

THE WORD

Issue 9, November 2016.

£1



Do We Have Democracy



Shock of Trump **Page 4**

Palestinian women's football comes to Liverpool **Page 38**

Secret DWP documents **Page 14**

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

YOUR NHS IS BEING PRIVATISED!



THE PETERLOO PROJECT

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

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

THE
WORD

Editor

Peter Loo

News Editor

Jamie Lewis
Guido Paine

Cartoonists

Smuzz

Website

George Christophorou

Advertising sales manager

Mike Christian

Advertising sales

John Ball

Overseas news

Roxanne Checkley

Cartoon strips

Andy Keir
Alan Davies

Sub editor

Julie Stephens
Alex Taylor

Reporters

Jason Hughes, Adam Douglas, Danny Josephs, Andrew Middleton, George Galloway, Ian Cockerham, Alex dommerholt, John Wilkins, Maddie Wallace, W Stephen Gilbert, Julie Ward MEP, Peter Stevanovic

Quiz master

Phil Brown

www.thewordmedia.org.uk

WHO PRIVATISED



Tony Blair

From 2003, successive waves of independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) were opened throughout England. Run by private companies for profit, ISTCs were contracted (often on very favourable terms) to provide solely NHS elective procedures, creating extra capacity in the system to bring down waiting lists, and at the same time forcing existing providers to polish up their act if they wanted to hang on to any of their more "profitable" work. In parallel, the best NHS hospitals were able to apply for the new foundation trust status, which freed them from public-service constraints to operate more like private businesses.

Blair cut government funding to the NHS. Instead he borrowed to fund hospital building under the PFI scheme. PFI will cost the taxpayers £209 billion over the next 35 years. Blair only borrowed £12.2 billion yet we are paying that back 18 times over.

David Cameron

PM during the introduction of The 2012 Health and Social Care Act, despite widespread public aversion he pressed on with this legislation which passed patient care from government to regional providers, who are increasingly private. That was despite the Tory lie of keeping the NHS safe. The hated Andrew Lansley was the main architect of the Act. Cameron refused to sack him despite widespread opposition within his party.

He abolished NHS primary care trusts (PCTs) and Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) and transferred between £60 billion and £80 billion of "commissioning", or health care funds, from the abolished PCTs to several hundred "clinical commissioning groups", partly run by the general practitioners (GPs) in England but a major point of access for private service providers.

George Osborne

George Osborne's spending plans amount to a cut to the real wider health budget by over 20 per cent over the next five years despite headline promises to increase NHS spending, a new analysis shows. Researchers at the Health Foundation, an independent charity, said the Chancellor had cut health services by redefining and reducing the scope of services provided by NHS England - meaning he could keep his pledge not to cut core services while still making cuts.

Andrew Lansley

The architect of the 2012 Health and Social Care Act. The act is a privatisation of the NHS act. The Tories with their media lackies have rebranded privatisation as clinical commissioning groups and independent service providers. This was such a heinous act that he was moved from the post to be replaced by the even more hated Jeremy Hunt. While preparing the white paper that led to the act in 2009, then shadow health secretary Andrew Lansley received £21,000 to his personal office from John Nash, then chairman of the private healthcare company Care UK. In 2013, 96 per cent of Care UK's business, amounting to over £400 million, came from the NHS. Andrew Lansley and his expenses fiddling during the expenses scandal make him a new contender for top 10 dishonest politicians.

DO YOUR NHS?

By George Christoforou



Jeremy Hunt

This has to be one of the most hated figures still left in the Tory government, doing a task so unpopular that Theresa May could not find any volunteers to replace him. Current health secretary Jeremy Hunt received two donations to his constituency office from hedge fund boss Andrew Law. Law has donated over £600,000 to the Tories and his firm holds multi-million healthcare investments. He was also caught up in the expenses scandal to the tune of £9500. The junior doctors contract is so horrendous and unfair that 98% of them voted for strike action. Record amounts of junior doctors are emigrating or leaving the profession. In 2009 Mr Hunt co-wrote a book on how to privatise the NHS.

Richard Branson

Virgin Care has been handed contracts worth over £700 millions to run more than 230 NHS and social care services. It is one of at least 10 private health firms seeking state-funded contracts whose company structures include tax havens. Virgin care is part of a complex network of companies that ultimately pay money via tax-deductible loans to a parent company in the British Virgin Islands and into Branson's pocket. This is Branson's tax dodging scheme. He has very recently developed a long standing interest in healthcare dating back to when he started the charity Student Advisory Centre in the early 1970's. In short our tax-payers money that is allocated for the NHS goes to Branson, who makes a profit, and who does not pay tax.



The Patients Eye the way it works

I am that patient; I see it all from my end of things. I can only report what I perceive to be the case.

The Health Secretary may tell you differently; his grinning head pops up on TV and he makes his eyes go REALLY HUGE and tells us about the amount of money he's personally giving to the National Health Service, but he's not been around when I've seen an oncologist, or my consultants, the radiologists, specialist nurses or the Macmillan team. When I've spoken to the Head of the Trust, hospital administrators, the ward sister and healthcare assistants, I've felt that I was with people who actually give a damn about the NHS and about me. I've not felt that one of them might go off to co-author a study saying that what we needed was a Big Version (or many small versions) of Private Health Insurance rather than the NHS.

For months, years even, I go to my GP to complain about symptoms in the lower abdomen; I am fobbed off. It says so repeatedly in my 80 pages of medical notes, bought from my local Health Centre.

"The patient was sent away and reassured," (fobbed off.)

I find I cannot pass urine very well, and that despite antibiotics, it hurts when I do. The GP says to 'retrain my bladder.' Almost five months have been spent not really trying to find what's up with me. Five hours after I've seen a senior partner and been sent away again, I am admitted to A&E. I have cancer - inoperable, incurable and aggressive; I'm about two years too late to 'catch it in time.'

When GPs don't know what to do, they might be expected to 'refer' patients to someone who does - a specialist. Why they don't like referring to specialists could be because there is a cost implication to doing so, unless they 'Fast Track' the patient. At what point on my long and winding road they might have 'fast tracked' my case I don't know, possibly at some time in 2010 or 2011 when The Patient Was Sent Away and Reassured. But fast tracking earns the practice a sum of money; presumably to spend on referring other patients they have failed to fast track. Will someone tell me if I've got this wrong?

My neighbour, an NHS patient, is to have an operation very soon, at a private hospital working 'within the NHS.' Who pays them? Do they work at NHS rates, or do we pay them the same fees they'd get from treating Dud Fivers or Skanky Banknotes, the flash kids from further up the road who get 'Private Health Perks' with their jobs in money laundering, tax dodging, and currency speculation?

I believe, and you can tell me otherwise if you know better, that the cost of this farmed-out treatment comes from the funds you and I supply via taxation to the NHS, and which is then directed towards the possibly tax-avoiding Health Companies whose NHS trained staff provide the treatment, thus handing nice dividends to the companies' owners, including Tory cabinet ministers. Perhaps the grinning head with the REALLY HUGE EYES will tell us how much of OUR money he has decided to divert into the pockets of these people, his people.

Is this how it works?

Have no doubt; Trump is well and truly part of the US Establishment, certainly in both economic terms and his relationship to the movers and shakers of the global economic system. He has somehow managed to project himself as anti-establishment figure so as to please the voters, who are probably ignorant of just how embedded he's been in the system they think they're voting against, but now he's in power we'll see his true colours.

Neoliberals running the global economy for over three decades spectacularly failed the greater part of humanity. Cracks in their economic system really were most evident in the catastrophic world banking crash of 2008. Although the West attempted to paper over the cracks with billions of dollars, pounds, and euros they didn't fix the underlying problems. The huge dissatisfaction felt globally by a majority who feel massively economically stressed due to wages not increasing in real terms for over thirty years, and then the fact that real wealth has been concentrated in the hands of a tiny percentage of society has deepened their misery. The current economic system is fundamentally rigged against most people in favour of the wealthy who secure their prosperity by investing in global corporations and financial institutions - something that the majority of people cannot do.

Donald Trump's election as President is to Hilary Clinton,

PRESIDENT TRUMP BUSINESS AS USUAL?



her supporters in the worldwide MSM, and the political establishment, earth shattering. Their complacent belief that they should remain in power by right is sheer arrogance. Helpful and manipulative media have

striven to make this happen so will be embarrassed at realising how badly they have misjudged things. Bernie Sanders opposed Hilary Clinton as a serious anti-Establishment Democratic candidate; but the party's convo-

luted voting system gave him no chance of selection. It is unfortunate for the Democrats that this one person who might have defeated Trump was unfavourably reported on, beaten by Clinton and the DNC in the primaries,

and so never given chance to prove himself.

It's interesting that the BBC and other British media still ignore the probability that Sanders could have been an effective opposition to Trump. In their hearts they would perhaps rather have a Trump victory than a socialist running the USA, for when the dust has settled they'll accept the neoliberal economy in President Trump's hands as "normality" no matter what other things he said during his campaign.

Fundamentally, the mainstream media would rather support a man like Donald Trump than anyone who might bring about the kind of change people cry out for: proper health care, decent housing and standard of living, security to go about their lives without fear, a good education for their children, jobs, and a robust economy that benefits all not just the 1%.

Rather a demagogue like Trump in the White House than someone like Bernie Sanders, and in Britain rather than Jeremy Corbyn in power. We need to beware.

Shock of Trump

If anything is redolent of our new 'post-liberal' zeitgeist, the shock electoral victory of Donald Trump's presidential bid of November 2016 takes pride of place. With uncanny echoes of our own Brexit referendum, the pollsters and conventional political thinking has been completely up-ended, much to the chagrin of the establishment commentariat. Punditry from the doyens of television anchors like Dimpleby betrays a bemusement and a barely concealed distaste at the implosion of 'liberal' orthodoxies, particularly at the hands of the uneducated hoi polloi.

Trump has prevailed against the limitations of his own personal ineptitude and crudities, survived against the superior media agility and slick machinery and assured public performance of Clinton and defied the antipathy

of his own party mainstream. Trump's victory was made possible against all these otherwise crippling limitations because he demonstrated sufficient will and guile to latch into this post liberal malaise, the huge hangover of the credit crunch that we inherited from the spectacular heady years of globalisation and market fundamentalism.

Hilary Clinton never really enjoyed the popularity and élan of Obama. She was too much the continuity candidate in her particular brand of Clintonite triangulation and her hawkish domestic and foreign policy stances. Lest we forget, it was Bill Clinton's Democratic presidency that pulped the last vestiges of the Roosevelt safety net and ended welfare as we know it. Who needed Reaganomics?

It was Trump and not Clinton who spoke explicitly of re-

jecting economic orthodoxy by recourse to a new era of protectionism, torpedoing the notorious TTIP and TPP deals into the bargain. Unfortunately we will never know for sure if Bernie Saunders would have fared better in this contest. What marks out our new era is the failure of the left to sufficiently differentiate itself from the global cosmology of the capitalists with its dogmatic adherence to free trade and laissez-faire. Have the left co-opted themselves with liberal globalisation to such a zenith that it now the recalibrated 'alt right' who represent the most substantial challenge to business as normal? As in Britain it seems we are witness to a tentative and novel uncoupling of capitalism and conservatism. It is certainly unnerving that the new 'anti-capitalism' (if we can call it that) is being incubated at the other end of the political spectrum which suggests our conventional understandings now lie in tatters.

TRUMP'S VICTORY A FEW FIRST THOUGHTS

by Tariq Ali

1. A huge defeat for the liberal extreme centre establishment. Read Friedman, Krugman in the NYT and Freedland in the Guardian for virtually identical grief: it makes for comical reading. The DNC decided to hurl excrement at Sanders during the primaries. The boomerang effect is now visible to all. Podesta's face is covered in it... It was a disastrous decision. And the Clinton pall-bearers in the liberal media helped achieve this result with their almost uncritical support of Clinton. A Sanders/Elizabeth Warren ticket could have defeated Trump. It was effectively sabotaged and Warren decided on hara-kiri at the Clinton altar.
2. It is a massive indictment of the Obama Presidency. For if Clinton lost the Presidency, Obama lost the Senate. All the self-congratulation by the Obama White House on how he had turned the country after 2008 was never credible. Nor are the Seven Wars (count them) and daily



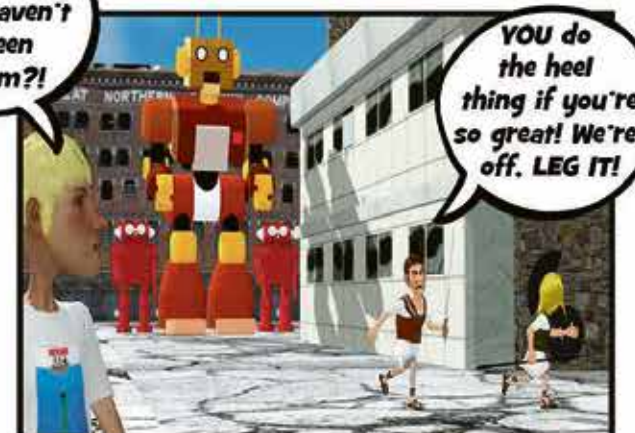
drone strikes for which he is responsible. He was Wall Street's friend. The price is the Trump Presidency.

3. Many White workers who voted Obama did not vote for Clinton. He failed them and she offered nothing new. Nothing. Unliked and untrusted, all she wanted was power. This was so obvious that the mask simply didn't work.
4. The US Left has lacked a political party since Eugene Debs' time. To fight Trump they must break the dog-like coital lock that goes into effect at election time. The probability is that they won't. If 'Fascism' has won the House, the Senate and the White House then a popular front with 'progressive' Wall Street seems inevitable.

XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD: PART 9



PREVIOUSLY: As it turns out, the Queen of Fleecers was somewhat rather unexpectedly well armed, and decidedly non-cooperative when it came to fiscal matters. Beating a hasty retreat...er...tactical withdrawal, our heroes decide to return t'North in an attempt to uncover what these Tory things are - and the tales of woe that surround them...



By Sebastian Melmouth

As multinationals become our only suppliers, we have less choice in our shops. They all sell the same things - and that's the same products as from Arkansas to Seoul. Same washing powder. Same biscuits.

There used to be more choice about poppies too.

When the day of Remembrance was invented - to try to give the impression that something had been achieved by the carnage of WWI - the message was 'Never Again' and every warmonger that has laid wreaths at the cenotaph has pretended to believe that.

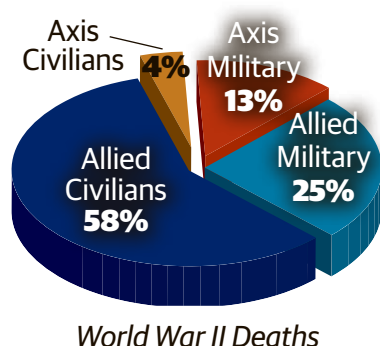
Even from the beginning, there were two poppies - the red which 'Honoured our Glorious Dead' and the white - which 'Honoured all Suffering - military AND civilian' of the war.

Amongst the more than 38 million deaths in WWI, WWI is estimated to be about 10 million - about 40% of casualties. That was the last major war in which 'Military' and 'Civilian' were kept - theoretically - separate. Over the last century, wars have become more concentrated on civilian populations than on military. Our current 'War on Terror' which the Day of Remembrance is now used to legitimise - has killed over 4 million civilians (Muslims) since 2003. Civilians, in all wars, now form 90% of the casualties - but they are never mentioned in the militaristic Day of Remembrance. They are - in fact - excluded from the entire thing.

Where once the British Legion used to concentrate its campaigns on the support of ex-servicemen and a solemn resolve 'not to go to war unless it's really necessary', the three Hates - the Mail, the Express and the Sun have changed the meaning of the red poppy to 'Support for Our Heroes in the War On Terror' - it is now no longer a facile anti-war sentiment, but outright pro-war propaganda.



As a child of parents who had both fought in WW2, the Day of Remembrance was taken seriously and the Three Minute Silence was observed, even if we were in the forest. The awfulness of 'The War against fascism' was still fresh and any other war was recognised to be an abomination the Day of Remembrance bore testimony to. Like Harry Smith of 'Harry's Last Stand', I can no longer wear a red



poppy. To do so is to show support for a war for oil in which whole countries are bombed for being stupid enough to have existed for thousands of years on what is now a strategic location in our grab for dwindling oil reserves.

IN the same way - the UK branch of Veterans for Peace campaign for the rights of soldiers after they've

been used up by the war machine - AND for a questioning of the use of the poor working class as cannon fodder for what is always 'Business by other means'. Each year, they march - out of uniform - to the Cenotaph to lay their own wreath. They are not mentioned in the Media.

But - whilst once you could buy a white poppy from a WW2 Veteran or a boy scout on the British Legion stall. Nowadays, they prefer to man these stalls by fit, committed young men who will tell you it's your duty to support our troops. They have never heard of a white poppy.

Wearing a white poppy was always likely to get you in an argument with a warmonger. "That's the coward's poppy" they'd say. Never mind that this poppy was designed very much with ambulance drivers in mind - those people who refused to kill but, instead, went into the very worst of the fighting to save lives - and had an attrition rate only less than that of fighter pilots.

To wear a white poppy is to make a very public stance against the militarisation of our society. A society which is encouraged to scream "Foul!" because Fifa has always had laws which say 'No badges for religious, patriotic or commercial

messages', That the red poppy is all three of these things is - to the Three Hates - not an argument. They insist that our lads MUST be allowed to wear their black armbands with their red symbols on the pitch. One can imagine how outraged those same publications would be if another team were to ask to feature Muslim Aid armbands. But believing you are the exception to the rules is how hate works, and is working now all over the UK.

It's too late to get an official white poppy by post from the White Poppy Campaign but there's a simple and fun Blue Peter Solution to this.

Buy a red poppy and simply remove the red paper replace it with a lovingly cut bit of white card. Use the original petals' as a template. Unlike the red poppies which now have smaller petals than they used to be, you can give yourself as splendid a poppy as you like.

Even better - if you still have a poppy from last year - re-use that one - you should be doing this anyway. The point has always been the charity and wearing the Symbol - NOT how much plastic you can add to the annual landfill. The plastic bits will last for millions of years but will look 'fresh' for only a decade or so (I don't know... I've not had one longer than a decade).

So - where do you make your all-important donation? Which charity can YOU think of which would do the most to oppose war? I'd suggest something like Stop the War Coalition, Amnesty International, The Quakers, Hope Not Hate or even Christian or Muslim Aid - You just KNOW that last one would really annoy the Daily Mail, Sun and Express.

Have a good Day of Remembrance. Make it mean something decent - as it was meant to.

LINKS

Sebastian Melmouth

<http://www.ppu.org.uk/whitepoppy/index.html>

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

<https://vfpuk.org/>

What is Muslim Aid?

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

What a choice the American electorate had! Trump the egomaniac v Clinton the politically correct.

By George Christoforou

They chose the lesser of two evils. Trump grabbed many of Bernie Sanders anti-establishment sentiments from the left and coupled them with the anti-immigrant sentiments of the right. He easily tied Clinton with the establishment. When times are economically hard the electorate needs either someone to blame or hope. Trump blamed every one and won. He also promised false hope. Despite the hos-

tility of the media, the unelectable Trump won.

But what does his victory mean? Besides the fact that the democrats stole the candidacy from Bernie Sanders, who should have been the President, it shows that despite a media hostile to the anti-establishment candidate and the negative polls, that the electorate will vote against the media. What does that mean for us? It means despite the rigged media machine the anti-establishment Jeremy Corbyn can win the next

election. The right wingers in the Labour party want business as usual while the electorate wants drastic change. Middle of the road complacent politics will not do our working class voters who we have abandoned need hope and change. If we don't deliver it they will be offered blame and hate. The system isn't working and it hasn't been working for a long time. The Labour party of 1997-2010 delivered little in the way of meaningful work for our neglected communities.



The electorate will vote for the anti-establishment candidate. The polls are at best misleading, manipulating perceptions. Jeremy Corbyn can win the next election be it in 2017 or in 2020. The media can not be trusted. The Tories are hated far and wide. They have lied too many times. Their denial that people are being abused by the welfare system is wearing thin. Their platitudes that the economy is doing well does not match the reality of many people's lives.

STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

CHRIS THE CAREERIST #09

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.

Whilst The Media Were Moaning Over Trump The Tories Have Done Terrible Things

<http://breakingdownthnews.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/whilst-media-were-moaning-over-trump.html>

STE MATTHEW MURRAY
Richard Branson's Virgin Care wins £700million contract to run more

than 200 NHS services. Also, Fury as Scotland Yard buries damning child sex abuse report on day of US election

Housing minister exaggerates Tory record as building target is missed AGAIN

<http://anotherangryvoice.blogspot.co.uk/2016/11/amber-rudd-didnt-even-bother-looking-at.html>

<http://voxpolygonalonline.com/2016/11/11/housing-minister-exaggerates-tory-record-as-building-target-is-missed-again/>

Someone should tell Gavin Barwell not to play fast and loose with the facts.

His claim that house building rates were at their lowest since the 1920s when the Tories came back into office in 2010 may be accurate, but his claim of "significant progress" since then is nonsense.

In fact, George Osborne's first act as Chancellor was to slash housing investment by 60 per cent, resulting in a new housebuilding low, in 2012-13, of 135,500 dwellings.

So in fact, it is the Conservatives who are responsible for the lowest house building rate since the 1920s.

Barwell wasn't lying about 2010 - he just wasn't being honest about the situation now.

<http://www.thecanary.co/2016/11/11/largest-womens-prison-britain-will-turned-luxury-flats-government-gets-way/>

The largest women's prison in Britain will be turned into luxury flats, if the government gets its way

NOVEMBER 11TH, 2016 Tilly Grove

Holloway Prison was the largest women's prison in Western Europe when it was shut down in July 2016. Its closure has raised big questions, both about the future of

the land itself and the future of incarcerating women generally.

When then-Chancellor George Osborne announced the closure of the prison in November 2015, it was proposed as a solution to allowing women to serve sentences in "more

humane" conditions. Holloway, along with a number of other Victorian jails, is being sold as part of a government scheme to fund nine new prisons.

The government was clear from the outset that the sites would be sold for housing.

A deposit return scheme for Scotland?

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/oceans/deposit-return-scheme-scotland-20161111>

Posted by alicehunter - 11 November 2016

A truckload of plastic waste enters our oceans every minute.

When I first heard this statistic I couldn't believe it. But the evidence is all around us - from tiny microbeads in our toothpaste to images of seabirds with stomachs full of plastic. Plastic pollution is out of control.

In the UK alone, 35 million plastic bottles are used and discarded every single day. But how can we stem this tide of plastic?

Deposit return schemes are not a new idea, but they could help provide the solution to this unprecedented new plastic problem.

The concept is simple - when you buy a bottled drink you pay a little bit extra, and when you return the bottle, you get your money back.

<http://novaramedia.com/2016/11/11/5-things-momentum-needs-to-do-next/>

1. Acknowledge the politics of the situation and embrace the contradictions at the heart of project.

2. Stop trying to claim the 'new politics'.

3. Stop talking about 'Trots'.

4. Embrace a mixed system of democracy.

5. Establish basic democratic norms.

Best of

Best Websites

<http://www.thecanary.co/>

A formidable left wing news website with fresh and well written articles it is funded by on-line 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.

<http://thejusticegap.com/>

The site is run by Jon Robins (jon@thejusticegap.com; @JusticeGap). Jon is a journalist and has written about the law and justice for the national papers and specialist press for 15 years. Jon launched "thejusticegap" on October 6th 2011.

Glenn Greenwald: Why Did Trump Win? Blame the Failed Policies of the Democratic Party

http://www.democracynow.org/2016/11/10/glenn_greenwald_why_did_trump_win

NOVEMBER 10, 2016

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and one of the founding editors of The Intercept. His most recent piece is headlined "Democrats, Trump, and the On-going, Dangerous Refusal to Learn the Lesson of Brexit."

As President-elect Donald Trump

heads to the White House to meet with President Obama today, many in the media establishment are wondering how data journalism's predictions of this election were so wrong. As early as Tuesday morning, many media outlets, including The New York Times, were predicting Hillary Clinton had over an 80 percent chance of winning the presidency. Those predictions evaporated as soon as the poll numbers began rolling in Tuesday night.

Arch Labour Blairite heading committee proposing savage cuts to pensioners

<http://evolvepolitics.com/arch-labour-blairite-heading-committee-proposing-savage-cuts-to-pensioners/>

By Tom Barker

A cross-party committee has announced plans to cut state pensions, claiming that the British economy has become "heavily skewed" in favour of the baby-boomer generation.

Part of this program of cuts would see the "triple lock" on state pensions, which guarantees rises of at least 2.5% a year, scrapped by the end of the decade. But the committee, chaired by veteran right-wing Labour MP Frank Field, has also made it clear that benefits given to all pensioners, such as winter fuel payments, should not be "off limits" to government cuts.

'Secrecy has been the hallmark and curse of British government for centuries'

<http://thejusticegap.com/2016/10/secrecy-hallmark-curse-british-government-centuries/>

REVIEW: Ian Cobain is a formidable prosecutor. In *The History Thieves* and its predecessor *Cruel Britannia* (2012) he has put the British State in the dock and charged it with obsessive secrecy and crimes including torture, illegal

wars and extra-judicial executions. In the new book he rapidly chronicles the secret state's growth from 1657 (when the government authorised the opening of private letters as 'the best means to discover and prevent any dangerous and wicked designs against the Commonwealth') to the present panoply of secret courts and tribunals and Official Secrets Acts.

the new web

Spot On Ken Loach!

By Jack Cornes

For many years I have often wondered why this country is so obsessed with costume and period dramas, if it isn't Downton Abbey we have remakes of Pollock or the sexed up re-telling of the legendary Tolstoy masterpiece War & Peace. An awful lot of these period dramas also seem to focus on the domineering regal, high class sensationalism that is ingrained in our very culture. We see people of privilege dealing with the troubles and strife's of their class' way of life. I have yet to see a period drama based on George Orwell's experiences of living with the Northern Mining Communities, so vividly detailed in the classic The Road to Wigan Pier, during the 1930's or a period drama detailing how pioneer Kier Hardie formed the Labour movement. Glimpses of the working class are seen in the form of downstairs servants in most of the dramas I see and in no other capacity. Such windows, the British viewer is used to seeing through, focus on the reign of Queen Victoria and the aristocracy of the Crawley family in the Edwardian era onwards. Legendary British Director Ken Loach calls such dramas 'fake nostalgia' branding such dramas as Downton Abbey "This rosy vision of the past, it's a choice broadcasters make." Loach then goes on to elaborate "Don't bother your heads with what's going on now, just wallow in fake nostalgia'. It's bad history, bad drama. It puts your brain to sleep." Of course, the dramas I mention are very popular and are ratings hits. But they will be such is the British public's obsession with our aristocratic past and the class divide which still exists up and down the land. Our audiences don't need to be reminded of the Empire's imperialism under Victoria's reign; the Peterloo Massacre of 1819 under King George III or Churchill's responsibility for the man made famine of the 1943 Bengal Holocaust which caused 4 million deaths. Why have the truth when we can, as Ken Loach says 'wallow in fake nostalgia'.

Ken Loach is a visionary Film Director whose films such as Kes

(1969), Riff - Raff (1991) and the recently released I, Daniel Blake (2016) have a social narrative at their core. His films do not paper over parts of our past that the status-quo would conveniently prefer be forgotten. His works look at such topics such as poverty as seen in the classic drama Cathy Come Home (1966) five Yorkshire railway workers dealing with the privatisation of a railway maintenance organisation that they work for in The Navigators (2001) and a 59 year old joiner from North - East England who is forced to return to work despite failing health in I, Daniel Blake (2016). Of course someone from a more centre-right leaning will say I am the typical 'leftie' focussing on a specific aspect of British life. I warmly shake the hand of anyone who is dealing with the blunt and cruel sledgehammer that is the social realism of a working class person living in this country, a country that is obsessed with class distinction and royalty. A lot of what makes Britain is fake - royalty is fake, class is fake, materialism is fake. The work of Ken Loach is real, the work of George Orwell is real, the experiences of Kier Hardie were real and the experiences of Emmeline Pankhurst were real. Ken Loach's comments on British fascination with period dramas are extremely apt in our country today. We live in a country of food-banks, bedroom taxes and mass disability cuts but we still switch on the box to see how Queen Victoria wooed Prince Albert.

Ken Loach also spoke on an area which is increasingly concerning me, the state of the BBC News Coverage and its establishment heavy condemnation of Jeremy Corbyn. Mr Loach said that "Its notion of news has got to be challenged. The BBC is very aware of its role in shaping people's consciousness... it's manipulative and deeply political" When you see what the BBC are telling and not telling us as well as the right-wing encoding of Question Time and Daily Politics, etc these comments of Ken Loach's are, once again, frighteningly apt.

"I – DANIEL BLAKE" The Public And Private Humiliations Of Ordinary People



By Jacquie Walker

I knew what to expect but that didn't take away from the impact.

In many ways the story of I - Daniel Blake feels familiar - and so it should. There is nothing special about the main characters of Loach's film, Daniel and his single parent young mother of two friend, Kathy.

Many of us have seen these people before. Maybe we have been like them at some point in our lives, or our neighbours. Perhaps we've had friends fallen on hard times or seen what's happened to people we work with when their lives fall apart. Yes, the characters in I - Daniel Blake are us - or people we could easily become, if we fell on hard times and that's what's important about this film.

As I watched I - Daniel Blake, scenes of my own childhood, of cold and hunger, began to play them-

selves out, running my own story alongside the filmed scenes Loach's film wanted me to see. A mother gives up food so her children can eat. A woman wolfs down food, unable to wait any longer. Eating seemed, at that point in I - Daniel Blake, intensely private. Watching these scenes, the public and private humiliations of ordinary people struggling to cope on welfare, made me feel as if I had invaded something too intimate, something that should not be seen. How did we get to this? How did we get to allowing a million of our fellow citizens, many of them the working poor, to be humiliated by making them rely on food banks?

Yes, I was distressed as I watched I - Daniel Blake and I was grateful too. I gave thanks that I will never be hungry again. That I would never have to steal, never have to worry about buying sanitary towels and deodorant. But with that relief came anger too. I was angry that a single parent mother like Kathy, isolated and transported to the north to cleanse central London

of its poor, could have every shred of dignity so purposely stripped from her. I was angry that a proud, skilled man like Daniel, at a loss at how to deal with a welfare system that treats him as a scrounger while calling him a client, is hounded and shamed.

But there's humor and love in I - Daniel Blake too. There's compassion and tenderness and ultimately even a sort of triumph. As Daniel scrawls his mark on the walls of the Benefits Office it's as if we join in the cheers of passersby; he won't be silenced and neither should we. The simple kindness that develops between the two main characters is an act of rebellion against an establishment that treats as people we can, and should, forget. This film is a real tour de force, directed by a master film-maker at the top of his game. Loach keeps our attention by making sure Daniel and Katie really do matter to us. Is it a film you should see - yes. You won't forget it. Days later, Daniel and Katie were still reminding me of why we should all care.

"I am Daniel Blake !!"

I have a book on my book case "if you see the Buddha on the Road kill him".....We are all travelling never really arriving.

My late dad was a miner and he called me the "Bonniest Bairn in all the four pits".

We have no pits left now and that's why I am so ugly !! But if I ever meet a Camilla on the Road then you have my permission to shoot me !!!

Camilla Long from the Sunday Times has attempted to write a critique of Ken Loach's film "I Daniel Blake". Its a diatribe that pitches pathetically beyond the M25 and is a glorious Fail. It mentions Stoke on Trent as being as interchangeable as Tyneside. Now on a good day I could pitch a guess at the five main pottery Towns that constitute the Potteries. That said the point of Daniel Blake is



the Dignity the hope the last spark of resilience in the Face of Bureaucracy: of a Revanchist system that is devoid of

Compassion of understanding and of Mindfulness. I mean the Mindfulness of Compassion lov-

ing kindness, sympathetic joy and of Equanimity. The joy and light of Kindness that has existed for over four thousand years and will burn bright long after News International has withered on its own stake of reparations through the



DANIEL BLAKE

By Michael Noctor

There's a new movie out. It's called 'I, Daniel Blake.' It reduced critics to tears at the Cannes film festival, where it also won an award. The film is directed by Ken Loach who carried out intensive research into the British benefits system. It has been described by one reviewer, Peter Bradshaw from the Guardian, as 'Ken Loach's quiet rage against injustice.'

Sanctions. What a horrible

thing to be applied to people who are ill, homeless and out of work. The Tory government are systematically placing people, who are already desperate, into impossible and more heartbreaking situations. It got me thinking about the Irish equivalent.

Civil Service. Public Servants.

If I was one of them I'd have a problem with those titles. Civil Assistance and Public Assistant, that's more like it. These people are not here to 'serve' anyone. They are here to assist.

That brings me to the staff I have encountered in the Social Welfare Office. I have had a lot of contact with these people over the last twelve months. Some of this contact was in regard to moving to Spain and collecting my money there. The contact continued on my return, when I had to sign on for illness payment due mainly to the damage I did to my back working like a dog for ten years.

The staff in that office are a credit to this country. In view of what's happening across the water

they are saints. They have always been pleasant and helpful. I have come out of the office on numerous occasions feeling good and I have dealt with at least ten of the staff in that time. There may be a bad apple in their midst but I've yet to encounter one.

I recently watched the British welfare secretary, Damien Green, speak about Ken Loach's movie. He described it as a work of fiction and that it bears no relationship to the modern benefits system. He said this moments after he had

said he HAD NOT SEEN the movie.

Ken Loach's movie has won the coveted Palme D'or award. Loach has used the movie to expose the British welfare system. He has been a social campaigner for most of his career and he is quoted as saying, 'the poverty, the indignation, the humiliation people go through is consciously done.' In a radio interview on an Irish station he told how an elderly man had fallen. His neighbours had called the ambulance. The man was frantically resisted getting into it because he knew his benefit would not be paid if he did not turn up at the benefit office. Another man had his benefit cut because instead of reporting to the office he had attended his father's funeral. He had given prior notice but because no record of the notice could be found he was not paid.

According to Loach, benefit welfare staff who do not sanction enough people are retrained so they can up their levels. Some staff left the job due to the inhuman treatment of people who are already suffering.

There are reasons I am proud to be Irish and our social welfare system and the decent nature of the people who run it are two of them.

Damien Green should watch the movie. He might learn something. Of course, it is highly likely he knows exactly what's going on and the apathy he displays in not watching Ken Loach's film is in keeping with the disgraceful treatment of the poor unfortunate treatment they are being subjected to.

Courts and more trapeses to endless Parliamentary Select Committees.

Ken loach has crafted a cornerstone to our Societies current callous disregard for those in need or in distress .Whether it be parent less Children in The Jungle camp in Calais or the irresponsible Callousness of ATOS and a cynical interpretation of entitlement to benefit that only requires a sign reading "Albrecht make Frei". Then as now The company underpinning ATOS walked away in February of 2014 from a half billion pound contract having acted mercilessly towards the vulnerable.I accompanied a relative to a medical and then an ATOS Tribunal.I have Nursed 40 years and I nursed Romanian Orphans For the International Red Cross (ICRC).. What I saw at these Medicals appalled me and showed the Callous skin Crawl-ing indifference Created by cal-

lous Authoritarians Drunk on the only crumb of momentary minuscule power they will ever attain before the Corporations swallow them also into the Obsidian darkness of psychopathic indifference and Callousness .

I am minded of T.Dan.Smith a fallen Socialist Icon on Tyne-side caught up in the Corporate Sneeze of the Poulson Plan in the Seventies .I tell you Bonny lads and lasses had T.Dan.Smith been given a fair crack of the whip we on Tyneside would have had Job Centres on every corner .There would be no Daniel Blakes !

Should Camilla long believe we still have outside " netties " then tell her her review of Ken Loache's award winning Obelisk to Tory Fascism is hanging on a nail in our North East wind and rain swept privy and it's barely fit for the inevitable use .

If I ever meet a Camilla on the Road I will gladly shoot myself and yes»I am Daniel Blake «.

Not the average Film Premiere Daniel Blake, Solemn Remembrance or Glitzy Party?

By Rona Topaz

The new film by veteran director Ken Loach (Kes) takes a look at the effect of austerity on a 61 year old construction worker, Daniel Blake, played by stand up comic Dave Johns. Unfit to return to work following a serious heart attack, he is told to subsequently apply for ESA, but is wrongfully rejected as fit for work and forced to apply for JSA.

One of the conditions of JSA is to prove you are job seeking for 35 hours per week. Offered a job he is unfit to accept, Blake is caught in a catch 22 there is no way out of. Along the way he befriends a young mum sanctioned for being 10 minutes late, going without food to feed her children, eventually forced into prostitution.

The ending befits the tragic nature of the film and it is shocking to think it is a believable conclusion. But as a

nation we have become so inured to tragedy that the film falls short of the emotional punch it was intended to pack. It is likely to have much more of an effect on those of us who have not personally experienced a Daniel Blake moment, or known anyone who has done, those living in a suburban, cosseted environment for whom a night at the cinema is a welcome change from reality tv. Which I suspect is the intention of the film's creators to make them aware of what some of us have been living with for years.

As a disabled person, I have been an activist with DPAC (Disabled People Against Cuts) since relocation back to South East England last year, following a bereavement. After meeting Ken Loach at The World Transformed in Liverpool, DPAC activists were invited to hold a vigil on the red carpet by Ken Loach, to read out some of the names of those who have died

as a direct result of austerity (see pic). The average film premiere is a glamorous, glitzy affair, but this premiere to my mind felt more like a wake, a service of remembrance...

However, the writer and director arrived in good spirits. The film had its share of comedic moments. The leading lady was dressed in a posh frock. The carpet was red, the journalists were there. The difference being that at the aftershow party, I didn't rub shoulders with the creme de la creme of the British film industry, but sat chatting away to the leader of the Labour Party.....

Somehow or other, the balance had been struck. This was the People's Premiere, tickets were free, people involved were not self obsessed so called luvvies, but approachable and connected to their subject matter. A film premiere with a major difference, and a massive privilege for this writer to have been invited to attend.

Finnish Lessons for Educators

by George Christoforou



Teachers need more autonomy. All schools should be funded equally to give all children an equal and great education. Give children more time to play. Reduce or throw out standardised testing. A complete overhaul of the UK education system may take some time. What can teachers learn in the meantime and implement today?

1. Ask for help. Finnish teachers ask each other for advice. When a Finnish teacher encounters a difficult pupil or class they help each other succeed. They cooperate in trying their best for their pupils. Do not be afraid to ask your fellow teachers or admin for help. Your colleagues have plenty of knowledge and experience. You can also ask the child's parent for help with their child.

2. Get outside. A breath of fresh air and a change of scenery can stimulate your pupil's minds. Do field work. Go to riverbanks, city centres, woodland and beaches. Use natural resources to enhance the outdoor lessons. Twigs, pebbles, even grass can all be used to teach maths, spelling or even science.

3. Get to know your students. In Finland many teachers have the same pupils over many years as they grow. Obviously they get to really know their pupils. Spend a lot of time and energy in really getting to know your pupils. Really get to know how they feel and think. You will be a more effective teacher with your lessons tailored to your pupils.

4. Implement more play time. Take more breaks. Let the kids have more frequent play time. If they are not allowed out then have play time in the class. In Finland they get more play time and come back more relaxed and better able to concentrate and learn.

5. Think outside the textbook. Use inspiration to give variety to lessons. Use different teaching methods and teaching materials. Do whatever it takes to get the children engaged and learning.

6. Keep learning yourself. Keep improving your teaching methods. Your passion for learning and teaching will rub off on your pupils. Keep yourself interesting and interested in your teaching. Encourage your administration to invest in professional development for the teachers and take time to learn the latest in teaching innovation.

By Red Pen (A teacher in a Manchester Secondary School)

With the recent announcement by Teresa May about Grammar schools, confusion over the governments commitment to change the GCSE system to Progress 8 and the recent report which illustrated English teachers work the 3rd longest hours in the study people may be wondering what's going on in our schools.

As a serving teacher in a Manchester Secondary school my observations will hopefully resonate with many teachers and support staff and shine a light into a murky world of testing, stress and frustrated visions stifled by data checks and accountability meetings which blame rather than support and help the situation.

The recent OECD (no Left-wing organization) report into teachers workload, said English teachers typically work 48 hours a week (3rd longest in the study) and only 48% have 10 years experience compared to the average of 64%; the study doesn't examine the

WHERE A SCHOOLS

reasons why but National Union of Teachers various reports have revealed bullying tactics by some Senior leaders, sometimes to bring down wage bills, sometimes because older teachers tend to question more the latest assessment procedures which requires more work and no obvious logic.

A typical day can include teaching all day with a 15 minute break, which means no break as you unplug your laptop to move to another learning base ready for another class. You may have some Senior Management or your Head of Department doing 'learning walks' checking the pupils are

progressing, that your teaching is having maximum impact. They can be supportive but sometimes you can be pulled into an awkward meeting looking at your resources, marking or some other thing you have not planned enough leading to more 'learning walks' to improve teaching and learning. Lunch time is 30 minutes but that means you get 10 minutes because you need to move your laptop and resources to another room ready for the afternoon session. After school means either meetings to examine data which shows a lack of progress in certain groups or GCSE catch-up sessions



ARE OUR S GOING?

which seek to make sure all pupils hit their target grade or get them a grade above in order to keep Ofsted from visiting and increasing the pressure by ten fold.

In such circumstances 30% of new teachers leave in the first five years and we are experiencing in many of our cities and rural areas teacher shortages. The Unions try to protect workers in schools but the recent one day strike by the National Union of Teachers in July is an inadequate response to such attacks on workers terms and conditions. In such a scenario and if we are not to see an ever increasing haemorrhaging of teachers

from the professions and pressure increasing on teachers and pupils in a high stake target culture, we need to see a link of teachers struggles with other Public Sector workers suffering the same issues and the political resurgence present under Jeremy Corbyn's new social movement in the Labour Party. If these connections and cross pollination movements can be made to link up the industrial and political arenas we have a chance of making schools placed where staff and pupils succeed, rather than a place which seeks to blame the very people who are dealing with the Austerity imposed Tory agenda.



Thoughts on examining an education masters disserttion on A divided Palestinian village

By Cliff Jones, November 2016

The academic exploration of learning by educators is not always confined to what happens in the classroom. Contexts vary and may require us to make critical sense of a range of political issues. Why would we not? If, for example, two cousins are at schools on different sides of a wall erected in order to separate them we cannot write about their education and ignore the wall. Why is it there? Who put it there? Why is it maintained? Nor can we ignore the impact upon the cousins, their classmates, their teachers and the split societies in which they live and grow.

Considering a physical wall reminds us of other walls. The wall separating those, for example, attending Eton from those going to Bash Street Secondary Modern is no less tall, wide and impenetrable for being intangible. Tony Blair told us his priority was Education, Education, Education. His priority ought to have been Society, Society, Society. Can anyone imagine Blair the Peace Envoy talking about this schoolteacher's deep research prompted by personal experience of a deliberately divided society?

Experienced realities

There are times when the reality experienced by students and

teachers tests academic conceptual frameworks. I taught the student whose work I examined but did not supervise the dissertation. I was the second marker (why do we refer to assessing as 'marking'?). The supervisor left the USA many years ago to live in Israel and had worked hard encouraging collaboration across cultural boundaries. Today that noble intent and effort has been negated by intentional government action.

Israeli school textbooks are officially approved and, as Nurit Peled-Elhanan showed in her 'Palestine in Israeli School Books, Ideology and Propaganda in Education', the official national narrative has been constructed to justify inhuman policies. 'They' not only hate 'us' but 'they' stand in the way of 'our' fulfillment.

Internalising such views makes it easier to pull triggers. Children are born into different realities: some have bullets to fire and some have bullets to dodge, if they can.

Literature

This dissertation went into uncharted territory. There were masses of words generated by bureaucracies, in this case involving two countries and four administrations working in four languages. Births, deaths and marriages come with lots of paper. So do taxes and

deeds of property.

The quantity of this kind of literature is evidence of both family and official urges to record. When you record you also classify. What are the headings? How is it decided who or what comes under what heading? Israelis born before 1948 have stated on their birth certificates that they were born in Palestine.

The Ottoman and the Roman Empires depended upon bureaucracy. Who, for example, had the rights to sell horses in a given region? It was recorded and so was everything to do with trade, property and people. Despite efforts to portray the Palestine past as empty of settled people, a land crisscrossed by a few nomadic tribes, this was not the case, as the dissertation demonstrated.

Is education a commodity to be weighed and measured? Is it about accumulating scores and qualifications? Might it confront and explain the causes and consequences of chosen inhumanity? Once grandmothers could hold newly born grandchildren. Now some are only allowed to approach a wall on special occasions to touch a finger through a crack.

Would you tell a student that this is irrelevant to education?



“Facebook Does My Libertarian Head In”

By Karl Trevor {Aged 50½}

‘Corbyn Didn’t Bloody Invent Socialism!!!!’ was the Facebook reply. So began one of those lovely Social Media spats, you know the ones where you are a Trot, you are 18, never worked, placard waving Grebo! Despite your profile stating you are a middle aged family man.

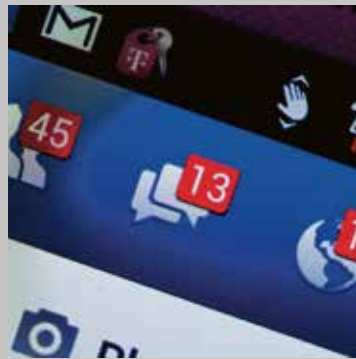
I enjoy such debates. I was supposed to quote A level History homework on Marx at this point. To be ripped apart by the Contrarian ‘LOL’er.

‘No It Was Jesus Christ, the Saxons and Levellers, amongst others!’ I retorted! My new oppressor replied “What are you on about!” He was a 25 year old member of UKIP. End of! OMG.

I’m assuming everyone is up to speed with Jesus and the Saxons but LEVELLERS???

Not the Post Punk, Folk, Rock and fantastically entertaining Band formed in 1988 that operate as a Co-operative, paying all stakeholders a wage including the band, and democratically share decisions on their brand. No the 1650 political movement they are named for. They formed from Christian activists who among other things opposed the enclosure of Land they needed to live off with walls, fences and hedges. They ‘levelled’ them and collectively petitioned others to follow and preferred the pre-Feudal Saxon method of communal land and resources, managed by local leaders who formed broader confederates.

They represented the Agricultural working people suffering persecution under King Charles, landowners and the Church. They campaigned for complete religious freedom and Human Rights for the impoverished classes. They de-



veloped and petitioned against their establishment.

During the English Civil War they supported Oliver Cromwell and Republicanism (Trump alert) and merged with his New Model Army to fight for the Parliamentarians. Once Cromwell took absolute power, they opposed his persecution of Irish Catholics and Leveller leaders were arrested and hanged as traitors.

Some of the Levellers series of Pamphlets ‘An Agreement of The People’ were later used as source documents for the post revolution Republic constitutions of France and USA.

Now as you read The Word, a citizen powered cooperative, a 21st Century political Tabloid speaking of an alternative to Austerity and the Nasty Party, remember ‘Corbyn Didn’t Invent Socialism it’ - but he is empowering Ordinary Folklike you, I, and The Word to Redefine it. By us and for us. Rude not to, really.

So have your say on Facebook and Twitter, accept Friend Requests, have a go, do it your way, fail, have another go... no previous experience required.

Get Levelling!

The Levellers Band are currently touring ‘Levelling The Land - 25’ It’s a sold out tour due to their Grassroots Supporters, Me my Wife and 12 year old Leveller have tickets to Brixton and yes I am a Grebo.



By Robert Saffron

Last month saw the return of Charlie Brooker’s Black Mirror. A new six-episode season is available on Netflix now and, in keeping with tradition, the first episode succeeds brilliantly in setting the bar high for the following episodes. Nosedive tells the story of a social climber named Lacie Pound who wishes to move in to a luxurious new home and mix with ‘quality people.’ Typically, technology plays a vital role in the lives of this episode’s characters and their understanding of social normality; in this chillingly familiar reality, the majority of the population use a single social media platform to rate people with whom they share an interaction. Every exchange of words and, on occasion, mere observations, lead to a rating being issued, which, when collated with others, make up a person’s overall rating. Through the wonder of augmented reality, a person’s rating is visible to everyone within their line of sight, as it appears digitally next to that person’s head. Positive social interactions have become a valuable commodity; if you’re polite to people, they reward you with a 5-star rating, which could translate into a qualification to receive the best services and greater opportunities, including, as Lacie discovers, discounts on properties in the prestigious Pelican Bay.

The episode brilliantly depicts a world in which hollow politeness and friendly personas open doors. As a result of these fraudulent social devices, the number of authentic, meaningful interactions has shrunk; those who wish to get ahead strategically cease to offer opinions that could be offensive or unpopular among their peers. Self-censorship has become a standard social policy, and healthy arguments have been relegated to the past and replaced by vacuous chitchat.

Such falseness, so few meaningful, genuine interactions - symptoms of an unhealthy system at work, a system which has been embraced by its participants purely out of a collective awareness that failure to do so would be detrimental to their ranking within society and by extension, their own personal gains.

Through the discouragement of conflict and the rewarding of subservience and participation, those responsible for Nosedive’s digitalised ranking system have mastered a means of managing the populous. And while rewards may range from nice apartments to healthcare quali-

THE IMPOR BEING IN



Black Mirror and Suppression of C

fication, the established system has not only narrowed the parameters of discussion among the citizens, it has also disabled something that helps define them as a people - their sense of humour.

Humour truly is a wonderful thing, wine for the soul, as Seán O’Casey put it. It is untameable, it cares nothing for personas or politeness and no attempt to dictate its taste will be successful; an authentic burst of laughter is one of the greatest pleasures in life. Tragically, in Nosedive, a person’s capacity for humour has been neutralised through starvation as there is a mass disinclination to cause offense through unwelcomed edgy jokes.

Nosedive’s zeitgeist should be familiar to all of us who have decided against posting a comment on social media or held our tongues when we’ve thought of something funny to say out of fear of a potential backlash. We are living in less funny, easy-go-

ing times in which thin-skinned citizens dictate behaviour. Several high-profile comedians, including Jerry Seinfeld, now refuse to perform at American colleges due to the hypersensitivity of the modern student. Comedy television shows of today are recognisably less edgy and more PC, as the fear of negative public responses and Ofcom complaints has taken a stranglehold on broadcasters. Mirroring the interaction of the characters in Nosedive, what we are now fed through the majority of televised ‘Comedy’ is certainly polite and inoffensive, but far less authentic and genuinely funny.

Nosedive ends with a fantastic scene in which Lacie meets a stranger and, having both grown tired of the current system of politeness, the pair let off steam by engaging in a much-needed and highly therapeutic barrage of criticism and insults. Not only was this exchange healthy for the pair, but also hilarious. Genuine laughter was ignited, the kind that one

IMPORTANCE OF INSULTING

and the Comedy

would imagine neither character had experienced in a long time. Having dropped their protective polite façades and turned their backs on the policy of self-censorship, the characters were able to exercise their sense of humour; a genuine smile etches its way across Lacie's face, her humanity in recovery.

This leads me to my proposal, it is vital that we not only begin to speak more honestly and criticise people and ideas that we believe are deserving of criticism, but that we also begin to use insults and allow ourselves to laugh at things that others may not appreciate us laughing at. There will never be one correct code of humour that will resonate with all people; a sense of humour admittedly divides us as well as unites us and when a system is put in place to dictate acceptable humour, we get unfunny jokes and empty laughter, much like those present throughout *Nosedive*.

The sense of humour feeds on things that are close to the knuck-

le, things that are not totally socially acceptable or completely polite. Insults are not only beneficial in enabling one to get a grip on a person's character, they also provide us with the necessary catalyst for that most genuine of human responses – laughter. If today's climate of self-censorship had been in place during the days of Shakespeare, it is unlikely that the great Bard's collection of work would have been flavoured with the great insults and quips that are present throughout his writing. What a tragedy it would be if quips such as 'you peasant swain! You whore-on malt-horse drudge!' had never materialised on Shakespeare's parchment due to fears of the upset or discomfort they could cause. Granted, Jerry Seinfeld may not be Shakespeare, but it is important to consider what great jokes are now going untold.

It is now accepted among the scientific community that laughter releases endorphins – the brain's 'Feel-good' chemicals. By expansion, being deprived of the catalyst for laughter is detrimental to our mental well-being. Therefore it is vital that we do not overreact when we hear jokes that we disapprove of and launch campaigns for punishments against those whom we deem to be guilty of telling 'Inappropriate jokes'. Doing so only encourages self-censorship and a dilution in the standard of comedy, thereby depriving a person of the necessary catalyst for genuine laughter.

In times of misery, one of our greatest weapons is laughter; we are entitled to exercise our right to laugh and, just as Lacie Pound did, openly criticise and, if necessary, level insults at each other. Collectively, we must lighten up a little and recognise the value of edgy comedy and inappropriate jokes. It is time that we put our creativity to use by producing original and humorous insults and using them without fear of unjust penalties or overreaction. It is time that we treated ourselves once more to the sweet taste of wine for the soul.

Black Mirror: *Nosedive*
Directed by Joe Wright
Studio: House of Tomorrow



Secret DWP Documents Prove They Silenced The Media From Running Stories They Didn't Approve Of – Evolve Politics

by Kitty S Jones

Following a 13 month battle, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have finally been forced to release secret documents illustrating the tactics they use to control and manipulate the media.

The documents reveal that the DWP monitors and analyses both mainstream and social media to reduce and manage negative coverage.

And even more worryingly, the documents show the DWP have managed to kill hundreds of stories by making sure that they are not reported on.

Almost every month since March 2014 the DWP communications team has produced "Media Evaluation Reports" detailing the ways and methods that the DWP controls negative stories about them in the media.

The DWP refused to release the reports since the Disability News Service (DNS) originally requested them in September 2015 stating they were "commercially sensitive".

Finally after a struggle that took over a year, and a complaint by the DNS to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) the documents have finally been released.

The reports show that on a nearly monthly basis from March 2014 to September 2015 the DWP "spiked" (persuaded journalists not to run) a total of 385 stories.

The highest month for spiked stories was June 2015 when the department managed to successfully kill a massive 46 negative stories.

The second highest was March 2014 when the DWP terminated 44 stories.

Handling reactive stories
373 stories handled reactively (98% up from May)
3 reactive front pages
143 statements carried
46 spiked (12% of those handled)
4 rebuttal letters & corrections

Handling reactive stories

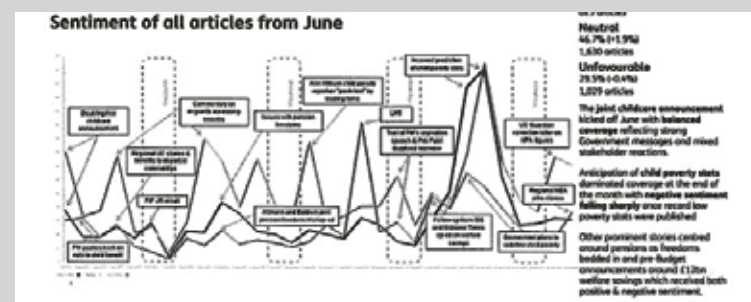
248 stories reactively
44 spiked
140 stories statements carried
75 further stories influenced

Issues included removal of the spare room subsidy, pension cap and Universal Jobmatch

In August 2015 the DWP "proactively briefed" the media about long-awaited statistics which showed the amount of ESA claimants who had died after being found fit for work, and successfully spiked coverage in a range of news outlets.

Tip of the month: Crisis communications
Get the facts straight: The complex data presented in the UK's monthly statistics required careful handling. We proactively briefed broadcasters and newspapers. The spiked coverage in the FT, Express and ITV. The most critical initial coverage of the statistics misrepresented their details. Our rapid press rebuttals got corrections in both the Guardian and Daily Mirror, changing the most negative terms.

The reports confirm that the DWP considers the right-wing press to be supportive of them, and highlights cases where they have used them to "set the record straight" and further government policy.



A national & regional broadcast media and for the Employment Minister, speaking on BBC News, Sky, Good Morning Britain, LBC and others.

An op-ed with the Mail - which has a high readership among working mothers.

A visit with the Prime Minister, where Twitter video from the visit received over 250 views on the first day alone.

Press Office are now working more closely with DfE to ensure that stakeholders are included in media plans, which would have resulted in even more positive coverage throughout the day.

Daily Mail COMMENT
Act now to rescue the pensions revolution

Pensions expert Prospect
July pensions regulations: How Alistair was meant to tell the story to the public. Why some headlines are more than just headlines.

By targeting these papers, the op-eds set the record straight, pushing key Government messages to the target audience of older readers. They also generated a raft of follow-up coverage in the Times, Financial Times and other publications.

Press Office also set up op-eds with magazines such as Prospect and Pensions Expert to maximise positive coverage surrounding the whole raft of pension reforms and capitalise on interest in this area.

POETRY CORNER

Forty five minutes to London

They always cry
With the same old lie
As more and more bodies stay there.
They always try
With the same old lie
So those at the top can stay there.

I get so confused,
Pakistanis and Jews,
Which one of them should we be hating?
And if the hordes on the moon
Will be here soon;
To invade our brave lads will be waiting.

Kevin John

Cenotaph

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

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

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

Kevin John

Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.

Fear no more the frown o' the great;
Thou art past the tyrant's stroke;
Care no more to clothe and eat;
To thee the reed is as the oak:
The scepter, learning, physic, must
All follow this, and come to dust.

Shakespeare

Its funny how you never knew what my name was,
Our only contact was a form for the election.
These days I find that you don't listen,
These days I find that were out of touch,
These days I find that I'm too busy,
So why the attention now you want my assistance,
What have you done for me.

You've gone and got yourself in trouble,
No you want me to help you out.

These days I find that I can't be bothered,
These days I find that its all too much,
To pick up a gun and shoot a stranger,
But I've got no choice so here I come, war games.

I'm up on the hills, playing little boy soldiers,
Reconnaissance duty up at 5:30.
Shoot shoot shoot and kill the natives,
You're one of us and we love you for that.

Think of honor, queen and country,
You're a blessed son of the British empire,
Gods on our side and so is Washington.

Come out on the hills with the little boy soldiers.
Come on outside, I'll sing you a lullaby,
Or tell a tale of how goodness prevailed.

We ruled the world, we killed and robbed,
The fucking lot, but we don't feel bad.

It was done beneath the flag of democracy,
You'll believe and I do, yes I do, yes I do,
Yes I do

These days I find that I can't be bothered,
To argue with them well what's the point,
Better to take your shots and drop down dead,
Then they send you home in a pine overcoat

With a letter to your mum
Saying find enclosed one son, one medal and a
note,
To say he won.

Paul Weller

Ian Hodson Speaks His Mind

As we come to the end of 2016, it would appear that the divisions between the richest and poorest in this country are deeper and wider than ever. Once again, divide and rule tactics have won the day, as the wealthy have ensured that the middle classes blame the working classes for everything, and those without two ha'pennies to rub together are set squabbling amongst themselves for scraps thrown from the top table.

People have been encouraged to demonise the unemployed, the elderly and the disabled, whilst being conditioned to fear and distrust immigrants. Workers rights continue to be eroded and unscrupulous employers continue to abuse and exploit their labour. All of this goes on unabated, while incomes for the richest in our society have continued to soar.

When a society is unequal, when poverty is normalised and injustice is common, who should we blame? The people who created it or the people suffering it? Despite years of history for reference, I cannot think of one shred of evidence to back up the theory that by blaming minorities for all of society's ills, those on low incomes will all somehow become wealthy.

Look around you; public services slashed and sold off to private companies, ordinary people being priced out of further education and social/workplace justice, an underfunded NHS, agency labour and zero hours contracts exploitation, council houses sold off to private landlords, foodbanks and homelessness, inability to get on the housing ladder or plan for retirement. Are we really to believe that this is all the fault of immigrants, the disabled, the unemployed and the elderly?

Despite this insanity, we fall for this line time and again. Why? For whatever reason, vast numbers of people find it difficult to open their eyes and comprehend the fact that we allow ourselves to be told how to react to various groups of people, issues and situations by a wealthy few with influential positions and willingly accept their agenda without question. The misery is further compounded by the fact that our political system is broken. From Margaret Thatcher's government onwards, people have conditioned themselves to look out for number one with a 'survival of the fittest mentality', all un-

derpinned with a culture of 'look over there' politics. As a result, we've ended up with a suited and booted, straight out of university generation of careerist politicians, whose ideology is to give the majority of people just about enough to keep them from making a fuss, whilst making the rich richer.

For example, the Blair/Brown administration is lauded for introducing a minimum wage, that was set too low and subsidised poverty pay via tax credits, whilst taking relatively good care of the NHS. Is that all? They were in power for thirteen years, but did just enough to reasonably satisfy the majority. Subsequently, the UK has drifted to the political right, to such a degree that anyone even slightly to the left of Genghis Khan is seen as some sort of raging, Marxist lunatic.

This Union supported, and continues to support Jeremy Cor-

byn as leader of the Labour Party. Not because he's some retro throwback to the 1970s and not simply because he's 'hard-left', whatever that is. The BFAWU supports Mr Corbyn because he believes in fair play, social justice, workers rights and the repeal of anti-Trade Union legislation. The BFAWU supports Jeremy Corbyn because he has good policies: the re-nationalisation of the railways, a minimum wage of £10 an hour, scrapping the bedroom tax, scrapping the Work Capability Assessment, the reduction of the private sector in the NHS, free education for all, a peaceful foreign policy and a sound industrial strategy that would protect key industries and get the country manufacturing again. In many other European countries, these policies would be seen as common-sense. The fact that they're seen as 'radical' and

'hard-left' ideas in this country tells its own story.

As I write this, Donald Trump has just been elected to take over from Barack Obama as president of the United States. Understandably, people are worried about what this will mean for the world, especially given his behaviour as a tax-avoiding businessman who is no stranger to bankruptcy, along with the sexist and racist rhetoric he used in his election campaign.

How did he win? That's easy. The Democratic Party decided to ditch Bernie Sanders; a seasoned politician and an inspiring candidate who was popular with the electorate, way ahead of Trump in opinion polls, engaged with young voters, had policies that people agreed with and certainly knew how to get bums on seats in a rally. Instead, the Democrats sacrificed their electability by throwing their weight behind Hillary Clinton; a mainly unpopular, flawed, Wall Street funded, pro-war, Establishment friend of big corporations.

People were given a stark choice in the end, but Trump won, ultimately because he appealed to many struggling people in former manufacturing towns and cities, who had seen their jobs and local industries, farmed out to other countries in the interest of cheaper labour. They felt left behind and wanted to fight back. His rhetoric also tapped in to the worst parts of people and those who wanted to give the Establishment a bloody nose.

We can't view this as a shock. Labour Party members and supporters elected Jeremy Corbyn as their leader not once, but twice. They did so for the most part, because they see him as an anti-Establishment figure who can't be bought. UK people voted for Brexit, because it was seen as a swipe

against the Establishment. Rightly or wrongly, people are making political choices based on their anger and how disaffected they feel towards a political class that has let them down and which they view as out of touch with their lives and their aspirations. Besides, as a country, we can't mock or criticise the political electoral choices of any other nation. After all, we made influential politicians out of Boris Johnson and Nigel Farage, whilst making a world leader out of the idiotic and incompetent David Cameron. As for our new Prime Minister, Theresa May, we have an unelected, 'leader' with a record of homophobia who, as the country's Home Secretary, arranged for ad-libs to drive around London telling immigrants to "go home". I think that she and Mr Trump will get on like a house on fire.

The worry is that people can be easily swept away with the right rhetoric, emanating from the right mouth when they feel angry and the consequences can be dire. 1930s Germany springs to mind. It doesn't have to be this way. As a society we must open our eyes and come together. We must resist the temptation to get drawn in to hate and division, and we must stop buying in to the media outlets that perpetuate it. We must ensure that those we elect to political office work for us, and not just their own interests, or one-percenters with blank cheque books. Let's start fighting for inclusion, not exclusion. Let's start fighting for decency and dignity, not blame and demonisation. Fighting amongst ourselves benefits only the few, not the many; so let's make 2017 the year where we finally get off our knees and fight together. In solidarity

IAN HODSON

"The socialism I believe in is everybody working for the same goal and everybody having a share in the rewards. That's how we see football, that's how I see life."

Bill Shankly Legendary Liverpool Manager
Jeremy Corbyn Legendary Labour Leader

BAKERS FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION BFAWU

HELP CROWDFUND THE WORD

We are now crowdfunding to keep this newspaper alive. We started off by raising £5000 which managed to print and distribute 8 editions. To continue and expand we need your help. This newspaper is run by volunteers who have other jobs. Please help us by donating or buying a newspaper pdf from our website at www.thewordmedia.org.uk or donate at crowdfunder to <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-anti-sun/>



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at crowdfunder to <http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/the-anti-sun/>



I will NOT shop at John Lewis until they **STOP Advertising in The Daily Mail & The Sun**



WORST 5

USA presidents



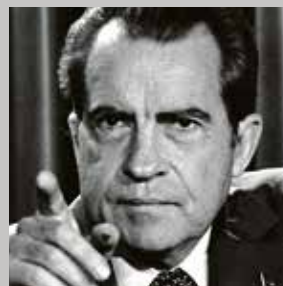
GEORGE W BUSH

A clown and dangerous (remind you of anyone?) caused the deaths of a 100,000 people around the world and brought in torture. Famous quotes: The trouble with the French is they have no word for entrepreneur, you have underestimated me.



DONALD TRUMP

Already off to a flying start from our voters. Sexist, racist and endorsed by the Klu Klux Klan.



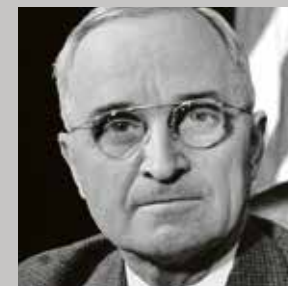
RICHARD NIXON

A crook and a liar and a warmonger. (No change there then.)



LYNDON JOHNSON

Another who made war a mission and quite possibly behind the Kennedy killing.



TRUMAN

The man who ordered the murder of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Cryptic Crossword

Set by Nadnerb

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		
														8
9								10						
11				12										
13						14				15				
16										17				18
19				20				21				22		
23								24		25				
	26							27						

- Across
- 1

23 may be wrong to take steamship (7)
- 5

Exhibition centre served 23's black stuff - a heavenly drink! (6)
- 9

23, a no-good pile of manure? (7)
- 10&16a

Tumbler later joins band performing 23 (7,3,6)
- 11

Bestial sound booms endlessly around (3)
- 12

A calm journalist enters harbour on July 14th (8,3)
- 13

A way of smoking 23 with tea at home (5)
- 14

Distilling hooch did involve large part of youth (9)
- 16

See 10
- 17

Regularly trash motel in California? (5)
- 19

A fictional computer's meditation on the sea (4,7)
- 22

Popular opening night for hostelry (3)
- 23

CGI version with US soldiers protecting English fags! (7)
- 24

They set fire to 23 rugs outside 18 (7)
- 26

Lost husband fleeing 23's graveyard? (6)
- 27

25 has a small company producing spicy sauce (7)
- Down
- 1

Experimental medicine wiping out one local disease (7)
- 2

Deb hands on genes with mutation 23 (6,3,6)
- 3

Come down mountain swaddled in buckskins (3)
- 4

English prog rock band holds record for high-pitched sounds (5)
- 5

One who cancels return part of fare, if ill unexpectedly (9)
- 6

23 arrived then left (5)
- 7

In winning battles wounded hero has no fear of falling (1,4,3,7)
- 8

Stopped sounding dull (6)
- 12

Some South Africans veto trade union leaders (5)
- 14

Accuse Open University of being devious in a heartless manner (9)
- 15

500 Basque Separatists given time following coup? (1'4)
- 16

Snatch of Fantasy for Tuba CD (6)
- 18

Guevara presenting Queen with stone bust (7)
- 20

Redhead occupying row of seats she refuses to give up (5)
- 21

Yank gets worked up about a mountain range (5)
- 25

Account of Northern word for one 23 (3)

O	C	S	V	B	V	T		A	V	R	T	S	V	
T		T	V	V	U			T	E	E	E	T		
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N	N	I		T	H	G	U	O	H	T	P	E	E	D
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E		F				F			V		N			I
V	V	D	E	T	T	I	T	S	V	B		O	O	M
V		V		E		T		P			S		E	
T		E	B	E	M	V	T		T	T	I	H	N	D
S		H	V		U		E		K		E		N	
		R		T	A	R								

- Across
- 1

Shoulder covering (5)
- 4

Take out (7)
- 8

Forward looking (11)
- 9

Game of chance (7)
- 10

Shopping centre (4)
- 12

Drink to (5)
- 14

Horse (5)
- 18

Roman style party (4)
- 19

Number (7)
- 22

Friendly, kind to those around you (11)
- 23

Dignity (7)
- 24

Photocopier ink (5)
- Down
- 1

Flexible (6)
- 2

Start to use (5)
- 3

Generosity (8)
- 4

Attempts (6)
- 5

Hard work (4)
- 6

Standard (7)
- 7

Aquatic reptile (6)
- 11

Eradicate (5,3)
- 13

Naturally produced (7)
- 15

Beach (6)
- 16

Iconic music or song (6)
- 17

Killer (6)
- 20

Repeat (5)
- 21

Stand for a coffin (4)

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		
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23										24				

Quick 5

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V	T	R	U	O	B	H	G	I	E	N		V		
V		E		P		T		B		V		R		
T	V	R	E	M	U	N			V	G	O	T		
S				V		V		E		R		S		
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U		V		O		S		V		D		U		
T	C	V	R	T	X	E		T	W	V	H	S		

QUIZ

In this weeks quiz we are giving you faces that have been blocked out try and guess who they are.

a



b



c



d



e



f



g



h



i



j



a) John major, b) Wayne Rooney, c) Diane Abbott, d) Theresa May, e) Michael Foot, f) George Galloway, g) Jesse Jackson, h) Mohammed Ali, i) Sade, j) Mike Atherton

JOKES



I was wondering why the ball was getting bigger. Then it struck me.

In May 2007 Tony Blair visited Colonel Gaddafi in Libya to talk about contracts and democracy.

Blair was taken into the desert to pay his respects. They are led to the tent by a hagi (holy man).

Gaddafi said "This is a special tent where you can pray to Allah and he can grant your wishes true."

Blair said, "But I am not s Muslim I am a Catholic."

Gaddafi said, "It does not matter your god is my god and he will be doubly pleased."

Blair being the statesmen said,"Ok. I will do it for peace in the middle east."

They both enter the tent and Gaddafi prays in his manner to Allah while Blair prays according to Catholic tradition.

Then this incident was forgotten.

Years later the Hagi tells the tale and finishes by saying before Gaddafi and Blair closed their eyes and prayed together, Gaddafi had all the oil and Blair had the democracy. But after we opened our eyes we saw that Blair had all the oil and we were left with the democracy.

If minorities have the race card and women have the gender card, what do rednecks have? The Trump Card

I bought some shoes from a drug dealer. I don't know what he laced them with but I've been tripping all day.

What do you call a Disney Princess that supports Donald Trump? Snow White Supremacist.

I hate Russian dolls. They're so full of themselves.



Butternut squash soup

Ingredients

- 1 butternut squash - approx 1 1/2lb
- 1 head of garlic
- 1 tbsp dried chilli flakes - or to taste
- 1 tbsp smoked paprika
- 1 - 2 tbsp oil

For the liquid-ish part:

- 1 large onion
- 1 large leek or a couple of carrots
- any stock veg will do
- 2 pints chicken stock

Method

Wash the squash and cut it into 1 cm wide chunks; no need to peel. If you super-efficient, keep the seeds for drying and roasting. Peel the whole head of garlic cloves and place them in a zip-lock bag with the squash, the oil, the chilli flakes and the paprika. Roast on gas mark 5 for 30 mins.

Sweat off your stock veg over a low heat in a little oil until they are translucent but not browned. Add the stock, bring to the boil and check the seasoning. Add the roast squash and garlic and blitz in batches until smooth (or a little chunky if you prefer). Serve with a crusty bread, a swirl of cream and some toasted sunflower seeds.



By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir

WYTHENSHAWE LADYBOYS

THE WORLD IS IN DANGER! TIME TO PUT OPERATION 'PUGWASH' INTO ACTION!



FIRST WE MUST CAPTURE SUSPECTED W.O.M.B.L.E. SLEEPER AGENT WINDY MILLER!



LET ME GO YOU BASTARDS!

LAUNCH A POCKET-ROCKET AIR STRIKE...



AGAINST THE EXTREMIST STRONGHOLD, CAMBERWICK GREEN!

LET'S MAKE TRUMPTON GREAT AGAIN!



AND CAPTURE THE PESTILENT WIG OF THE APOCALYPSE!

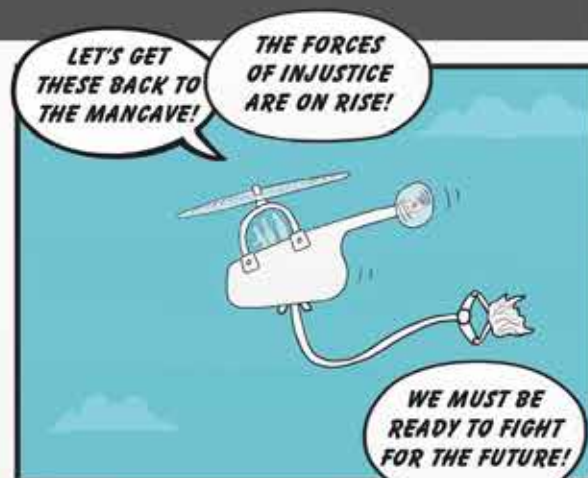


IT'S WIGGLING!

GRRRR...!

LET'S GET THESE BACK TO THE MANCAVE!

THE FORCES OF INJUSTICE ARE ON RISE!



WE MUST BE READY TO FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE!

Full PMQs 2 November 2016 - HD

Just look down, just look down, just look down... Oh, God I hope no one can tell....



Full PMQs 2 November 2016 - HD

Are they whispering about me....?!



Full PMQs 2 November 2016 - HD

Damn!! Fluffed my lines AGAIN!! Even the Tories are laughing at me...



Full PMQs 2 November 2016 - HD

Oh, Jeremy! If only you knew how I felt....



Brexit thoughts



Brexit has certain similarities to a Soap Opera. It can be humorous, like Coronation St. It can be dark and morbid, like Eastenders. The problem is Brexit is very real.

The Irish are observing from across the water and it's not just the politicians. There are so many people struggling on our island. Any additional Brexit-induced hardship would make matters even worse.

Before the British people voted, a survey commissioned by European Movement Ireland showed that 86 percent of people in the Republic of Ireland believed that the United Kingdom should stay in the European Union. It didn't happen.

A recent poll showed that 40 percent of Irish people think we should stay with Britain. The Europeans are going to come after our low corporate tax. That's what the British are telling us.

Brexit is baffling. It's not something I have the economic expertise to make real comment on. Like most people I am simply watching and waiting for the next headline.

They can carry out as many polls as they like but the truth is the majority of people have no clue as to what is going to happen and that includes so called experts. Hard Brexit, soft Brexit ... whatever term will they make up next?

In Ireland we have many crises to deal with. The fall-out from Brexit may present us with another one.

I feel I should stop watching the Brexit show and get back to what's going on in The Queen Vic and The Rover's Return; see how much the Irish and British are intertwined. We even watch the same soaps!

By Les May

'The Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester has been elected by local people and is accountable for how crime and community safety is tackled throughout the region. Your commissioner is Tony Lloyd.'

I HAVE taken this quote directly from the web page of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) at <https://www.gmpcc.org.uk/about/>

Mr Lloyd was elected by the people of Greater Manchester and one would assume is therefore to be considered in some degree to be accountable to them. But just how accountable is he? Does he act like a man who thinks he is accountable? At the beginning of October my local paper carried an article with the headline *'MP slams police "failings" as abuse inquiry closes.'* The MP in question was Simon Danczuk, MP for Rochdale. According to the ITV website his words were *'I believe that there has been a catastrophic catalogue of failings by Greater Manchester Police during the investigation of these crimes.'*

Responding to this the GMP Police Federation Chairman Ian Hanson said: *'Yet again we see a Manchester MP launching an ill-informed attack upon police officers in an attempt to raise their own media profile.'*

When Danczuk repeated his criticism Ian Hanson responded as follows: *'He continues to criticise GMP for its work on historical sexual abuse allegations. I do not now intend to get involved in a public slanging match with Simon Danczuk over this matter. Instead I will publicly call him out to deliver the firm evidence that he bases his criticism of GMP on to my office by*



12 noon on Monday - and I will personally deliver it to the IPCC. If as, I know, there is no firm evidence, then he should back out of this with what little credibility he has got left intact. His behaviour is not helping the victims of this terrible abuse. The people of Rochdale expect better.'

As *Northern Voices* reported on 28th, October Danczuk neither delivered any firm evidence nor accepted the invitation to attend the Police Federation meeting which was held the previous night. But we do know that the Police & Crime Commissioner, Tony Lloyd, did attend the meeting as *Northern Voices* had a reporter present when Lloyd arrived in the lift, and he says that downstairs *'You could have cut the atmosphere with a knife.'*

Danczuk has form when it comes to accusing a police force of failing to carry out its duty properly. This is what Mr Danczuk had to say in his book about the failings

of Northamptonshire police with regard to Cyril Smith: *'His car had been pulled over on the motorway and officers had found a box of child porn in his boot. The police were naturally disgusted and wanted to press charges. But then a phone call was made from London and he was released without charge. Senior officers had threatened the officers involved with dismissal if he was not released immediately. The mood was tense and sullen as officers stood back while Cyril breezily walked past them to freedom. All the staff who knew about it were threatened with the Official Secrets Act if they discussed the matter any further. Once again Cyril walked out of the police station knowing he was a protected man.'*

A lovely story with just one problem - it wasn't true! So how did the PCC for Northamptonshire respond to this attempt to blame his officers? Well he wasn't pleased with Messrs Danczuk and Baker to say the least. He

went to the trouble of appearing on the BBC Regional programme Look East when amongst other things he said that his force had been 'maligned' and that *'The force should expect an apology. Northamptonshire Police are not guilty of covering up a crime and indeed letting someone go on to perpetrate more.'* and then the killer line, *'Everything in that book's got to be evidence-led and based, otherwise you are alerting people to the wrong information.'*

And what has our very own PPC Tony Lloyd had to say in defence of GMP and its officers in response to Danczuk's attack? So far as I can tell the answer is absolutely nothing. Now if I'm wrong about this I am willing to hold up my hand and admit it. But I searched through the news section GMPPC website as far back as the beginning of October and could find nothing. So how about it Mr Lloyd? Your electorate and the officers of GMP deserve an explanation.

By Rona Topaz

Owing to a change in the rules which at the last moment, cheated me out of attending the Labour Party National Conference as a delegate, I was determined to have a similar experience in some other way! Therefore I was delighted when my CLP elected me as one of two delegates to attend the South East Labour Party Conference in Ashford, Kent.

One of the highlights was the opening keynote speech by Anneliese Dodds, MEP, on Brexit. As someone with obvious lefty leanings I was in two minds about Europe, given their track record. On the fence regarding staying, considering their treatment of Greece and quite

First Time For Everything Adventures of a First Time Delegate

frankly terrified of being left to our own devices on a small island with the Tories for a Brexit. Anneliese's speech was pragmatic but positive, and my question was about DiEM 25, which she indicated Labour was still working with, which includes some far left groups.

Fringe meetings were offered by the Co-Operative Party and The South East TUC, and workshops were offered on a variety of topics including health and social care,

equality and diversity and campaigning in opposition.

As a differently abled person with a hearing loss, I found a certain irony in attending a workshop on Equality and diversity in a room without a hearing loop and a facilitator discouraging me from contributing too much... It was in my mind symptomatic of what is inherently wrong with Labour and all political parties, come to that, the inability to promote inclusion and use the

skills and talents of all members.

However, I was very pleased to have had the opportunity to vote and speak on motions for the first of what I hope will be many occasions to come. As well as to register my interest in taking part in a round table discussion as part of Labour's disability roadshows with Labour's very wonderful leader, whose speech covered everything from the new American President to Workplace 2020, to Brexit, and all points in between.



England Ireland ties

There's a scene from the classic movie 'The life of Brian,' where the People's front of Judea or was it the Judean people's front, discuss the question, 'What have the Romans ever done for us?'

After much pondering it is agreed that the revolution will proceed against all Romans other than the ones involved with sanitation, irrigation, medicine, education and wine production.

A relevant question from an Irish viewpoint is, what have the English ever done for us?

There are those who would say eight hundred years of oppression,

famine, sectarianism and such. However, they are in danger of overlooking one of the greatest things the English 'done' for us. They taught us how to speak their language.

Just think, would 'Ulysses' have received such world wide acclaim if it had been written in Gaelic, although some might argue that nobody actually understands the ramblings of James Joyce. The fact that he used 'The Queen's' gave us a fighting chance.

I grew up hating the Irish language. I never got to grips with it, no matter how much verbal and at times physical abuse was visited

upon me by aging, angry teachers who attempted to impart in such hateful fashion their knowledge of a language they loved. I carried the hatred through my youth and was never happier than when I was a young man touring Europe and talking to people from all over the world who, in most cases, used English as their second language. I always felt a sense of gratitude to our English invaders.

There are many other reasons why the Irish should feel grateful to the English. If they did invade us, there has been a reciprocal invasion and today millions of residents of England are either from Ireland or have Irish ancestry and as many as six million people living in the UK have at least one Irish grandparent; DNA surveys show the average Brit is around a quarter Irish.

The links between the two countries are strong and not just about family members. The Irish are hugely dependent on ties to Britain for future economic stability. A lot of Irish people think we should stay with Britain when they eventually pull away from Europe.

It's not just a question of what have the English done for us. It's more a question of what are they going to do for us in the future.



CORBYN'S WAKE UP CALL WHICH OF US EVER BENEFITED FROM A BILLIONNAIRE?



Jeremy Corbyn came to Kent today, saying "We are going to get no favours from Mainstream Media or television. We need to do it ourselves. Fight the Tories and UKIP through any means you have".

Welcome to Kent Jeremy, the rural Garden of England and Ashford the gateway to Europe. A county where the Councils Official Opposition is UKIP. Where East Kent Patriots organise White Lives Matter marches in Seaside resorts. A place whose economy relies on trade and seasonal migrant workers pick the fruit that proudly shows a Union Flag.

As with all regional conferences the later speeches, talks and workshops home in on local party policies and issues. Corbyn's speech may get some coverage as he discussed Trump and Farage on a day Boris Johnson pulled out of a European Meeting to discuss Trump. So the Tories are already pandering to the Pumpkin headed, hate mongering Billionaire Leader of the Planet.

So the thread went along the lines of 'Watch Out! The Billionaires (who get the votes

of working class people so desperate they blame Muslims and Immigrants) are displacing the people who stop them, the Governments. A man labelled by Tabloids as a Leftie anti-establishment threat is warning the establishment about the threat to them. Not so odd given the Press Tycoons are Billionaires.

The threat to the Environment was brought in to his speech as Trump is a Global Warming Denier. Labour Is Against Fracking! A simple point that took many present by surprise.

Railways Will Be Nationalised! We all knew that one, but do non-members.

The NHS Will Be 100% Publically Owned. And a parting shot at His Favourite Billionaire Richard Branson who already owns parts of the Kent Health providers and this week bought a huge chunk more in the West Country.

So Billionaires need us to consume their product, and they are coming to a Government near you soon. Unless you and I tell people. Ladies and Gentlemen allow me to Introduce The Word.



George Galloway speaks



Interestingly, the last edition of "The Word" came out with the headline, "World War3" which predicted what would have happened had Clinton won.

As one of the very few people who predicted Donald Trump's victory, first back in May, and then again at the beginning of November, and on the night of the election itself just as the exit polls closed, to the widespread derision of the commentariat home and abroad, I repeatedly described this campaign as a choice between Satan and Beelzebub.

But I have come to the conclusion, and many of you will not like it, that a Clinton Presidency would have been the greater danger to the world. To put it crudely, when they say "better the devil you know", I answer, "it depends just how devilish they are". Clinton's Presidency was a mushroom cloud waiting to happen. She has a proven track record as a warmonger and a cold, calculating killer, the architect of the disasters in Libya and Syria, and as a hard-line anti-Russia hawk. Under her, the world situation could only continue to deteriorate, with us here in Europe caught in the middle, an American nuclear base.

My prediction is he will be as pro-Israel as Obama, but less so than Clinton would have been.

It is true that Donald Trump has assembled around him some of the most right-wing forces in America, including the Heritage Foundation and Breitbart. It is true his Presidency could be even worse for the world than Obama's, or even as bad as a Clinton one would have been. But it may be better than Obama's, and almost certainly better than Clinton's would have been. The early signs offer some room for cautious optimism. The President Elect's acceptance speech was surprisingly statesmanlike, conciliatory even. And mysteriously gone from his page is his promise to ban all Muslims from entering America.

Most important is his apparent willingness to build bridges with Russia over Syria, to step back from the brink of disaster and the mad rush for regime change, from Clinton's "No Fly

Zone" which would have almost certainly meant war with Russia if implemented as she repeatedly declared it should be. Such a change of tack can only be good for the world, sparing us the World War III which a Clinton Presidency made a serious possibility, and for Europe, where millions are out of work and whole regions impoverished by the insane policy of sanctions of Russia.

Likewise, the new President owes nothing to, and is in fact almost certainly hostile to, the satrapies of the Persian Gulf region, who funded Clinton's campaign, and let's not forget Foundation, to the tune of untold millions, even as she knew, we now know, that they were arming ISIS and Al Qaeda. Let's hope he repays them no inexistent favours in Syria and elsewhere.

I do not expect any changes on Palestine, though neither do I expect a Trump government to follow through on its promise to recognise Jerusalem as the Zionist capital. It should be noted the Israel lobby - mostly Christians, in fact - heavily supported Clinton, so while Trump does have ties with the Breitbart crowd, he actually owes Israel and its supporters very little. My prediction is he will be as pro-Israel as Obama, but less so than Clinton would have been.

Will Trump follow through on this or will pressure from the Deep State force him to keep up a policy of confrontation with Russia? Time will tell, but with Clinton we knew nothing would get better, and in fact things would get a whole lot worse, with Trump we don't know how bad things could be, but there's a possibility they may actually get better.

So let's hope that Trump indeed proves to be a transactional President who can get things done, and that he follows through on his message to the American electorate, however vague, to prioritise domestic problems, even protectionism and public spending - policies straight out of the socialist playbook - and worry less about promoting "freedom and democracy" around the world. Certainly if the reactions, public and private, of America's "friends and allies" the global Foreign Policy establishment, are anything to go by, there is at least a plausible chance of this. I would welcome that, and so should you.

Our CLP

I believe that the leadership of the NEC has a great deal to answer for.

Never mind that ineffectual attempt to prevent the elected-by-landslide leader in 2015 standing for a needless re-run of the contest one year later. Never mind raising the charge for supporters to £25 in an attempt to prevent them from registering to vote for him. Never mind the artifice of setting a cut-off date six months in the past so that recent party members couldn't vote, then losing a court case when a handful of them contested the decision. Ridiculously and underhandedly the NEC then used members' own money to fund a reversal at the hands of a lone judge ruling that the NEC is supreme with regard to operational matters, and cannot be appealed against. It is my belief that this legal ruling will come back to haunt the so-called 'moderates' within the party.

In a final attempt to reduce the power of the Labour Leadership in the newly constituted NEC, the old guard co-opted two new seats, one for Scotland and one for Wales, in the hope that these, currently critical of Corbyn, would remain so; they won't you know! They surely won't.....

But the most stupid and reckless act of the NEC this summer wasn't the cynical 'purge' of decent and genuine party members for imagined offences and thought crimes against New Labour and its philosophies. The

colossal mistake was to do this at a time when they had also banned all Constituency Labour Parties and BLPs from meeting and holding their AGMs, at which positions on the Executive Committees of each CLP would be chosen. The result was members' anger and determination to take control of the Party Machine from top to bottom.

Lest anyone imagine that this is militant entryism gone large, let me tell you about the events of my own Constituency Labour Party. New members, old members, and very old members have been frustrated all summer and wanted to meet with others. The rules said they mustn't. We couldn't even invite shadow cabinet ministers to come and address us, have a cup of tea, tell us how things were in Westminster, or raise funds for Labour. We had to stick to 'campaign' meetings; to stand in our dozens in the sunshine by an ice cream van with Owen Smith, or to gather in thousands in wind and rain to hear Jeremy Corbyn.

As soon as Branches were able to meet, choose delegates and nominate officers for the CLP, they did so. Anger, frustration, and desire to actually GO to a Labour meeting and EXERT some influence and TAKE some power led to AGMs at which a 'Membership' Slate swept away whole executives

and by large margins.

Disappointingly for the so-called moderates, this was done in an orderly fashion, politely, with no abuse or bullying, no crowing or triumphalism, no threats, intimidation, and certainly no lack of respect. Chairmen, secretaries, vice chairs, treasurers, and so on were thanked for their years of service, and praised, but a lot of nice, talented, and very competent people are now out on their ears. I hope that no-one decides to invoke some rule invented on the spur of the moment by the leadership of the NEC to cancel these grass-roots decisions.

Such foolery would fail, and lead to more power being transferred to the members and the *ancien regime* would once again have only themselves to blame.

Meanwhile, new executives of all CLPs have been advised to video record their meetings.



BRITAIN'S MUST STOP ITS NAVEL GAZING AND RE-JOIN REALITY

By JULIE WARD MEP

Looking at the event recent months, Britain seems to be trapped in an exploration of its own psyche, searching for the kind of country it wants to be. Ordinarily, exploration is a good thing, but this is one of a narrow repetitive conversation with much darker tones.

We now know that in the three months after the referendum hate crime went up by 41%. This Tory government, unlike its predecessors, now prioritises stopping, tracking or banning foreigners over free trade in a common market. Fringe far right-wing views that were once deplored are now voiced triumphantly in BBC studios.

Our country seems to have developed a self-obsessed solipsistic monologue, inventing a glorified nostalgic and fictionalised past, and projecting it onto an imagined future. We are so busy gazing at our navels that we think that no one else can hear our soliloquy, off to the side of the world stage. But the world is watching closely, and all of our allies, close



and far, are bewildered at what has come over us. While we keep talking to ourselves about ourselves, the world keeps turning, and we risk that it will turn away from us.

To begin with, the conversation around the referendum, remain and leave, was all about ourselves, and our give and take with Europe. How much do we gain? How much do we lose? All calculated in sterling, per week, per month, per year. There was never a question of common values, of solidarity, of

supporting our fellow Europeans in a time of need. We never really got to talk about how, working together, we could create a better future not just for ourselves but for all Europeans, and for all of the people in the regions around us.

When the Brexiteers talk about our fellow Europeans, the insultingly refer to them either as mooching migrants (or worse), or German manufacturers who will need to keep exporting cars over here.

We never talk about the Eu-

ropean challenges we could help solve. The Middle East is still burning, there are refugees drowning in the sea, the war in Ukraine rages on, and Turkey falls deeper into dictatorship. Climate change is accelerating past what looks like a point of no return. Social injustices persist, as more and more citizens call out for a world with a fair tax system and fair trade. The EU is the central force for democracy and stability in the region, and when it is destabilised, unscrupulous regimes take the opportunity to violate human rights and coerce their neighbours. Solidarity is needed now more than ever, and our fellow Europeans need us, and we need them.

All this is going on around us, now in the 21st century, but we're not listening. We are talking about the world in 19th century terms, as if we could still rule the seas, and free trade was matter of just sending a boat across the ocean, or as if we could run our economy on cheap butter from New Zealand.

Perhaps part of the problem is that we do not realise how loved we are. Britain is loved, not be-

cause of its imperial glories but because of its cultural creation: The Beatles and the Rolling Stones, J.K. Rowling, and J.R.R. Tolkien, Dickens, Shelley and Shakespeare. We simply do not see how much the rest of the world identifies with that culture, and somehow some on the far right mistakenly thinks our neighbours are counting on us to bring back Empire. They are not.

Britain now faces some of the most important decisions we have had to make since the Second World War. To be able to make those decisions we need intelligent public debate, a responsible press, and active citizens standing up for what they want and believe in. We now have a united Labour Party that is ready to hold the government to account, and I am happy that is now happening more vigorously. The 170 questions Labour has tabled to the government are an excellent first step. Now we must pursue answers.

Britain needs to wake up and take a sober look at the reality around us. We cannot afford to gaze at our navels and let the world pass us by.

Women who made a difference

Part 3.

Some of us might have been unaware of all the achievements of Ellen Wilkinson and then Millicent Fawcett about in previous editions of the Word. It is likely that many French people do not recognise the importance of Olympe de Gouges in the political history of their nation.

She was born in 1748 as Marie Gouze in Montabaun, South West France. She believed she was the illegitimate daughter of the Marquis de Pompignan. He rejected her and she was married off in 1765 to Louis Aubry, a caterer. It was not a marriage of love and he died a year later. In 1790 she moved with her son, Pierre, to Paris and took the name Olympe de Gouges. After a long relationship with a wealthy man, Jacques de Rozieres she had affairs with other men who supported her financially. This enabled her to mix in artistic and political circles and overcome her poor education to become a writer.

From 1784 to her death in 1794

Olympe wrote a number of essays, political pamphlets and two novels. She had been inspired by many of the earlier French philosophers like Rousseau and Voltaire. Her profound humanism led her to oppose discrimination in all its

"A woman has the right to mount the scaffold. She must possess equally the right to mount the speaker's platform." **{The Declaration of the Rights of Women}**

forms. She was a leading feminist speaking for the rights of women (including divorce and unwed mothers), the protection of orphans, the poor, the unemployed, the aged and the illegitimate. She was among the first to demand the emancipation of slaves. Olympe was a pacifist and against the death penalty, hated dictator-

ships, wanted a more equal society and devised a tax system that would re-distribute wealth.

Women played an active part in the French Revolution, indeed the attack on the royal palace of Versailles started with a march of women demanding bread. However though Olympe greeted the outbreak of the Revolution with joy she soon became disillusioned when *égalité* (equal rights) was not extended to women. She joined the 'Society of the Friends of Truth' whose goal was equal political and legal rights for women. Here she made her famous statement

Her works became more challenging to the ruling group, the Jacobins, and in June 1793 members of her allies, the Girondins, were arrested and then executed. She provoked the Jacobins further with her publication of the "Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen" and a poster demanding a vote on three possible forms of government.

She paid the ultimate price, ar-

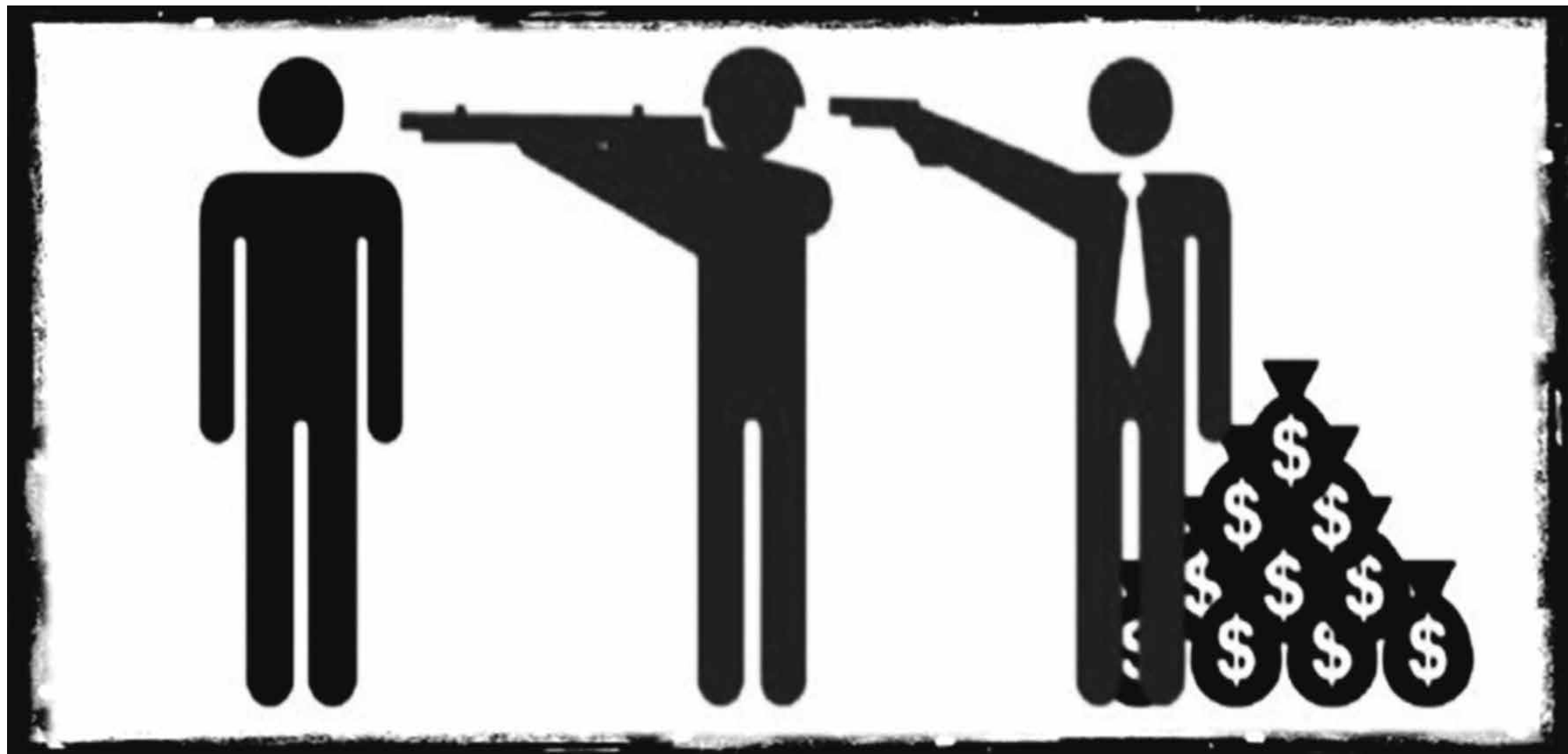


Marie-Olympe de Gouges Pastel attributed to Alexandre Kucharski (circa 1787)

rest, imprisonment and death by the guillotine! A Parisian witness at the time admired her courage, saying she 'had thrown herself into the revolution, body and soul. But having ...perceived how atrocious the system adopted by the Jacobins was,.....She attempted to unmask the villains.....through her literary productions.....They never forgave her and she paid for her

carelessness with her head.'

Sadly her work has been disparaged or ignored in France for a long time. Only in the last decades has real recognition of her work for equal rights been sought. A square in Paris was renamed 'Place Olympe de Gouges' in 2004 and attempts were made to have her remains placed in the Pantheon (mausoleum with remains of great Frenchmen). I say Frenchmen because until 2015 the only two women were there, and only one on her own merits, Marie Curie. Two heroines of the French Resistance were placed there in 2015. However the efforts to place Olympe there have raised awareness in France of this true heroine and victim of the French Revolution. Her ideas will live on. Sadly they were seen as dangerous at the time and scorned for generations because she was a mere woman. She died for statements like this; "Male and female citizens, being equal in the eyes of the law, must be equally admitted to all honours, positions, and public employment according to their capacity and without other distinctions besides those of their virtues and talents."



Part Three

By Guido Paine

Paid Trolls

The stark truth is that in the 21st century, very few people can be hard left or hard right. The overwhelming majority of people are somewhere in-between, holding some left leaning views and some right leaning views - like myself, like Boris Johnson, like the European Union. This type of politics would nowadays be the norm; neither left nor right - a common eclectic politic beyond simple labelling.

It is a curious thing that a style of false penmanship pioneered by the mainstream press' leading Brexiteers has been so rapidly and rabidly adopted by a wealth of online bloggers, each consumed by an at-any-cost approach to extolling some clear-cut, traditional worldview - often for monetary gain. Many of these are vehement due to heartfelt pride [never the wisest motivator], many due to selling someone else's world-view as a paid employee.

Great examples of these narratives come from Britain First, whose logic is at best flawed. These folks swallow Fascist Nazi Ideology married with a Union Flag, as if the two are vaguely compatible considering the sacrifices of two entire generations of our own families. The English Defence League lose credibility by rallying against Islamification *and going for a kebab on the way home*, literally supporting their 'enemy'. Our problem here

21ST CENTURY FEUDALISM

is that such reactionary groups - spurred on by an urgent fear and desperation, a righteous spark of ire at the rapid, relentless demographic and cultural changes all around us - seem too blind to work out a strategy that leaves them anything but servants to the machine they are opposed to. One example would be Morgoth's Review on Blogspot. Its masthead reads:

"If you are easily offended or of a Liberal persuasion this is not the place for you."

Liberal Persuasion. The term in itself reveals a heavy wedding to certain traditional narratives, a certain identity in the eye of the author, a certain filter over critical faculties.

The simple truth is none can claim to be a total righty or a total lefty - there are always the hard questions that will sway us from that path. As a young man Michael Gove was turned down for a job at the Conservative Research Depart-

ment, being told he was "insufficiently political" and "insufficiently conservative", even though he had previously been a member of both Oxford Conservatives and Young Conservatives.

The elephant in the Brexit room is 'The Coming Tide' of European Madness, this time it takes the form of the 'Ultra-Left Liberal Elites', and their steadfast refusal to fend off the 'Islamic Horde'.

First, there is no 'Ultra Left Elite'. You're angry at the bogeyman. They could equally be seen as a Hard Right Elite - their austerity policies and economic doctrines are in fact Libertarian policy, and their treatment of Greece in overruling their democratic will is dangerously close to fascism. They are Neoliberal in policy, in practice, in name and in nature. Neoliberal, more specifically, means Libertarian: They are 'Hard Right' in every sense bar one - the free movement of people. Many call this social-

ist, anarchist or even liberal; but to do so is to speak in ignorance. They are *New* Liberal; Neoliberal. While it may seem confusing, bear in mind that Mr Hitler - that well known Ultra Hard Right Fascist Dictator - was a bit socialist. This much loved narrative hardwiring us to simple political poles doesn't even fit 80 year old politics; using such heuristic tools today means political illiteracy.

The real reason for their adherence to free movement of people is simple - how else to undermine nationalistic, patriotic and entrenched cultural norms? This group is playing a long game - one of many lifetimes, one in which the people would eventually identify as European, much as we in the UK may identify as British. Ultimately, their ideal is that one would identify secondarily English, British, French or German - primarily European.

These elites simply want vast

numbers of citizens, and for those to be destabilised. Every disruption to nationalistic ideals is to be lauded, every allegiance challenged and eroded. Every cultural identity is to be overwhelmed. How else could they create one itinerant nation devoted to following job creation?

Ultimately, this melting pot of nations with mixed, divergent identities will be easier to control and condition. When their work is complete, we will all have descendants mired in Ayn Rand's fevered rantings, steeped in so-called Austrian economics, in a state with no welfare, no health-care, no justice and no recourse - just corporate servitude and a ruling class of 'noble' overlords.

The establishment do not care for the left or the right, they are beyond them. It is time we moved beyond them too. In Europe or in Britain, it's happening to you, right now.

We have a need to understand, we rationalise constantly, we conclude but do we understand even our own conclusions? Conclusions of what we appear to see and understand come from the information provided to us. Which brings me to how *I* view things, or should *I* say how 'me' once did. Or should that be the other way round?

I remember a news report, I am guessing I was around eight or nine at the time. The item/report was a story about the demolition of Palestinian homes. They were being bulldozed away, literary. The reporter told *us* these homes belonged to *them* terrorists, so my immediate understanding was *these* houses were being used by snipers and bomb makers. I sat there watching, no sympathy, no empathy. It was my understanding two countries were at war *here* and *there* one had resorted to terrorism.

There was certainly no mention in the report of Jewish settlers moving in to the vacant space once *the* houses were removed.

As a child in the seventies I saw many war films. I saw: 'Operation Daybreak', a film about *agents* who assassinated Reinhard Heydrich. As a reprisal for this the destruction of the village of Lidice was enacted. The men of the village were shot and all the women and children were sent to concentration camps. I wasn't a stupid child, and I certainly



wasn't uncaring. I was appalled by the suffering of others and easily brought to tears, especially by animal cruelty. So how could I sit and watch this and somehow find it acceptable?

Did I just watch *Another* war film?

Wasn't this what I was witnessing *here* in the news report?

A modern day war film, another Lidice, projected through the TV?

My father is a patient man, he always has time to explain things.

'Dad', I gasped back then 'Who *is* that? Dad why are they doing that?

'Dad why is *she* saying that?'

My Dad was always ready with

an answer, and a balanced one. I would only have had to ask about this or that or the reason and he would offer an explanation.

Yet now, as I understand, I realise I didn't need to ask Dad, the reporter told me everything I needed to know about this story. All the information was presented to me and I made a judgement. I knew what was happening and why, it

was all laid out in the report for me.

The lies, the deception, the misinformation and the propaganda continues today, not just distorting children's perception but adults too. Yet I am grateful to my Dad. He helped me understand, conclude my own feelings of horror and disgust.

War Films are for adults to explain. Children are just disgusted.

"Fusion fillets at Farmhouse"

By Shareen Ashraf

The Farmhouse, slightly hidden tucked away behind a business park, not where you would expect to see such a fine dining establishment. However, established in 2008 the Farmhouse offers not only exquisite food but an experience too. With a choice of two separate menus, you can choose from high quality English food from steaks to the traditional British fish and chips or travel down Asia and sample Indian cuisine from curries to biryanis! If you

can't make your mind up between the two, they also offer a fusion of both menus, such as- 'Indian' fish and chips or their 'Bombay bad boy' Steak!

Upon arrival, I was faced with the grounds of the establishment- a beautiful garden with an outdoor seating area. Walking in, there was a pleasant atmosphere with large tables of people but also small, intimate couples. Members of staff were very welcoming, with the manager standing front of house. Staff were very approachable,



providing guidance on the different menus that they had to offer. The diversity and selection of food was vast and surprisingly, this was available at any time of the day. I opted for the sirloin steak with spicy wedges, accompanied with peppercorn sauce, however a selection of food was provided. Visually the food was

presented very well and there was certainly no compromise on the taste either- asking for my steak to be done as 'medium-rare'- is exactly what I received. I'm not one to refuse, but I had to skip dessert- next time I will start with dessert and work my way backwards!

On the whole, my experience of The Farmhouse, was definitely a positive one which I would highly recommend. They cater for all needs, having a set children's menu and a buffet option on a Monday and Tuesday. They have a separate marquee available which can be booked out for special occasions and also a separate family dining area.

**215 Beechwood Avenue,
Coventry CV5 6HB
024 7671 4332
Open 12:00 - 00:00**



SUSPENSION AND REINSTATEMENTS

Imagine the scenario: A compliance unit had been established unbeknown to ordinary citizens. Its duties included trawling through minutiae of the populace to ascertain whether or not banned words have been used or if these citizens have demonstrated any leanings, however innocuous, to bodies proscribed by The Party; especially international concerns. Those found guilty of misdemeanours were to be punished by isolating them from their comrades via suspension or expulsion. Those found "guilty" were to face a tribunal at the whim of those masterminding the cull. No evidence of their "crimes" was to be supplied, just the psychological weapon of "not knowing" and waiting. The whole debacle has the resonance of a fictional dictatorship; sadly, this is how the machinations of the Labour Party appear to have operated over the last year or so.

Suspension has led to distress, anger and hurt for countless loyal and enthusiastic Labour Party members; many have decided to cancel their membership in order not to suffer the further stress and indignity of a tribunal to assess their guilt. The suspensions appear to have been calculated to limit the landslide victory of Corbyn in the leadership election; or even prevent his victory. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that it prevented delegates supportive of Corbyn, from contributing to the democratic process at conference, thereby diluting Corbyn's influence and promoting the cause of the right wing of the Party.

The suspensions also served to curtail freedom of speech on social media and led to many viewing suspended members with suspicion - "no smoke without fire". There was no ombudsman in support of those suspended and Momentum were glaringly silent over the whole em-

barrassing episode in Labour's history. Interestingly, though there has been hysterical opposition to the idea of Momentum by many to the right of the Party, suspended LP members were informed by some groups that they could not attend Momentum meetings due to their (lack of) LP membership status.

Now that Conference and the leadership contest have taken place; many members have had their membership reinstated. However, many have been issued with a formal warning, thereby tainting their reputation and membership record as well as using the veiled threat of future suspension/expulsion.

The last 18 months have revealed a quagmire of deceit and duplicity within the Labour Party. Once considered the bastion of fair play and a haven for the working class and anyone with a social conscience, the party has been appropriated and remodelled beyond recognition. The Red Rose symbol appears to be the façade behind which the machinations of

I am pleased to inform you that your administrative suspension from the Labour Party has been lifted and that you are now free to resume active membership.

You were suspended following allegations that you contributed to a crowdfunding website which directly contravened party rules by paying for membership of others. The Labour Party has received a number of complaints about membership abuse.

I would like to draw your attention specifically to Chapter 2 Clause II(A) and Clause II(F) which state:

[Clause II(A)]: "It is an abuse of Party rules for one individual or faction to 'buy' Party membership for other individuals or groups of individuals who would otherwise be unwilling to pay their own subscriptions"

[Clause II(F)]: "Party officers and members should be aware that involvement in such abuses shall be considered as behavior likely to bring the Party into disrepute and prima facie evidence of such behavior may lead to disciplinary action leading to expulsion under the constitutional rules of the Party"

In addition, the Labour Party would like to remind you that abuse of any kind - whether direct attacks or pejorative language which may cause offence - is not acceptable and will not be tolerated in our Party. Language that may be perceived as provocative, insensitive or offensive falls short of the standards expected of us as Party members.

To share content which refers to other members as lying traitors in the way it is alleged you have done is something that has caused offense to many Party members and is not an acceptable or constructive way of engaging in political discourse.

I have therefore considered it necessary to issue you with a formal NEC warning under rule 6.1.C:

the party furiously grind; desperate to conceal its rotting roots.

Jeremy Corbyn's rise from the background campaigner to Leader and the incredible flood of new membership signify that change must ensue. It is apparent that the Labour Party "machine" have sought to quell the voice of the grass roots, rather than welcoming their burgeoning number. This ought not be surprising since a former spin doctor to Blair, Mr John McTernan, has publicly revealed his contempt for the rank and file as well as Mr Corbyn. His opinion appears to be echoed by the 172 parliamentary labour party members (PLP) who orchestrated a vote of no confidence in their democratically elected leader rather than seeking to work with him in the interests of both the Party and the wider public.

Those who have resigned from front bench duties, publicly declared their lack of faith in Mr Corbyn's leadership or demonstrated mutinous tendencies towards his administration claim to be acting in an attempt

to preserve the Party's reputation and improve the chances of general election (GE) success. Their mantra being that Mr Corbyn is "unelectable". Some of their number have publicly vilified their leader and his supporters in the mainstream media (MSM), usually selecting newspapers traditionally regarded as Tory-friendly. Presumably, they were also paid for their offerings which adds a further distasteful dimension to their actions. Studies have shown that media coverage of Mr Corbyn and those loyal to him has been biased negatively so their actions serve to impact more damage on public opinion with respect to Mr Corbyn's electability.

Many of us who have been suspended have been criticised for threatening to leave the party during our months of angst. There are claims that we are being disloyal to Corbyn. I agree that Jeremy needs our support BUT where is our champion? We are literally being swept under the carpet and dismissed with "well in 30 days you'll either get reinstated a tribunal or booted out" In addition, the reinstatement is subject to a slap on the wrist for something we haven't done! Justice needs to be served and anyone who accepts anything less is at best a well-intentioned

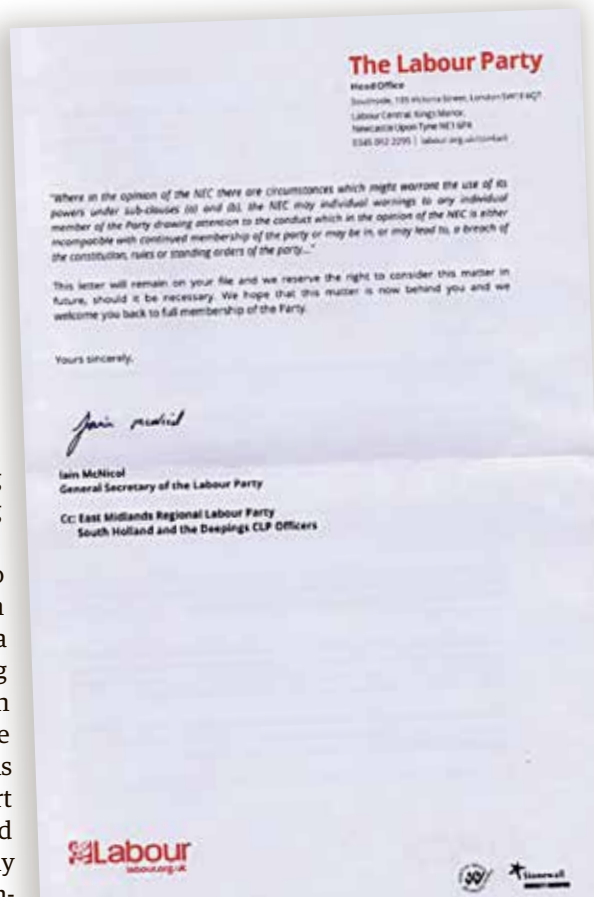
but ill-informed and ineffectual. This is big! It merits a complete and thorough investigation not platitudes and underlying suspicion of us, innocent loyal Socialists!! Please will someone please hear us? An act of solidarity might have been a coordinated cessation of membership from ALL members!! The damage is done and it does not initiate an investigation into the investigators and it is NOT justice! I am also informed that there are still many who are still suspended and have been informed that they can choose to appeal - they have sadly decided against this, despite their innocence, and will support Corbyn from outside the Party.

I am not prepared to accept poor quality response from the Party that is supposed to be a voice for the voiceless! Do they not realise that they have made a mockery of the Party! Not one of us should be palmed off with second best - this is the problem pervading our nation and why we are lumbered with a Tory government! I demand satisfaction and, knowing that most of my fellow suspended/newly reinstated members are fighters for natural justice, I suspect that they do too!

Only those who have not experienced the pain of being suspended can be complacent about this, cos after all, it doesn't affect them. However, this does not apply to all my fantastic, full LP-member comrades who have my back - I know they won't settle for mediocrity. There is too much acceptance of that which ought not to be tolerated and the machinations of the LP need a thorough overhaul

I recognise that it is necessary for a governing body to have a democratic say in the leadership in order to prevent tyrannical monsters, however the actions of the NEC and Compliance Unit indicate that the monster is actually the regularity body in this situation.

Please join us in Nottingham on 26th of November and publicise our conference at your Branch and CLP meetings <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stop-the-purge-national-conference-tickets-28530643924?aff=eac2>





By Mara

"A quick test of the assertion that enjoyment outweighs pain in this world, or that they are at any rate balanced, would be to compare the feelings of an animal engaged in eating another with those of the animal being eaten."

I would like to take this significant phrase from Schopenhauer further and add that, not only is there overwhelming suffering in the world, but this suffering is the condition upon which life on our planet rests. We forget that we only exist because we eat each other: and I mean, us living creatures. Of course currently humans eat others the most, and in a more atrocious, efficient, industrialised and therefore soulless manner. But even where we don't get physically eaten the flesh of, we still eat each other metaphorically. Civilisation is just an euphemism for organised theft and mass murder. Unfortunately, we wouldn't exist nor more importantly, thrive in comfy artificial *paradisos*, had it not been for the systematic atrocity.

So when you feel you are a kind loving person to your kids and dog with nice feelings about yourself, remember that's nature's coping device to hide from your sanity the grim reality that we are a collective gruesome predator, where now execution and intent are separate on the murder command chain we all participate in THROUGH ECONOMY. Which is a human construct that takes lion feasting on gazelle to a superior organisation level. Then comes up with onanistic pseudosciences (among the real ones) housed in dedicated architecture to assuage the inbuilt guilt of us as human species. And with doping fictions like "democracy, equality, freedom".

Our western comfort lies on grand piles of bones and much suffering. The latte we sip and the ip-hone we tweet inane stuff on, has the invisible mark of animal and third world human despair and we don't spare a thought. We wear poppies, because it's facile fashionable sorrow, but we tax as inappropriate to think where the oil



comes our civilisation rests on. We can't connect the dots between the "war on terror" scarecrow and this fundamental principle of history which is cannibal civilisation. Homo sapiens defeated and probably butchered the inferior Neanderthal. The white man is the planet's most efficient predator. It's just getting a bit out of hand now and we might all die.

I want to smash through the delusion that the west has democracy.

UK is still a long way away from a state of the art tryanny as it's US leading the field. How else could you explain that while Jill Stein is running, everybody's trapped thinking their only choice is between a dumb blonde and an evil dying android? The public mind has been so deeply manipulated that you don't need to officially take their vote away; just make the retards think they only have two options.

I urge you, even as we have no say in US politics, to read the DNC and Podesta leaks; there is, buried among



other many revelations of the evil lady's nefarious character, the 2014 admission: "...the governments of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, which are providing clandestine financial and logistic support to ISIL and other radical groups in the region." She doubled arms deals with those two countries since. Almost like she's funding...ISIL?! You know, for someone with so much responsibility she isn't putting her money where her mouth is. Unless she's literally paid to lie. Which would be obvious, if you drones weren't so busy celebrating that a vagina is moving towards the

helm of the evil power.

Even that the average nice Labour Corbynista gets up in arms when I say there's no democracy in US/the US back garden...now makes democracy fiction in the romance novel that is the Constitution, because in the minds of the many, the capacity to vote with the right people, to know and understand their fate has been switched off. By clever means. Like yelling Assange loves Russia. Which is enough for dumbasses to discredit this man's heroic revelations about a war-monger so dangerous she has no qualms calling nuclear war against Russia. She might profit from it. Democracy is dead. Ignore this at your peril.

When I joined the Million Mask March on the 5th of November, I walked through the most terrifying hours of my life. Helicopters, thousands of cops dressed like the military...to make sure a bunch of people don't get serious about their decorative anger at system that threw them under the bus. "You can protest nicely and vent your anger, but we have weapons aimed at your head in case you want to APPLY these ideas you sing songs about". Democracy? Terror. The state's.

Under Trump US switches sides in Syria

By George Christoforou

The world sighs a breath of relief as president-elect Trump sets foot into the White House signalling a change of approach. While Obama met Trump in the oval

office, new policies, prepared beforehand, were launched as soon as Trump was elected.

The U.S. declared that from now on it will fight against al-Qaeda in Syria:

President Obama has ordered

the Pentagon to find and kill the leaders of an al-Qaeda-linked group in Syria that the administration had largely ignored until now and that has been at the vanguard of the fight against the Syrian government, U.S. officials said.

That shift is likely to accelerate once President-elect Donald Trump takes office, possibly in direct cooperation with Moscow.

U.S. officials who opposed the decision to go after al-Nusra's

wider leadership warned that the United States would effectively be ending the counter-Assad fight

Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter and other Pentagon leaders put up some resistance against the idea of devoting more Pentagon surveillance aircraft and armed drones against al-Nusra. Clinton's policies in Syria lies in tatters.

Global Headlines**Washington, DC**

John Podesta's emails are an important release from WikiLeaks. Podesta was co-chair of Obama's transition team. Michael Froman, then an executive at Citigroup, emailed Podesta on October 6th 2008 - weeks before the Presidential Election. Mailed from a Citigroup address, with the subject "Lists", and contained three - one of non-white candidates, one of women for top jobs, and one of cabinet positions. The cabinet list named Rahm Emanuel for chief of staff, Robert Gates for Defense, Eric Holder for the Justice Department, Arne Duncan for Education, Peter Orszag for the Office of Management and Budget, Janet Napolitano for Homeland Security, Eric Shinseki for Veterans Affairs, and many more. Michael Froman, Citigroup executive, outlined the Obama cabinet that granted Citigroup the largest Federal Government bailout of the financial crisis.

Washington

FBI still believes no charges warranted against Hillary Clinton after reviewing new email evidence related to her private server, two days before the U.S. election. FBI Director James Comey announced in a letter to Congress on Sunday, saying the agency had not changed its conclusions from July.

South Carolina

A convicted rapist who held a woman "chained like a dog" confessed to seven killings. Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright told a press conference late Saturday (Nov 5) that warrants were issued charging Todd Christopher Kohlhepp with a quadruple murder that baffled police for 13 years.

Cuba

Tensions rise over pay discrepancy between workers of different nationalities on three major hotel projects.

Nicaragua

The final national survey prior to this Sunday's Presidential election indicates that incumbent Daniel Ortega and his running mate, First Lady Rosario Murillo, will easily triumph.

Venezuela

Venezuela Supreme Court grants injunction to halt congressional probe that found Rafael Ramirez, former president of state oil company Petróleos de Venezuela, responsible for corruption and malfeasance that resulted in the disappearance of \$11 billion.

Latin America

Nicaragua, Bolivia, and Cuba are the best-ranked Latin American states in a gender gap study issued by the World Economic Forum.

Bolivia

Spanish energy giant Repsol extended its agreement for exploration and operation of Bolivia's largest oil bloc to 2046.

Brazil

Volkswagen appoints German university professor to investigate claims of torture and human rights violations against Brazilian employees between 1964 and 1985.

Chile

The race for 2018 World Cup qualification in South America became much tighter after a decision to dock points from Bolivia allowed Chile to leapfrog Argentina in the standings.

Argentina

Representatives at the recent Ibero-American summit backed Argentina's claim to the Falklands Islands while also supporting a United Nations resolution for dialogue with Britain over the disputed archipelago.

INTERNATIONAL

Paris

France plans to bring in more police units and surveillance cameras to reassure tourists put off by militant attacks, *Le Figaro* said on Sunday. France is the most popular country in the world for tourists with almost 85 million visitors last year.

Moscow

Falling oil prices have led to Kremlin budget deficit and cuts to health, education, and a 27 percent reduction in military spending. Sixty-eight percent of Russia's exports are in oil, oil products, and natural gas; with oil-related revenues supplying roughly half the Russian budget.

Sofia

Rumen Radev, of Bulgaria's opposition Socialist party, narrowly won the first round of the Bulgarian presidential election with 24-27 percent of the vote, exit polls showed on Sunday. Former Air Force Commander Radev, 53, will face ruling GERB's party candidate Tsetska Tsacheva, who polled 23 percent, in a ballot on the 13th November.

Seoul

South Korean prosecutors arrest two former presidential aides in growing influence-peddling scandal. Tens of thousands have joined protests demanding the resignation of President Park Geun-hye.

Vatican City

Pope Francis celebrated Mass before a thousand prisoners specially invited to the Vatican on Sunday, giving a message of hope while denouncing 'hypocrisy of society'. The event was also attended by 3,000 others including prison staff and volunteers, without any visible police presence.

Ankara

Turkish authorities arrest staff members of a leading opposition newspaper, under a widening 'anti-terror probe' that has seen Kurdish and left-wing media closed down and the joint mayors of Diyarbakir arrested - "We are elected representatives of the people. We do not represent ourselves, but the electorate. Our fight will go on." Over 110,000 have been detained or suspended following July's failed coup. Erdoğan's critics claim he is using the coup to crush opposition. Ankara claims crack-downs are necessary to root out terrorists.

New Delhi

Britain already has a good visa system with India, Prime Minister Theresa May said late on Sunday as she arrived in the country for her first bilateral trip outside of the European Union since June's Brexit vote.

The Delhi government on Sunday put all construction projects on hold, shut down schools and advised residents to stay indoors as part of an "emergency" plan to deal with dangerous air pollution. In the past week, a thick layer of smog has enveloped the city, with people complaining of irritated eyes, throats and lungs.

Dhaka

Bangladeshi police arrest dozens following fresh violence against Hindus. Hindu homes and temples in the Brahmanbairs district of eastern Bangladesh have come under attack, after a local allegedly shared a Facebook post that Islamic hardliners claim denigrated Islamic site Masjid al-Haram.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong police pepper spray citizens to drive back hundreds angry at China's decision to bar two pro-independence lawmakers from office. Recalling mass pro-democracy protests in 2014, protestors charged metal fences outside China's liaison office.

NEWS ROUNDUP



SCENES FROM MOSUL

By Derek Fraser

The recent advances by Peshmerga, Iraqi security forces and US led coalition forces (including Turkey) against Daesh positions in Northern Iraq (centred around Iraq's second City, Mosul) seems a positive development on the surface, but dig a little deeper and worrying aspects appear. US motives in the area are to reassert their influence after the disastrous foreign interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq, that ironically and tragically gave space for Daesh to grow in that vital part of the world. Saudi Arabia and Qatar seek to bolster radical Sunni groups seeking to overthrow

Assad's brutal regime (because of Iranian Shia support) with their own brutal version of Islam which most Muslims would contend. The scenes of retreating Daesh fighters and liberated villages in Northern Iraq are part of a media offensive to bolster US interests in this area,

'Such a toxic and smouldering cesspit will not be cured by bombs and arms pumped into the Middle East'.

and show none of the analysis needed to illustrate how groups like Daesh came about.

The war on terror came out of the Afghan conflict to halt the Soviets there in 1979, all else runs from this. With the fall of the Berlin Wall

adding to Russia's increasing loss of superpower status allowed the US to think it could assert its interests and authority where it thought fit. What the US and most other Western commentators didn't expect was the growing dissatisfaction across North Africa and Middle

East with despotic dictators, themselves a reflection of post-colonial carve ups and Cold War era, which erupted recently in 2011. The growing dissatisfaction of the masses in Cairo, Tunis, across the whole Middle East could not be contained by

the old power structures. The tragedy has been that in most cases the military have stepped in (backed by US support and Saudi subsidies in Egypt) or disintegrated, as Nato bombs destroyed much of Libya's chance to start a peaceful road to democracy.

Radical Islam has grown at the same time, out of the despair that 40-50 years of despotic rule, backed by Western or Soviet interests, taking hold in many countries in Africa and the Middle and Far East. Such a toxic and smouldering cesspit will not be cured by bombs and arms pumped into the Middle East, it can only be helped by supporting democratic institutions in those countries, against

the interests of both US inspired desires and Putin's attempt to reassert his influence. The millions across the Middle East and further yearn for the justice that a poor Tunisian sought when he torched himself in 2011, at being arrested by state police for trying to sell vegetables at the side of the road. His death was not in vain as it lit a fire which continues to burn today, in form of the women defying Saudi authorities by driving, to bloggers in Sissi's Egypt prison camp still struggling for democracy, risking everything for it. Their courage and struggles are what the US, Putin and other so called 'leaders' never contend with, and always underestimate.

The crisis of our own making

By Alexander Dommerholt

The times are trying to those who identify as leftist, liberal or progressive; the line between satire and reality has been decidedly blurred, leading to day to day reality having become a cruel joke for those detesting the rise of the far right.

The far right in the UK and the US has been riding on the waves of the current refugee crisis (or 'migrant crisis', as they prefer to call it), yet those on the right seem eager to forget the refugee crisis was created by ourselves, especially the UK and US.

If we rewind the clock to 2003, the US and UK invaded Iraq, quoting the danger of Saddam Hussain

and his supposed WMDs. Before long, Saddam was toppled and the invading forces prided themselves on having delivered 'freedom' to the Iraqi people. The WMDs were never found because they did not exist.

Iraq's 'freedom' quickly imploded as the UK and US had created a power vacuum. Not surprisingly, it saw the rise of multiple militias and terrorist groups scrambling for power which the Allies and the newly formed Iraqi government couldn't contain.

Ultimately, the shambles in Iraq gave rise to ISIS who optimally used the disarray Iraq was in, leading to them controlling swathes of land and instilling fear in the hearts of the Iraqi people with shocking acts of brutality. The

power of ISIS subsequently spilled into Syria, as Bashar Al-Assad's iron fist began rusting.

All this brought a refugee crisis of a magnitude not seen since WWII. Though Europe is the desired destination of many refugees, by far most have sought refuge in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Lebanon alone has taken in 1.5 million Syrians, (1 refugee per 4 Lebanese). The stream of refugees only increased due to the instability in Afghanistan which has lasted for many years now, in which the UK also played an important part.

The above doesn't explain all the refugees taking the Mediterranean Route via Libya, but that was also of the UK's and US's making.

The Route itself is nothing new as people smugglers have made use of it for decades.

The reason this didn't bring on a crisis at first was because the Western World had struck a deal with Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, who made sure Libyan beaches could not be used for smuggling purposes. This meant many refugees could not cross the Mediterranean from Africa.

When the Libyan Civil War broke out, the West (mainly the US, UK, France and Canada) aided rebels who aimed to overthrow Gaddafi's regime. Ultimately, the Western forces played a decisive role in removing Gaddafi - descending Libya into anarchy.

Libya became a bonanza for people smugglers. Many of those trying to cross into Europe are from (South) Sudan, seeking to flee civil

Wars, whereas many are from Eritrea, whose regime is akin to North Korea (Eritrea has less freedom of the press than Kim Jong-Un's country). It is little wonder that these desperate people are fleeing.

The conclusion, obvious yet generally ignored, is that the West removed two dictators and patted itself on the back, despite plunging Libya into disarray. This led to the refugee crisis we see today.

The UK played a major part in creating this crisis but fails spectacularly to take responsibility for it. Instead, the UK runs from this responsibility, and many of its mainstream media outlets find it acceptable to denigrate and abuse refugees.

It's time that our government owns up to our country's mistakes. This crisis is a direct consequence of our governments actions.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Got something to say? Say it through Speaker's Corner. Send your letters to us on facebook at The Word Letters Page, or by email to letters@thewordmedia.org.uk



Theresa May,

I am writing to you regarding what you said at Prime Minister's Questions on the 2nd of November 2016. You said that the Conservatives understand the working class more than Labour do.

Firstly you and your party are more out of touch with the working class than ever before, and also I should tell you that you do not represent my voice and that you fail to understand my friends and I.

If you really understand what it is like to grow up within a working class home, surely you would think twice about cutting benefits for those who struggle the most through the austerity imposed by the Tory leadership.

You claim you want a system that is fair, but what is fair about this...We have more people in in-secure 0-hour contract jobs than ever before; we have people who work over 37 hours per week having to use food banks because they are in low paid work; which you call 'the living wage'. We have 1 million people in this country using food banks; compared to 40,000 people using them in 2010; we have sick and disabled people dying under Tory austerity and neoliberal policies. I wouldn't call this a fair society; I would call it a society where only the richest matter.

If you do not see the above as shocking and wrong then clearly you have no morals, and no respect for the people you are elected - or should I say unelected - to serve.

I would advise you accept Jeremy Corbyn's invitation to go and see the wonderful film I, Daniel Blake, so you can actually see the true effects of your policies and view of our society. The working class people want someone who cares about them and they want someone who can actually run the country.

Jeremy Corbyn is the man for the working class and most vulnerable in society. When he's talking about real problems this country is facing all you can do is laugh and attack him simply because you have no answers to his well thought out questions.

So please do not refer to me when you say that your government is doing its best by the working class and most vulnerable in society. You make me ashamed of this country. Finally I would advise you to change your party's motto as 'a country that works for everyone', simply isn't the case.

Charlotte Persephone Smith

Charlotte extends an open invitation to sign this letter at -
<https://www.change.org/p/letter-to-theresa-may-please-sign-if-you-agree-stand-up-to-the-tories>

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

Claudia Hector

Dear "The Woord",

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

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

Yours furiously,

Lance-Brigadier Morningwood-Thrasher (ret'd).
Simon Robinson

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

Marie Archer

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

Paul Kendrick

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

Steve Baker

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

Catherine Holman

Do you think he will be leading the new party? He will be able to take the Bliarite acolytes with him. Unfortunately I don't think he will be asking Watson. He knows first-hand what a back stabber he is.

Karen Meanwell

This week I have had the most terrible cold. And do you know what? I know exactly who's to blame. It's that Corbyn man. With the release of that video of the interview he gave, where he couldn't stop heavy breathing and sniffing, it's just proven that he was the one to start the new bug that's been going round. The fact that he catches colds and exhales germs should instantly stop him from ever becoming PM.

Sophie Maria

New Feature Coming Soon

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

By Steve Sutton

An early proposal for the Dakota Access Pipeline [DAP] had it cross the Missouri River by Bismarck, the ninety percent white state capital. The Bismarck Tribune claims this route was rejected because of the threat posed to their water supply.

The rerouted pipeline passes the Missouri River at Lake Oahe, the water supply of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. The pipeline passes sacred burial grounds; places of great significance, places protected by Federal law.

Dennis Banks, co-founder of the American Indian Movement and Vice-Presidential candidate, issued a declaration:

"The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the four states involved and the Energy Transfer Pipeline company have all entered into agreement to try to put the Dakota Access Pipeline through.

They never once contacted the reservation to ask about the impact on their land or to ask for input on what could be a very dangerous project. People's lives are at stake.

Because of that, the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has taken a very strong position to halt any kind of construction of pipeline underneath their land. Not only would the pipeline destroy the environment, it would poison and contaminate the water for years.

This is why over 90 Native nations have come together. They've brought their tribal flags. That's what is flying over Standing Rock."

The DAP is controlled by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It may not seem a military action, but this Native American tribe is defending sovereign lands against the United States Military. The army is at their door, threatening their water supply, demolishing their sacred sites.

Tribal Chairman David Archambault II said "This demoli-

STANDING ROCK



tion is devastating, these grounds are the resting places of our ancestors. The ancient cairns and stone prayer rings there cannot be replaced. In one day, our sacred land has been turned into hollow ground."

Former tribal historic preservation officer Tim Mentz said "I surveyed this land, and we confirmed multiple graves and specific prayer sites. Portions, and possibly complete sites, have been taken out entirely."

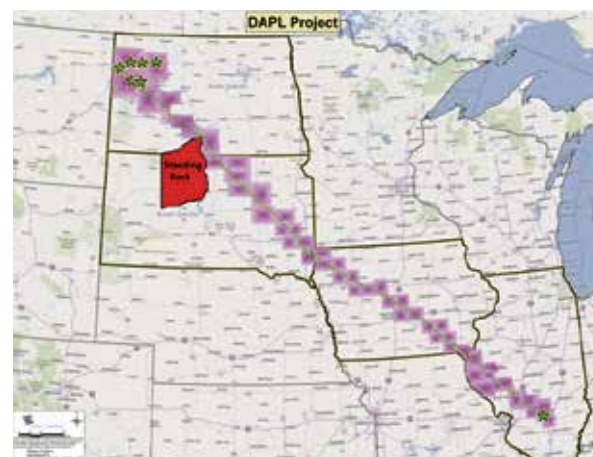
The Standing Rock Sioux began a legal challenge to stop construction. The tribe says it was not properly consulted before the U.S. Army Corps fast-tracked approval. Jan Hasselman, the tribe's attorney said "We're days away from getting a resolution on the legal issues, and they came in on a holiday weekend and destroyed the site. What they have done is absolutely outrageous."

Dennis Banks continued "The Army Corp of Engineers gave them permits. What business does the Corp of Engineers have giving permits to construct and destroy our environment without any kind of consultation? That's what Judge James Boasberg was asking in court yesterday. What kind of consultation was done? The answer of course, is none.

They never consulted with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

This action is as historic as the stand we took at Wounded Knee in 1973, and the widespread support is similar.

If the pipeline contaminates the water, the damage will last for generations. Look at what happened with the Gold King chemical spill into the San Juan and Ani-



mas Rivers last year, killing horses, sheep and crops of the Navajo Nation. People on the reservation still have no water! In Arizona, Resolution Copper Mining plans the largest copper mine in the continent, taking millions of gallons of scarce water if they succeed. They will destroy lands sacred to the San Carlos Apache.

This is why 90 Native nations

are coming together at Standing Rock, along with people of all ethnicities. In all these confrontations with mining companies, Native people are the guardians of the land.

People should come visit us for the weekend. Bring your water, bring your camping gear. Some of the elders have gone inside, but people should come out and camp with us. The young people should come and see and hear. Come see the young kids who are having fun, who are feeling free.

That is how we felt at Wounded Knee. We felt free. This is our hope again."

Those hopes may be short lived.

The US Army Corps of Engineers has issued permits allowing a corporate body to threaten their water, their sacred sites, their sovereignty.

These areas do not belong to the United States - they belong to the Lakota Nation; a sovereign nation governed by a sovereign people, a nation not of the United States.

Obama's administration reaffirmed a commitment to preserve Native American sacred lands.

Donald Trump - who owns stock in the pipeline, who received funding from the pipeline, who calls for removal of regulations on the oil and gas industry - is now President Elect.

Standing Rock may be Trump's litmus test. His handling of the DAP could allay the fears of non-white Americans. It could also warn of things to come.

Energy Crisis: Earth, Wind and Sky

HUMANS consume fossil fuels at an alarming rate and we are going to have an energy crisis this century - if we don't find a way to harness renewable energies to supplies. The previous UK government formed under Cameron, promised to be the "greenest government ever", cut funding for alternative energy and increased funding to help boost the supply of fossil fuels.

His successor, Theresa May, abolished the climate change department and approved the use of



fracking despite serious objections.

Biofuel is a less publicised energy source because there are a few problems with biofuels and one of them is the increase in food prices. This is down to the appliance of agricultural farming, as it boosts

the use of land and water, putting them in direct competition with food farming. The other issue is that it has been shown to increase the amount of greenhouse gasses emitted. This is because land that would have been used for food is taken up by biofuel farms, meaning more must be cleared for food, as demand for food does not decrease.

Wind is one of the most notable energy sources and as of 2015 wind turbines contributed to 11% of electricity within the UK, which is enough to power more than 8 mil-

lion homes. In fact, Scotland produces enough electricity through wind to power every home in Scotland for a month. Wind farms are usually located onshore, and are increasingly being built offshore. Renewable UK say a single wind turbine can create enough energy to power 1400 homes or make 230 million cups of tea. It is a valuable resource and researching new technologies is vital. It is one of the few that the public can invest into, this means individuals or families can power their homes with smaller turbines.

Solar power has similar publicity to wind and this is the practice of harnessing radiant heat and light from the sun, despite the technology being old it is still the most effective way of harnessing solar energy and its efficiency has been greatly improved. Solar panels are continually used and they are a great addition to homes to help reduce energy bills. Solar panels don't need direct sunlight and they also work in cloudy or overcast weather. Cloudy weather does diminish the generating capacity of panels by approximately 50% in comparison to direct sunlight, but solar panels in the UK are still a valid means of producing electricity.

Stop the spread of war

After the US elections: A more dangerous world?

NOV 23 After the US Elections: A More Dangerous World?

Nov 23 | 18:30 - 20:30 | 220 Arlington Road NW1 London

stopwar.org.uk

26 November at 14:30-16:00

The Real Junk Food Project Doncaster
13 Scot Lane, DN1 1EW Doncaster

No Human is ILLEGAL.

NOV 26 Chai Tea afternoon in collaboration with CalAid

CAL AID

1 December at 12:00-14:00

Horizon Leeds
Horizon Leeds, 2 Brewery Wharf, Kendell

Sustainability Transformation Plan

DEC 1 No NHS Cuts-No STP's- Lobby the Privatisers

3 December at 13:00-17:30

Yarls Wood Immigration Centre
MK441FD Bedford, Bedfordshire, United Kingdom

DEC 3 Demonstrate to SHUT DOWN YARLS WOOD and ALL detention centres

MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE
By any means necessary
END Detention - END Fast Track
Goating of Immigrants

JOIN
NIGEL FARAGE
MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER, LONDON #BREXIT #FARAGE
MARCH FOR BREXIT

DEC 5 No to Farage: Unite Against Racism

NO TO FARAGE & HIS RACIST ALLIES!
Dec 5th 12:00 - 15:00
Supreme Court, Parliament Square, SW1

5 December at 12:00-15:00

Parliament Square
Parliament Square, SW1A 2 London, United Kingdom

DEC 5 Defend democracy - stop the hate

6 December at 19:00-21:00

The Old King's Head
King's Head Yard, 45-49 Borough High Street., SE1

DEC 6 VFP London: Christmas Party

Veterans For Peace

An Ex Soldiers Message To Mainstream Media

FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 2016.

Remembrance Sunday NoVember 13th, a day I'm pretty sure the Mainstream Media are preparing to gorge themselves and force feed the population of Great Britain on the same dish they attempted to feed us all on in 2015 'Velouté d'irrespectueux Corbyn' (Cream of Disrespectful Corbyn Soup).

As a one time soldier who served his country starting at the age of 16, the son of a career soldier and a man proud of his Grandfather who served as a Frontiersman in WW1 in the trenches. My Grandad survived the war but not unscathed. He was badly mustard gassed. My most abiding memory of this 4'11" giant of a man was his coughing fit getting out of a chair. It never stopped him growing vegetables, making furniture or scouring dumps to build me a bicycle for my first job between leaving school and joining the Junior Leaders Regiment in Bovington, Dorset on September 9th 1975. Grandad also had a very bad limp, the result of a shrapnel wound as big as a fist. Indeed his mum received several telegrams informing her of his death but grandad kept coming home.

In WW2 he was an Air Raid Warden and received the George Cross for something he never spoke about. In fact Granddad never said much about what he saw in those dark days. He never complained, never cursed about his health. The only time he might get grumpy was on a Saturday afternoon when he wanted silence as he checked the football scores and his pools coupon. Otherwise that man was sunshine and light all the time. When I visited him we would stroll down to the newsagent to get his paper and he always managed to embarrass me by trying to fix me up with the pretty assistant behind the counter. You might have guessed it already I loved that man, he was my hero and he loved me.

My father who served with the 1st Royal Tank Regiment saw action too in Cyprus and in N. Ireland though he never spoke to me

about it. I was proud of him too but he was never the hero my Grandfather was and I was never the son my younger brother was to him so I never had the same connection I had with Grandad. However, they were both prepared to put their lives on the line for peace and Queen and Country.

When the media set out to disparage Corbyn last year for not singing the National Anthem instead standing in silence during the Battle of Britain remembrance service branding him disloyal and disrespectful I was incensed and disgusted and there was more to come. The new Labour leader laid a wreath at the Cenotaph. Corbyn refused to bow was the cry of outrage by the media. Jeremy nodded and did not bend like he was pecking seed from the ground was enough ammunition for the media. The Sun had a field day regardless of the fact that Jeremy Corbyn's nod was clear and whilst not a bow still a clear sign of respect.

The media failed to report that whilst the other Party leaders went to gorge themselves on a VIP lunch, Jeremy stayed to applaud the Veterans march pass and made his way to Horseguards spending time talking with those Veterans and taking exhaustive selfies with the Veterans. They failed to report that the man then went on to perform a duty of laying a wreath at a church in the afternoon and then going on to a demo at the Emirates demanding Arsenal FC pay the staff that keep the club running and the pitch perfect a living wage before watching his team beat Spurs. He then mingled with both



sets of fans. One Spurs fan notably shaking Corbyns' hand and telling him he must lead Labour to victory for the sake of the country and the working man whilst Jeremy sported his Arsenal colours!! An exhaustive day for a man half his age yet typical of the Labour leader.

As an ex soldier a man who grew up an army brat following my father between England to Germany from the age of three. I was brought up on imperialism and the might of the British Empire. My earliest memory of the Royal family was waving a Union Jack from behind the fence at the bottom of my first school sports field with the entire school as the Queen mum visited the Roundhouse NAAFI in Hohne in Germany close to the Belsen Concentration Camps. She waved at us as we hip hip hoorayed her and sang the national anthem. Many years later as a regimental bandsman with the 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards I was to perform at

the Queens Silver Jubilee Review in Sennalager in 1977 as Her Majesty took the salute and Armoured Vehicles, troops and air power passed by and over her on a gloriously hot day. I stood and baked in ceremonial uniform with a brass helmet that felt like it was boiling my brain. I stood tall and proud although I had not reached my now 5'6" by then and playing my Clarinet in a mass band the size of which boggled my young mind. I could see her Majesty and she looked decidedly bored throughout whilst I was in awe of her. Her speech would have sent me to sleep had I not been on my feet. I could not remember a single word of it when the parade was over but was immensely proud to have been a part of it all. It was the biggest parade I was ever a part of as a bandsman although there were many important parades ahead of me.

For me the abiding memory of last year's Remembrance Cere-

mony is not the 'Bow', but the total disrespect of the media who's focus was not on those that died giving their lives in the World Wars and other conflicts for the freedom of our country but on bashing a man who became leader of the Labour Party because he just might spoil their greed. What we saw was nothing but a headlong race to see who could sell the most papers or win the most viewers on the most hideous headline of lies. Anything to make a buck and trash the leadership victory that threatens the status quo of the wealthiest bleeding the poorest dry. No doubt we will see it all again this year. Our media forgetting the respect we should be showing to those who gave their lives, instead riding the horse of the anti Corbyn charge and wrapping it all up in Nationalism whilst claiming the moral high ground.

As the grandson of a WW1 veteran and receiver of the George Cross, the highest award for bravery for a civilian in WW2. As the son of a career soldier who put his life on the line and as a man who served and flew the flag for Britain and the British Army around the world, I accuse the media of disrespect in taking their focus from what the day is really about. Those men were sent to die for the life and freedom to choose for ourselves how we remember that day. Whether we attend a parade or a church service, whether we watch it on tv, whether we stop and stand in silence when shopping in B&Q or like I saw when as a baker in Tesco when many would stand for two minutes we just carry on chatting and selecting items ignoring those that have their heads bowed in silent memory. The choice is ours. The fact is those men didn't die for the media to use it to bash a man about showing respect. They died that we are free to choose to live our lives the way we want to live them and to choose to remember or ignore their sacrifice.

My message to the mainstream media is.....show some bloody respect please and stop lying to the public you are supposed to inform.





FOREVER MY SUNDERLAND

By Phil Brown

"Nil Desperandum Auspice Deo." Do not despair ...trust in God a better day will dawn. That's the sign on the Wearmouth Bridge... Not arf!

Sunderland are a heartbreak team. We cannot live by 1973 alone!

Sunderland have probably got the best supporters in land. Well, I would say that. Up until the relegation of 1957, after an FA enquiry into the curious case of Mr Smith and the involvement of Alan Hardacre we were singled out. Up until 1957 Sunderland had had the most consecutive seasons in the a First Division, we were then overtaken by Everton. By the time Sunderland were promoted back in 1964 we were about to become the yoyo club between the old First and second divisions. This lasted for 36 Seasons until the Druma-ville Consortium, with Nial Quinn, brought in Roy Keane - and we are now approaching 10 consecutive seasons in the Premiership. While

Norwich and Burnley have bounced up and down we at Sunderland have enjoyed the repeated agonies of atrocious season starts followed by audacious "Escape to victory finishes"... This has come with hairpin Managerial sackings immediately ahead of the Tyne/Wear derbies.

Interesting, but formulaic and contrived.

At least with the derbies we were almost guaranteed a bankable 6 points. Alas and alack not anymore. The transfer strategies have been very, well, dodgy... And enough said about the best transfer arrangements outlined by big Sam the better.

A just add water approach to our football is a disgrace. We require meat and two veg style, no Pukkah pies up here Bonny lad; Its Dickson's Pork sarnies with everything on, and Cheesy Chips or all bets are off!

As stated earlier our twisted tortuous journey is really too

much. I mean it approaches the Sado-Masochistic... AND YET!

What about little Bobby Kerr lifting that cup in 73, just 5 years earlier Bobbies leg was bitten by Norman Hunter. Monties death defying double save and Porterfields more hope than expectation shot... Wor Bob and his mack and Trilby... Compared to Don Revies Saville Row suit at Wembley? Replay the Final and watch Revie in the Wembley eyeing Bob Stokoe up and down with a condescension that typified the ruthlessness that made Leeds the go-anywhere, do-anything team of their era.

My dads cousin Jimmy Thorpe was Sunderland Goalkeeper in 1936, but died at 21 following a goalmouth collision in a Roker Choker against Chelsea. Had he lived he would undoubtedly have played in the 1937 Cup Final. As it was his widow received his posthumous League Winners Medal.

A really snooty snotty reporter

commented about Sunderland in 2007 'that they could not possibly complete with Chelsea for transfers'. Once upon a crime we were the "Bank of England Team".

For now Chelsea are the Bank of Kremlin Team. Abramovich has not got his Mega Yacht for fun... he keeps moving.

And Cloughie, the last word... the mouth "Old Big Head", cruelly finished on Boxing Day 1962 in a goalmouth scramble in a game that should never have been played. And as "Sir Brian" writhed around in agony a voice said..."should have been his neck", said by no less a person than the Bury Skipper, one Bob Stokoe. Ten years later in 1973, in a studio, Jimmy Hill backed Leeds and Cloughie simply said "Sunderland 1-0".

Simply the best Sunderland and England Manager we've never had.

HAWAY THE LADS! HAWAY CLOUGHIE!

Palestine Women's Football Comes to Liverpool



In early June 2017 we are bringing to the UK the Diyar Womens Football Team from Bethlehem.

Diyar Bethlehem was founded by players at Bethlehem University in 2008. It is one of the West Bank's leading teams and many of their players are in the Palestine national women's team.

PRIDE IN THE JERSEY

Honey Thaljieh is co-founder of Diyar and first captain of the Palestinian women's football team. "Football is more than a game. It's about social inclusion, identity, pride for ones country. It's about putting Palestine on the world map". Her advice to other women players is "Believe in your talent and be determined—with support you can achieve".

HOW WE GOT HERE

In 2014 two women's football teams, Easton Cowgirls from Bristol and Republica Internationale from Leeds, toured the West Bank area of Palestine to play against Diyar and other women's teams.

They saw what life was like in towns and villages under Israel's military occupation. In particular they found out some of the issues facing women wanting to play football in Palestine.

On their return they made a film *Balls Barriers and Bulldozers* about their experience. It showed how joyful but also how challenging, thought-provoking and at times sad their experience was.

CAN YOU HELP?

We need money to meet the costs of the team visit

We're keen to hear from any women's football teams who want to play a part in the tour.

If you want to get involved in any way please contact helenmmarks@yahoo.co.uk **Liverpool, Friends of Palestine;** liverpoolfopal@gmail.com www.liverpoolfriends of palestine

WHY ARE SCOTLAND SO BAD?



A three nil defeat from a team that couldn't beat Aldi (sorry, Iceland.)

Scotland lose to England for the 48th time. The difference now is that the current England team do not care. Why would the apathetic and over the hill Rooney be bothered? The passion from England has gone. The skill from Scotland has fallen. Why has this happened? Scotland's population stands at not much over 5 million whilst England's is just over 55 million. You would expect with a ratio like that England's footballers should win virtually every time, and yet, that is far from the case. Of the matches played the Scots have managed 41 wins.

So why can't Scotland get anywhere near a boringly bereft England? Why an easy win for the multi millionaire's eleven who have all the vim and exuberance of a mouldy cheese sandwich? I would argue that the nadir of Scotland's footballing flower is a direct result of nationalism. Let's take a walk back in time to 1967 which was the height of that small

nations achievements. In that year Scotland beat the world cup holding England side and Glasgow Celtic were convincing winners Of the European cup. Not only did Celtic win that trophy but they did it with an entirely home grown side. Famously, the entire Celtic team were born within a thirty mile radius of Glasgow. These were world class play-

ers, yet they were not even ALL of the best Scottish players of their time. Missing from that starting eleven were legends of that era such as Jim Baxter and Denis Law. The England team they faced in 1967 included some of the most famous footballers ever such as Jimmy Greaves and Bobby Charlton.

Here we are in 2016 and I am willing to bet that not even a haggis loving member of the SNP with a season ticket to Ibrox or Celtic park could name more than 3 players in the current Scotland side. In 1967 England fans waved the union Jack rather than the red and white of St George. We were different regions of the same country? We were parts that made up the whole. The ruling elite of England saw Scotland much as they now see the north of England: a side lined cannon fodder not even quite worthy of being exploited. Scotland endured the arrogant middle class usurpation by Blairism and rose up. I fully expect Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester and the rest to soon do the same.

So why are Scotland so bad? It might sound counter intuitive but the answer is simple, their energies, passion and desire are being expended elsewhere. They are practising to divorce. That Anglo-Norman elite that still rule us by dint of an hereditary time warp will be left high and dry. Their hubris will see them with Chelsea against Manchester united as their London derby as the fight back moves south. Scotland football will then become resurgent.

