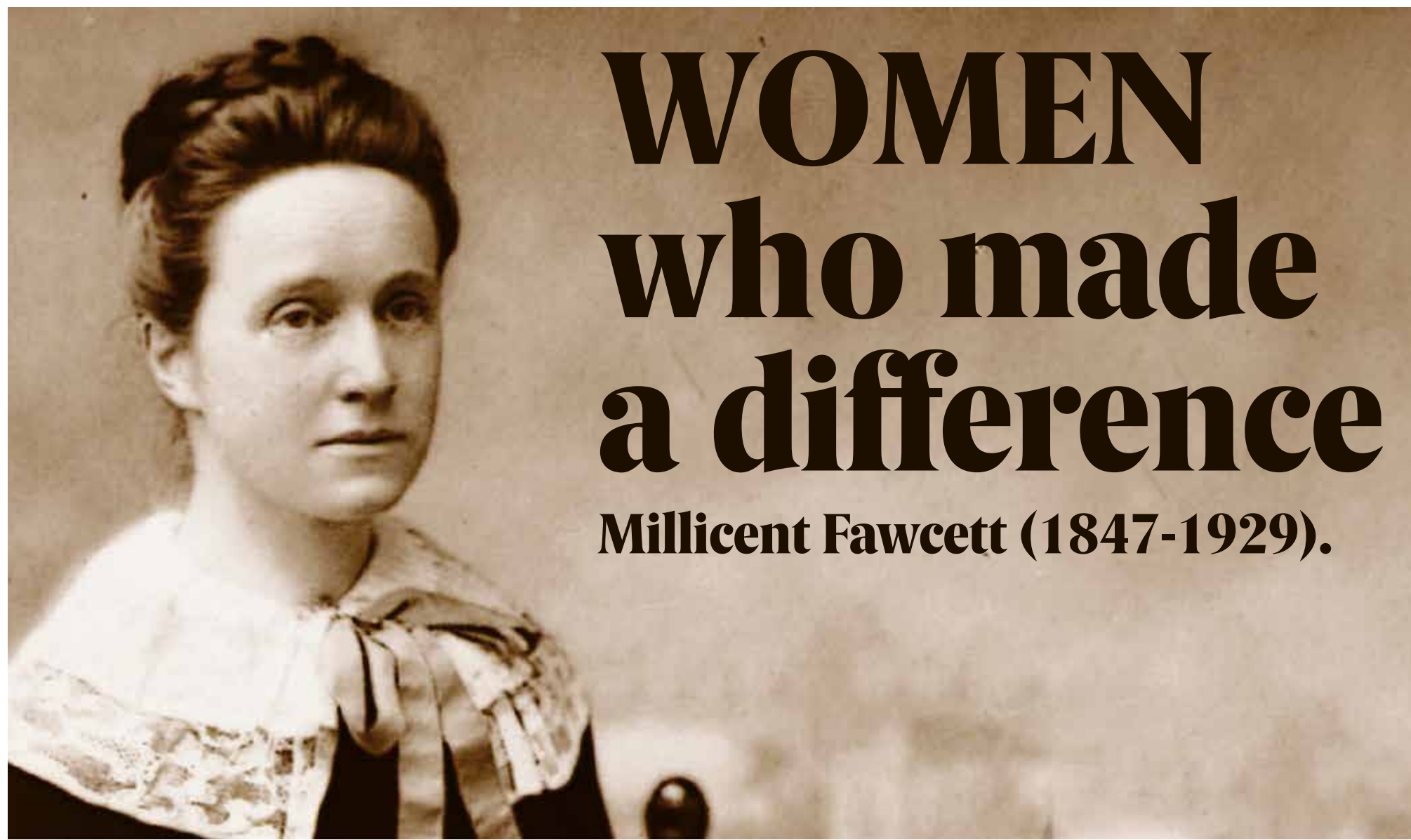
Yet! A Scream, maybe liberating! A scream actually be a part and form of human 'critical consciousness':

"The closer one is to consciously experiencing deviant emotions and understanding that they are shared across a social group with whom one identifies, the closer one is to experiencing critical consciousness" (Summer-Effler, 2002:51-52)

This collective of screams may not form a unified identity but certainly a loud voice. A scream can make an enemy an ally or an ally an enemy.

Breathing is as natural as accordance to taking charge of one's own life. Screaming therefore is only an accentuated breath, yet with a louder sound.



*Part 3.*

There is a saying that 'comparisons are odious'. History can be viewed through different lenses, so comparing the contributions of Mary Seacole to those of Florence Nightingale in raising the status of women is wrong, both should be honoured for their inspirational achievements. Similarly the contributions to social change of Millicent Fawcett should not be put against those of Emmeline Pankhurst.

Millicent came from a prosperous middle class home in Suffolk and benefited from being privately educated. She had a great interest in literature and education, which lasted all her life. Millicent claims to have been interested in universal suffrage from a young age, but aged 19 she listened to a speech by Jon Stuart Mill advocating women's suffrage, became a supporter and of him. As a result she met a radical MP for Brighton, Henry Fawcett, whom she worked for as a secretary and later married. She became well known as speaker covering political and academic subjects including women's issues, particularly working for better access to higher education. Millicent became the co-founder of Newnham College, Cambridge.

Millicent wrote a short book, 'Political Economy for beginners', which was praised for its succinct

and direct explanations. She wrote two novels and numerous leaflets on political issues. Her capacity to simplify complex arguments, coupled with a clear speaking voice made her an effective suffragist, which attracted many to the cause.

However it was only after her husband's death, leaving her a widow aged 38, that she devoted more time to political campaigning, working first with the Personal Rights Association who were helping to protect vulnerable women. Then in 1897 she became president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS) a position she held until 1919. The organisation was democratic, aiming to achieve women's suffrage through peaceful and legal means, in particular by in-

roducing Parliamentary Bills and holding meetings to explain and promote their aims. The movement split in 1903 with the formation of a more militant organisation, the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU), who became known as the suffragettes. This did not stop the growth of the NUWSS, who by 1904 had over 100,000 members, drawn largely from middle classes but with some working class members and unlike the WSPU it had male members.

In 1901 she was appointed to lead the British Government's commission to South Africa to investigate conditions in concentration camps that had been created in the wake of the Boer War and exposed by a heroic campaigner Emily Hobhouse. The Government thought that the Commission would fend off criticism, but it confirmed everything that Hobhouse had said. If anything the Commission's recommendations went even further. The Commission insisted that rations should be increased, additional nurses be sent out, and other measures to improve conditions in the camps. Millicent Fawcett was quite blunt in expressing her opinions.

Over her career she backed countless causes, not always with success at the time. She fought against child abuse, for better treatment of unmarried mothers, the exploitation of



prostitutes and the double standards with regard to men involved. She took an interest in Indian affairs speaking against child marriages and for the introduction of regulated prostitution there.

When the Liberal Government failed to grant women the vote whilst they were in power from 1901-1914 there was an increase in direct action from suffragettes. This willingness to resort to vio-

lence caused a split in the women's movement. Whilst Millicent believed in constitutional means and thought militancy was counter-productive she admired the courage of the militant suffragettes. The NUWSS tired of the Liberals intransigence and in 1912 supported the newly formed Labour Party.

The outbreak of World War brought further divisions in these two movements. Most of the WSPU supported the war and Emily Pankhurst encouraged young men to join. There were many pacifists in the NUWSS but Fawcett encouraged women to help with the war effort once hopes of peace were gone, saying 'we have another duty now....Let us show ourselves worthy of citizenship, whether our claim to it be recognised or not'.

After the war there was a change in the social and political landscape and in 1918 women over 30 were given the vote. In 1928 Parliament equalised the voting age so although she died a year later Millicent lived to see her dream realised from her hearing J.S. Mill introduce his suffrage amendment to the Reform Bill in 1867.

Just as Martin Luther King and Malcolm X were two sides of the same coin so were Emmeline Pankhurst and Millicent Fawcett.



# HUMAN IMAGINATION

## ingenuity and fallability

I re-watched David Fincher's film *Zodiac* (2007) a couple of weeks back whilst nursing a heavy cold at home. This is a fascinating film that concentrates on a documentary like approach to the real life so called Zodiac serial killer from the late 60s/70s. In spite of its lurid subject matter, the film eschews the sensationalism of earlier works like Fincher's *Seven*. Instead we are offered an intense and forensic examination in criminal profiling and the ingenuity and obsession of some of the key investigators from the case.

The film seems to be based in large part on the book of the same name by Robert Graysmith, the cartoonist based with the San Francisco Chronicle at the time of the killings. As the film subsequently portrays, Graysmith becomes obsessively consumed over the next decade or so, in a relentless quest to solve the Zodiac case.

However much to our collective dissatisfaction, the Zodiac killer was never officially identified or apprehended, rather like a number of other notorious serial killing cases. Fincher's film relentlessly chronicles Graysmith and the relevant homicide detectives in their complex quest to build a criminal profile and use the cutting edge forensics of the day along with painstaking multi-layered circumstantial evidence in order to ascertain the guilty culprit. Although the weight of evidence assembled seems sufficiently conclusive in its implications and incrimination of one particular culprit, we find the rug of certitude pulled completely under our feet at various junctures, leaving the audience in an existential malaise in the absence of closure. Fincher unnerving forces doubt in the midst of our supposed aplomb with scientific rationalism. Whilst at the end of the film we have our suspicions on the prime suspect, we never have the satisfaction or anything approaching the solidity of conviction.

This tenuous grip on the environment and the central protagonists' attempts to come to

terms with disturbing proximal events speaks to our post-modern mentality and our dwindling faith in the explanatory science and rationalism. That's not of course to dispense with rigorous scientific methodology as in many instances it continues to impressively deliver the goods. However we are aware of limits and fragilities to human ingenuity.

So much of our fallible but powerful human imagination stems from our innate capacity to abstraction, to divine patterns and underlying templates in all the diverse phenomena we are liable to encounter. I have been impressed over the last few years by the so called 'cognitive turn' in matters pertaining to philosophy and methodology in the social sciences and history. In particular I have been struck by the phenomena of 'apophenia' which serves as something of a lynchpin of psychological epistemology, helping us to see how humans have an inherent capacity for understanding, abstraction and interaction with their environment.

Michael Shermer has written extensively on apophenia; he prefers the labels of *patternicity* and *agentivity* to describe the mental process of reasoning and abstraction when the sentient brain is able to find meaningful patterns in the various phenomena it encounters. Whilst apophenia is generally characterised as a Type 1 cognitive error of a false positive (finding a meaningful pattern in randomised data), Shermer's allied concepts of patternicity and agentivity underline our more generalised innate capacity to generate comprehension and purposiveness in our understandings of the exter-

nal habitat, such meanings being fallacious in the type 1 sense or otherwise. And so the tendency to find meaningful patterns in both meaningful and meaningless noise.

Facial recognition is a primary example of how patternicity is crucially imbued into child development, with two black dots on a piece of cardboard able to prompt a smile in infants, whilst a single dot was not. And our wider ability for pattern recog-

nition is suggestive of an *a priori* epistemology capacity to analyse complex data sets into pertinent categories.

Patternicity is a central component of human intellectual life, our ability to comprehend and project meanings onto the complex series of elements and phenomena that we encounter in our sentient existence. We are able to intellectualise and make causal inferences about our environment and society, and go on to project a vast range of

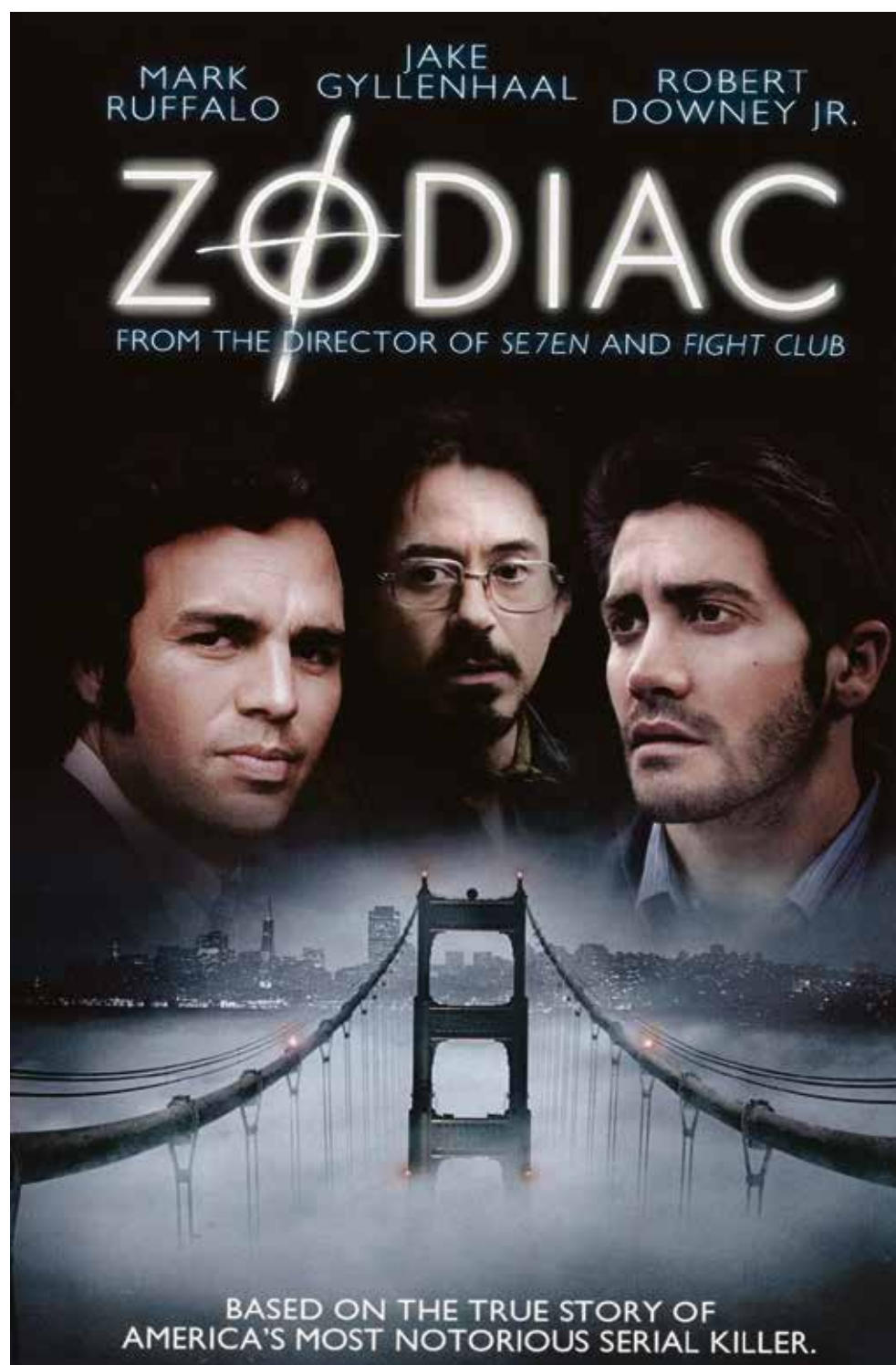
typologies and classifications of phenomena that present to us in terms of interrelated components and meaningful systems.

The historian and historiographer E H Carr offered up his prescient take on how we begin to construct the temporal reality we inhabit, with a little bit of help from Talcott Parsons:

*Professor Talcott Parsons once called science 'a selective system of cognitive orientations to reality'. It might perhaps have been put more simply. But history is, among other things, that. The historian is necessarily selective. The belief in a hard core of historical facts existing objectively and independently of the interpretation of the historian is a preposterous fallacy, but one which it is very hard to eradicate.*

*The facts of history never come to us 'pure', since they do not and cannot exist in a pure form: they are always refracted through the mind of the recorder. It follows that when we take up a work of history, our first concerns should be not with the facts which it contains but with the historians who wrote it...*

Our internal mental construction of the world and our ability to elucidate and build complex patterns and models is central to our ability to navigate around the terrain of our human environment as well as giving us some notions of existential reality. These elaborate belief systems comprise a range of interpretations and metaphysical possibilities, whilst the emergence of science grounded in empirical methodology allows us to critically scrutinise the corpus of knowledge that is now our common inheritance.



## Remembering David Bowie

Unless you live in a hermetically sealed bubble or off world subterranean bunker, you will know that David Bowie died this year. On January 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 he celebrated his 69<sup>th</sup> birthday and released his 25<sup>th</sup> studio album and on January 10<sup>th</sup> 2016, he was dead. The world's media went into hyper-drive, fans all over the world mourned, and thousands of musicians, artists, actors and critics eulogised the towering creative achievements Bowie had gifted to the world during his astonishing six decade career.

Whilst Bowie seamlessly operated and experimented within a range of arts genres and categories, he will best be remembered for his contributions to music. Fusing the brazen exper-



imentation of the avant-garde with an innate pop sensibility, Bowie released a thrilling and ground-breaking sequence of albums between 1969 and 1980 that consistently challenged the notion of what popular music could achieve, tearing up the rule book, re-writing it and inspiring hordes of musicians who continue to be inspired by his work. These twelve albums from the

proto-grunge of "The Man Who Sold The World", to the angular art-pop of "Scary Monsters and Super Creeps", were made all the more remarkable by their stark differences from one another and Bowie's reluctance, and perhaps psychological inability, to "play it safe". Bowie's propensity for persistent re-invention very much made him a musical maverick during his career. Whilst other bands and artists were content to essentially churn out subtle variations of a specific formula, Bowie's dizzyingly eclectic output always teetered on the brink of alienating his fan base, as a consequence of the seismic stylistic changes that characterised his work. If you listen to "Aladdin Sane" next to "Young Americans" or, "Station to Station" next to "Low", the impact is deliriously disorientating, with only Bowie's distinctive vocals confirming that these were all musical offerings from the same man.

Whilst the twelve albums released between 1969 and 1980 are generally considered to be Bowie's creative peak, there are still many treasures to be found amongst his post, "Scary Monsters", catalogue. The successive releases of 1995's "1. Outside" and 1997's "Earthling", found Bowie successfully experimenting with the drum and bass/ electronica zeitgeist of the period, whilst 2003's "Reality", was buoyed by a gleaming production from the legendary producer of the aforementioned, twelve classic albums, Tony Visconti.

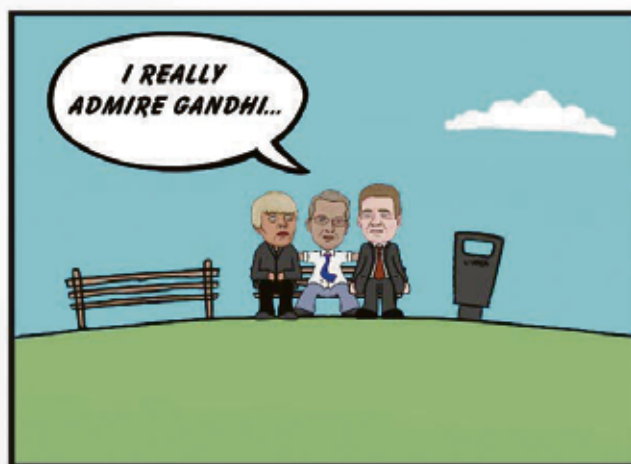
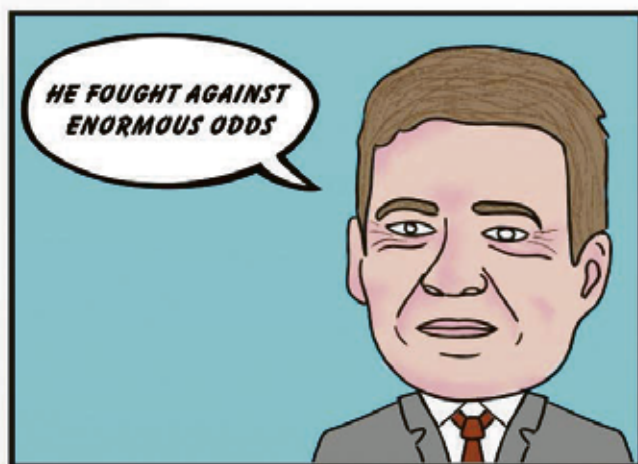
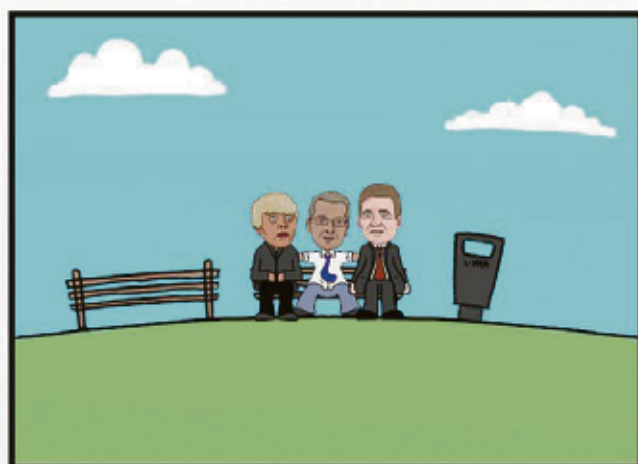
His final album, "Blackstar", is as adventurous and ground breaking as anything in his collection. As Bowie was seemingly in the midst of yet another creative purple patch, it will be fascinating to hear any posthumous releases, should they be forthcoming. Farewell David. Thanks for the memories and the songs we'll forever cherish.



# Farewell to a cherished artist

# St. Jeremy of London

By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir



## EVENTS



# DOES LABOUR HAVE THE ENERGY FOR A PROGRESSIVE POLICY?

**E**NERGY is one of the most important issues of our time, as Barry Gardiner said during a fringe event at the Labour party conference "energy is the core of every policy and issue".

But what are the government doing in regards to energy policy? Climate change is no longer an obscure issue, championed by 'hippies' - it is one of the biggest issues facing humanity. How Labour will oppose the government is vital, but what is their policy? Finally, how should energy be tackled and what direction should this take?

There are a number of issues facing energy at the moment; what is being done and what needs to be done are all too often polar opposites. With the Paris Climate Agreement now being ratified, meaning that will come into effect soon. It is highly likely that we will face an existential energy crisis if change isn't enacted.

## Conservative Energy Policy

Much was made from the Tory party conference and a lot of focus was on the Brexit announcements and deplorable immigration policy. This removed the spotlight away from Greg Clark and his speech, and since the conference there has been little focus on anything other than Brexit and immigration. Whilst these

subjects are currently on the forefront of political issues, they remove vital limelight from equally as important issues such as energy, environmentalism and climate change. Furthermore, what is remarkable is the lack of a real energy policy from the Tories.

Clark said in his speech "up-grade in the resilience and cleanness of energy supplies" and "We have low-carbon energy systems that lead the world, but also the failure of successive Governments to replace our aging power stations," he added. However, his speech was full of glorification of innovation and industrial strategy, but very little or no tangible policies. The only real statement and policy from the Tories came after the conference, when Sajid Javid overturned Lancashire's council rejection of Cuadrilla's plan to drill four fracking wells within the county. Plus, before the conference and within the May's first week, she removed the department charged with focusing on tackling climate change. This demonstrates a clear case of hypocrisy and lack of a real green and progressive policy to a future energy problem.

## Labour Energy Policy

With the Paris Climate Agreement officially ratified, this will force us as a nation to curb our emissions. But with no real policy from the conservatives on how this is achievable, as well as the ever-increasing need to move onto renew-

able sources. Those who are concerned will look to Labour to take the lead, and during the Labour party conference there was a lot of positive and progressive noises coming from Barry Gardiner. The 2008 Climate Change Act forms the basis of the Paris Climate Agreement, and this is why it is only really Labour that can form a coherent plan.

Energy is a vital part to our society, it powers our industry, economy and our everyday lives. That is why Labour announced that they would ban fracking, and Barry Gardiner made an important point

about the reasons why. Whilst the technical issues are apparent and they give rise to environmental issues, this is not the reason why fracking should be banned. He continued to say that if we use fracking "it would lock us into an energy infrastructure based on fossil fuel long after we should have moved onto renewables". Gardiner announced that a Labour government would launch a new programme called 'repowering Britain', this will help localise the way energy is produced and stored. Already there are 70 Labour councils

committed to be running on 100% renewable by 2050. Labour will also legislate to force the Big Six energy companies put people on their cheapest tariff. Make sure to train more skilled-workers to retrofit insulation in older homes to help vulnerable people keep warm and free from fuel poverty. Finally, along with Clive Lewis, Gardiner announced the 'home fit for heroes' programme, to insulate every home of our disabled veterans for free.

## Providing a Real Energy Policy is Necessary

The above mentioned policies from both Conservative and Labour, highlights the governments failings on a real energy policy. Osborne managed to pass what he referred to as "the most generous tax regime for shale gas anywhere in the world", this will change under Labour. There is a clear and present necessity to focus on providing the nation with an energy policy that is community led, to give the power and control back to communities and focus on moving onto renewable energy sources. Current government policy is both lacking, and focused too much on the oil, gas and coal, even after globally we will not be able to use 80% of those resources. A progressive policy is necessary to bring our energy infrastructure into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Let's see - who do benefits actually go to?

State Old Age Pension - 36%  
other pensioner benefits - 6%  
OK, that accounts for 42% of welfare spending.  
Child tax credit - 10%  
Child benefit - 6%  
Working tax credit - 4%  
Housing benefit - 11%  
Income support - 4%  
Council tax benefit - 3%  
Disability Living Allowance - 8%  
All of these benefits are payable to people who are in work. So that's another 46% accounted for.  
So what of the remaining 12% of the welfare budget?  
Well, 2% goes on carers allowance (i.e. people who work hard caring for relatives and thus saving

the NHS a significant amount of money) and 4% goes on employment support allowance (payable to people that even ATOS declare unfit for work)  
Other welfare payments - 3%  
Job seekers allowance - 3%  
So the "workshy" get no more than 6% of the welfare bill (incidentally, most of this 6% would love to have a job but are unable to get one).  
The downfall of this country will be because of people's inability to think. Their inability to critically analyse what they are being fed by the media. Their inability to question what is going on around them.

# Salford trades council

**Saturday 5th November** sees a *Save Our NHS Conference* at the **Working Class Movement Library** on the Crescent **11:30am-4pm**; on **Sunday 6th November** there's a *Children's Party* with **Salford Red Devils** (now fully booked); and on **Monday 7th** there's an *International Day* at **Islington Mill** (1 James Street M3 5HW), with stalls from **11am**, and from **4pm until 11pm** an evening of

international food, dance and music.

On **Tuesday 8th**, there's more stalls and exhibitions during the day at **Islington Mill**, and, from **7pm** a *Meeting On The Environment*, an informal gathering of local organisations, groups and activists speaking on all kinds of eco issues, from fracking to flooding, environmental destruction, community renewables, eco tourism and direct action. The **Environ-**

**ment Day** event is a preamble to a massive march and protest against fracking on **November 12th**.

On **Wednesday 9th November**, at **1pm**, a special plaque will be unveiled at the former site of the **Three Crowns** pub which is opposite the Renault garage off Trinity Way, on the **King Street** and **Blackfriars corner**. This is to be followed at **6pm** with a *Women's Day* event at **Islington Mill**.

On **Thursday 10th** and **Friday 11th**, events move to the **Langworthy Cornerstone** (corner of Liverpool Street and Langworthy Road), with a *Pensioner and Youth Event* between **2pm and 4pm**, and an *Education Conference* **7pm-9pm** on the **Thursday**; and a full day of exhibitions and stalls on the **Friday**, followed by a *Community Tea and Conference* between **7pm and 9pm**.

**Saturday 12th November** sees a *No Justice Day* at the **United Reformed Church** on Chapel Street (M3 6AF) from **11am to 6pm**, with

exhibitions, stalls and speakers highlighting campaigns including the **Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign**, the **Shrewsbury 24 Campaign**, **No More Blacklisting** and **JENGbA - Joint Enterprise Not Guilty by Association**. There will also be representations from the **GM Hazards** groups and the **Greater Manchester Law Centre**, amongst many others.

The celebrations end on **Sunday 13th November** with a *Standing On The Shoulders of Giants* free night of music at the **Old Pint Pot** starting at **3pm**.

By Alexander Dommerholt

**I**t may have escaped the attention of the citizens of the UK, but Holland has been captivated for the past few years by an extremely staunch debate that divides the population sharply. What matter of importance could this possibly be? Well, it's a phenomenon called 'Zwarte Piet'.

Before you scratch your head and wonder who or what Zwarte Piet is, allow me to explain the background of this character:

The Dutch do not celebrate Christmas like the British do, as presents are usually exchanged on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, a date known as 'Sinterklaas Eve'. Sinterklaas is based on Saint Nicholas and was one of the inspirations for the modern-day incarnation of Father Christmas. Note for instance that 'Santa Claus' has been derived from the name 'Sinterklaas'.

Sinterklaas and Santa have very similar back stories, but every detail is just a little different. Instead of a sleigh, Sinterklaas has a boat. He does not have his domicile on the North Pole but lives in sunny Spain instead, and rather than giving naughty children a lump of coal, they get either a good old-fashioned beating or they are put in a burlap sack and taken back to Spain.

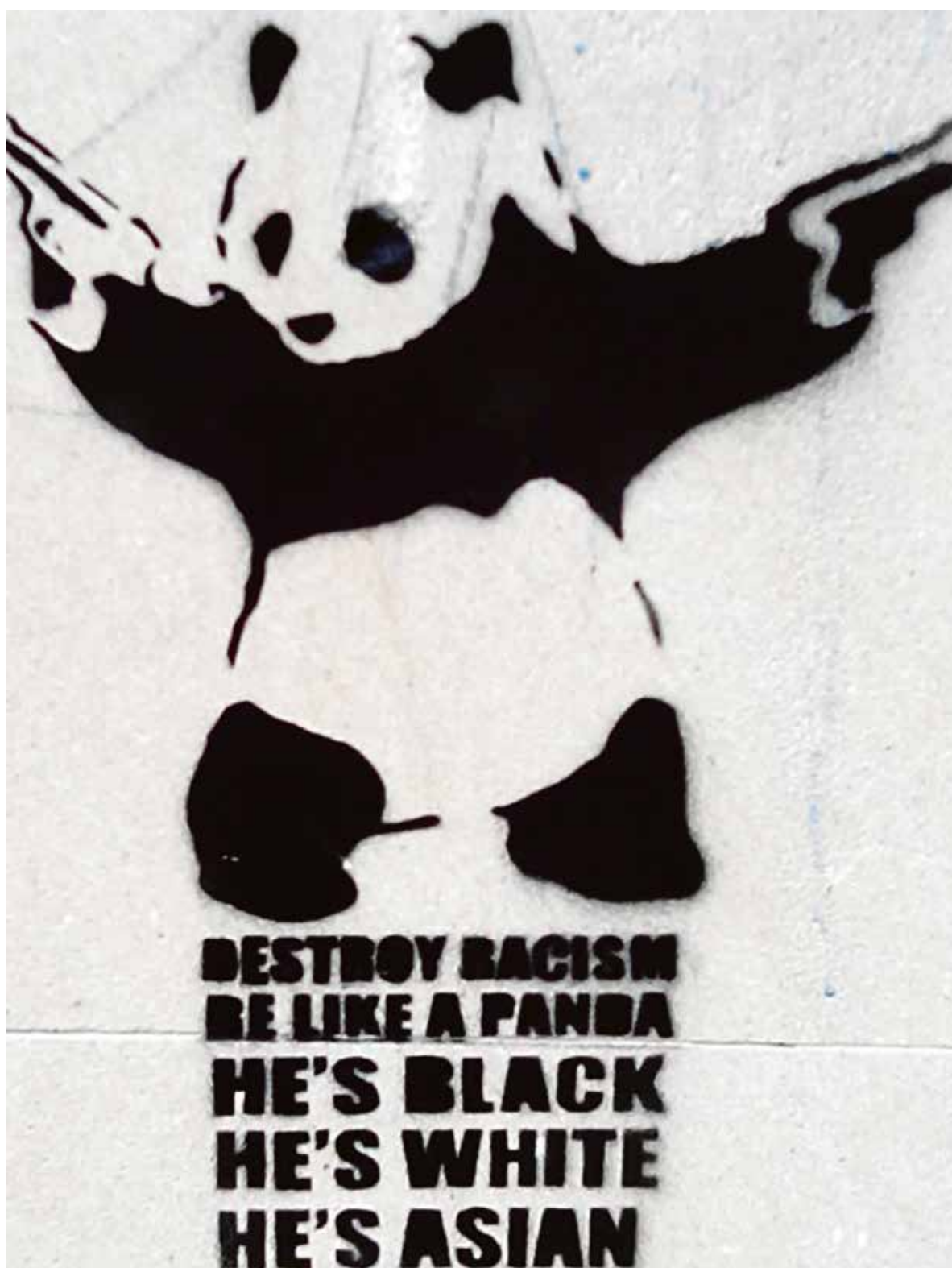
Now this is where things get incomprehensibly silly: instead of elves, Sinterklaas is assisted by 'Zwarte Pieten' - or 'Black Petes'. Zwarte Pieten are men in black-face, have black curly hair and to complete it all they have bright red lips and golden earrings. They generally occupy themselves with delivering presents and being jolly and silly. It's a tradition that has existed for centuries.

The Sinterklaas myth is decidedly non-racist; it stipulates that Zwarte Piet is black because soot sticks to his face when he goes down the - now largely non-existent - chimneys to deliver gifts. However, more and more people are recognising in Zwarte Piet a racist stereotype of the silly, unintelligent black servant. It unlocked a national debate that has become rather grim.

The debate mainly broke loose a few years ago when Verene Shepherd, a Jamaican UN consultant of the OHCHR, pointed out that Zwarte Piet is a racist stereotype and called on the Dutch government to act against it.

Though most of the Dutch

# RACISM AS A TRADITION



population initially dismissed Shepherd's claims (90% of the Dutch population regarded Zwarte Piet as a non-racist figure in 2013) it started a debate that has raged on ever since, between opponents who want Zwarte Piet's look to be changed (to a different colour) and there are the ones, typically on the rightist end of the political spectrum, who claim that this is an "attack of political cor-

rectness on Dutch tradition and culture".

While the debate was initially confined to the winter months leading up to December, the debate has continued throughout 2016. Prominent Facebook group 'Nederland mijn Vaderland' (Netherlands my Fatherland), a nationalist group which supports Geert Wilders, declares war on every

prominent Dutch person who is of the opinion that Zwarte Piet should be altered. Members of the group claim that Zwarte Piet is not a relic of racism, yet many of them do not shy away from making racist remarks against the prominent Dutch people who are calling for change.

Even politicians get involved frequently. Geert Wilders tried

to get Zwarte Piet enshrined as 'protected cultural heritage' but his proposal was thwarted in the Dutch Parliament. Recently, VVD (Dutch Conservatives) Commons leader Halbe Zijlstra made an appearance on the popular TV Show *Pauw* where he stated that changing Zwarte Piet's colour was "dangerous". When pushed by other guests to explain why it was dangerous, Zijlstra floundered in such an embarrassing manner that even his staunchest opponents seemed to feel sorry for him. His best argument eventually was that "it might confuse his son a little".

Zijlstra, like rightists always do, sticks to his opinion even when he's exposed to have no valid reasons to have that opinion in the first place. "Traditions are sacred" rightists proclaim, but when challenged they often have no better argument than "we've always done it this way", which lacks even the intellectual depth to rival an episode of *Peppa Pig*, let alone that it may justify keeping a colonial hangover alive.

Though most Dutch people undoubtedly still support the old-fashioned version of Zwarte Piet, it cannot be denied that they are losing ground. Many television stations are now refusing to feature a blackfaced Zwarte Piet and opt for alternatives instead. Even Erik van Muiswinkel, who featured as a Zwarte Piet for 17 years on children's television, has announced to now be against the traditional Zwarte Piet.

All the while, the debating adults forget that Sinterklaas Eve is a children's festival - children who shouldn't be exposed to adults (literally) fighting each other in the streets when they welcome their hero Sinterklaas during his traditional arrival in the various Dutch towns.

Dutch children past the age of 6 generally don't tend to believe that Sinterklaas is real anymore, and they are probably the ones who care the least about Zwarte Piet's colour. Whether he's black, green, purple or has no face paint on at all, they won't care - though they are the ones that the Sinterklaas festivities are meant for.

The Dutch should agree on a simply consensus:

No, Zwarte Piet was not invented to be racist intentionally.

Yes, it is a hurtful phenomenon to black communities.

No, children will not care if Zwarte Piet is no longer black.

No, traditions shouldn't be preserved "at all costs".

# Where There's A Wall...

By Jim Gibson

Anyone watching the U.S. Election debate recently will have decided for themselves whether or not Republican contender Donald Trump put forward a strong enough case to win. Most of the mainstream media, both in America and Britain, reckon not. They've made it obvious they don't like him and are rooting for Hillary. But Trump's proposal to build a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico has unquestionably gained him a lot of support with ordinary people on both sides of the Atlantic. What a lot of these people don't know however is that a partial barrier is already in place. Some of Donald Trump's job has already been done.

The border with Mexico follows the line of the Rio Grande, and, to a much lesser extent, the Colorado River. It was the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe which established the Rio Grande as the official international border, covering the state lines of California, Arizona,

New Mexico and Texas on the American side. Then, during the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), tensions between the two countries led to soldiers from both sides putting up the first known sections of fence.

During the 1940s the U.S. National Park Service erected cattle fencing along the Arizona/ Sonora border to stop Mexican cattle wandering in and infecting U.S. livestock with disease. But these structures were not intended to stop people. Unauthorised migrants were of course already an issue, but it wasn't really until the 1990s that the George Bush senior administration got serious with the border when a 66-mile wall was constructed at its north western end in California. This is known as the San Diego sector, and although not a large area it is one of the busiest crossing points. When Bill Clinton came to office he authorised a 14-mile extension to this, and George W. Bush in 2006 signed the Secure Fence Act calling for 670-miles of new barrier to be constructed. However,

this aggravated environmentalists and some landowners as it would overrule existing regulations and could seize both private and state property. Some of the land is owned by Native American tribes. In the meantime individual ranchers were adding their own efforts to the equation and putting up structures of their own.

Much of the border region is desert and mountains, which causes serious problems for anyone trying to enforce the law and restrict movement. Due to the rugged nature of the terrain these areas are also the most difficult places to construct any barrier. It is said many bodies are buried out here, which makes people fearful. Consequently drug smugglers and people traffickers are using trails in such places to move around. This is particularly unsettling to ranchers and landowners in the area. One rancher, a man called Jim Chilton, has night-vision security cameras set around his large sprawling property. He has observed people at night carrying heavy rucksacks

through the desert. He says: 'One night I counted 17 guys in my front yard- they were obviously drug packers.' Armed with his rifle he allowed the men to replenish their water bottles from a tap, then they continued on their way. The Chilton place is near Arivaca, Arizona. Meanwhile Paul Beeson, Border Patrol Chief in the Tucson area, uses horseback agents and helicopter back-up to try to secure his district. Beeson says that drug smugglers and other illegal crossers are well equipped to help them evade capture. 'There are individuals who sit up on the high points around here doing surveillance on us, watching our activities', he says.

Vigilante groups, unhappy with the inadequate policing of the border, are springing up in some places. They are staunch supporters of Trump because they see him as the only candidate who will seriously tackle their problem. One such group calls itself the Arizona Border Recon, and its founder is an ex-paratrooper called Tim Foley. 'Trump speaks his mind', says Foley, 'and that is why he is so popular.' This ex-para believes the border is be-

ing patrolled 'all wrong'. His Arizona Border Recon wears army fatigues and bristles with weaponry, yet most of them are civilians. There are even doctors and plumbers in the mix. Technically the group, which operates from a camp in the desert, has no legal power to arrest anyone. But armed as they are they can do it anyway, then they hand their captives over to the authorities.

It appears that the Brexit vote in Britain is also playing into the 'Wall' situation. Foley has had a number of enquiries from men in the U.K. asking to join his ABR. He says: 'They have all written to me saying how your country (the U.K.) has gone to the dogs with immigration... they want to help us before it is too late.' Foley claims his team is also in place to fight against infiltration by Islamic State. He believes that America needs to go back to old fashioned outposts, a belief which brings to mind images of the Union army's timber forts in the pioneer days. And the Alamo. And the actor John Wayne. Perhaps America needs a John Wayne figure now. It's already had a Ronald Reagan. But does Donald Trump fit the bill?

# The refusal of Wallonia

The refusal of the Belgian region of Wallonia to support the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU provoked a furious tantrum from The Sun's political editor Tom Newton Dunn. 'You Wallies! Crazy socialists in tiny Belgian state of Wallonia torpedoes (sic) multi-billion pound EU-Canada trade deal' - bellowed the headline.

All socialists are of course crazy in the eyes of The Sun, but CETA put Britain's favourite red-top paper in the awkward position of championing the European Commission over the elected parliaments of a member state. Not that this troubled Newton Dunn, who clearly assumed his readers wouldn't spot the hypocrisy in contrast to the paper's relentless EU-bashing.

Walloons are not the only people lacking the same enthusiasm shown for the current round of trade agreements by the UK government and its cheerleader newspapers. There are strong objections throughout Europe from NGOs, MEPs, trade unions, farmers and businesses.

War on Want senior trade campaigner Mark Dearn said: "CETA is anything but a 'progressive' trade deal - in a killer blow to the fight against climate change, CETA has



secured the importing of high-polluting tar sands oil from Canada, while it also threatens growth, job losses and declining trade between EU countries. CETA is the last thing Europe or the rest of the world needs right now."

The Brexit-supporting press has given the EU's protracted trade negotiations and lengthy democratic ratification processes as a justification for leaving the EU, preferring Tory rubber stamping of TTIP, CETA and any other trade deal that empowers corporations at the expense of citizens and elected governments. This latest example of European democracy in action was not to Murdoch's liking and so he decided to support the imposition of an anti demo-

cratic trade agreement negotiated behind closed doors by the EU Commission it has spent the last three decades slugging off.

In contrast, the Daily Express stuck with its Eurocrat-bashing position in a fusillade of articles by Joey Millar, and played down the socialist nature of Wallonia's objections to CETA. Surprisingly, along with ramming home its message about 'bumbling', 'laughing stock' EU, it provided some information about the most objectionable element of the deal, the Investor Court System, which establishes private courts outside the jurisdiction of nation states to enable corporations to sue governments that damage big business interests: 'Canada has repeatedly refused to

budge on the controversial dispute settlement system, arguing that it is a key component in terms of making the deal attractive to businesses. But CETA has provoked huge opposition across Europe, with critics warning that it could lead to the break-up and privatisation of public services which could be deemed to be monopolies under its competition rules.'

Many developing countries have been fined by firms based in Canada who extracted 'compensation' from governments who refused permission for environmentally destructive mining projects. The Investment Court System is the biggest worry for civil society, yet The Sun is silent. The Express, however, amidst the anti-EU rantings, reported the statement of Paul Magnette, the left-wing political science professor who is Minister-President of the parliament of Wallonia:

'Mr Magnette said he was particularly pleased about the progress made on the ISDS system, including the legal challenge which could ultimately sink the whole deal. He said: "Nothing was said in the treaty [CETA] about the judges. We have demanded that they be held to the highest standards, modelled on those of the European Court of Justice."

Bizarrely, The ultra-rightwing Express found itself accidentally defending the 'crazy socialists' of

Wallonia against the 'Eurocrats' of Brussels, while The Sun, despite its usual rabid anti-Eurocrat line, was so livid that pro-privatisation, anti-environment, anti-workers rights, corporate power grabbing CETA hadn't been steamrollered over all democratic opposition that it found itself supporting the EU Commission.

Nick Dearden, the director of Global Justice Now said: "Essentially the EU's trade policy now lies in tatters. It is true that CETA has been brought back from the dead for now - but it is a ticking time bomb. The Wallonia parliament has a promise that they will be able to stop the ratification of CETA when they get a formal vote on it, and unless there are substantial changes, they - and hopefully other parliaments - will use that veto. What's more, the whole 'corporate court' concept will now go to the highest European court to adjudicate on its legality - something which risks invalidating the EU's entire trade agenda.

"This is a good example of democracy in action. Meanwhile Liam Fox should hang his head in shame. While Wallonia has managed to spend days scrutinising CETA, and prioritising the concerns of its citizens, the British parliament has been entirely overridden by our government. They have not had a single debate. So much for taking back the power."

# The evils of Nuremberg

By Alexander Dommerholt

In November it will be 76 years ago that the Nuremberg Trials were held, during which dozens of Nazis were held to account for the atrocities they were responsible for. A victory of good over evil, right?

The history books make it clear-cut: the Nazis were a force of evil, whereas the (Western) Allies were a force for good that stopped the Nazi reign of tyranny. The Nazis who hadn't committed suicide or successfully escaped to South America were put on trial, where most of them were condemned to death by hanging or to considerable prison sentences. Good triumphed over evil, job done.

Well, not exactly. Though it cannot be denied that the Nazis were a force of evil, it does not make the Allies necessarily a force for good, illustrated by the fact that so many war criminals escaped the noose through Allied interference.

Many will be familiar with Joseph Mengele, nicknamed 'the Angel of Death', notorious for the gruesome experiments he conducted on Jews in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Mengele escaped justice by escaping to South America and eventually died in the late Seventies as he drowned in his swimming pool.

Mengele's experiments were no anomaly. There were many other Nazis involved in human experimentation and other unsavoury activities during the war who escaped punishment. However, they didn't escape justice on their own accord; they were brought to the USA to make use of their knowledge, known as 'Operation Paperclip'. Among them were famous engineers as Wernher von Braun, but also the likes of Kurt Blome and Hubertus Strughold, who exposed Jews in concentration camps to deadly diseases as part of their experiments. The Americans were fearful that the knowledge of criminals like Blome were to fall into the hands of the Soviets, and therefore decided to not give them the punishment they deserved.

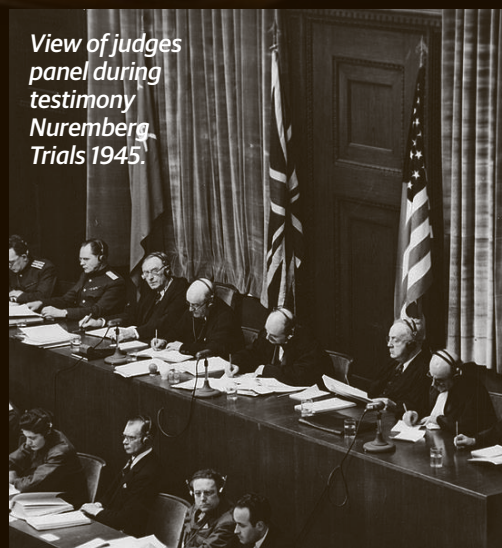
Not only horrific acts in the name of science went unpun-



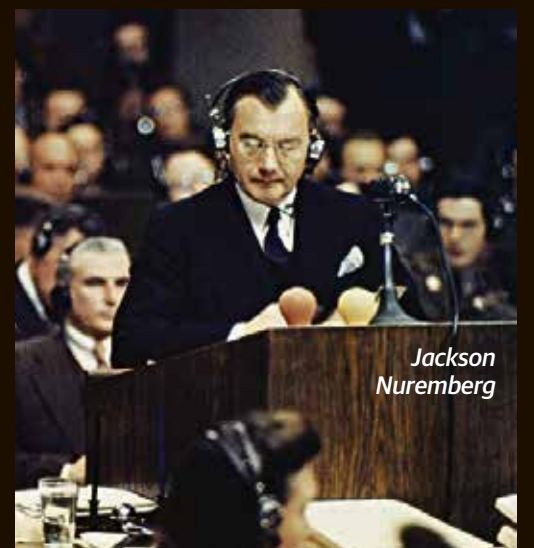
Nuremberg trials



Goering on trial



View of judges panel during testimony Nuremberg Trials 1945.



Jackson Nuremberg

ished. Klaus Barbie, nicknamed 'the Butcher of Lyon', was a Gestapo officer notorious for his interrogation techniques - which included beatings, electric shocks, sexual abuse, bestiality and skinning. After the war, Barbie successfully escaped to South America (with American help) where he helped America and West-Germany with anti-communist activities. Barbie ultimately did not escape justice as he was extradited to France in 1983, where he was convicted for his crimes. He died in prison.

The above not limited to the Nazis alone - the Japanese had their fair share of war criminals operating during World War II. Equally gruesome to Mengele's experiments were those of Unit 731, a research unit of the Japanese Imperial army.

The acts of Unit 731 make for

a difficult. Over 250,000 people were exposed to awful acts that one wouldn't think human beings are capable of. These include vivisections without anaesthetic, some prisoners had vital organs removed to see how their bodies would react or they were infected with deadly diseases. Some inmates were infected with venereal diseases and were forced to have intercourse with other prisoners after which the subsequent effects were studied.

It didn't end there. Scores of prisoners had their limbs frozen and hacked to pieces in order to research the effects of frostbite, whereas others served as guinea pigs in weapons trials - ranging from chemical and biological weapons to grenades and flame-throwers.

When the Americans discovered the activities of Unit 731 (and

a few related units) they were keen to get the research data in their possession, as the Americans would never have been able to experiment in the same manner. After promising immunity to those involved with Unit 731, the Americans got the research of Unit 731 in their hands. Though some members of the Unit were caught by the Soviet Union and put to death, many perpetrators went free after the Americans released them and continued living their out lives to their natural ends. The atrocities they committed rival those of the Nazis, yet they have not made the history books.

Compare what happened to the above criminals to the fate of Julius Streicher, the publisher of *Der Stürmer* - the anti-Jewish tabloid paper - and unapologetic Nazi. Though not a member of the Nazi government, the mili-

tary, the intelligence services or involved in the planning of the Holocaust, Streicher was found guilty of crimes against humanity. He was hanged in October 1946.

Streicher's contribution to antisemitism certainly was deplorable, but if his acts were punishable by death, why weren't the crimes of the likes of Unit 731, Klaus Barbie and others similarly served justice?

The nuance needed to the history of the Nuremberg Trials and the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal is: deplorable criminals of the war were put on trial - politicians, generals and ideologists. In other words: people the Allies had no use for. The criminals they *did* have use for escaped justice, and by and large, a mention in the history books; otherwise they'd be a blemish on the "good vs. evil" narrative we've come to accept as fact.

# Democracy And Momentum

By Alan Davies

There is a battle being waged for its soul. Is democracy best served by one member one vote or by a conference of delegates? This is the debate of the moment within momentum. The organization seems to be riven apart between its leadership and its grass root activists some of who are feeling that promises of democracy are not being acted on. We talked to the two main protagonists, Jackie Walker and Jon Lansman, to find their views on the subject as well as activists up and down the country.

On the face of it having one member one vote decided electronically would seem to be a very modern and enlightened idea. What could possibly be wrong with that? To get a sense of the member's suspicions we have to look back at the short history of the organization.

Momentum began with euphoria as JC won the leadership in September 2015. The first elections in Momentum were hurried through in February of this year. With very short notice officers were elected even before people knew each other. People felt a bit

pressurised. Also at this time a dictate went out from the self-appointed leadership that members of parties other than Labour were not welcome. The promised broad left alliance was instantly crushed. This putting the break on organic growth allowed some strange decisions to develop such as in Plymouth the Progress councillor, Jonny Morris, being elected by that Momentum as their social media secretary. A purge developed as nascent Momentum groups were ordered to be closed by a dictatorial bunch of young Labour activists. By May of 2016 pressure from below had caused the leadership to call a second set of elections. Again these were called in a hurry with just over two weeks to nominate and vote. All Momentum groups were told to register and put in place new officers in newly invented positions. The influx of money seemed to be prioritised over natural growth. Membership fees of £10 began to be charged. There were accusations of election rigging. A drip feeding of orders was passed down to a selected few. There were secret "steering groups" as well as face book groups, loomio groups, messenger groups. ETC, ETC.

Matters came to a head this Thursday with an emergency meeting being called of the Momentum national steering committee. In a desperate bid to keep control out of the hands of the activists an electronic voting system was proposed. A long time Portsmouth activist, Mick Skiggs said, "Those who do the work should have the say. It is all very well as long as an agenda is added and proper debates take place." We contacted John Lansman over this who said "We certainly are going to have a conference in February, live streamed, and at the end of that conference a decision will be taken by all of our members. Now I can't see anything wrong with that, I think that is better than having decisions taken by delegates."

From the other side of the argument, Jackie Walker feels that Lansman is disturbed by her persona as a black Jewish woman and by her politics. She says of Lansman, "He believes we should stop using Zionism as a word and what this is all about is an ideological difference" This ideological difference could be the catalyst that splits Momentum in two.

## Statement

By Jackie Walker

I am making a statement on the working of the Momentum Steering Committee.

Up till now, despite others commenting freely, and often in an uninformed way, I have agreed to be silent. However, events of the last few days have changed this.

'Almost immediately after the Jewish Labour Movement began to tweet against me after the training event, a 'senior member' of Momentum joined in, briefing the press, in particular a Guardian journalist, Jessica Elgot. Interestingly those tweets have since been removed, though screenshots have been taken. This was very soon followed by full articles, both in the on-line and paper version, which said "The Guardian understands her removal from the post is likely to be confirmed when the committee meets on Monday. A spokesperson for the left wing grassroots movement, which was set up to support Jeremy Corbyn as leader of the party, confirmed members wanted her to go." I was also informed by the Guardian, as were others on the Steering Committee, at the same time as the Guardian readership, the date and outcome of the meeting to remove me. Included in this same article were comments by Manuel Cortes, Gen Sec of the TSSA, threatening to remove Momentum from TSSA premises if I were not removed. This came, I believe, soon after Cortes had publicly called me a rabid anti-Semite, or something to that effect.

While the press may have known when the meeting to remove me would be, as well as the result, I was given only 48 hours notice of the hearing and no details either of how it would be run or what the charges were against me, despite repeated requests. The extraordinary spectacle of a group of

trades unionist treating a comrade in a way THEY would not accept had they been representing me as trades unionist was shameful to our movement. No statement was taken from me or from anyone who had been at the JLM training event. The irony is the SC used evidence from the same media sources that had recently condemned Jeremy as an incompetent, an antisemite and a terrorist.

After this kangaroo court, I asked for a complaint of this process to be forwarded to the NC and for an investigation to be launched about the leak. A meeting of the SC voted against giving me access to the NC. I know who leaked, as do many people on the SC.

As to the most recent example of the lack of democracy of the SC, on Thursday at 10:30pm I received a notification of an emergency SC meeting. There was no mention of a discussion on how the conference would be run. A number of people could not make, or would not agree to come to such a meeting. A number of people, including myself and Matt Wrack, protested as to undemocratic process. Some members agreed to phoned in. Imagine my shock the next morning at being informed both that the NC was to be postponed and that the decision had been made by the SC that conference votes would be made on line. This occurred even though at least 2 papers were outlining different process of voting at conference had been tabled for discussion at the (now cancelled) NC.

The sovereign body is the NC. The SC is there to implement their decisions. This is an outrage.

The two examples I describe here are just the most well known of a general culture of disdain which too many members of the SC have supported. It is crucial that this changes.

## The fight for Momentum

Jackie Walker is frightening, a hate figure, terrifying, obviously originates from the planet Zog. How do I know this? Well, simple, you don't get black Jews...do you? A female, black, Jew with an opinion...how dare she. Of course she had to be removed from vice chair of Momentum. Just to clarify for any Sun readers out there (oxymoron in itself) a *vice* chair is nothing to do with prostitution. Glad we cleared that one up.

How and why did Jackie Walker upset the rest of the largely self-appointed Momentum steering committee, and who leaked the details of her comments to the press about it all. Sources

have told us that Manuel Cortez, head of the TSSA union, was responsible. Hardly surprising as Manuel has given office space at TSSA headquarters to the Momentum organization. Jon Lansman (the Momentum founder) is quite close to Cortez, literally. Manuel is currently laid up with a spider bite that became infected. Oh what a tangled web we...

Why does Lansman see Walker as a problem? Is he threatened by her? Well, of course he is. Walker's lifelong activism on the streets against racism and her increasing popularity amongst the membership may well make him feel edgy about his own position.

The bigger picture, however, is the word that brings out the dictionaries as fists fly over its definition: Zionism.

Is Zionism the right of Israel to exist or the right of the Israeli government to stop Palestine existing? Are we to always be afraid of saying that some people in Israel do bad things? Do we leave the Gaza tragedy to be decided solely by Israel? If Jon Lansman is trying to bring the different strands of Left wing Labour together by sacrificing Jackie Walker then we cannot support him as truth and justice always needs to trump (no pun intended) political expediency.

Since it was formed on the back of the first Corbyn victory as Labour party leader Momentum has been attacked in the press as a Trotsky organization to be feared, but is it? A case in point would be to look at some of the people behind the scenes. The Wheelers and dealers. One in particular (let's call him Sam.)

Sam is from a middleclass background of a northern town and was Oxford educated. He was hand-picked by the equally middle class elite who see momentum as their

## The Wheelers and dealers at Momentum



own private army. Although Sam was not elected by his own Momentum branch on a Friday, by the Saturday he was a regional delegate, a few weeks later he was sitting on Momentum's steering committee. For those that don't know, a steering committee is a place for telling the troops what to do, because there has to be officers...doesn't there. Sam had

tried to be elected as a delegate before but it wasn't to be when he was rumbled calling a meeting but not inviting Momentum members to it.

Sam really is a Wheeler, and dealer. If you have ever read the sort of science fiction story where they go back in time and stop a terrible wrong from happening you will know all about Sam. He is that terrible wrong.

# A year on from the NHS Choir hit Christmas single, could the public sector strike back again

Down in deepest Devon, overlooking the Tamar, sits Plymouth. A city perhaps best known for Sir Francis Drake who reputedly carried on with his bowls match on Plymouth Hoe whilst watching the mighty Spanish armada sail past. Of course Drake went on to finish his match before setting sail and routing the invaders. In modern times it's also well known for being the home of a naval dockyard and the Royal Marines. Few people know much about Plymouth City Council and even fewer it's hard pressed staff.

One of the few large scale civilian employers in the city, Plymouth City Council has been in retreat for several years. Of course nobody talks about job cuts less still service cuts, but 'transformation', several 'restructures' and a period of 'continuous improvement' have left council staff reeling. Falling staff numbers, an over large reliance on agency staff and daily contact with an angry public who don't realise that services are being cut by stealth has left the morale of many staff on the floor.

Before you start thinking this is a story about public sector workers in retreat, think again. Down in Plymouth the workers aren't just fighting back they are singing out. A year after the



spectacular success of the NHS Choir, Plymouth's 'Sound Council' are making their voices heard. They have no agenda or political message, but as Marshall McLu-

han once said, "the medium is the message". The medium in this case being a group of hard pressed public sector workers who won't be ground down. In-

stead they get together and sing at least twice weekly, sing at events around the city regularly and are now about to release a charity Christmas single.

'We Don't Need Snow' was penned by HR advisor and musical maestro Simon Elvin in 2011. Since then the workers choir he formed has seen many changes and has grown in confidence and aspiration. Now they've gone to the next step, self funded a trip to the recording studio and are releasing 'We Don't Need Snow' to an audience that mainly hasn't yet heard of them on Friday 4th November.

Can they match their NHS counterparts? Who knows and maybe that's the point. They aren't doing this for the fame or the money. They are doing this to do what most council workers do best. Helping out others. So they've released a Christmas



single that may or may not reach the widest audience. However it's got one of those catchy tunes that you can't get out of your head, so it's well placed to get noticed. Whatever the outcome one thing is certain. Public sector workers won't be silent

'We Don't Need Snow' is being released on Friday 4th November and is available on download from all the usual music download sources.





The Tibetan plateau, a vast upland area in the middle of central Asia is at 16,000 feet above sea level and 20 times the size of England. The main crop is barley and, until the Chinese who occupied Tibet in 1950 implemented forced resettlement, half the population were tent-dwelling nomads, wandering across the grasslands with their flocks. The staple diet is "tsampa", flour made from roasted barley; this is mixed into dough with salty butter tea, and washed down with more butter tea.

The air is thin and winters freezing cold, so in this environment Tibetans are a tough and hardy people. Historically, they were a warrior race who, from the 7th century, forged the Tibetan Empire. Triumphant Tibetan armies conquered vast territories, including parts of China, and ruled them for 250 years. In 763 they even captured and looted the Chinese capital, Xian.

Over this period, however, the pacifying influence of Indian Buddhism spread into Tibet and Tibetans slowly lost their war-like habits. The 'Era of Fragmentation' followed, leaving a multitude of separate tribes and small kingdoms by the 11th century. It was another 600 years before the line



of Dalai Lamas arose as religious and temporal leaders. In 1642, after a civil war, an assembly of leaders unanimously appointed him to rule the whole of Tibet and for over 300 years he and his successors ruled by common consent. Mongolian armies had become his followers and supported him but

they were expelled after their enemy China's first invasion of Tibet in 1720.

Buddhism became the national religion, deeply embedded in Tibetan culture. Most villages had monasteries to which every family sent a child to study. Indian Bud-

folk were devout believers and the monks and adepts included many great scholars, masters and authors who studied the religious culture, philosophy and science of Buddhism in depth.

A devastating change came in 1950. Tibet was invaded by Mao's Chinese communists who claimed to be "liberating" Tibetan "serfs" from their "feudal lords". Tibetan monasteries and other institutions were destroyed on a grand scale and by 1959 the young 14th Dalai Lama fled into exile in India with 100,000 Tibetan refugees. Tibetans were humiliated during the Cultural Revolution that followed and according to Chinese figures 1.2 million were killed. Even today, China exerts "merciless repression" over Tibet, but those who escaped into exile have established themselves around the world and prospered. The Dalai Lama himself, although he remains what he calls "a simple Buddhist monk", and a stateless person, became a world-renowned figure. A major poll recently placed him as the world's most popular leader, alongside Barack Obama. He is now 81 years old but still inspires Tibetans to keep the hope of Tibetan independence alive.

dhism was wiped out in the 13th century but the entire living tradition and teachings had already been transmitted to Tibet, where they were maintained and passed down to succeeding generations. Thus Tibet became a repository of Buddhist knowledge which lasted until the present day. The common

# THE 100<sup>TH</sup> DOCKYARD DERBY, WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Recently I attended the 100th 'dockyard derby', the footballing contest between the footballing champions of Plymouth and Portsmouth, the country's two biggest and oldest naval dockyards. Many around the UK will know and probably care little about the contest, but as both a football fan and a socialist here's why I believe we should.

As a football fan I attend a lot of matches and quite a few as an 'honorary' Pompey fan, as I have a good friend who is a season ticket holder. I also have an older and deeper affinity as I grew up with Jimmy Dickinson as a footballing hero of my dad and today Dickinson's face can still be seen in the carefully arranged blue and white seating in the Fratton End at Portsmouth.

This is a match of passion, pedigree and history, between two similar communities on the south coast, both gritty communities that grew around naval dockyards. Both cities have seen better days too, although Portsmouth (nearer to London) has fared better. Both cities have seen investment but Plymouth lags far behind mainly due to poor transport links that no government has seen fit to invest sufficiently in. Whilst Portsmouth boasts Gunwharf Quays, the Spinaker Tower and its tourism built

on its historic status, Plymouth has Drakes Circus with its 'flagship' Primark Store, an empty 1960's tower block that has listed building status (the former Civic Centre) and the excellent although somewhat over commercial Royal William Yard, a site steeped though in naval history.

Despite the gloss and the redevelopment both cities have unmissable chunks of poverty and it's perhaps no surprise that UKIP have thrived in those parts of Plymouth where dockyard workers were once the mainstay. Where once there were over 20,000 people working in Plymouth's dockyard, today there's nearly as many looking for work locally as there are locals working in the dockyard.

On the football front there are similarities too. Once proud Pom-

pey were reduced from the Premier League to the brink of extinction by owners who represented the worst face of football, whilst in the same period Plymouth also came close to disaster again due to the shenanigans of their owners. Plymouth at the time credible contenders for promotion to the top division fell through to league two, where the two clubs now vie with each other for the right to begin their journey back up through the leagues. Fitting then that the match was a hard fought and close encounter. First Argyle took the lead through a Yann Songolo header on 20 minutes and against the run of play. Argyle then dominated the rest of the first half but failed to add to their total until Kyle Bennett shot Pompey level shortly before half time. After the break Portsmouth grew in confidence and rightly took the lead with a 20 yard

screamer from Portsmouth substitute Danny Rose. Had referee Darren Hindley had the same view of play as the travelling faithful and awarded what seemed a clear cut penalty two minutes later, then the three points could have been heading back to Fratton. However it was not to be and it was left for Plymouth substitute Connor Smith to smash home from fifteen yards a minute from time and ensure that the spoils were shared.

Away from the football and despite the working class roots of both communities Portsmouth now has two Conservative MP's and Plymouth three. Plymouth's two working class seats also produced around 15,000 UKIP voters in 2015, matching a similar number in Portsmouth. These are areas that both had Labour representation a decade ago where now the

combined votes of UKIP and the Conservative's heavily outnumber Labour. Plymouth even has a 'Bluekip' run council now and Labour have work to do if they are to take it back in 2018. Clearly it's not just the two cities and their football clubs that are in need of a revival, it's their communities and their sense of working class solidarity that need reconstructing too. Whether Labour can do this may depend on how effective the new left, led by Momentum activists, can be in turning the party back to their working class roots. These cities may be on the south coast but they are steeped in working class tradition and just like similar communities in the north, they are sending out a clear message. The days of 'New Labour' are well and truly over, along with its spin and bluster. Perhaps if Labour can credibly offer to build a future where half a million council homes get built within one parliament, where social and economic disadvantage gets redressed by a socialist government and where having genuinely functional transport links between Plymouth and the rest of the country is deemed more important than shaving seven minutes off the journey time between London and Birmingham for those lucky enough to afford the rail fare. Maybe even the combined masses of the Devonport and Fratton ends might raise a glass to that?





# DEFENDING BIG SAM

*By Steve Sutton.*

When I got my first Bolton kit they were in division four. Over the years, we've been through a lot. Earning a Premiership slot from 2-0 down at Wembley, trips abroad for UEFA cup ties - I've seen this team take 98 points and 100 league goals in one season. Good times - even today, when you consider where we started.

The best came under Sam Allardyce. Big Sam is a magician; with little funding he produced record consistency at Bolton, taking them from the relegation zone to regular top-eight finishes. The world saw what the team - and the manager - are capable of achieving.

Sam played a money-ball game, importing a level of statistical scru-

tiny not seen in football before. At times the play may have seemed workman-like; methodical set pieces, free kicks and corners as the basis of goals - consistent goals.

It may be a long time before we once again see such a standard at the Macron. For this Bolton fan, it would have been a joy to see another poor performing team play to its best.

The England team, the 'impossible challenge' of British football, has excellent potential. Under the guidance of a man proven to use skilled players well - and with little money - the team could have proven truly world-class.

The England challenge is not just one of player management, but to work with a Premiership who field the best players in England. Who could be better than a former Premiership manager

proven to grasp its inner workings?

We'll never know. Big Sam didn't have the chance to try, and I think unfairly. It may prove controversial, but for this Big Sam fan it couldn't be simpler. In a corrupt arena, we asked him to fix the England team.

The Telegraph identified systematic financial impropriety throughout the Premiership. If half of it is corrupt, that is clearly how it works. Of course we should fix it. We should fix corruption everywhere - and football is clearly a shameful business.

We should not shame Big Sam, whose real crime is being skilled at the corruption we have asked him to deal in. To pretend it is OK for the Premiership but not for England lacks a sense of fair play. If football is corrupt, perhaps England should be.

It's just not cricket.