

PILOT ISSUE!

THE WORD

Telling it as it is



Tariq Ali

"I'm in Lesbos, where Fortress Europe confronts refugees."



George Galloway

"The Word certainly chose the most dramatic of weeks to speak."



UK DECIDES on the EU Referendum but opinion remains deeply divided!



TONY BLAIR with a legacy in tatters & many of us still living with the scars

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60p

Thursday July 14th 2016 THIS IS A PILOT ISSUE - Our next issue will be out on the 28th July 2016

150,000 dead Iraqis, the birth of a murderous caliphate and British mothers burying sons

Yes, and I deeply regret that - but I am God

CHILCOT INQUIRY

BLAIR: WEAPON OF MASS DECEPTION

CHILCOT INQUIRY
SEE INSIDE

WE OFFER A NEW VOICE FOR THE UK
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This newspaper will be left wing, radical and campaign for justice.
We are independent of any political party but based on the following principles:

Equality, Democracy, Truth and Courage.
AT LAST A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE!

Put your feet up with our entertainment cavalcade: the Bugle Information Network. Quizzes, comics and the Nefarious Dr Wobble - if it's entertainment you're looking for, you'll find it in the B.I.N.!





THE
IRAQ
INQUIRY

A MONSTER OF DELUSION



For two hours, Blair dissembled and denied in the face of Chilcot's devastating verdict. Then, with sickening egomania, he declared: I can't say sorry for Iraq... I'd do it again

TONY Blair made an astonishing defence of the invasion of Iraq yesterday during his first appearance before the Chilcot Inquiry. After seven years of writing, the report reached its former prime minister for his conduct at every stage of the process that dragged on from 2002 to 2009. It even found that the UK had breached international law by bombing Libya without UN Security Council authorisation. The inquiry has now been adjourned until October 10.

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THE CHILCOT REPORT

Reactions have been pouring in from all quarters in the immediate aftermath of the publication of the long-awaited Chilcot Report

Sir John Chilcot's statement on the Iraq war has been described as "scathing" with those scathed including, among others, the Prime Minister at the time, Tony Blair, together with Whitehall staff and senior army officers. One of the major findings of the report was that going to war had been an option decided upon "before peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted". Among other barbed criticisms, the report states that information arising out of faulty intelligence had been accepted uncritically and acted upon after insufficient analysis. Military action, avers Chilcot, was "not a last resort". Since the publication of the report on Wednesday 6th July, the great and the good have been queuing up to have their say on its findings – and so, too, has Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, the British Prime Minister at the time the decision to go to war was taken. It has been revealed that widely-dubbed "war criminal" Blair got through three onions and two boxes of Scotties Man Size during an emotional press conference, wringing his hands 94 times and

contriving to have his voice break with the intensity of his feelings on 23 separate occasions, before concluding that he'd been right all along. In a performance redolent of his most nauseatingly faux-sincere speeches as Premier, Blair seemed to be pulling out all the stops in an effort to defend the



The Iraq war was openly opposed by the UK public at the time.

indefensible. Meanwhile, the accusations piled up from those bereaved by service losses during the conflict, as well as public figures avowedly against war as an option. Jeremy Corbyn, the Leader of the Opposition and one MP who has consistently voted against Britain's involvement in US-led coalitions in conflicts abroad, stopped short of naming Tony Blair in his post-

Chilcot peroration. But there can be little doubt that the document will be studied carefully by all those who feel that the former New Labour PM has a possible case to answer. For Blair, the toxic fallout from Chilcot may take some time to dissipate. It would be hard to over-estimate the implications for those involved with putting the case for war and then enforcing Britain's involvement. The longer the Chilcot report goes on – and it is a weighty piece of work – the more incendiary its findings seem to become. The UK is held to have "undermined the UN Security Council's authority". Its decision that there was a legal basis for action was derided as "far from satisfactory". The report notes that "Despite explicit warnings, the consequences of the invasion were underestimated. The planning and preparations for Iraq after Saddam Hussein were wholly inadequate". And, damningly, "The government failed to achieve its stated objectives." Ironically, the man best-known for his consistent opposition to military engagement where there is the remotest chance of a successful negotiation, or

where other sanctions might be effective – Jeremy Corbyn – was being heckled in the House of Commons and told to "sit down and shut up" by a member of his own back-benches, Ian Austin MP. Mr Austin appeared to have overlooked the salient points of the Chilcot Report, and was instead reading from a pamphlet entitled "How to make a sudden name for yourself if you're a back-bench nonentity".

So Chilcot, long expected or not, has arrived as a bombshell to compare with that other recent concussive explosion, Brexit. Both are likely to have far-reaching consequences, with the EU referendum result having caused havoc already among contemporary political figures. But Chilcot seems set fair to cause comparable chaos for certain of the previous generation, with Tony Blair, in particular, looking like a man who will be dodging shrapnel for some time to come.

BREXIT BREAKS BRITAIN

General Election Now!

British people have been lied to up and down the country and, as the Referendum results rain down like acid, it's a struggle to see the forest through the trees

The economy has gone into drastic decline, with various pound-relevant markets hitting the canvas on the morning following the result. The pound is struggling to compete with any international currency and, perhaps most telling, within hours of the result, the U.K. fell behind France as the fifth largest economy in the world.

These are drastic changes that affect our lives. While the rhetoric used by both the Bank of England and former Prime Minister has been of reassurance, the undeniable faces of concerned men are unmistakable.

We have been lied to, constantly. The Tory government, which has been as reliable in its campaigning as it has been in its measures of austerity, cannot be trusted to continue to take us forward. As David Cameron predictably resigned, a new mouthpiece for the upper-middle classes and the corporations will be forced upon us by the Tory membership - it's difficult to imagine a less in-touch niche of human. Theresa May, who remains the favourite to take over at Number 10, will surely impose the same anti-working class policies as her predecessor - and that in itself should be more than enough momentum to force a General Election.

A particularly viral Facebook meme sums up our feelings: "I do not want to be left on a small island with the Tories." Brexit is the baby boomers' final blow to future generations and we should not sit back and watch them destroy the lives of the futures we intend to better.

In the same breath as praising those who fought through the dark days of post-war Britain, we edge closer

to a similarly devastating economic crisis. And for what? This time, it was not because we were recovering from war with the Nazis, celebrating our victory, grieving our dead. This time, we did it because we were lied to.

The fractured Tory party can no longer turn to its European overlords to excuse its devastating austerity measures. It can no longer promise us that we are "all in it together". It can no longer promise us security. And it certainly cannot promise us financial security. We must not stand by and allow the Conservatives to continue to ravage our people and our wellbeing.

" AS POLITICIANS WE HAVE TO REACT TO THE FACT THAT MANY PEOPLE DO NOT FEEL THAT THEY CAN RELATE TO THE EU.

Angela Merkel

We demand a General Election. For all of the claims that the EU was antidemocratic, so is the suggestion that we should have another Bullingdon leader. A General Election will allow us to provide a democratic outcome to one of the darkest days in British history. Should we again decide to vote with the side of darkness, then perhaps this nation truly deserves what it gets.

Jamie Lewis
jaime@emailaddress.com



I VOTED OUT

This is something that truly baffles me

These educated, supposedly intelligent people can't realize that wanting to overrule a democratic decision at the expense of a section of society, all while heaping scorn, insult and threats of punitive sanction ie."Some people should not be allowed to have a vote", is one of the very warning signs of the foundation of fascism in a capitalist bourgeois society. I am sure none of these people would want that intentionally, but that is the path they are blindly marching down. I understand they think it's the wrong decision, I have sympathy for their perceived sense of loss, after all this is their first, but as a member of a class that has been the whipping boy of this ultra neo-liberal wealth vacuum I would rather focus on the positives, as in the death of European wide, services raping TTIP, the u-turn on the UK's Surplus Budget, also known as Austerity Measures, the beautiful

silent explosion of the Tories, the comical silent implosion of UKIP, and the much awaited purge of right wingers, to turn a Labour Party into something fit for purpose. Yes, xenophobic incidents have increased, but that does not mean an increase in racists. No one woke up on Friday morning and went "I know, I think I'll have a crack at being a piece of shit racist!"

They'll be kicked up and down the streets in the same manner they were before the referendum.

I'm not overly concerned by the right, the working classes have had our boot on their neck for a while now.....The tyranny of a petulant middle class, however.
Time will tell

Roxanne Checkley

**We Stand Together
Against The Tories**

To secure for the workers, by hand or by mind, the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means to production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service.

**Equality Democracy
Truth and Courage**

The peoples flag is deepest red,
it shrouded oft our martyred dead.
And ere their limbs grew stiff and
cold, their hearts' blood dyed its
every fold.

So raise the scarlet standard high -
beneath its folds we'll live and die,
through cowards flinch and traitors
sneer, we'll keep the red flag flying
here.

Creators of The Word

Editor	Peter Loo
News Editor	Jamie Lewis
Website	George Christophorou
The Bugle	Andy Keir, Alan Davies
Advertising sales	John Ball
Overseas news	Roxanne Checkley
Cartoonists	Gary Barker, John Francis
Sub editor	Julie Stephens
Reporters	Thomas Northall, Jason Hughes, Adam Douglas, Danny Josephs, Andrew Middleton
Quiz master	Phil Brown
Design, Art-working	Daniel Mansfield

Articles, Jeremy Corbyn, Tariq Ali, Jack Cornes, George Galloway, Julie Ward, & many more.

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**Peterloo Massacre 1819****THE PETERLOO PROJECT**

The Peterloo Massacre occurred at St Peter's Field, Manchester, England, on 16 August 1819, when cavalry charged into a crowd of 60,000–80,000 who had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation

THE PETERLOO PROJECT

The Peterloo Massacre occurred at St Peter's Field, Manchester, England, on 16 August 1819, when cavalry charged into a crowd of 60,000–80,000 who had gathered to demand the reform of parliamentary representation.

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 first editions will be produced weekly starting on July 14th and

**“ THE WORD
WILL APPEAR IN ALL
GOOD NEWSAGENTS.
THE PLAN IS TO
EVENTUALLY GO TO
A DAILY EDITION.**

will be launched at the Tolpuddle festival. At the same time as this, "THE WORD" will go on to distribute to your local newsagent. We will also begin efforts towards the production of a daily edition.

The politics of this project are broadly in line with those of Jeremy Corbyn and believe in justice,

equality, truth, courage and that only by sharing as fairly as possible the resources of this planet will we be able to live in harmony with each other. Too many people to mention have contributed their ideas but a special mention for Sean Jones who came up with the name which was then voted on in the "Together against the Tories" group.

If you feel that you believe in the above principles come and join us as you are most welcome. You can contact us by going to our website www.thewordmedia.org or by going to the "Together against the Tories" facebook page. If you have an interesting story or picture or simply want to find out more about us you can contact us at: thewordnewspaper@outlook.com

We would like to wish a BIG thank you to all our contributors. We hope you enjoy the articles and feel free to send us any feedback you might have.

www.thewordmedia.org

**Equality
Democracy
Truth
& Courage**

Jeremy Corbyn has come as a refreshing change for the voters.



EQUALITY, DEMOCRACY, TRUTH AND COURAGE

These four principles are what lead us as socialists. A pioneering philosopher once said that we are supposed to live in a democracy – one person one vote, equal to each other. And yet what we live in is a capitalist democracy which states that you are what you own

These two systems completely contradict each other and this major contradiction is something we live within in the United Kingdom. I think our jobs within this new publication are about trying to alter people's perceptions.

I see it every day on the street, on the bus, in the shop, etc. The human race is bombarded and fed corporate consumerism through every channel to the point they no longer can see that they have been completely and utterly brainwashed into their lives being nothing but a corporate playground in which they are manipulated, sold and tested all manner of goods.

We are all to some extent guilty of this. I believe it is our jobs as socialists to bring light to the dark, to try and get people to see everybody and not just themselves. As a spiritualist, I

try and see the goodness and love in most things, particularly my fellow humans: brothers and sisters. As children, we are brought up to share, to think of others, to be compassionate and to treat greed, selfishness and want as the vices of the soul. The forces that run the material world are led by greed, by selfishness and want multi-national businesses, Western Governments and establishments.

The movement that upholds our earliest human ideals is socialism. I do not see it in liberalism and me most certainly do not see it in the low energy that is conservatism. Pretty much all of the mainstream media in Britain is ignorant, dogmatic poison and it bothers me that it is being fed to the public.

We need to offer an alternative, a socialist newspaper that inspires

people and doesn't spit venom. Of course, we need to oppose the Tories and everything they stand for - but we should do it with wisdom, facts and plucky underdogism. We need to expose them for their cruelty, their heartlessness and their prejudices but this has to be done in a manner which is intelligent, insightful and truthful.

This is how Jeremy Corbyn leads – we attack the politics, not the people, otherwise, we might as well all go and try and get jobs at the Sun. We have to be the example, the difference and the inspiration. We have to systematically prove that conservatism is a flawed ideology. We shouldn't just focus on the politics; we should focus on other aspects of life, areas the Tories do not champion.

We should look at charity work

across the communities, the arts and communal activities that help people among so much more. Remember we are the human beings, our politics and outlook of life are based on humanity. Ours is not about fiscal aspiration, preserving an outdated monarchy and demonising minorities.

We welcome all people of all faiths, colours and sex and we should promote this in our newspaper. Socialism has no borders and no flags; we are the free, the loving and the harmonious. We shine a light on all injustices, not just in the UK but everywhere.

Of course, if we are running this outlet democratically then it is important that we open up channels to other political leanings as well. What I mean by this is having an email address or contact details for people of any political background to get in touch if they have a query, need help or want to discuss a topic with us.

We should be able to talk with anybody, no matter what their political background. This would be practising true democracy and is one of the ideals upheld by Jeremy Corbyn. Most importantly – what we need to give people is the truth. Ask yourselves – do we see truthful news and journalism in The Sun, The Daily Mail or Sky News? I don't think so.

We have to be a beacon for truthful, honest and insightful news. I would look at the British political dilemma in a manner of philosophy and try and get people to look at our problems with intelligence and intellect while challenging the political ignorance and propaganda which befalls many areas of our country today.

If we can achieve any of the above then maybe we can say we tried to make a difference in our society, we saw how our society was broken and tried to guide it with truth, love and humanity, the core values of true socialism.

Jack Cornes

STANDING WITH DEMOCRACY



The Labour mutineers just don't get it. Jeremy Corbyn's leadership is not for its own sake but to implement a programme. He has no personal ambition but he will fight to the last ditch for the policies in which he profoundly believes.

All these back-stabbers wish to talk about is whether he is a competent leader and whether he can win the election. He knows that progressive socialist policies will win the election - and he intends to stay to carry them through because there is no other way they would remain in Labour's manifesto.

Whether he has the confidence of the PLP is neither here nor there. As long as he can take the membership with him, he can fight and win on the programme.

Remarkably, the referendum result could be just what he needs. Our leaving the EU means he can abandon austerity policies, take transport and the utilities back into public ownership, invest in infrastructure and reconfigure quotas in farming and fisheries without having to accept restrictions from Brussels.

This is a much stronger hand to play than a vote to remain would have left him. Few in the PLP seem to understand that. All they are concerned about is that they

wanted to stay in the EU, though, as far as the campaign suggested, only for the negative reasons concerning the imagined horrors attendant upon leaving.

Because Corbyn did not run around shrieking that the sky would fall, they accuse him of being

DEMOCRACY DENIED BY PLP

He has no personal ambition but he will fight to the last ditch for the policies in which he profoundly believes

W Stephen Gilbert

Author, *Jeremy Corbyn – Accidental Hero* (*book featured below*)





The Traitors' Dilemma

The die is cast, the ringleaders are known, their motives are nakedly obvious for all to see. The coup, conceived months ago to be hatched when the timing was right, has not gone well so far

Rob Atkinson

Firstly, previous anticipated opportunities have not materialised. Labour was fancied to lose the Oldham by-election, but it held the seat and the plotters, poised quivering to pounce, had to slink back into the undergrowth.

Then, the council elections. Again, there looked to be an opportunity, with the ever-obliging BBC prematurely reporting a night of disaster for Corbyn's troops, only to be frustrated as things turned out annoyingly well, with Labour emerging as the largest party. The EU Referendum was Last Chance Saloon - the final opportunity before the publication of the Chilcot Report, with all of its possible nasty ramifications for the Blairites of the PLP.

So, the script was written before the results were known, in line with furtive early preparations

elsewhere pre-dating overt action. But yet again, the figures have not stacked up as desired. In the face of a brutal and mendacious Leave campaign, Corbyn's Labour members voted almost two to one to remain - a highly respectable figure given the fertile territory the likes of UKIP have found among the disaffected and marginalised poor. Labour's remain vote was only a percentage point or two short of that of the SNP - and nobody's calling Sturgeon a referendum failure.

All of the pretexts upon which the anti-Corbyn movement hoped to base their rebellion have turned out to be duds. Despite their own agenda and the complaisant backing of the media, their motives are paper-thin and full of holes. But there's that pesky Chilcot thing in the offing, and it's imperative to get rid of Corbyn before he can use a damning report to start in-

flicting some long overdue justice. So, for the traitors, its realistically now or never.

But there's another problem. The leadership challenge as such is probably not a good idea. The incumbent leader would be on the ballot paper as of right, and looks fair to trounce any and all opposition, possibly by a wider margin than even last September's historic landslide. If Corbyn could be persuaded to stand down, that'd be a different matter. He'd then need to secure enough PLP backing to be nominated for a leadership election - which would of course be relatively unlikely. So a Corbyn resignation is the way to go. But Jeremy steadfastly refuses to budge, citing the enormous mandate he was given only nine months ago.

Hence the current impasse. The unedifying spectacle currently

playing out is a bitterly ironic one of deeply dishonourable men and women calling upon a decent man - that rarity in politics - to "do the honourable thing", and resign. But Corbyn knows that would not be the honourable course. It would be highly convenient, for the would-be usurpers, but honourable? No way.

This is the Traitors' Dilemma. What to do now, if this inconveniently honourable and determined man refuses to fall on his sword? Skulk away again, with Chilcot waiting to explode in their faces? Hardly. Launch a challenge anyway then, and damn the consequences? Well, to be the means by which Corbyn increases his already massive authority in the Labour Party as a whole - that's hardly the sort of history your average Blairite wants to be making.

Eagle and the rest of the opportunists thirsting for the kill are faced with the Devil's Alternative. Whichever way they decide to act, they're likely to plummet into an abyss of obscurity and ridicule. It really is a very problematic situation. But it's one, let us not forget, entirely of their own making.

DEMOCRACY NEEDS YOU!

YOU'VE GOTTA LOVE DEMOCRACY

Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others..

Our membership of the EU has always been highly contentious and, therefore, after 43 years I think it was a legitimate question to put out to the voters. Unfortunately, democracy is also a story of human frailties, as the noble ideas behind democracy are more comforting mythologies than anything that is likely to actually transpire. Democracy, and indeed liberalism, are problematic as they contain a number of flies in the ointment, not least the hoary paradox of 'how do liberals deal with illiberal threats'?

Yes, that's right, they have to dilute some of their original liberalism.

Democratic machinery has been historically and notoriously used, such as the fascist plebiscite. Perhaps we might be better served by the benevolent electoral

dictatorship of conventional representative democracy, as suggested by Richard Dawkins in uncompromising liberal elitist mode?

However, we know where this tends to lead us as well, with a ruling class in their hermetically sealed and gated community, happy to have their lively debates within a strictly limited establishment spectrum, if I can paraphrase Chomsky. We can see how the Labour Party are currently doing a 'Dawkins' whilst they brutally rubbish the 'direct democracy' of their members, and once again taking command against plebiscite insurgency.

Naturally, many of the Corbynista's are repulsed by this naked elitism, such as that espoused by naked elitist power-grabber Tristram Hunt

and his rallying cry to Oxbridge students for the top 1% to take charge.

It just seems a bit strange that so many of the left have been persuaded by the case that the EU is a progressive entity that will protect them from the Tory free market version of 'Brexit'. The meaning of Brexit is very complex, too many commentators are seeing this in incredibly black and white terms, without the many shades of grey that exist between the various polar positions on offer.

There should be no need to rehearse that the EU - to put it crudely - is a 'bosses club', its central economic treaties and constitution serve up a rich neoliberal platter, which cripples respective sovereign nation-states into an economic cage - and structurally adjusts them to its whims. Many have

been pointing out how the Leave campaign has been funded by lots of apparently dodgy types. Fair enough. Unfortunately, we have had to rely on controversial maverick George Galloway to introduce a bit of sense here: "If EU defended workers rights why would Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley be paying for the campaign to persuade you to stay in it? #Brexit".

As the Left has moved away from critical positions on the left, it has allowed itself to be made over by the new middle-class faux radicalism of people like Polly Toynbee. Focusing on individual rights, identity politics and other fashionable causes, a huge chasm has emerged between the left behind working class and the new sophisticated metropolitan liberal class.

By ignoring the downside of globalisation they have allowed the reactionary and mavericks a right to dominate the debate, leaving it to small groups of leftists to present an alternative voice.

Neil Clark



Dear Reader

I wanted to write directly to all Labour members and supporters after the publication of the Chilcot Inquiry report on Wednesday when I apologised, on behalf of our party, for the decision to go to war in Iraq.

I made this apology because politicians and political parties can only grow stronger by acknowledging when they get it wrong and facing up to their mistakes.

This apology was owed to the people of Iraq, the families of those UK soldiers who died in Iraq or returned home injured or incapacitated, and to the millions of British citizens who feel our democracy was undermined when the decision to go to war was made.

The Iraq war divided our party and it divided the country. We need to learn the lessons of Chilcot — and what has taken place since 2003 — for the future.

So I commit our party to uphold international law, to seek peaceful solutions to international disputes, to respect the role and authority of the United Nations and always to treat war as the last resort.

Yours sincerely,

*Jeremy Corbyn MP
Leader of the Labour Party*

EARTH TO ECO



ROLLOUT THE SMART METER

There has been an explosion in storage technologies which are a total game changer in terms of demand that can be supplied by renewables at less than grid parity

We have a huge problem with the UK 2020 Smart meter rollout as it is based on findings that are totally out of date.

America quite rightly has seen the need for demand based systems, net metering and the advantages of district storage.

In the UK we are still trying to

pass some of the hurdles imposed by VAT! That is not the point though, just about everything with the 2020 Smart Meter rollout is fundamentally flawed. We have seen a radical shift in grid and energy solutions that will garner traction and adoption at speeds akin to internet innovation.

One of the biggest flaws is the adoption of 30 minute fixed time slot metering, as the grid and consumer usage is not like that.

The grid and consumer usage is event based and the current underlying mechanisms have a 15 minute event based system in operation.

The system reacts to demand and not to supplier billing and this is why we need a Smart grid and the Smart meter system is an oxymoron of high stupidity of an extremely dumb billing system that a completely unnecessary infrastructure has been forwarded as a solution.

We need to halt the 2020 Smart Meter Rollout and get back to the table for a fresh perspective of what is required due to the vastly different energy landscape where low demand storage and peak demand release (time shifting) will radically change how

energy is distributed. What we shouldn't be doing is releasing a technology infrastructure based on 20th century centralised energy systems when distributed, resilient demand based systems are now.



Energy policy seems to be living in the past when we already have access to the technology of the future. We need a moratorium and review of the whole plan for 2020 as it is totally out of date and excludes the consumer from demand. **Things need to change!**



Dear Political Class

The austerity delusion - having spent years listening to exponents of neo-liberalism explain complex economic equations using a household budget as a comparison - I decided to follow your lead.

After all, your stunning success over the last 37 years is proof that you know far more than people like me. I started by looking at my

A LETTER TO WESTMINSTER

Trying to Make sense of the Austerity measures placed on the UK - I used the same idea on myself

children. They are really expensive to keep, and to be honest, the economic return is, at best, marginal, so I decided to abandon them by the roadside to fend for themselves. I know somebody somewhere will probably do something about it, so I'm sure they'll be ok.

Next to go was my job. I appear to put in a lot more hours than I'm actually paid for, so my new found fiscal responsibility told me this was a waste of my time. I explained this to my boss and now I don't have to deal with that anymore.

After that it was easy. I gave up my house because I was paying twice as much a mortgage as the house is worth, and that can't be right, can it? I sold it to my friends at a knockdown price and they are renting it out and making a fortune. Far more than I could have done.

“ I GOT RID OF THE CAR TOO. DIDN’T SEE HOW THAT LOAN MADE SOUND FINANCIAL SENSE.

So now I have no job, no house, no car and no family - and everybody hates me. But I sleep safely in the knowledge that I practised what you preach and that it must make sense somehow, to somebody, I guess.

*Yours
Joe*

XENOPHOBES? UKIP ARE WELCOME TO THEM



IMMIGRATION WOES

Trying to lance the suppurations unleashed by the EU campaign, Jeremy Corbyn has promised a re-examination of Labour's policies on immigration. As a citizen of the world by nature, Corbyn is unlikely to favour punitive restrictions on the movement of workers or refugees

How should Labour deal with immigration? Reporting to the party on the 2015 election result, Jon Cruddas MP laid much stress on Labour's "increasing distance" from voters he described as "socially conservative". He cited immigration as one of the issues contributing to

this distance and warned of UKIP wading into Labour's vote.

What he failed to do was suggest what steps Labour could take. The simple but disastrous route would be to replicate UKIP's policies; the danger is that merely reiterating

that Labour got immigration wrong could easily segue into an unacceptable impression or an actual expression of racism and xenophobia.

Labour is not a racist party, any more than it is an anti-semitic

party. The party must commit to the delivery of the message that the extent of immigration is a myth. The regions of Britain that contain the lowest proportion of foreign-born residents are Wales and the North-East.

How eloquent that the regions where Ukip has made the greatest inroads into Labour support are Wales and the North-East. What more evidence is needed that UKIP plays on unjustified, imaginary fears? I have found when canvassing that a fruitful line to take, when told that immigration is a "problem", is to ask how specifically it proves a problem for that individual. Vanishingly few, in fact, have anything to offer but prejudicial generalities.

It isn't rocket science to shame them respectfully out of their more unjustified claims, because few want to state baldly that they just don't like Poles or West Indians or Pakistanis. And, if they do, UKIP is welcome to them.

W Stephen Gilbert, Author of Jeremy Corbyn – Accidental Hero



TURN ON THE PEOPLE!

Ah, Red Wedge. Labour's attempt to secure the "yoof" vote. Coal, Not Dole. Rock against Racism etc. Those were the days.... Right?

Well...perhaps. Like anything from decades past, we tend to view it through rose coloured specs, appropriately enough for a Labour initiative-their symbol is the rose after all.... But was it really that much better than our 21st Century counterpart? Let's examine, compare and contrast....

Starting with the leaders. Neil Kinnock. Oh yes. He wanted to modernise Labour, make it more electable, get rid of any factions that would put off Mr and Mrs Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells, and more on a par with... The SDP Alliance? The Tories? Hmm. Never thinking for one minute that HE could be the common denominator in the unelectable equation, he continued to change the Labour Party into something resembling the Tories, only not quite as bad as them, paving the way for the resounding victories of Tony Blair and resounding defeats that followed...

In the world of 2016, we have our wild card candidate who was elected Labour Leader with the largest mandate since the

aforementioned A.C.L Blair, for vastly different reasons of course. Since his rise to the leadership in Sept 2015, Mr. Corbyn has achieved a considerable amount of u-turning from the Tories, has shocked many, myself included, by doing things no previous Labour Leaders have ever done, or have not done for at least

In the Labour Leader stakes, in my humble opinion, we are miles better off...

Sadly, not so much in the entertainment stakes. Red Wedge had Paul Weller, Billy Bragg, The Communards, The Redskins.... I think you see the point.... Although JC4PM has

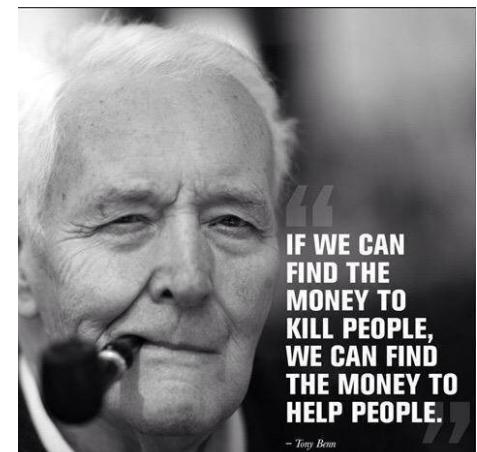


The Tory Secret Weapon to Appeal to the Young - **Boris Johnson** who recently destroyed his appeal to young voters by Championing Brexit but pulling out of the Tory leadership challenge - thereby making him unpopular with both sets of voters.

half a century, and his standing continues to rise in the face of unprecedented contempt from both the mainstream media and his opponents in Westminster. In response, he remains composed, dignified, with extraordinary, almost superhuman fortitude.

more of a variety of entertainers (the poet Michael Rosen, and the second best person with THAT first name, Jeremy Hardy) it sadly lacks the big names (apart from the obvious Mr Bragg) needed to put the proverbial bums on seats, or sadly, to excite anyone

at the thought of attending. In contrast, to this day I can watch a Red Wedge gig on You Tube and sing along with Don't Look Any Further.... JC 4 PM will lack any memorability sadly, beyond the night itself.



Tony Benn was a dedicated peace activist who has gained massive respect amongst new young labour members.

So, what to do? Many young people in particular got politically involved last year owing to a shock victory for a traditional Labour candidate which saw a bit of hope peeking through the greyness of Tory austerity. This is highly encouraging but has not as yet translated into an outpouring of musical expression. There is the odd attempt- Thee Faction, a sort of 21st Century Redskins, Robb Johnson, Joe Solo and Grace Petrie to name a few. But until these artists sell in the quantities of a Bragg or Weller, it is likely that we will not see those glory days of pop and politics revived, for the foreseeable future.

EU FALLOUT IN THE UK

Boris makes a promise too far - While crowds demonstrate in London after the Brexit vote.

AS THE UK EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM FALLOUT HITS HOME, WHY NOT MAKE IT A PUBLIC BANK HOLIDAY?

So, declared Nigel Farage, as the news hit that Britain had voted to leave the European Union. The self-appointed man of the people declared this a result for ordinary men and women in this country

As someone who voted to remain, does Farage's rhetoric make me - or anyone who didn't vote leave - un-ordinary? Just because we voted to remain doesn't mean we are the toffs and privileged in society.

You would think the only people who voted leave were the working class. Anyone who voted remain must be middle or upper class. Well I, for one, am working class through-and-through, yet I chose to remain for a variety of reasons. Let me make it absolutely clear: I am no lover of the EU. But I felt it was better the devil you know. Was it worth taking a leap into

the dark not knowing exactly what the future would hold for millions of Britons should we leave or continue to have a voice

**“ WHY NOT
MAKE IT A PUBLIC
BANK HOLIDAY? ”**

at the table in Brussels in the hope of being able to negotiate reform within the EU? After hearing the argument from both sides I believed just like Jeremy Corbyn that it was better to choose the latter option.

Within half an hour or so of Nigel Farage's fist pumping shout from the rooftops speech about our independence, Prime Minister David Cameron announced his resignation, stating it was time for a new man to lead Britain in the post-EU exit. Well, I believe, it is too easy to just step down and let any other unelected Tory figure suddenly be given the keys to the country.

Just like Gordon Brown became our unelected PM in 2007, we shouldn't let it happen again. So now is the time for David Cameron and the conservative government to do the right thing

by the British public and call a General Election immediately. Boris Johnson shouts about how the British public chose to leave Europe as being democratic, so to now not give the country the chance to elect a new PM would be hugely hypocritical.

Let's call a General Election and let the people decide which party and which MP they want to lead us into our future outside of Europe.



Finland's schools are considered by many to be some of the best in the world. (main pic)

Whereas PFI schools in the UK seem to be falling down? (inset top left).

Possibly we should ask for advice?

ACADEMIES EXPLAINED: WHY THE TORIES ARE FORCING NEW SCHOOLS ON US

The announcement from **Nicky Morgan** recently that all schools are to become, or start the process to become an Academy by 2020 has united some strange bedfellows. Teaching unions have found themselves on the same side as some Conservative county councillors staggered by the idea of forcing 'good' and 'outstanding' school to become an Academy

WHAT ARE ACADEMIES?

Essentially they are the privatisation of education, as local councils tend to have little input - if any - in them. Local councillors can be on the governing body but there is no statutory right for them to be on them, thus weakening the local democratic control of schools.

Usually, they also have a business sponsor which can have a number of representatives on the governing body. This means they also take vital decisions about the running of the school, especially the terms and conditions of the staff employed. Some academies do respect the national terms and conditions

that unions have negotiated with local councils over many years, but some do not and this can have major implications for recruitment of staff and staff morale overall. Academies can opt out of the national curriculum and set its own yearly calendar, which has caused some problems and issues with lack of consultation with staff and other authorities, meaning major decisions have sometimes been reversed because of this lack of planning and cooperation with local councils.

This forced policy can be beaten the recent Government education white paper, which looks to the forced academisation of all schools,

needs to be opposed and can be by all who want our children to be taught in schools with democratic controls and common terms and conditions for the staff who work in them.

Already Conservative councillors from Oxfordshire and Hampshire are calling for Nicky Morgan to reverse her intentions and allow schools the freedom to convert if they want or not to at their own discretion; it seems strange a government committed to a so-called choice in education is trying to force schools to conform to something so potentially damaging to our children's futures.

The first thing parents can do if they hear of their local school, considering this line, is to create an Anti-Academies Action Group (AAAG) and contact the AntiAcademies Alliances online for campaign materials. Then they need to demand a meeting with the governing body at the school and publicise this meeting, organising what questions to ask at the meeting.

They also need to contact their local MP and councillors expressing their opposition, especially if they are run by a Tory council. This attack on local democracy can be beaten just like other academies have been up and down the country; local communities know if their schools don't need this government dictat, their voices combined with teaching unions, teachers and local councillors can win for all of us.

Red Pen



ITS ON THE BOX

THE END OF TRANSMISSION FOR WORKING CLASS TELEVISION

Walking down a British street today one may catch the occasional conversation debating what was on the television the night before, albeit not as much as maybe thirty years ago with the advent of satellite television, the internet and our Iphone's creating a whirlpool of different methods of entertainment

J.F. Cornes

Today in 2016 that conversation may brush over the ratings topping Great British Bake Off and the silver fox that is Paul Hollywood brooding over someone's muffins.

It may brush over The Apprentice and life in the concrete financial jungle of London's Canary Wharf. Or possibly people may be shedding a tear for the end of the hugely popular award winning Downton Abbey. Your ear may linger on this passing conversation until it hits you that twenty – thirty years ago, these conversations wouldn't have been about middle class pastimes, multi – millionaire businessmen or the state of the British elite and its service staff of the early 20th Century. These conversations would have focussed on a wheeling dealing fly pitcher and his 'dopey' younger brother, a northern comedy duo

bringing sunshine to the masses and the dole cues of Liverpool. It is then that it strikes you that something quite sad has happened to that box in the corner of the room. It has lost its window into the situation of the British Working Class, that steel hardy fearless community of tradesman and unionists that built the cornerstone of the British Isles with their own blood, sweat and tears.

What is also a sobering thought is that our television screen feeds back to us the society, the culture that we live within and it is such that as I look around that British street, it is not only television which has subjugated the working class but society as a whole. I was born in 1991; I am a 24 year old who missed out on the revolutionary years of the fab four and free love, the three day week and the poll tax riots. I was born into an era of Britpop, New

Labour and reality TV. However I was brought up on such television classics as Only Fools and Horses, Porridge and The Royle Family. The worlds I witnessed in these classic works were ones that were warm, familiar and honest. As the years passed and life flung its relentless challenges at me I would find solace in the fictional lives of Del Boy, of Norman Stanley Fletcher and Jim Royle. These characters came from my world, a world of getting by and making do. Today I live within the beige blurring of modern British society. I no longer find solace in new television because television has done what our society has done – it has tried to stamp out the communities of living on the never – never and trying to pay the 'leccie' bill. It has been replaced by working to middle class strivers, credit ratings and career people. The warmth, simplicity and honesty of the Royle's, the Trotters and the

Duckworth's have been replaced by the greed, humourlessness and wealth aspiration of Karen Brady, Simon Cowell and Peter Jones. My community, my home, my people are no longer represented on Television. They are an extinct race in a world where middle – upper class people such as Danny Cohen, Michael McIntyre and Mary Berry have succeeded the likes of Jimmy Gilbert, Les Dawson and Craig Cash. As I walk through the streets of England, whether it is Manchester, Liverpool or wherever I see so many people lost in a haze of self – importance, self worship and self preservation. These are people from my class, my world, a world that boasts the beautiful minds of Keir Hardie, Alan Bleasdale and Morrissey, among so many more, but being a part of that community no longer means anything to them. They are so wrapped up in their own ends and needs; the victory of individualism is a victory for Conservatism, for delusion. It leaves one wondering whether that society of Hilda Ogden, Arthur Scargill and Ken Loach really has vanished. But it hasn't, I see it in the working man's clubs of Liverpool, on the trade union placards and words of support on their walls and the important presence of such working class dramatists as the wonderfully talented Actress Maxine Peake.

Of course society evolves and times change, I am not expecting our society to be the same society of the 70's and the 80's but it is a valid point that just because society changes doesn't mean we have to become less honest, warm hearted and good natured, which I feel the world I walk within has become, especially in the UK. It's as though British society has become ashamed of the world's we see in Early Doors, Shameless and Dinnerladies. And, of course, someone may say that these era's that I mention had their own windows into many other areas of our draconian class system – Upstairs, Downstairs, To the Manor Born and Yes, Prime Minister were all hugely popular shows which offered insights into the higher classes and political societies of

the day with certainly no basis within the world of the working classes, apart from the service staff of Upstairs, Downstairs. However, I feel it valid that certain scenes with a political narrative no longer feature on our modern TV screens.

Such scenes include Rodney arguing with Del Boy about moving to a better area with better social clientele 'Del, council properties were built so the poorer classes would have somewhere to live! If they start selling them to hooray Henrys where are they gonna go?' Another example is 'Fletch' trying to get Lenny Godber to realise society and life will do him no favours with his background and criminal record 'You could go for a job one day, with all the qualifications in the world and be pipped to the post by someone who's never done an exam in his life, but he speaks with a right accent, he plays for the cricket club, and ain't ever been in no nick!' And, of course, who could forget the classic lines of Captain Edmund Blackadder reflecting on Britain's colonial past 'when I joined up we were still fighting colonial wars. If you saw someone in a skirt you shot him and nicked his country.' These

three examples prove that such true, compelling and socially conscious writing is no longer accepted on our TV screens anymore. And the delusion of this is I recognise these characters and so do all of my fellow working – classes, we can relate to these narratives even though today we live in a society of mass fantasy. People no longer want to live in council houses because Thatcher's revolution made people ashamed of that concept, people strive to sound and look better to get the £30,000 a year job and our devotion to the armed forces and British establishment is going through a neo – resurgence in which people no longer want to imagine a world with no borders and a socially equal society, they want to pull the ladder up as high as possible for themselves and protect British interests around the globe. But the fact of the matter is these people still exist – council houses are still needed, minimum, sorry living, wage jobs are at an all time high and Britain still thinks its military intervention has a purpose, when in actuality it is an afterthought when compared to the might of Russia's and the US' armed forces. But the fantasy we are hoodwinked into believes these

areas of our social structure should be swept under the carpet.

Where are the factory workers, the shop workers and the cleaners? Where are their stories on the TV? The closest we see are office workers and middle income earners that highlight the middle – classes which seem to be the height of social contentment at the moment. Why be free, single minded and caring when you can wear a suit, have a credit card and have a mortgage the size of Germany around your neck? I look back at the television my parents, and their parents, used to watch and I do think it was brilliant – Steptoe and Son, Morecambe and Wise, The Two Ronnies, Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads and Auf Wiedersehen, Pet and so many more like them were shows of entertainment, innocence and excitement. But more importantly they were written by, for and about a society of decent, modest and humble working class communities unashamed of their background and proud of their heritage and their occupations. I flick through the channels today and I feel my argument valid – Dragon's Den, The

Great British Sewing Bee and The Apprentice – where are the working classes? What has happened to them? Why is television yet another tool in promoting this wealth aspiring, dull, corporate and cruel narrative that seems to be the underscore for modern British life? My argument here has been does Television reflect its society and I believe it does. But our society is in bad shape, it is broken and somewhat blinkered, and until we re-evaluate what is important to us and what our values are then this damage can never be repaired. I am not against anyone desiring to do well or looking to alter their life's path. But to live in a society that wants to pretend that welfare, minimum wage and manual labour communities are no longer deserved of having their voices and their worlds represented on British television, whether it be comedy or drama, apart from ridicule and demonization, shows that our society is drowning in a sea of mass fantastical deception which will never get better but descend even further into organised madness where greed is the driving factor.

THE NUCLEAR ISSUE

TRIDENT RENEWAL



The deterrent we dare not use

News that the estimated lifetime costs of so-called 'Trident Renewal' have already risen to a total of £205 billion is possibly reason enough to join the

campaign against Britain's expensive, unnecessary and ultimately useless nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Those joining CND's mass lobby

of Parliament on 13 July 2016 will certainly be telling MPs that there are much better ways to spend such a vast amount of the public's money. In fact, the only part of this eye-watering total that needs to be spent on nuclear

“ THERE IS NO MILITARY JUSTIFICATION FOR A COUNTRY LIKE BRITAIN TO SUSTAIN A TRIDENT NUCLEAR ARSENAL. ”

Glenys Kinnock MEP

weapons is the £13 billion needed to decommission the existing Trident system. The remaining £192 billion would clearly be much better spent on reversing the impact of savage cuts to essential services which have been forced on local councils by successive governments; on restoring benefits to the disabled and others; on supporting our health, education and social services, and providing the

defences we really need in 2016. The real dangers we face in the twenty-first century are terrorism, global warming and cyber attack. Nuclear weapons are clearly useless against all such dangers and arguably make us even more vulnerable to some of them.

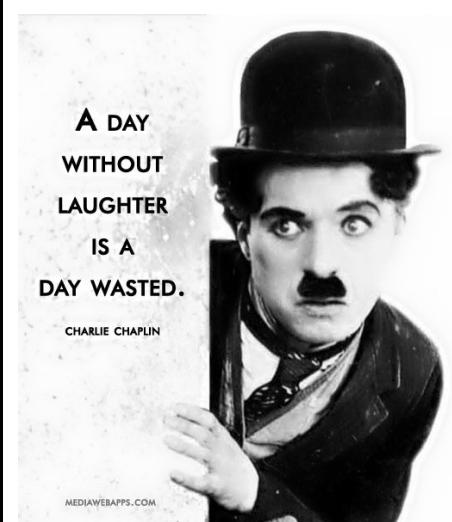
But even if Trident could be renewed at a lower cost, it would still be useless and dangerous, and it would remain morally indefensible. Trident nuclear weapons of mass destruction are an evil we need to consign to the dustbin of history. Threatening our planet, many millions of people and ourselves with annihilation makes no sense whatsoever.

Philip Gilligan

Chair, Greater Manchester and District CND



Charlie Chaplin the peace monger



Charlie Chaplin was accused widely in USA for being a Socialist/ Communist, but, in his own words, he denied being a communist and claimed to be a "Peace Monger". It often goes unnoticed but if you watch his films you can clearly see the message of Socialism and peace.

DEMOCRACY'S DILEMMA

There always seems to me a place in politics where old socialists get caught. A veritable Bermuda triangle of ideas and ideals

If you are for any radical change in society then, sooner rather than later, you will fall out with the right wing of the Labour party. Why? They are comfortable enough, thank you very much. Their attitude to change was summed up perfectly in the old Phil Ochs song "love me, I'm a Liberal." When someone comes along who is one of their own and preaches change they end as a loveable old buffer like Tony Benn. The Labour right take the view that, no harm really, he is one of us. When someone below their social standing speaks out then the vitriol is unleashed in flowing rivers of anger. "How dare they, what do they think they are doing..." The hatred convulses and palpitates until these genteel

socialists finally ask for help from, (the other side) to crush without mercy such an upstart.

The Scylla to this Charybdis is, the usually Stalinist, left wing. Anyone who has ever been to a SWP fronted meeting will recognise the rigid control, the pre planted questions, the driven agreed agenda's and the perpendicular rule bends. The left will argue that discipline is all. Eventually, with a Trotskyite, Kronsadt will come up. This makes choosing sides easier. When the person you are arguing with supports that massacre, stop talking and start walking. I would go further and postulate that when people on the left propose that anything undemocratic is good

for socialism then is the time to walk away, because socialism can never be top down.

So, what is the answer? Democracy, trusting the people even when they do not trust you, supporting and

**“ I'M A LEADER,
NOT A DICTATOR.
I WANT TO
PERSUADE PEOPLE
RATHER THAN
THREATEN OR
CONTROL THEM.**

Jeremy Corbyn

nurturing the idea of democracy. We do not live in a democracy. We have a feudal, capitalist alliance controlled by an occupying military power that have had a garrison in our country since the 1940s. How to we cut through this? We need Information, the ability to be given the facts and disseminate them for ourselves. At the moment most people seem to gleam all from the internet, a place those against us control and increasingly regulate. It is a place where those of us who already have an idea of the worst of the world already look for reasons.

What we need is a collective, democratic, honest, socialist alternative. If anyone out there agrees with this analysis then join us in helping to create a socialist newspaper that is free from any party interference but readable, popular and guided by agreed basic principles. It is all I can think of.

DIVIDE AND RULE SOCIETY

One has to look deeper than the way people are on the surface



The majority of people are good people that have been caught up in a capitalistic divide and rule society. And yes! There is criminality because of desperation, poverty and a real need to survive, to amount to something in this life. Divide and rule label people as scroungers, lazy or benefit cheats etc to demonise them and turn the public against them. Eventually people become the labels they are given when they are constantly told that is what they are via media or people in the street. Low self-worth becomes a self-perpetuating prophecy.

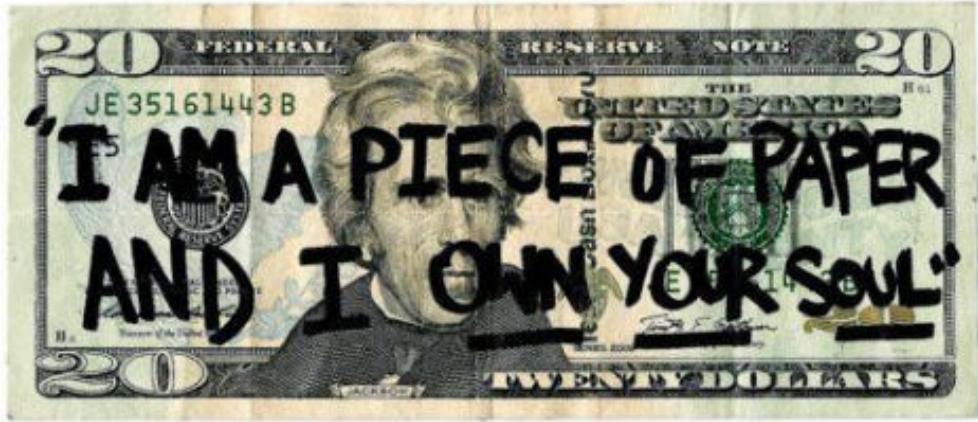
The majority are angry and would not have chosen how their lives are turning out but have lost their self-

esteem because of constant attack on their character.

Universal Basic Income will liberate the homeless the poverty stricken and even criminality will reduce. It has been proven in a study where homeless people were given a certain amount of money, they did use the money wisely.

Laziness is another capitalistic label to make one feel guilty if one is not working as fast as the next person, we are not robots.

We have been conditioned to believe that we have to work to be of any worth to society and in the current capitalistic society we have to contribute or we are considered



The acquisition of wealth is no longer the driving force of our lives. We work to better ourselves and the rest of humanity.

Captain Jean-Luc Picard - Star Trek

scroungers.

We are human why should we have to be a slave to work to survive, just barely survive in many instances because of the crumby wages the 1% currently allow us.

Some that have been conditioned by society maybe lazy but then again given liberty the majority may very well prove us wrong. We need to have a little more faith in the decency of most human beings not just what we are told by a capitalistic government.

Just imagine if you were told everyday that you are a lazy scrounger, the system was against you and there was know way out. Maybe you would give in and become what they tell you you are. Because one cannot continually argue against the masses, so anything for a quite life ayy.

UBI will free people to make their own choices and as time and generations move on people will surprise by actually starting to live

their own dreams in life to aspire to be who they want to be. After all! We ain't born bad.

Ask yourself. What have you

**TRUE LEADERS
DON'T CREATE
FOLLOWERS.
THEY CREATE
MORE LEADERS.**

ever wanted to do with your life if you were free and you will find that most people want something very similar. Not what you might imagine because of capitalistic indoctrination.

We have a right to be truly free People are starving in the street and outside shops with an abundance of food currently denied to them.

USA SPOTLIGHT



Bernie Sanders popularity in America has taken everyone by surprise, At his speaking venues just this year he has been attracting crowds in the **tens of thousands**. Republican politicians call his progressive social based politics 'Communist' but are they wrong to label Bernie Sanders when he himself has run such an inclusive campaign?

BENEFIT FRAUD EXPOSED! WHO BENEFITS THE LIE

99.5% of all sickness benefit claims are genuine

The Daily Stigma can reveal that only 0.5 per cent of money spent on Incapacity Benefit is lost to false claims. In the meantime, hundreds and thousands of genuinely disabled and ill people are living in fear of having their benefits taken away while they are still too sick to work. Story continues on page 2.

Anyone who examines the facts knows that benefit fraud is a minor problem. Tax fraud is 15 times bigger, unclaimed benefits 17 times bigger, benefit cuts are 22 times bigger and tax evasion is 30 to 70 times bigger. In the context of our national finances benefit fraud is near irrelevant

This little amusing ditty occasionally does the rounds: A banker, a tabloid reader and a benefit claimant are sat at a table. On a plate in the middle are 12 biscuits. The banker takes 11 biscuits for himself, then turns to the tabloid reader and says – “watch out for that benefit claimant, he’s after your biscuit” If it’s true that there are only seven basic plots or motifs to our storytelling then I’m not quite sure how this fits in with any of the seven or maybe I’ve found the unspoken eighth dimension - the plot of mass distraction. This insidious little number has to be one of the most

annoying persistent memes on the planet and is usually run in all kinds of noxious variants, such as the introduction of an immigrant alongside the tabloid reader and the benefit claimant. When the banker tosses the 12th biscuit over in the immigrant’s direction and he manages to athleticism catch the biscuit mid-air our banker offers additional commentary with pointed emphasis to his other two companions, “Well, that man REALLY worked for that biscuit, didn’t he?” So this little nugget really does seem to sum up the essence of our haughty ruling class who have learned a thing or two over the centuries about divide and rule. And so in remorseless fashion our noble standard of collectivism, mutuality, social insurance and the contributory principle have all been corroded by an evil genius who was adept at seducing one segment of the community against another, playing off each side with the siren call of beggar thy neighbour. Our allegorical bankers being the richest and most powerful operators in the land are also able

by virtue of their standing, able to afford the most expensive and loudest of megaphones to carry their gospel far and wide. Our ordinary citizenry are naturally more quick to judgement about the indiscretions or otherwise of their fellows and are less quick to take umbrage at their social betters, confined as these mystery beings are behind impenetrable walls of privilege and authority. It may be that the indiscretions of Jones are but a minuscule smidgen of the governors ill gotten gains, but tabloid mentality will see to it that the unsightly spectacle makes for good copy. Official government figures quietly conclude benefit fraud to be around 70p for every £100 whilst the public estimate the figures some 34 times higher.

or whereabouts are always angels, of course not, we have our share of idiots like everywhere else that should be dealt with accordingly. Humanity is frail and imperfect



but never more so when we delude ourselves about the problems at the bottom end of society whilst giving a free pass to all the dodgy antics of those at the top.

We've won the lottery!

Living for free in a £1.2m house, meet the Afghan single mother who's costing you £170,000 a year

From the Mail, October 2008

We can't deny there is benefit fraud but it should not be the focus of so much media attention.

Aw piece



WE SHALL OVERCOME

We Shall Overcome 2016 loosely runs from October 1st to 9th and will see thousands of musicians, poets, artists, activists (and just about everyone in between) come together to voice their opposition to austerity politics while at the same time trying to do something to help those hardest hit in our communities

We work under the banner: 'A RAISED FIST AND A HELPING HAND' for WSO is more than just a protest movement. It started like this. On May 8th 2015, as the dust settled on the General Election, and social media was awash with gloating, recrimination and blame; a group of us looked to turn our despair into something more positive and decided a coordinated night of musical protest up and down the country was a decent place to start. We set off tagging everyone we knew. What we thought would be 10 or 15 gigs soon became 20, then 50, then 100 as the idea took off. It was a genuine ground-up people's movement, and being there at the centre of it was an incredible feeling for all of us.

We'd decided that each event would try to raise either

provisions for local food banks and soup kitchens, cash for local organisations fighting austerity, or clothing and bedding for those struggling on the streets. We wanted each event to raise that locally and more importantly KEEP that locally so that all help raised was BY the community, FOR the community and in this way we hoped to empower people so they were no longer waiting for somebody somewhere to do something about it, but had BECOME that somebody and in doing so inspired others around them to stand up and fight back. It worked. By the time our chosen weekend came around (October 2nd-4th 2015) we had 250 events in 123 towns and cities across 8 countries on 3 continents, all achieved with one Facebook group and the collected energy of hundreds of people wanting to act against the politics of despair

and raise their voices in defiance of those who would destroy our communities for profit. Together those events raised an estimated £125,000 worth of food, cash, clothing and bedding for those hardest hit by the malice of State-sponsored misery; but the totals were nothing to the energy at those gigs, the crackle in the air, the genuine feeling that compassion was back in the ring and ready to go toe-to-toe with greed for the soul of the country.

So we're back again for more. As I type we have close to 100 events chalked up already. You can find us at: <http://weshallovercomeweekend.com> or **@WeShallWeekend** on Twitter. JOIN US. All you have to do is book a venue, and tell us. You control the bill, you control who you raise help for, and we do our best to let the world know you

are there and fighting for your community.

In a country of lowest common denominator politics, of finger-wagging and blame, We Shall Overcome is a way you can fight back with the simplest and perhaps the finest of tools- a big heart and hope.

We're waiting for you.

Joe Solo





Tariq Ali

THE EAGLE HAS LANDED NOW

I'm in Lesbos, where Fortress Europe confronts refugees. There are unaccompanied children being held in container style cells designed for 'terrorists'.

It is appropriate, in a way, to get news of the Blair machinations in the Labour party at a conference here. Syrian and other war refugees are also locked up here.

Angela Eagle, who voted for the Iraq war and for the bombing of Syria, has decided to go for the leadership backed by a ghoulish Kinnochio and the rest of the backroom gang [Mandelson, Campbell and a badly bruised Blair].

Politically she appears as a mixture of Hilary Clinton and Theresa May. Her only chance is if the Blairites attempt to prevent Corbyn from contesting. If such a ploy succeeds a lot of members will leave.

If it doesn't Corbyn will be re-elected. A split seems to be what the Right are aching for. Kinnochio's appeal to people to join Labour to dislodge Jeremy repeats what a Blairite MP wrote in The Sun... so the paper which took the credit for having defeated Kinnochio's pathetic Prime Ministerial bid is now hand-in-glove with the windbag of yesteryear.



BLAIR'S STUMBLING LEGACY

Sir John Chilcot's statement on the Iraq war has been described as "scathing" with those scathed including, among others, the Prime Minister at the time, Tony Blair, together with Whitehall staff and senior army officers

One of the major findings of the report was that going to war had been an option decided upon "before peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted".

Among other barbed criticisms, the report states that information arising out of faulty intelligence had been accepted uncritically and acted upon after insufficient analysis. Military action, avers Chilcot, was "not a last resort".

Since the publication of the report on last Wednesday, the great and the good have been queuing up to have their say on its findings – and so, too, has Anthony Charles Lynton Blair, the British Prime Minister at the time the decision to go to war was taken.

It has been revealed the alleged war criminal Blair got through three onions and two boxes of Scotties Man Size during an emotional press conference, wringing his hands 94 times and contriving to have his voice break with the intensity of his feelings on 23 separate occasions,

before concluding that he'd been right all along.

In a performance redolent of his most nauseatingly faux-sincere speeches as Premier, Blair seemed to be pulling out all the stops in an effort to defend the indefensible. Meanwhile, the accusations piled up from those bereaved by service losses during the conflict, as well as public figures avowedly against war as an option.

Jeremy Corbyn, the Leader of the Opposition and one MP who has consistently voted against Britain's involvement in US-led coalitions in conflicts abroad, stopped short of naming Tony Blair in his post-Chilcot peroration.

But there can be little doubt that the document will be studied carefully by all those who feel that the former New Labour PM has a possible case to answer. For Blair, the toxic fallout from Chilcot may take some time to dissipate.

It would be hard to over-estimate

the implications for those involved with putting the case for war and then enforcing Britain's involvement.

The longer the Chilcot report goes on – and it is a weighty piece of work – the more incendiary its findings seem to become. The UK is held to have "undermined the UN Security Council's authority". Its decision that there was a legal basis for action was derided as "far from satisfactory".

The report notes that "despite explicit warnings, the consequences of the invasion were underestimated. The planning and preparations for Iraq after Saddam Hussein were wholly inadequate".

And, damningly, "the government failed to achieve its stated objectives." Ironically, the man best-known for his consistent opposition to military engagement where there is the remotest chance of a successful negotiation, or where other sanctions might be effective – Jeremy Corbyn – was being heckled in the House of Commons and told to "sit down and shut up" by a member of his own back-benches, Ian Austin MP.

Mr Austin appeared to have overlooked the salient points of the Chilcot Report, and was instead reading from a pamphlet entitled "How to make a sudden name for yourself if you're a back-bench nonentity".

So Chilcot, long expected or not, has arrived as a bombshell to compare with that other recent concussive explosion, Brexit. Both are likely to have far-reaching consequences, with the EU referendum result having caused havoc already among contemporary political figures.

But Chilcot seems set fair to cause comparable chaos for certain of the previous generation, with Tony Blair, in particular, looking like a man who will be dodging shrapnel for some time to come.



AN IMMIGRANT'S VIEW

Salutations pasty comrades of the Neoliberal capitalist West!
Pleasure being here, on this slave ship, off the coast of France

I have to congratulate your slave owners for the job – I mean, this is just a really high-end fully functional tyranny. See, myself — I am shipwrecked off the fall of communism under Ceausescu in Romanistan. I watched the man shot on Christmas day, with his wife, the “popular genius”.

A breath of fresh air, then, to see his memory (and that of dictators everywhere) rehabilitated by this marvelous, state-of-the-art capitalism-on-steroids totalitarianism. Ceausescu had nothing on you guys. He could have only dreamed of this. Flawless mass enslavement.

First of: NSA. Marvelous work! Marvelous achievement. See Ceausescu and other dictators of the pre-digital age (we called that the Golden Age back home) had to install individual microphones under the greasy tables of moribund dissidents—if they wanted to spy on them — one by one. And when the watchee was fornicating, the SRI agent listening—equivalent to your NSA folk? — would have had to take a break, perhaps smoke a non-filtered communist cigarette. None of these cherry flavoured superior capitalist cigarettes that step out of your fingers and give you a blow job.

Very slow, inefficient form of

surveillance. Unfortunately the great man died just pre-dawn of the digital revolution.

On the other hand, you guys rock. Everybody is listened to all the time. Such intelligentsia: to convince the reactionaries (by which I mean, of course, everyone) to buy their OWN listening devices from Apple/Samsung/Microsoft/other spyware manufacturers.

Why this is just scintillating! Ceausescu had to pay for it all himself out of his dictator’s salary. Capitalism works out better suited to mass oppression: because the sheep pay for everything out of their pocket. Hats off, masters of the US/UK empire. Those golf balls at Menwith Hill really do pay off. #crowdfundedspyware hey?

Second off: Everybody knows the key element in maintaining power is propaganda. Trotsky knew this. Stalin knew this. Ceausescu kind of knew this instinctively as he never really finished learning how to read. One TV channel, one national paper with a pencil-and-eraser guy to wipe party members from the party photographs as they died.

News reported the astounding achievements of communism every night. The economy was booming on TV and Romania was the greatest

nation in the world as even queens of Europe lined up to drape him in GCBs.

Issue is, damn dumb peasants only needed to look outside the TV and know this was a bunch of lies. The unsophistication nature of it all... You, on the other hand...ANY lie is convincing to a public with 500 channels and cheap shrimp with chips and 500 flavours of icecream.

If you claim UK is noble and kind, the average folk lets his belly decide, puts Britain’s Got Talent on and thinks all is good in the world. The hypothalamus decides for him, politically.

And if some kid is starving in Africa or working to death at 1\$/day in China to make his shiny western toys, he can buy bulk opinions in the media that assuage any guilt, saying it’s really the devil in them and not the exploitation in us.

Genius! The Romans did it, the US & UK does it, and any successful empire would be crazy not to. The more you dope the masses with hi-tech new age bread and circus, the more obediently they hand over their labour right unto the grave. And they even thank you for allowing them to pay for their own work-related-death funeral. And with enough spin, they’ll never suspect

their death and illness and sadness is caused by the system, but blame it masochistically on themselves.

Make a system clever enough and the mass won’t suspect the tyrant. They’ll just throw their chest onto the Tory sword and say thank you, Master.

Brilliant! I am so excited to have stumbled into the project left abandoned by the great dictators of yesterday. Here’s a tyranny well thought out, made unbreakable by clever “politicians” who were educated in world class universities on how to put a nation in an inescapable financial stranglehold.

Austerity is a simple, honest and brilliant get-rich scheme. I applaud the men who devised a way to let people starve (cuts) and die (NHS) AND put the money thus honestly gained into their pockets, safely in tax havens. To get rich working never got anybody far. To get rich having the idiots hand over EVERYTHING and pick the now private health tab when they disassemble after 20 hour shifts — now that’s what I call enterprising spirit.

Of course we want the tyrants to keep the fruits of their labour; it’s all well deserved, I mean, they had the genius and vision to fool everybody — even the lefties.

Put a bone in front of the overworked fools, and let them chase the shiny trinkets they can buy 24-hours a day in thousands of goddamn colors; and they never notice how everything that’s meant to help them against the state: privacy, freedom, law, medicine, is swept from under their feet, until they’re left like human batteries in the Matrix.

What a stroke of genius! How I’d like to meet the minds behind the plan. Truly a bright future for dictatorship 2.0. Communism didn’t get it: it takes market motivation, fierce and lethal competition and hi-tech mind control to make this great human project work — once and for all.

MARA

BLAIR FROM THE BEGINNING TO END



YO BLAIR!

Yo Blair Speech for the defence Members of the jury, you see before you a man of nobility, a man of humanity, a man of whom this great nation of ours can, nay must, nay shall, be proud

When called upon for selfless sacrifice did he demur? Did he hesitate? Did he hide away from destiny? Not he! Tony Blair, for it is of him that we speak, fearlessly sacrificed the lives of millions. He did this so that we could be proud and, carrying forth the torch passed to us by ancient sons of ancient Empire, continue to paint the globe red: red with the blood of those that tried in vain to hold back the march of progress. Under the wise guidance of Anthony Charles Lynton Blair once more we have taught the uncivilised hordes to quake at hearing the name of our nation. The Afghan and the Arab have learned their lesson.

Never again shall they presume to challenge those that know what is best for them. The dead, the disabled, the born deformed, the dying and the displaced will come to realise that all was for their best. The pesky Palestinian shall learn that subservience is good for him. Johnny Foreigner has been brought

into line. Entirely due to Tony (for it is by that name we have learned to love him) we have begun to reap the benefits of a privatised National Health Service and more. This son of Thatcher saw the future and, taking us by the hand, led us into the modern world in which we could all aspire to become rich; though few have been as successful at fulfilling this aspiration as our once and, we must hope, future king. Members of the jury I see that m'lud is looking at the clock so I must pause for now. My brandy and cigars await but, fear not, I shall soon be back to remind you, and to remind the world, how precious is the legacy of Tony Blair: the legacy, dear members of the jury, of a Messiah for our times. Speech resumed Like you members of the jury I have had to draw in my claws. Following Tony Blair's far too early surrender of the seals of office when the world could no longer rely upon his steady hand on the tiller, we have suffered austerity. You will,

*W Stephen Gilbert
Author, Jeremy Corbyn –
Accidental Hero*

We were sorry that Dick Cheney was unable to attend, having been rushed into hospital for a finger strain caused by counting Halliburton's profits. Nevertheless, you must have been impressed that George W Bush, no less, went to the trouble of sending us a link to his viral YouTube 'Yo Blair' video. Such an endorsement! Perhaps, however, the most telling character witness was the Prime Minister of Israel. Apparently there are some reasons why he could not attend in person. The speculation is that he was on his way to Tehran to sign a nuclear non-proliferation treaty but his written statement to this court that he was willing to throw the entire humanistic credibility of his party, his cabinet and, so impressive and touching this, his lovely wife, behind a bid for our Tony to receive the next Nobel Peace Prize, well, members of the jury, nothing, but nothing, matches this: again, such an endorsement! Tempus fugit and I must postpone the conclusion of my speech. Perhaps tonight we

might try the Gevrey Chambertin 1957. It has to be better than the '59 when, as a result of a long hot summer, far too much wine was produced and the quality suffered; but, members of the jury, we all remember that do we not? Concluding remarks As you will have guessed, members of the jury, the '57 Gevrey Chambertin was excellent. Today I wish to concentrate upon two

outstanding features of this man, this great man. They are TRUTH and FAITH. Anthony Charles Lynton Blair is no ordinary man. Yes, he is a man of the people but he is also that rare being who can lead his people where they do not yet realise that they must go. He takes us on a journey: a journey, members of the jury, into a future in which new meaning is to be given to words such as 'truth' and 'faith'. To him the vision is clear: to us it is often blurred; but to hold his hand while on this journey is an enlightening experience.

Once we begin to see that 'truth' means far more than we ever thought possible the boundaries constraining our actions begin to fall away: we can achieve so much: humanity itself is now translated into a higher form of being. And once we begin to understand 'faith' as Tony does we come to realise that our past was shackled by restrictive concepts such as evidence. In the poor and impoverished pre Tony past when our minds were befogged and befuddled by old-fashioned principles and values we would have believed that the absence of evidence for weapons of mass destruction in Saddam Cliff Jones Critical Professional Learning www.criticalprofessionallearning.co.uk 3 Hussein's Iraq signified an untruth. Now we know that it actually signified a higher truth: a Tony Truth. This new truth enables us to see things differently. Our horizon is wider, our perspective is more sophisticated, we stand with Tony upon the highest of hills with the clouds blown away and what we see is that minor mistakes about, for example, weapons of mass destruction must be viewed in the context of progress and modernity: our watchword has to be 'forward' and what, dear members of the jury, shall be allowed to stop progress? Nothing! Minor truths must give way to major truths. The mundane truth of the hoi polloi must step aside

for the extraordinary truth of this exceptional man. And so we come to FAITH. The House of Blair is built on faith. Its foundations are faith. It is built from faith. Its bricks and its mortar are faith. Its roof is faith. All, all is faith. And in that mansion of faith are many rooms that are visited by many sinners seeking redemption. Some have criticised Tony Blair for seeking out sinners: the rich, the racists, the torturers, the exploiters and the extortionists. How else, we must ask, are such people to be reformed and brought into the fold? No one more than Tony, our Tony, has done as much to bring sinners into society and to bring society to accept sin. You and I, members of the jury, when we build our modest mansions, are limited by building and town planning regulations; we ask to see the plans of architects; we demand to know what has gone into the foundations; and we wish the finished mansion to be inspected by qualified people.

Such pettifogging obsession with paltry evidence and regulation does not apply to Tony Blair. With faith like his all becomes possible and truth itself is transformed. I do not ask for a not guilty verdict. Heroes are not to be subject to ordinary judgments. I ask, I demand, I expect acclamation for this great man whose place in history's tableau of great men is assured. He must be carried out of here on your shoulders to be received and revered by a grateful nation and to resume his place among the immortals. Truly, in our time, we have seen no one such as he. The Veuve Cliquot 2004 should be ready for drinking now I think. I am sure, members of the jury, that you agree.

Trying to lance the suppurations unleashed by the EU campaign, Jeremy Corbyn has promised a re-examination of Labour's policies on immigration. As a citizen of the world by nature, Corbyn is unlikely to favour punitive

restrictions on the movement of workers or refugees

How should Labour deal with immigration? Reporting to the Party on the 2015 election result, Jon Cruddas MP laid much stress on Labour's "increasing distance" from voters he described as "socially conservative". He cited immigration as one of the issues contributing to this distance and warned of UKIP wading into Labour's vote. What he failed to do was suggest what steps Labour could take. The simple but disastrous route would be to replicate UKIP's policies; the danger is that merely reiterating that Labour got immigration wrong could easily segue into an unacceptable impression or an actual expression of racism and xenophobia.

Labour is not a racist party, any more than it is an anti-semitic party. The Party must commit to the delivery of the message that the extent of immigration is a myth. The regions of Britain that contain the lowest proportion of foreign-born residents are Wales and the North-East. How eloquent that the regions where UKIP has made the greatest inroads into Labour support are Wales and the North-East. What more evidence is needed that UKIP plays on unjustified, imaginary fears? I have found when canvassing that a fruitful line to take, when told that immigration is a "problem", is to ask how specifically it proves a problem for that householder. Vanishingly few in fact have anything to offer but prejudicial generalities. It isn't rocket science to shame them respectfully out of their more unjustified claims, because few want to state baldly that they just don't like Poles or West Indians or Pakistanis. And if they do, UKIP is welcome to them.



George Galloway

THE WORD IS WELCOME

The Word newspaper certainly chose the most dramatic of weeks to speak.. After labouring mightily for seven long years Sir John Chilcot delivered a report the consequences of which can not be underestimated.

Somebody called Angela Eagle said she was going to run Jeremy Corbyn out of town on the grounds that she was more popular than him. She didn't say where.

The Tory Party though with a smile on its face like the brass plate on the lid of a coffin descended knives flashing into the mother of all dogfights.

The Chilcot ink wasn't dry when, without parliamentary debate or vote of any kind, Britain sent troops to Poland and the Baltic states to "counter the threat of Russian expansionism". The fact that far from expanding Russia relinquished its control, voluntarily without firing a shot from more territory than any "empire" in history is missed of course by the lame-stream media.

The Libyan adventure in which David Cameron tried to show he could be a killer too lurches from bad to worse heaving with the possibilities of Isis on the Med. Again.

Isis on Sea is already with us of course, in Syria. And coming to a High Street near you.

George Galloway was a Glasgow Labour MP from 1987-2005, a Respect MP from 2005-2010 and 2012-2015. His film "The Killing\$ of Tony Blair" is released on July 27th

RACISM NOT ALLOWED

ANTISEMITISM

"Antisemitism in the context of someone expressing anti Jewish views is obviously wrong i don't need to explain that to people of this group, during the war Jews were of course persecuted by the Nazi's along with homosexuals, the disabled, Catholics, Muslims, Christians, Roman gypsies, political dissents, twins, communists, trade unionists, Greeks, Czechs, Africans, Russians, Serbs, poles, Ukrainians, Yugoslavians and so on"

Many people were persecuted some within the ranks on the nazi reichs, German soldiers are documented to have been sent to concentration camps for being homosexual and tortured. There's many reasons why it is in bad taste to talk about the war but in a country of free speech it's completely within your rights.

In light recently being shed on Ken Livingstone about the nazi party and their collaboration with zionists, while Ken Livingstone may have been insensitive with his comments about hitler and his commitment to the zionist agenda which is historically factually accurate.

The response from the media including the BBC and politician's is an attack on freedom of expression, for this persecution to be justified we would have invest in a time traveling machine and change history. Since we won't be

doing that any time soon i think we need to analyze what sort of world we live in when politicians are being persecuted for expressing accurate information in reference to Israel.

It is becoming evident that there are many undemocratic fascist elements emerging from this fiasco, you can't force someones opinion onto people in a civil society especially when it's subject to fact. Even comments made about Israels well documented oppressive genocide are being labeled antisemitic, the government has forced legislation that bans the public sector from boycotting Israeli goods with "serious repercussions" because it's apparently "antisemitic". Freedom of choice is seemingly irrelevant. This echoes Margaret Thatchers support for apartheid boycotts in South Africa.

What needs to be addressed is not this illogical accusation of

antisemitism that are not being correctly applied when you take into account the definition of antisemitism, Is not what happened over 70 years ago, but what's happening right now in Israel.

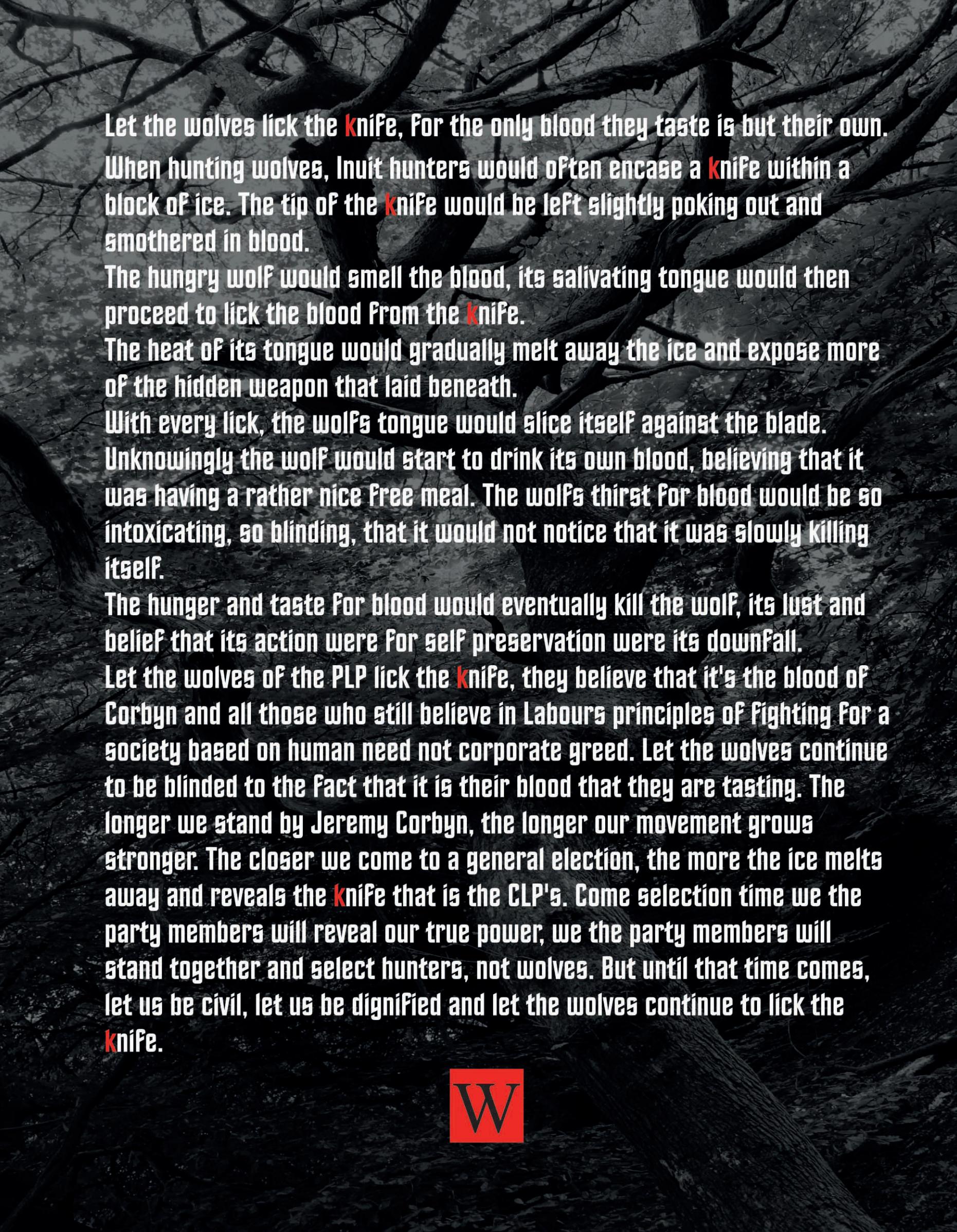
How are politicians being persecuted for speaking about historical facts, by a regime that is actively oppressing Palestinians on a daily basis, Palestinians are semitic people so why are Israel exempt from their antisemitic, segregative, supremacist crimes.

Why are the illegal settlements in gaza not condemned by our politicians? Why did our government turn a blind eye when Israel dropped chemical weapons on gaza? Why has Israel been allowed to demolish Palestinian homes illegally? Why have Israel been allowed to imprison immigrants and refugees without trial? Why have Israel been

allowed to illegally occupy the Golan heights? Why are Israel not sanctioned for restricting access to UN nuclear weapon inspectors into Israel?

These things are happening now, and its been happening since 1948. Not only should politicians be speaking about this, they should be pushing these issues in parliament for debate, if we can go to war in Syria and Iraq in the name of so called "peace" then based on the governments apparent concern for peace then we should be directly intervening based on these principles.

As a labour supporter i want to see Jeremy Corbyn and labour addressing these issues directly in parliament and removing the bad omens from the party and start addressing the real issues for the good of humanity and justice not apologizing for questioning them. With the Torys close relationship with the BBC and Murdochs media empire among others, Britain is being run like some kind of democratized totalitarian oligarchy, The blairite trojan horse needs addressing and the zionist regime is not the elected government and should stop interfering with British politics. Corbyn needs to put his foot down and expel the blairites and finish off New Labour once and for all and good riddance."



Let the wolves lick the knife, For the only blood they taste is but their own. When hunting wolves, Inuit hunters would often encase a knife within a block of ice. The tip of the knife would be left slightly poking out and smothered in blood.

The hungry wolf would smell the blood, its salivating tongue would then proceed to lick the blood from the knife.

The heat of its tongue would gradually melt away the ice and expose more of the hidden weapon that laid beneath.

With every lick, the wolfs tongue would slice itself against the blade. Unknowingly the wolf would start to drink its own blood, believing that it was having a rather nice free meal. The wolfs thirst for blood would be so intoxicating, so blinding, that it would not notice that it was slowly killing itself.

The hunger and taste for blood would eventually kill the wolf, its lust and belief that its action were for self preservation were its downfall.

Let the wolves of the PLP lick the knife, they believe that it's the blood of Corbyn and all those who still believe in Labours principles of fighting for a society based on human need not corporate greed. Let the wolves continue to be blinded to the fact that it is their blood that they are tasting. The longer we stand by Jeremy Corbyn, the longer our movement grows stronger. The closer we come to a general election, the more the ice melts away and reveals the knife that is the CLP's. Come selection time we the party members will reveal our true power, we the party members will stand together and select hunters, not wolves. But until that time comes, let us be civil, let us be dignified and let the wolves continue to lick the knife.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



BREAKING!! - NEXT PRIME MINISTER MAY NOT BE A WOMAN - SHOCK THEORY

After the elimination of Michael Gove from the Tory leadership contest, the media is alight with the apparent certainty that Britain is about to have only its second ever female PM. However, according to a renowned body language expert, one of the remaining candidates May actually be a MAN

The theory is advanced by Mr. Norbert Nuance, who has studied the science of "body language" for over four weeks via a Readers Digest correspondence course. "You can tell that there Theresa May is a bloke," insisted Mr. Nuance. "Just look at her boat race for a start. I've seen Bradford Northern prop forwards that look more female than what she does". Mr. Nuance was also keen to point out the significance of the so-called "power stance" used by May and certain other Tories on public platforms. "Look at her, stood there like Ronaldo over a free kick," he pointed out. "That's to accommodate her knackers, that is. Stands to reason. Mind you, that Gideon does it as well, and he's got nothing to shout about in the trouser department, smooth as Action Man apparently. So I

wouldn't be able to swear to that testicles idea as gospel".

Overall though, Mr. Nuance remains convinced that, if May succeeds to the Tory leadership, we'll have yet another male PM. "You're not telling me that's a lass", he scoffed. "With a phizog like that, we're definitely looking at one of the lads, and he's hit every single branch of the ugly tree on the way down, poor sod. It looks like Malcolm Muggeridge chewing a wasp. Christ on a bike!"

Mr. Theresa May's office declined to provide a comment specifically addressing Mr. Nuance's allegations, stating only that their candidate was currently at a Masons meeting, to be followed by a slap-up stag do with strippers.



Poverty is not an accident, like slavery and apartheid, it is man-made and can be removed by the actions of human beings.

Nelson Mandela

Thought for the day

THE TORYS

Peter Loo

There has been an undeniable and concerted action by successive Tory governments since 1979 to break and break up the working class. If you take the so called winter of discontent as the apotheosis of the movement, look at the strategic moves against us from then. Firstly the attacks by Thatcher on the collective organised workers. Anyone familiar with the Ridley report will know that Scargill had to fight, and was crushed. The miners union, and indeed the mines, are no more. Law after law castrated the unions. Next was football. This semi-organised massive working class sport was systematically taken apart and handed to the middle class. Before Hillsborough you could go through the turnstiles at virtually any ground on a whim. There you were meeting and exchanging views with your own people. An excitement and common purpose that frightened the Tory elite. Now it's called footy and watched in front of the tele. Next was the pub. This again a meeting place for the working class to unwind. A local where you knew and were known. They must have thought it a huge threat. What nefarious plots could be hatched here without our ruling elite knowing? Breweries forced long time landlords away. Government taxes and cheap cans drank at home killed the pub. Now they turn their evil eye to council estates. First were the sell offs, now the total dismantling. Kill the unions, the crowds and the community spirit, where can they fight back? Give them the tightly spied control of facebook and we know what YOU are doing."A jackboot stamping on a human face, forever.



NEW SOCIALIST - POST-REFERENDUM REFLECTIONS

I was elected in May 2014 to represent the North West of England as a Member of the European Parliament, winning back a third seat for Labour and kicking out 'Nasty Nick' (Griffin) of the BNP

It was a sweet pleasure tinged with anxiety as a record number of UKIP MEPs were also elected across the country and have been wreaking havoc ever since, either from within their ragbag group of populist xenophobes known collectively in the European Parliament as EFDD (Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy) or from Marine Le Pen's National Front bloc where one of their number, Janice Atkinson MEP for SE England, happily migrated last year after being thrown out of UKIP for expenses fraud of tax payers' money. However, the seeds of the successful racist anti-migrant Leave referendum campaign were sown years ago when Farage first got a bee in his bonnet about sovereignty and linked it to a notion of 1950s white Britishness that he learnt as a schoolboy at public school in Dulwich, being a child of the 60s himself.

In the intervening two years since my election I have risen to the challenge of representing a region of 7 million people which stretches from Crewe to Carlisle, by throwing myself wholeheartedly into parliamentary

and constituency life. I am an active member of the committees for Culture & Education, Women's Rights & Gender Equality, & Regional Development. I have also co-founded a Children's Rights Intergroup in the parliament, bringing minors directly into policy-making. I am supported in all my parliamentary work by a fantastic team of young European socialists including a girl from Manchester who grew up in a working class Labour household with a committed trade unionist father. She broke the mould amongst her peers, learning Modern Languages and pursuing international affairs at university.

You don't need much imagination to understand the distress these bright young hard-working aspirational young people are now feeling. They have grown up as Europeans, and they are at ease with having multiple identities. They witness on a daily basis the coming together of 28 different countries to address urgent problems in a globalised overheated, over-crowded world. We European politicians practise consensus politics, which basically means that we talk until we agree.

It is modern, courteous, grown-up progressive politics, a far cry from the braying adversarial world of Westminster where old white men shout at each other across an empty space. My Labour colleagues in Westminster are working hard to change this culture, a culture which often puts people off politics altogether.

With the help of my team, I have now achieved the number one UK MEP position for the most report amendments in this legislature. My team and I have written over 800 amendments, whereas 15 UK MEPs (all UKIP except one Tory) have written less than ten. Farage and the second mate in his motley crew, Paul Nuttall, have not written a single amendment in two years. What work have they been doing since their election, except collecting their wages and sabotaging a peace project? The hours spent reading files across all 20 standing committees, means that I write progressive amendments that put people and planet first. As a member of the Socialists and Democrats (S&D), the second largest voting bloc in the parliament, most of my amendments are either carried or

absorbed into compromises. It is a satisfying process for a pragmatic socialist and it is this commitment to finding common agreement that the UK has just rejected.

I fear that Brexit negotiations will not go well for the UK as a whole, whether left or right. Certainly, the anti-austerity Left Caucus which I also belong to, comprising S&D, Greens and GUE/NGL (Green United Left & Nordic Green Left), will be weakened by our departure. Brexit is not good for socialism or our watchword 'Solidarity' as it removes an important influential platform for progressive, humanist British politics, whilst diminishing the power of our European comrades. Most of our own social and environmental legislation comes from the EU, which the Tory government are now free to slash.

Meanwhile, UKIP have been operating in a parallel universe, attending few if any committee meetings, writing a handful of amendments (mainly deletions of the word European), authoring zero reports, yet still hogging the limelight in the plenary debates, and on the TV and front pages back home. They are the darlings of Murdoch and his empire whilst the supposedly neutral BBC appear to have a UKIP fixation.

As I write the post-referendum Disunited Kingdom lurches in a stormy shark-infested sea, adrift with no captain whilst all around a small, but resurgent and persistent, xenophobic mob shouts "I want my country back". We await someone's hand on the Article 50 trigger which may result in years of rancorous talks with very little to show for it at the end except a deep recession. Meanwhile I am open for marriage proposals from anyone who can legally make me the European Citizen I believe I already am.

Julie Ward MEP

WESTMINSTER BUBBLE



Dear National Executive Committee Member

I am writing to you as an ordinary member of the Labour Party to let you know of my contempt and despair at the antics of the Blairite wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Do the likes of Hilary Benn, Margaret Hodge, the Eagle sisters and the rest not realise the position this country is in?

- The Remain side have just lost the EU referendum.
- The Tory party are in chaos.
- Thirty two Tory MPs are being investigated for election fraud. This could lead to by-elections and the fall of the government if it is intent on seeing out a full term.
- The Tory party is likely to call a snap general election in the Autumn.
- The pound is plummeting, banks are suspending trading and several major companies are already openly considering moving their business to mainland Europe.
- After 6 years of austerity the ordinary people are crying out for change.

Yet all they do is turn against the majority of members of the party for their own self interest. Is it a coincidence that Blair is likely to be heavily criticised by the Chilcott report, and the move against the leadership is being done to deflect attention away from Blair.

I voted for Jeremy Corbyn in the leadership election because I want an end to 40 years of the wealthy and privileged getting richer at the expense of the sick, the poor and disadvantaged. Austerity is a choice by this Tory government and is hurting communities and individuals yet the right of the PLP are set on a course of infighting and squabbling that has now condemned the country to an indefinite period of the Tory party riding roughshod over their working conditions, human rights and the quality of their lives.

The antics of these MPs show complete contempt for the ordinary members, like myself who walk the streets, knocking on doors and pushing leaflets through letterboxes to get them elected. Do they honestly think we will do this again? They have lost the goodwill of the party.

The MPs who have tabled and supported the no confidence in the leadership motion are undermining party democracy and bringing the party into disrepute. If the MPs who have supported this underhand and undemocratic action had any integrity they would allow their names to be published so the party and the public can see who they are. We have a right to know the MPs who have so little regard for party workers and the country. Self serving, careerist politicians must have no place in this party. They talk in platitudes about reconnecting with the people, having a strong leader, and other

mealy mouthed expressions, but offer nothing constructive, simply snipe and criticise at the leadership, and have done since Sept last year.

If I as an ordinary party volunteer was to act in this way then disciplinary proceedings would follow, and that would be the correct action to take. MPs must be subject to the same discipline rules as members and therefore I expect you to take action before the right wing destroy this party.

Getting there myself slowly and surely.

However I also have to say this is kind of inevitable isn't it in any kind of politics of the left?

The reality is that politics attracts some people who just perceive it as a vehicle for self interested power mongering.

In the right wing camps this is seen as completely desirable.... No one would dream of resisting it, it's what right wing politics is about. Hence no real ripples, lots of fake games going on, everyone happy.

Pan left for a minute and it's a very different field. Lots of us love freedom, and the idea of freedom. We hate injustice, we hate power mongers, yet we still attract them so there is always a battle front opened up which simply doesn't exist on the right wing.

We should perhaps as individuals learn to cherish that battle for true

democracy, and have a more stern resolve, we need to have the lion heart not the bleeding heart.

As well as our deep concerns and respect for society at large we have to have the resolve to endure the pain of seeing our groups and meetings infiltrated by self interest and possibly even by those whose sole purpose is to create division and resentment. This is the left wing landscape, we perhaps need to accept that those of us with pure intent will suffer the pain of injustice not only in society but in our very own ranks.

Who are we fighting for because if it's only an ego trip for us, a temporary game to boost our left wing credentials then yes we will give up in despair. We need to remember who we are fighting for and remember it is a fight.

Fights hurt, but we need to be the people who will bear that struggle on behalf of the many who cannot. The great strength of the left and any group opposing oppression and injustice is community.

Community is our weapon against the individualism of the post Thatcher landscape so look into your hearts and make sure you're fighting for justice, then look to your comrades and build that community.

And remember
"though cowards flinch, and traitors sneer, We'll keep the red flag flying here."

Jeanette Fletcher



FIGHT THE FRACKERS!

Since 2010, the coalition government and its Tory successor have put their considerable weight behind the multinational fracking industry as the solution to the UK's energy problems

Danny Josephs

Given the political instability of oil- and gas-rich areas around the globe, mainly caused by Western interventions and, to a lesser extent, Russian imperialist ambitions, the government argues that the UK has to have its own secure energy source, regardless of the environmental cost. But hundreds of thousands of ordinary people all over the country, in both rural and suburban areas, beg to differ and have begun organizing themselves into local anti-fracking groups.

What is fracking?

Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing to give it its proper name, is a relatively new, extreme form of fossil fuel extraction, involving the use of a massive amount of water and chemicals, many of them highly poisonous and carcinogenic, and pumping them into the ground at high pressure in order to split impermeable rocks such as shale lying deep underground, thereby enabling the gas and oil contained in the rocks to be extracted. Much of the toxic and radioactive waste could be left underground, due to frequent spills and accidents, and it is as yet unclear where the rest will be dumped; at present there are only 4 sites in the whole of the UK that are able to

accept fracking waste. The whole procedure is extremely disruptive in many ways: It involves the drilling of a huge number of wells over a large area of land and, with its high rigs and gas flares burning 24 hours a day, it is a huge eyesore. A constant stream of heavy traffic to bring in equipment and materials is inevitable and may require the construction of new or wider roads. More dangerously, the fracking process can lead to earthquakes and pollution of the surrounding environment, under the ground and in the air, with possibly fatal consequences for grazing animals and even humans, if the waste gets into the watercourse. And of course, as a means of fossil fuel extraction, fracking contributes to climate change.

Where can fracking take place?

So far, 64% of the UK's landmass (10 million acres) has been licensed by the government to numerous fracking companies, allowing them to carry out seismic surveys, involving the production of shock waves, often by the use of explosives, to detect underlying rock formations, without requiring further permission. The Scottish and Welsh governments have so far refused to allow fracking in their countries.

However, since 2011 fracking in England has been put on hold,

pending a decision by Secretary of State Greg Clark on the future of a site in the Blackpool area where operations were halted after local residents complained of experiencing several earthquakes. Mr Clark unilaterally took the matter out of the hands of Lancashire County Council, who had refused to allow fracking company Cuadrilla to carry on. So much for Prime Minister David Cameron's long-ago ditched 'Localism' project! At the time of going to press, a decision was due in the next few days, but with the Tories in disarray, it is hoped that the issue will be kicked into the long grass. Meanwhile, as if out of sheer class spite, Cuadrilla, who, bizarrely, are major financial donors to the Fabian Society, have targeted one of the prominent local anti-fracking activists, Tina Louise Rothery, and are pursuing her through the courts for £55,000. Heroic grandmother Tina says they're not going to get a penny out of her! She's fully prepared to go to jail if necessary.

In the only other fracking case in England to have got as far as the planning application stage, North Yorkshire County Council Planning Committee voted in favour of fracking company Third Energy's application to drill an existing conventional well at Kirby Misperton. All the Tory councillors, who have a majority on

the committee though none of them live in the Ryedale area where the fracking is due to take place, voted for, whilst all the other councillors voted against! However, local campaigners say the fight has only just begun!

All over the country campaigners are preparing to resist fracking in their localities, through a mixture of political activity and direct action. Within the movement there is a



huge amount of talent, ingenuity and above all determination to defeat this dangerous, dirty, expensive and short-term energy source. Not only that, but many campaigners, for whom this is their first foray into political activism, having witnessed the undemocratic favouring by Tory government at national and local level and downright corruption of big business, are beginning to see the desirability of an alternative social and economic system that is more responsive to the needs and aspirations of ordinary people.

- Bring the energy industry into public ownership!
- For massive government investment in renewable energy!
- Guaranteed 'climate jobs' for all workers in the fossil fuel and nuclear industries, with no loss of pay!

NO PEACE FOR SYRIA



SYRIA'S WAR

THAT'S SYRIA OUT OF THE WAY THEN

Lots of bombs and death and screaming and bloodshed and horror, (voted for last year by many of those who suddenly appear to be opposing the current Labour Party leader)

Graham Hennessy

Who's next in the West's plan to loot the entire Middle East, and balkanise it into weaker states?

The mass media tub thumping jingoism, and calls for us to 'kick terrorist ass' are so loud... so dominant... so all-consuming... that true news sources rarely get to peer above the parapet without being subjected to total ridicule.

Chances are, you've never heard, for instance, that an Israeli army colonel, named Yusi Oulen Shahak, was captured alongside...er... ISIS Fighters. You didn't hear that the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) observed the Israeli Army working closely with Islamic State in the Golan Heights, passing them crates, and rendering medical assistance. Israel's official position on this is "humanitarian assistance rendering" (!!!).

This is a United Nations report. Why have we heard nothing about it on the news or in the papers over here? Our allies are all supporting our "sworn enemies" in one way or

another, whether its arming them, or buying their oil.

Even a cursory look into this grubby business logically shows why Israel (and by extension the West) and "Islamic State" would be BFFs: Israel and Netanyahu have recently (unsuccessfully) lobbied the American administration for "official" annexation of Golan... Syrian land they conquered in 1967 - because they've "found" a huge oil reserve there, for which they've given the drilling contract to Genie Energy, a New Jersey based energy corporation, with major shareholders Jacob Rothschild, Dick Cheney and ...oh wait... is that... yes it is... it's Rupert Murdoch Genie Energy's daughter company, Israeli-based Afek Oil & Gas, has shareholders connected to the Israeli Knesset.

At the same time, David Cameron asked us to bomb The Syrian Government, because they are "terrorists". **But we said "no".**

So 18-odd months later, he asked us to bomb the Syrian government's enemies instead, because they are

"terrorists". This time, we said "OK, go on then." As long as we get to drop bombs in Syria and destabilise it, right Dave?

The only force to have successfully repelled Israel since its "inception" (read ethnic cleansing and expulsion of indigenous Palestinians) in 1948, is Hezbollah, which, despite taking heavy losses itself, imposed guerilla warfare to repel Israel when it invaded Lebanon in 2006. ISIS-Daesh consider Hezbollah and Iran an "apostate" (abomination) and want to wipe them out more than anyone... that's why they bombed a Hezbollah stronghold a couple of days before the Paris atrocity a few months ago, but we didn't hear too much about that either.

ISIS are right on Israel's doorstep. In force. How many times have they attacked them? We are told that ISIS are the biggest threat to our security... so why is Israel so quiet about them, instead bleating about...er... IRAN all the time? (Hezbollah are a shia proxy of Iran).

The Middle East situation is often

painted as "chaos", and America as "bungling". Nothing could be further from the truth. The "chaos" is planned. It is all in The 'Plan For Greater Israel', written by Oded Yinon and published by the World Zionist Organisation in 1982. The "balkanisation" and weakening of surrounding Arab states to make Israel (and by extension America) the de facto regional superpower.

This is all going to plan... I laughed the other week when I heard yet another American Government source talking about how Iraq must be split into "a group of independent states" for "global security" purposes. The world central bank is lined up against Iran - just as Libya and Gaddafi were suddenly ripped apart for trying to introduce a gold backed African single currency... after which Sarkozy, Cameron et al gave a stomach-churning speech to the people of Libya, imploring them to enjoy their new found "Freedom"

Talking of freedom, I may invest in a few hundred shares in Lockheed Martin.

RANDOM THOUGHTS



THE EVIL OF THE TORIES

Owen Jones claims that it is not only wrong to hold the Tories to be evil, but also 'potentially dangerous'

I'm not sure how we're supposed to understand the word 'wrong' here. Given a basically utilitarian conception of morality, any connotation of moral wrongness would blunt the distinction Jones seems to want, between the wrongness and the dangerousness. So I think we should take 'wrong' to mean 'factually wrong', or, more straightforwardly, 'false'.

Jones' implied distinction between the false and the dangerous is surely an important one. Even if it was 'potentially dangerous' to consider the Tories to be evil, that would have no bearing at all upon whether it was false to say that the Tories are evil. And yet Jones ignores this distinction almost immediately. The connotations of the term 'evil', he tells us

are so extreme that, by applying it to someone, you at a stroke strip them of their humanity; you cease in any way to be able to imagine their rationales or thought processes; they simply become a cartoon villain, for whom the ultimate thrill is the inflicting of misery. As soon as you fail to understand your enemy, they have already defeated you.

Here Jones is claiming, in effect, that it must be wrong to call the Tories evil because that would lead to our

failure to understand them, and that such a failure, presumably, would be dangerous. But, to reiterate, even if it was dangerous to hold the Tories to be evil, that wouldn't mean it was false that the Tories are evil! Jones is simply confused here.

The only genuine reason Jones gives for holding it to be false that the Tories are evil is that, because of their backgrounds, privileged upbringing, experience, etc., they 'believe in their own righteousness' – believe, that is, that they are doing the morally right thing – even when they are doing the morally wrong thing.

If individual Tories' judgments are all (or mostly?) essentially shaped and clouded by forces beyond their control, then who is Jones to say that his own judgments are any different in this regard? How could Jones reply to someone who said: 'Just because of their background (etc.), the Tories exploit the poor (etc.), and hold themselves to be right to do so. Likewise, just because of his background (etc.), Jones holds the Tories' behaviour to be morally wrong, and holds that he is right to do so'?

Jones would be unwise to respond by accepting the moral relativism this implies. The clear implication

of moral relativism is moral non-cognitivism – the view that no moral judgments can be genuinely true or false. The clear implication of moral cognitivism is some kind

Of emotivism, according to which there cannot, in fact, be any genuinely moral judgments at all. Instead, what pass for moral judgments are mere feelings of approval and disapproval, which arise just because of background, upbringing, experience, etc.

Anyone who holds (or at least takes themselves to hold!) that what the Tories are doing is really and truly morally wrong had better not agree with Jones on this one! If we follow Jones in his fallacious conflation of the false and the dangerous, moreover, his view here would appear to imply a falsehood that's as false as they come!

Jones' article opens by quoting Sunny Hundal's claim that if someone of 'considerable responsibility or power deliberately ignores or cheers on policies that lead to multiple deaths ... they are 'evil'. Here, Hundal states what he appears to think are sufficient conditions of evil. To state the sufficient conditions plus the necessary conditions for X is of course to define X, so we might reasonably suppose that Hundal

assumes that he's in possession of a kind of definition of evil. The trouble is that the concept of evil is what Bernard Williams used to call a 'thin' ethical concept, meaning that it is almost entirely evaluative, and almost entirely empty of descriptive content. This being so (if it is so), anyone could accept that the Tories have done all manner of terrible things, and yet without inconsistency deny that they are evil.

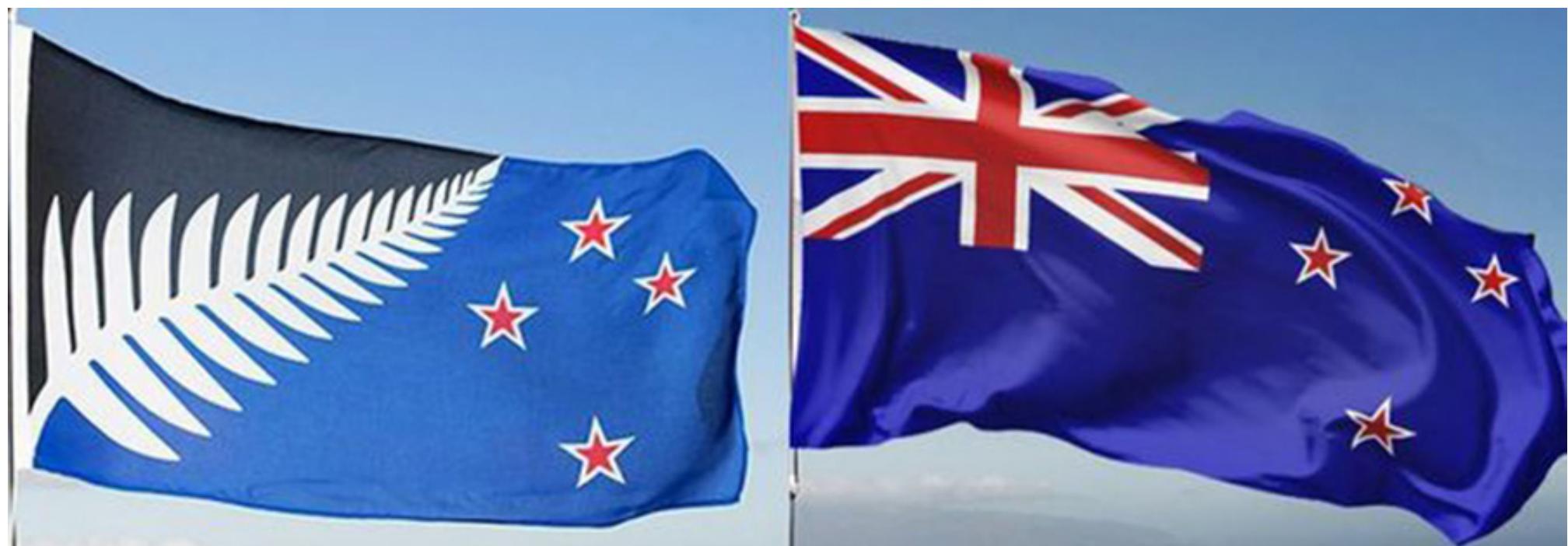
Williams and subsequent philosophers on the moral cognitivist side of the debate therefore focussed on 'thick' ethical concepts. The concept 'cruel' is a thick ethical concept, because it has a lot of descriptive content. If an action demonstrably involves causing suffering to a third party gratuitously, primarily in order to achieve the ends of the agent, then it is cruel. It is true that any such action is cruel. Any judgment or claim or belief that any such action is cruel is true.

Jones himself is keen to accuse the Tories of acting cruelly, but withholds the ascription of evil: 'Cruel? Certainly. Unforgivable? Beyond doubt. Evil? No.' We can move from the truth of their being cruel to the truth of their being evil, however, by means of the evaluative content of 'cruel'. To act cruelly is to act morally wrongly – to act in a way in which one ought not to act, morally speaking. Where systematic morally wrong acting reflects an agent's character traits, we may justifiably call this agent vicious, where 'vicious' contrasts with 'virtuous'. A synonym for 'vicious' in this context, is surely 'evil'.

This enables us to make perfect sense of the Tories' being evil, without demonising and thus dehumanising them as Jones fears. It also enables us to justify the claim that the Tories are evil.

The Tories are evil! So there!

P. Dawson



New Zealand Keeps Flag

The most recent poll prior to the referendum, coming off the back of a republican desire to change dating back to the 90's, showed a 62 to 38 margin in favour of change – so why have New Zealanders, despite being young, active and anti-apartheid chosen to stick with its monarchal flag?

Roxanne Checkley

Failures of the flag referendum in New Zealand are aplenty: The first criticism being the referendum questions, which appeared to be designed without a 'non-change' option. So, immediately, the public was strong-armed into a referendum spun as a positive, wide-appealing and fun thing to do.

The intention from a PR perspective was presumably to, at the very least, distract from real policy discussion; the controversial Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA), mass surveillance, the housing crisis and ministerial corruption. Another huge shortfall of the flag debate, dubbed as John Key's vanity project, is that the perimeters of the discussion failed to encompass the much larger issues of national identity, NZ's place in the commonwealth or a potential for a republic.

Notably, in this there is also a confusing contradiction in Key's passionate advocacy for change,

kiwis will remember that 7 years ago the PM reinstated Knights and Damehoods, a strong demonstration of allegiance to the Queen, steeped in colonial roots.

The monarchy is always favourable in the polls to boot, so a shift to move away from Britain was perplexing to the electorate and went unexplained by Key. The largest criticism of the referendum process (besides cost), and the one that really put people's noses out of joint, in what should have been a politically neutral debate Key mounted a campaign for change in which he was the spokesperson and cheerleader. In doing so he turned off three demographics that would have been target markets for change.

Labour with more liberal and urban voters would potentially be a more natural pro-change group. Maori voters might have been in camp pro-change due their lack of

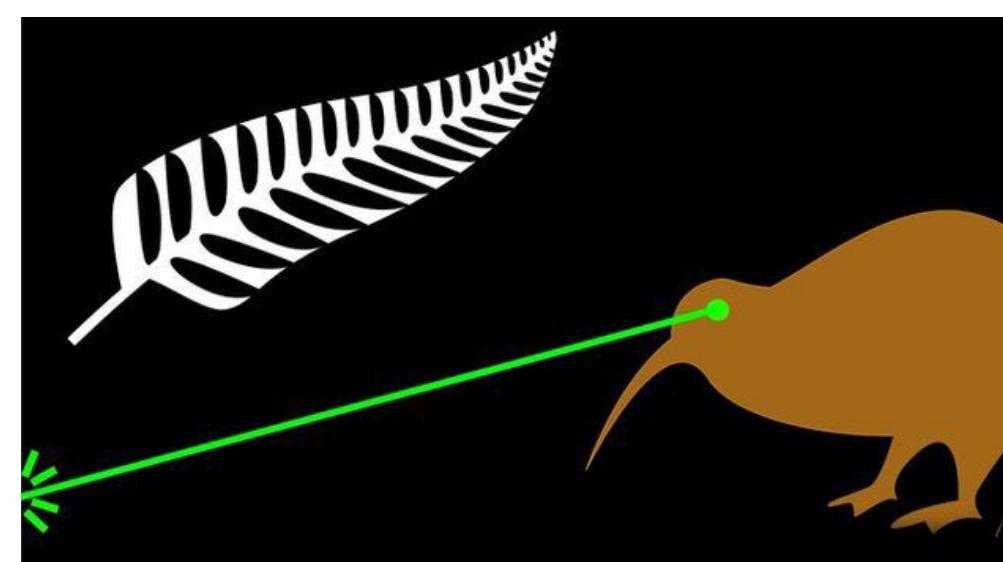
representation on the current flag. The youth might also have been on board to change given perhaps their lack of understanding to its veteran symbolism. All 3 groups opposed the change in their droves and in the last stages of the campaign, Maggie Barry organised a crisis meeting in the last ditch attempt to get Key to drop his baby and, in doing so reach the desperately needed young,

Labour and Maori voters.

Putting Key aside, what are the other reasons that Kiwis overwhelmingly voted to keep the same flag they had? Firstly: authenticity, some writers argue New Zealand is not ready to cut ties with the motherland. They are overwhelmingly loyal to their allegiance to the Queen, especially the older generations. Whilst many would love to see a republic, it's a case of majority rules. Changing the flag simply doesn't reflect the views and attitudes of NZ right now.

Secondly: would a change reflect a 'newness' to New Zealand? No. Kyle Lockwood, the Liberal Republican who proposed the fern design underpinned the campaign with sentimental ideas about

Continued Next Page >>



One of the failed flag applicant ideas for New Zealand. Ideas were submitted and voted for by referendum.

New Zealand keeps Union Jack on flag

Continued Story >>

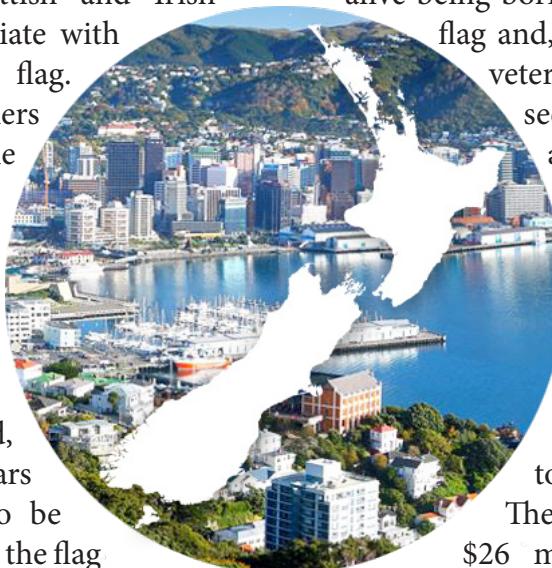
symbolising united cultures and working together for a better New Zealand.

With this rhetoric it's easy to see why Maori opposed the change so passionately. To begin with, Maori already quite rightly fly their Tino Rangatiratanga sovereign flag, which debunks the presumed issue of lack of representation. But more importantly the idea that simply removing the Union Jack (with its connotations of colonialism and the bigotry, discrimination, violence and inequality that came along with it) – will somehow also remove the prevalent social injustices that still exist is insulting.

Maori want pragmatic solutions to the issues of poverty, incarceration, lack of education and opportunities that are so entrenched in historical race clashes and colonial oppression, not a new flag.

Thirdly: whether Kiwis like it or not, the current flag is their heritage. Key, with his strong trading background, pitched it as a marketing mechanism for the rest of the world and this, quite frankly, undermined the honour many English, Scottish and Irish settlers associate with the current flag. The early settlers carved the foundations for a prosperous country out of rock and bush with blood, sweat and tears - are they to be forgotten and the flag only to represent Britain's imperial dream?

And none should forget the intense opposition from the Returned Services Association (RSA) who loudly voiced the discomfort of



World War Two veterans having their war memorials disrespected in this way. This is an area that also unifies Pakeha and Maori, as both are equal in veteran status and take pride in having fought under that flag. With every single Kiwi alive being born today under that flag and, out of respect for veterans, it's easy to see why heritage is an underpinning factor in the desire to remain.

Lastly: There is outrage at the transparency in Key's desire to create a legacy. There is outrage at the \$26 million wasted on the process with most agreeing that money would have been better spent elsewhere. There is outrage at the unnecessary drawing out of the process with two referendums in which Key still got more say than the public. Kiwis are not up for ditching

their heritage and wasting money and time to satisfy the ego of a man that doesn't want to be remembered as the pony-tail pulling All Blacks sycophant.

By the time the final voting was done, the alternative was just aesthetically hideous. It had corporate veins, sporting veins, echoes of the current flag – utterly crap. When the government launched its 'Flag Consideration Project' over 850 designs were submitted by the NZ public. They ranged from the curious to the bizarre, some highlighting traditional culture and symbolism including the Kiwi bird, silver fern and Maori artwork.

A frontrunner for most of my friends was a catchy design from James Gray in Auckland of Kiwi bird with laser eyes. Key would have had much better luck with his legacy plan if he had ensured a fairer process, kept the hell out of it and provided options that other people actually liked.

UKIP THE REAL TEST FOR LABOUR



FARAGE FEVER

If Jeremy Corbyn is Jesus Christ, who was John the Baptist? I'd like to suggest that it was Nigel Farage. Such a suggestion is surely outrageous, insane, even sacrilegious. I disagree...

In the ten years on and off that Farage has been UKIP leader, he has focused the party's message onto two issues, the EU and immigration. On neither is he in agreement with

Corbyn, but there are some in the Party who would move Labour a lot closer to UKIP's positions, believing that UKIP represents a real electoral threat. In his report on the reasons

for Labour's failure to win the 2015 election, Jon Cruddas emphasizes the Party's failure to connect with those deemed "socially conservative", without explaining how this might be done other than by adopting UKIP positions.

Too much is made, in my view, of the supposed appeal of UKIP policies. A great deal of voting is based not on issues but on gut responses to individuals. Farage is a familiar figure, a darling of the media who survives many controversies because his fame is tough enough to protect him. Donald Trump's appeal to American voters is very similar. What many see in both Trump and Farage is an authenticity, a refusal to say what spin doctors recommend, a fearlessness in the face of imagined consensus.

This too is the central appeal of Corbyn. After years in which we all

complained that all politicians are the same, he is very evidently his own man, oblivious to compromise or fashion, but a much more serious candidate than Trump or Farage. The EU referendum has rendered redundant a great deal of the appeal of UKIP which has surely now passed the high watermark of its support. Those who distrust the conventional wisdom of Westminster can look to Corbyn to speak for them.

*W Stephen Gilbert
Author, Jeremy Corbyn – Accidental Hero (published by Eyewear)*



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

#HOMELESSNOTTASTELESS MEATBALLS AND SPAGHETTI



This recipe is simple, relatively quick and really cheap to make. I should point out that the meat I used was from the discount section of the supermarket chiller, but minced beef is fairly cheap anyway.

TOP TIP:

If you can, look out for short-dated minced beef and ask a member of staff at the supermarket what time it will receive its final reduction in an effort to try to pick up the best bargain possible. If you ever see meats with a significant reduction, check it hasn't already been frozen and thus is suitable for home-freezing, then take it home and use it immediately or freeze it for use later. As long as the packaging isn't starting to bulge (a sign of bacteria forming) it should be fine to freeze and keep for a while, depending on your freezer.

Ingredients:

500g minced beef, use higher fat content (above 12%) for extra flavour and to ensure the meatballs bind together, lean minced beef will not work in this recipe as the meatballs will just fall apart (£1.59)

2 x 400g tins of tomatoes (if whole tomatoes are cheaper than chopped where you shop buy them and simply chop them in the tin by plunging a large chef's knife or kitchen knife into the tin several times changing the orientation of the blade several times until the tomatoes are roughly chopped) (£1)

75g – 100g spaghetti per person (£0.30p)

150ml red wine of your preference but I like fruity Old World origins and many decent wines can now be found for under £4 in the cheaper supermarkets that are absolutely lovely. (£0.80p)

1 large or 2 medium chopped red onions (£0.20p)

2 cloves garlic (or about a teaspoon of dried garlic depending on brand as strength seems to vary massively) (£0.05p)

2 tsp dried oregano (£0.02p)

2 tsp dried basil (£0.02p)

2 tbsp light olive oil or another cooking oil of your choice (£0.10p)

salt and pepper to taste

half a dozen fresh basil leaves roughly torn up (optional) (£0.00p – use a fresh plant that will replenish itself and this costs you nothing)

TOTAL COST: £4.19 9(est.) FEEDS: 4

Method:

Begin by making the meatballs, this is super simple and should only take a few minutes, sprinkle plenty of salt into the meat, this will help begin the process of breaking the fat down, which will bind the balls together
sprinkle in one teaspoon of each of the dried herbs, keeping the rest back for the sauce

begin working the meat a little with your hands, mixing the salt and herbs into the meat

once you see the fat starting to soften go a little almost stringy (should be no more than a minute or two) start to separate the meat into balls about the size of golf balls, roll them out until they are roughly round and then place onto a plate.

Once you have made them all and placed them on a plate cover with cling film and put them in the fridge to rest a while and bind properly
(Note – this method, using higher fat content meat, means you don't need to mess about with breadcrumbs or eggs)

now chop your onions quite small and set aside
finely slice the garlic or crush if you prefer

start heating a large saucepan to a medium-high temperature and pour in your oil in batches brown off the meatballs evenly, if the pan is large enough you can do them all at once as long as there's some space around them to move
once the meatballs have browned up and sealed nicely remove from the pan to a plate and allow to rest in their own juices

Return the pan to the hob, you should not need to add any more oil
tip in the chopped onions and fry off until softened but do not caramelise
add in the garlic and stir for a few seconds then cook down for about a minute
add in the dried herbs and stir vigorously then cook down for a further thirty seconds.

Pour in the wine to deglaze the pan, the wine should simmer down and the smell of alcohol should dissipate within a minute or two once you can no longer smell alcohol, just a fruity flavour combined with the onions, garlic and herbs, stir in the tomatoes and add a little water into each empty can to get the very last drops of that wholesome juice into your pan, bring to a gentle boil and reduce the temperature so the sauce begins to simmer, cover loosely and leave to simmer for approximately fifteen minutes, stirring regularly, ensuring any thickened sauce that forms a rim inside the pan is pushed back down into the sauce as this is all the lovely flavours condensing once you are happy that you have reduced the sauce by approximately a quarter.

Return the meatballs to the sauce and stir in very gently. Be sure that any juices that might have escaped the meatballs are poured into your sauce, waste nothing put a small amount of cold water into another large pan and fill your kettle.

Once the sauce and meatballs looks like it is starting to thicken up turn on your kettle and start heating the pan with the water in. We are using the kettle to bring the water to boiling point because it is quicker and more energy efficient than heating it in the water, the reason we are heating a little water in the pan is to bring the pan temperature up so as not to undo all the energy-saving we've achieved by using the kettle.

Once the pan is boiling add in the spaghetti by standing it in the middle of the pan and splaying it out so the spaghetti spread around the edge of the pan pointing towards the centre in a sort of star-burst pattern. Do not leave your spaghetti unattended at this point as you will need to keep pushing on the outermost ends of the spaghetti until it has all softened enough to be pushed into the pan

Boil for approximately 12 minutes. Depending on how hard or soft you like it – STIR ONLY ONCE HALFWAY DURING THIS PROCESS

Once the spaghetti is ready, add in the torn fresh basil leaves to your sauce, stir and remove from the heat. decant and serve :)

TOTAL COOKING TIME: 45 mins. Approx.

Pork mince can be added and all other quantities doubled if you have a pan large enough to accommodate. Leftovers can be refrigerated or frozen.

Serve with a side salad or garlic bread if you want a bit of variety. (A small glass of red wine would do no harm either, if you are permitted)

This was one of the first meals I cooked once I got into the homeless hostel and it was a great way to meet a couple of other residents and make friends.

Adam Douglas 02/07/16

The Nefarious Dr Wobbly's

Bugle Information Network



ENTERTAINMENT LANDFILL

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Chris the careerist

Liars school

Xenophon (*lost in Salford*)

Quizmaster

Jokes

Poetry

Book review

QUALITY CONTROL
REJECTED



BUTTOCK CLENCHING FIRST ISSUE!





JOKES

THE ONLY LEGITIMATE REASON FOR SMOKING AN ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE IS IF YOU ARE A ROBOT THAT HAS

Let's have a round of applause for those who are easily led...

My friend asked me, 'If you could have any superpower in the world, what would it be?'

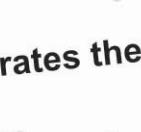
I said Cold War Russia.

WHEN I REALISED MARGARET THATCHER WAS DEAD, I DID A DOUBLE FIST PUMP AND SHOUTED, "F***ING BRILLIANT!" EVERYONE AROUND ME WAS DISGUSTED, AND LOOKING BACK, I SUPPOSE IT WAS OUT OF ORDER. ESPECIALLY AS I WAS THE FIRST PARAMEDIC AT THE SCENE!

I'll tell you what separates the men from the boys. Operation Yewtree.

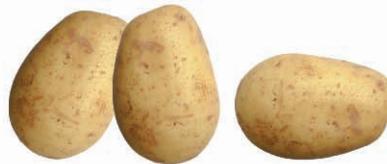
If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of payments!

Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.



What's found in a pig and is bad for your health?

David Cameron.



S P O R T S Q U I Z

- 1). What is Gary Linekers middle name ?
- 2). At which ground did Jimmy Hill act as an Emergency linesman in 1972 ?
- 3). Name the former International Gymnast who presented Final Score from 2009 -2013 ?
- 4). Ken Wolstenholme won several bravery awards during 8 years spent in which service ?
- 5). Which team played at the "Old Showground" ?
- 6). Who used to play at Loakes Park ?
- 7). Who played at Roker Park ?
- 8). Who plays at Palmerston Park ?
- 9). Who plays at Stair Park ?
- 10). Which Legendary manager won two league titles and an FA Cup between 1925 and 1934 ?
- 11). Which former Newcastle United player became manager of Birmingham City in 2012 ?
- 12). Who was Manager when they won the League Cup in 1963 ?
- 13). What was Everton's name when they were founded in 1878 ?
- 14). In what year were Leeds United founded ?
- 15). In what year did Jamie Carragher make his debut for Liverpool ?
- 16). What was Manchester United's original name between 1878 and 1902 ?
- 17). Which short lived Competition did Newcastle win in 1974 and 1975 ?
- 18). Who was Manager of Rangers between 1920 and 1954 winning 18 titles and 10 Scottish Cups ?
- 19). Reading were established in 1871 . When did the Club join the Football League ?
- 20). Who did Southampton beat 4-1 in the 2010 Football League Trophy Final ?

WOY'S SUPER-AWESOME IDEA #82

*NOTE TO SELF:
FIX THE SINK

442 ATTACK PLAN

HOLD DIAMOND FORMATION

WING-BACK PASSING
PLAY DOWN THE CHANNELS

KICK 'EM IN THE BALLS

CALL THE REFEREE A WANKER

TAKE EARLY BATH...

*WHAT'S THAT ONE WITH THE BAT?

X



1). Wimborne.
2). Highbury Arsenal v Liverpool 1972, 3). Gabby Logan, 4). RAF, 5). Sunthorpe United, 6). Wycombe Wanderers, 7). Sunderland.
8). Queen of The South, 9). Fleetwood, 10). Herne Bay, 11). Lee Cricket, 12). St Mirren, 13). Teesside United.
14). Queen of The South, 15). Telford United, 16). Bill Staniforth, 17). Leek Cricket, 18). Bradford, 20). Carlisle United.

Well...ok...



I....think I might need another job.

That doesn't sound that difficult.

What's a...job centre???

Sorry, difficult to hear you...



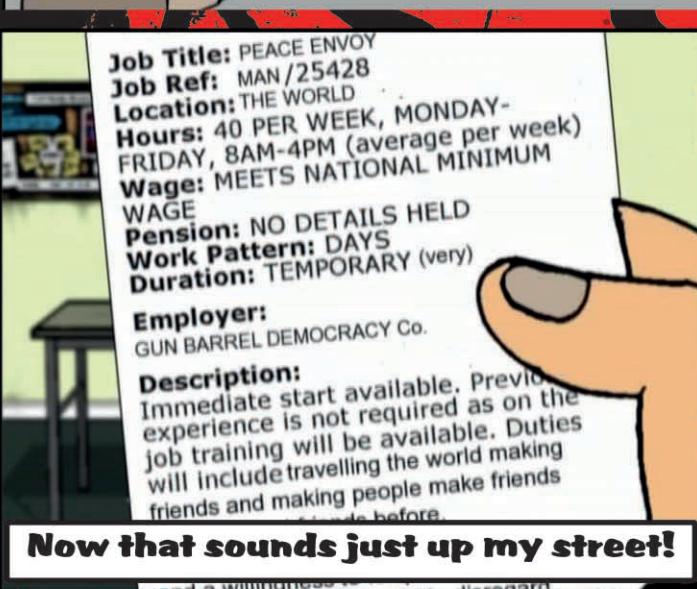
Not sure I've got the hang of this.

Oh dear!



Keir hear!





POETRY CORNER

Because those clouds won't wander lonely on their own!

"Worry"

I worry about what I've lost
 I worry about counting the cost
 I worry about my age about turning the next page I worry about my health and my obscene lack of wealth
 I worry about worrying
 I worry about my boys about life and all its ploys I worry what they're doing Then I worry about potential trouble brewing
 I worry about God if he's real or the invention of a stupid god
 I worry about me wonder when I will be free
 I worry about worrying
 I worry about how I will die and misguided love that makes me cry
 I worry about war while wondering what it's For I worry about evil I witnessed it so much I worry that it will prevail the world's so out of touch
 I worry about worrying

Debbie Smith

I see you IDS
 I see the 6 years
 The crocodile tears
 Run smooth and clear
 I see how you despised
 No BBC no wool pulled over my eyes
 i see your conscience
 Embryonic and infantile
 Smiling all the while
 I see those that died
 i see those that cried
 Stop!!!! Stop!!!!
 I see your motives
 that you don't give
 A shit
 A direct hit to your foes
 But our muffled woes
 Will not go away
 Champion for social justice
 Not the IDS way
 i see you evil ambitious bastard
 I see you!!!!

HUMPHREY ALI ISMAIL

My Flower of Hope

You are my flower of hope
 My oasis in the desert
 My cherished cyclamen
 Pulsating, breathing, perspiring
 Yet still and auspicious

Your green sturdy leaves reassure me
 Making me feel safe

Your pink wispy blossom entrances me
 Making me feel happy

I look at a picture of you
 In a moment in time
 And I smile

JULES CLARE

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

Thanks for all your messages! First of all, I'm fine - or I will be soon. I had nasty accident today but I'm ok. I went horse riding and let's just say it didn't end up quite as planned. I got on the horse ok and started out slowly but he started to speed up and we were going faster than I was comfortable with until we were going as fast as the horse could go! Have to admit I was terrified!! Then the worst thing ever happened - I fell off and caught my foot in the stirrup and the horse was dragging me around in a circle. It wouldn't stop, it just kept going around and around. Thank God the store manager at Tesco's came out and unplugged the carousel.

JASON KOUMAS

POETRY CORNER

I

I HAVE MET THEM AT CLOSE OF DAY
COMING WITH VIVID FACES
FROM COUNTER OR DESK AMONG
GREY
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY HOUSES.
I HAVE PASSED WITH A NOD OF THE
HEAD
OR POLITE MEANINGLESS WORDS,
OR HAVE LINGERED AWHILE AND
SAID
POLITE MEANINGLESS WORDS,
AND THOUGHT BEFORE I HAD DONE
OF A MOCKING TALE OR A GIBE
TO PLEASE A COMPANION
AROUND THE FIRE AT THE CLUB,
BEING CERTAIN THAT THEY AND I
BUT LIVED WHERE MOTLEY IS WORN:
ALL CHANGED, CHANGED UTTERLY:
A TERRIBLE BEAUTY IS BORN.

II

THAT WOMAN'S DAYS WERE SPENT
IN IGNORANT GOOD WILL,
HER NIGHTS IN ARGUMENT
UNTIL HER VOICE GREW SHRILL.
WHAT VOICE MORE SWEET THAN
HERS
WHEN YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL,
SHE RODE TO HARRIERS?
THIS MAN HAD KEPT A SCHOOL
AND RODE OUR WINGED HORSE.
THIS OTHER HIS HELPER AND
FRIEND
WAS COMING INTO HIS FORCE;
HE MIGHT HAVE WON FAME IN THE
END,
SO SENSITIVE HIS NATURE SEEMED,
SO DARING AND SWEET HIS
THOUGHT.
THIS OTHER MAN I HAD DREAMED
A DRUNKEN, VAIN-GLORIOUS LOOT.
HE HAD DONE MOST BITTER WRONG
TO SOME WHO ARE NEAR MY HEART,
YET I NUMBER HIM IN THE SONG;
HE, TOO, HAS RESIGNED HIS PART
IN THE CASUAL COMEDY;
HE, TOO, HAS BEEN CHANGED IN HIS
TURN,
TRANSFORMED UTTERLY:
A TERRIBLE BEAUTY IS BORN.

III

HEARTS WITH ONE PURPOSE ALONE
THROUGH SUMMER AND WINTER,
SEEM
ENCHANTED TO A STONE
TO TROUBLE THE LIVING STREAM.
THE HORSE THAT COMES FROM THE
ROAD,
THE RIDER, THE BIRDS THAT RANGE
FROM CLOUD TO TUMBLING CLOUD,
MINUTE BY MINUTE CHANGE.
A SHADOW OF CLOUD ON THE
STREAM
CHANGES MINUTE BY MINUTE;
A HORSE-HOOF SLIDES ON THE
BRIM;
AND A HORSE PLASHES WITHIN IT
WHERE LONG-LEGGED MOOR-HENS
DIVE
AND HENS TO MOOR-COCKS CALL.
MINUTE BY MINUTE THEY LIVE:
THE STONE'S IN THE MIDST OF ALL.

IV

TOO LONG A SACRIFICE
CAN MAKE A STONE OF THE HEART.
O WHEN MAY IT SUFFICE?
THAT IS HEAVEN'S PART, OUR PART
TO MURMUR NAME UPON NAME,
AS A MOTHER NAMES HER CHILD
WHEN SLEEP AT LAST HAS COME
ON LIMBS THAT HAD RUN WILD.
WHAT IS IT BUT NIGHTFALL?
NO, NO, NOT NIGHT BUT DEATH.
WAS IT NEEDLESS DEATH AFTER
ALL?
FOR ENGLAND MAY KEEP FAITH
FOR ALL THAT IS DONE AND SAID.
WE KNOW THEIR DREAM; ENOUGH
TO KNOW THEY DREAMED AND ARE
DEAD.
AND WHAT IF EXCESS OF LOVE
BEWILDERED THEM TILL THEY
DIED?
I WRITE IT OUT IN A VERSE --
MACDONAGH AND MACBRIDE
AND CONNOLLY AND PEARSE
NOW AND IN TIME TO BE,
WHEREVER GREEN IS WORN,
ARE CHANGED, CHANGED UTTERLY:
A TERRIBLE BEAUTY IS BORN.

YEATS, EASTER 1916



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

Fear no more the lightning flash,
Nor th' all-dreaded thunder-stone;
Fear no slander, censure rash;
Thou hast finished joy and moan.
All lovers young, all lovers must
Consign to thee and come to dust.

No exorciser harm thee,
Nor no witchcraft charm thee.
Ghost unlaid forbear thee;
Nothing ill come near thee.
Quiet consummation have,
And renowned be thy grave.

SHAKESPEARE

BOOK REVIEW

ANIMAL FARM

GEORGE ORWELL

WHATEVER GOES UPON TWO LEGS IS AN ENEMY.
 WHATEVER GOES UPON FOUR LEGS, OR HAS WINGS, IS A FRIEND.
 NO ANIMAL SHALL WEAR CLOTHES.
 NO ANIMAL SHALL SLEEP IN A BED.
 NO ANIMALS SHALL DRINK ALCOHOL.
 NO ANIMAL SHALL KILL ANY OTHER ANIMAL.
 ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL.

THE OLD BOAR DECLARIES A STATE OF REVOLUTION!

THE FARM IS OVERTHROWN!

MR JONES THE LAND OWNER IS SENT ON HIS IDLE, PHILANDERING WAYS AND THE COMMANDMENTS OF 'ANIMALISM' ARE HAPPILY ACCEPTED.

BUT THEN...

THE PIGS THOUGHT THAT: "WITH THEIR SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE IT WAS NATURAL THAT THEY SHOULD ASSUME THE LEADERSHIP". 'ANIMAL FARM' IS A POPULAR ALLEGORY ON POLITICAL POWER AND TREACHERY. MANY RIGHT WING IDEOLOGISTS MISTAKENLY PROMOTE: 'ANIMAL FARM', AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIRE AND INDEED FATAL OUTCOME THAT THEY FEAR SOCIALISM AND ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL STRUCTURE CAN INFILTRATE.

CERTAINLY, THE STORY IS BASED ON A DYSTOPIAN VIEW OF A STALINIST STATE MODEL. HOWEVER, ORWELL'S, LIFELONG INTEREST AND DISDAIN FOR NATIONALISM, CAPITALISM AND TOTALITARIANISM IN ALL FORMS, STANDS OUT CLEAR IN THIS STORY. ESPECIALLY THE INHERENT UNFAIRNESS OF SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PRIVILEGE AND THE SELF-INTEREST OF CAPITALIST SYSTEMS AND ITS INSTITUTIONS.

INDEED, TIME ENCROACHES SPACE, WITHIN THIS TIME, TREASON AND BLOODSHED BECOME ENDEMIC.

ALL HUMANS AND ANIMALS EXIST WITHIN A CONSTANT TRAJECTORY OF 'CAPITALIST' GREED. THE HUMANS LOSE THEIR FARM TO THE ANIMALS AND LATER THE ANIMALS LOSE THEIR MINDS TO GREED AND FEAR.

THIS FOR THE MOST PART THROUGH THE LOFTY EDUCATION AND THE FEAR OF THE BAYING AND GROWLING OF THE DOGS, SLOWLY LOSE THEIR MEMORY AND THEIR MIND. THEY FORGET ALL OF THE ORIGINAL TENANTS OF 'ANIMALISM' THAT THEIR ANCESTORS DESIRED.

BUT THEN...

THROUGH VEIN BURST EYES AND A DESPONDENT HEART, AN ANIMAL NOTICES THE PIGS HAVE MOVED IN TO THE OLD FARMHOUSE AND SLEPT IN BLANKETS. IT IS THAT SIGN ON THE BARN DOOR THAT ONCE PROUDLY STATED 'ANIMAL FARM' IS AGAIN REPLACED WITH THE STATEMENT: 'THE MANOR HOUSE'

THE ONLY COMMANDMENTS THAT ARE BARELY DECIPHERABLE ARE:

**ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL
 BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS**

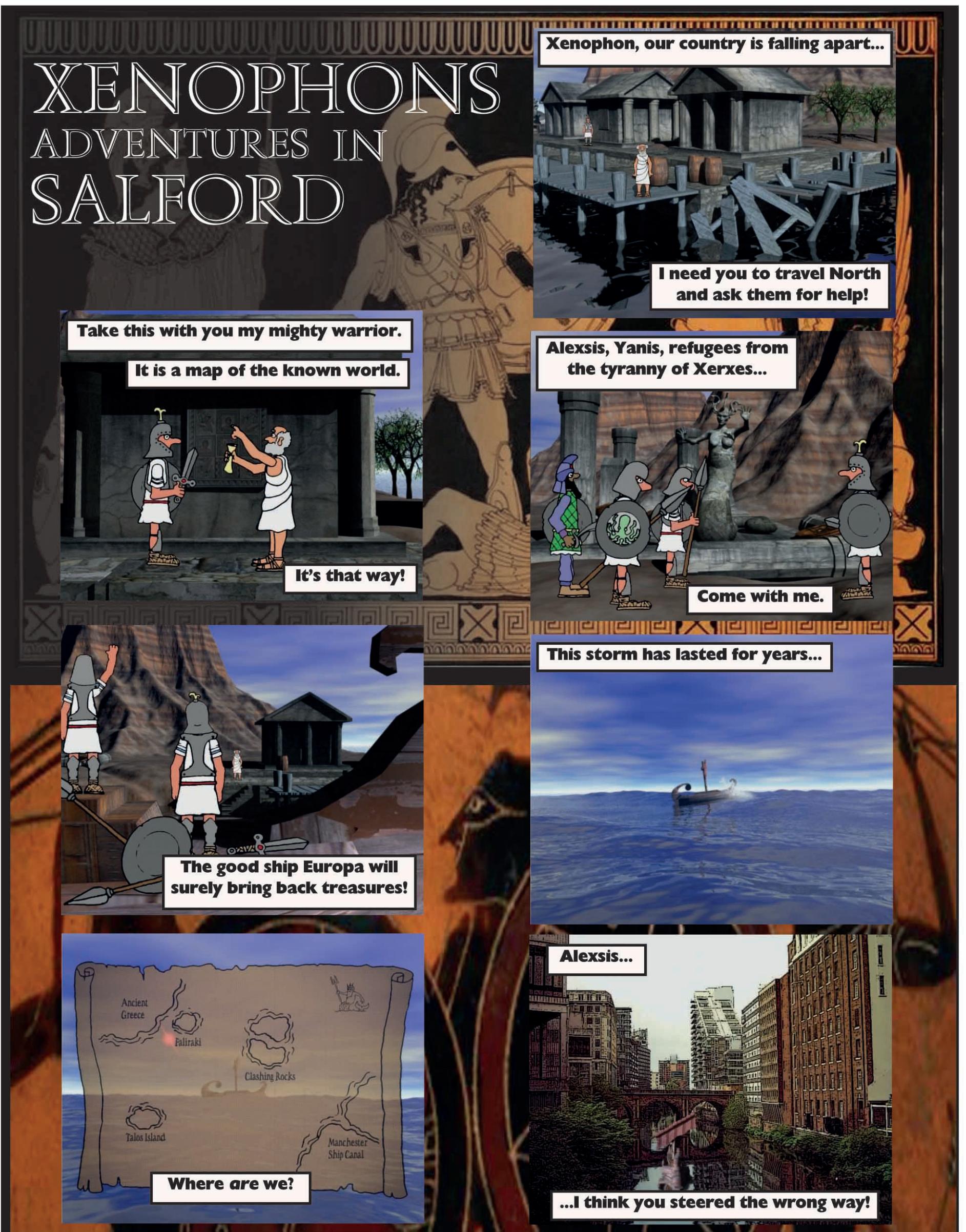
True or False?

POLITICAL QUIZ

Adam Douglas 02/07/16

- 1) UK has a formal written constitution?
- 2) Liberal Party is the oldest political party in the UK?
- 3) The Remembrancer is an unelected official that stands besides the Speaker of the House and guides all government policy on finance in the interests of the City of London?
- 4) MP's must live in their constituency?
- 5) Labour has won the most seat in any single general election since WW2?
- 6) Labour has more female peers in the HoL than any other party?
- 7) The Monster Raving Loony Party no longer exists?
- 8) Jeremy Corbyn asks questions sent to him by party members, constituents and member of the public to the PM at PMQ?
- 9) This is a long standing tradition on the part of the leader of the opposition
 David Cameron has a soul?

ANSWERS:





LEICESTER CITY WINNING THE LEAGUE

Against football monopoly: More than just a game, the relentless march of Leicester City, towards a most unlikely Premier League title, may have convinced some that a level playing field has been restored in the Premier League

Even as a die-hard Liverpool fan, it has been a joy to watch the Fox's defy all of their detractors and confound the so called experts.

The league table does not lie, and Leicester are fully deserving of their position at the summit. However, we cannot allow ourselves to be fooled into believing that all is rosy in football's garden.

Sadly this 'David versus Goliath' story does not usher in a new era, in which the underdog is able triumph with nothing more than skill and guile. Already the vultures will be circling over

Ranieri's heroes, ready to pick the club clean at the end of the season. Money, as they say, talks. Football is beset with problems. At the international level the game is riven with accusations of corruption and cronyism. Nationally, there is growing unrest amongst supporters at all levels of the game.

It's worth remembering that only a few months ago supporters were in revolt over rising season ticket prices, at a time when clubs were receiving unprecedented revenues. At my own club supporters chose to walk out early in protest. Concessions have been won as

a result, at least for now.

The sport, once a respite from the drudgery of working life, is now the preserve of billionaires and speculators. The middle classes have now embraced the



The Leicester Chairman has been highly praised.

game, making it 'trendy' for actors and politicians to make appearances in Director's boxes around the country.

However, all of this cannot hide the deepening problems in the game. In England, Premier league clubs have convinced themselves that the match-going public, once the lifeblood of the game, are now little more than a revenue stream; and not even the most important one.

Supporters have only been able to wrench price freezes from their clubs, because protests threaten to damage the brand, not because boycotts have a material impact on budgets. There is now a worrying over reliance on commercial revenue and TV deals. What happens when the bubble bursts, as it inevitably will?

WALES TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

WALES, WE SALUTE YOU!

Has Wales found its socialist calling on the football fields of France?

Jason Hughes

I've woken up in a bipolar nation. Half the country believing they have been released from their European shackles at a time when half the country are basking in European glory replacing their Brains SA with Stella Artois on foreign fields.

There is an irony that a 100 years ago to the day thousands of Welsh traveled back to the very same region their working class forefathers were slaughtered on to watch their beloved football heroes take on fellow Europeans not with guns but with a single ball. Working class men from all over our nation from every race unified under a red dragon, wearing red shirts singing hymns that past generations sang and their anthem with pride.

Back home our country is divided in politics like never before. A silent civil war not caused by divisions in language but by the incompetence of our leaders who turned their backs on their people and allowed anger, fear and anxiety to enter their lives. Wales a country once so compassionate to the plight and pain of others turned on the vulnerable allowing themselves to blame someone, anyone for years of austerity. We allowed the media and politicians the opportunity to hide behind the very victims of their policies, those without a voice and as in all anger, anxiety and fear there is shame. Wales traumatized by years of neglect and abuse faces its very own attachment issues as a nation.

Recovery will be a long hard journey of self reflection and therapy. Only 10 years ago

delegations came from all over the world following 9/11 to study why in Wales people could live together side by side from all nations under one flag. Welsh first

Now we risk turning on ourselves and so long as it's not politicians we turn on at a time we have been lied to on an industrial scale (Mike Dougan Liverpool university) then our politicians remain safe.

There was no victory in the referendum in Wales. It left a country split down the middle angry and confused. Even the victors realizing war has casualties and in Wales the casualty is our unity as a nation.

There will be no millions for the NHS and Westminster won't guarantee the same levels of European money, where else will the broken promises show

their ugly faces. We risk the referendum being a convenient mandate for an assault on our country by big business. Will Wales become a nuclear dumping ground, a corporate whore to be used and abused with total disregard for our environment. Green valleys covered with solar, wind and fracking factories to replace our agricultural heartlands now devoid of support and a return to Wales being pillaged by new found masters. Just like before it will be the people and environment at the bottom of the pile. No longer will European directives protect our beaches and countryside. We are playing with the Armageddon of our nation.

Yet the shining beacon, the message unifying our people is indeed found on a foreign field-a football field in fact. Hundreds

WALES TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

Continued >>

of thousands of Welsh from both sides and none in the referendum campaign united behind their football team a socialist calling by none other than the Welsh football association to Believe because together we are stronger. Whatever our backgrounds the Welsh will unite under our flag. This is not the nationalism of

Europe, this is the comfort and passion found in a common purpose. Their fans each and everyone of them are on the pitch kicking every ball.

The politicians in Wales and England have forgotten they are there to serve and by disengaging from their roots they have awoken

the red dragon. Too many Welsh have been pushed and allowed to stay in poverty, so much so they no longer have any hope in the system that not only put them there, but keeps them there. Many have turned to the more extreme parties who through stealth speak their language. So once more it is language that divides the country but not the beautiful Welsh language. This time it is the failure of politicians to speak the language of their people and convince them to Believe that Wales can be a better place for all of its people. The wine bars frequented by the politicians in Cardiff Bay may only be 20 miles from the valleys of the working classes, but they are a million miles away from giving hope that things will get better. Those disengaged turned to the extremities of politics and they

must be helped back to a kind of politics that unites not divides our country.

These are desperate times and we need heroes in politics in the Green Valleys of Wales just as much as on the green fields of France. We need a political defense able to protect the people from austerity and a political attack able to provide a counter offensive to the right wing agenda that has so damaged our nation. We also need managers and coaches as big as Speed and Coleman to lead the country at the assembly who can make people Believe again. We must not as a nation allow austerity to take us into the lower divisions of nationhood. Wales has found its socialist calling "together we are stronger"

NOTTINGHAM FOREST**FOREST BACK IN BUSINESS**

On 7 May 2016, Nottingham Forest had their transfer embargo lifted. Three transfer windows previous to that, the club were severely handicapped with their incoming transfers. The result of flouting Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules resulted in this punishment back in December 2014, subsequently, the club languished in the lower half of the Championship table come the end of last season



The club is owned by the Al Hasawi family, headed by Faraz Al Hawari. The 47 year old Kuwaiti has been at the helm since 2012 and has overseen 7 managers in that time. In the early years of his presence the club invested in talent such as Henri Lansbury, Britt Assombalonga and Michael Mancienne but since then the club have had to rely on out-of-contract purchases. Now that the ban has been lifted, Olympiacos supremo Evangelos Marinakis is rumoured to be in discussions to acquire an 80% stake in the club.

Not only are the club looking to make changes in the background,

there's also a new manager, or more technically, head coach at the club too; Philippe Montanier was appointed on 27th June to finally replace Dougie Freedman who exited back in March.

Montanier has described his role at Forest being more difficult than his previous jobs due to the competitive nature of the Championship, but many English football fans may be excused for not knowing a great deal about the man. The French former goalkeeper had his first opportunity at Boulogne in 2004, he guided them to promotion in his first season. He also boasts a fourth place finish in La Liga and thus Champions League qualification whilst manager of

Real Sociedad, this was achieved in 2013. He comes to the club fresh from a three year stint at Rennes in France, where he finished 12th two seasons ago before being relieved of his duties in January this year.

His mixed CV will hardly be enhanced with the reaction of his first signing at the City Ground: Apostolos Vellios. The Greek forward has played in England before, having a three year stint at Everton, where he struggled to hold down a regular place, scoring two Premier League Goals before going on loan to Blackpool and playing two matches. Vellios joins for a fee of around £1 million from Greek outfit Iraklis where he finished the season with 11

goals to his name. Vellios is said to be keen to make the most of his "second chance" in England and has had a successful season, he earned his first of three caps for Greece, in March, and at 24, the player should have his best years ahead of him; he was only 18 when he moved to Everton.

With the cash set to be splashed again, Forest should have an interesting transfer window and will be hoping to challenge for a top six place, a position they haven't finished in since 2011. Adding new faces to the quality of the aforementioned Assombalonga and Lansbury alongside players such as David Vaughan and Chris Cohen should see the club improve on its 14th placed finish achieved last term.

FOOTBALL ARTICLES**DONCASTER ROVERS TO MAKE FOOTBALL “STRIKE PRODUCT”**

Doncaster Rovers face life in the bottom tier of English league football next season, for the first time since 2004. Just over a decade ago, the club grew from obscurity and in their first season in the football league they won what was then known as Division Three

They reached their zenith in 2010, finishing 10th in the Championship but now find themselves lower than what they've become accustomed to in their 14 year league adventure. The target is clear: promotion.

The club were reasonably comfortable for the first half of last season, but a disastrous dip in form resulted in relegation, but the club have kept faith with manager Darren Ferguson. Ferguson made his name playing attacking football at Peterborough United, and in his two spells over eight years, he experienced three promotions and one relegation during his time at London Road but can now add a second relegation to his name at Donny.

The club has an interesting set-

up, owned by the Club Doncaster Foundation, a charitable organisation which also owns Doncaster's rugby club and the Keepmoat stadium. Their remit is not only to run the town's major sports clubs, but also to promote sport and physical activity to people of the borough.

Their Chief Executive, Gavin Baldwin, has been with the club since 2012, but admits mistakes were made last season. To use a footballing pun, they took their eye off the ball: “the club has been very strong in producing financial revenues and commercial sponsorship but our strike product (meaning the football team) wasn't good enough. Therefore all emphasis this year is on our strike product, which is getting us promoted and creating the momentum which

will give us the best chance of reaching the Championship”. It appears Club Doncaster have been running the club as a business; profit maximization through increasing revenue and reducing outgoings. However, football, and sport in general, has a different principle: revenue maximization to maximize spending on football budget. A lesson the owners appear to have now learned.

A budget was set early in order to attain promotion, and so far the signings appear to back that up. Eight players have been brought in so far: Tyler Garratt, Tommy Rowe, Matty Blair, Mathieu Baudry, Ross Etheridge, Joe Wright. Gary McSheffrey and John Marquis. Rowe re-joins after a loan spell from Wolves for the tail end of last season; Etheridge, presumably

comes in to make the number 1 jersey his own; Baudry, from Leyton Orient, and Wright, from Huddersfield, provide centre back options; former Boston Wanderers full back Garratt offers left back competition for Cedric Evina; Blair and McSheffrey comes in from Mansfield and Scunthorpe to offer wing play for new striker Marquis who joins from Millwall. To balance the books goalkeeper Thorsten Struckmann, midfielder Dany N'Guessan and defender Gary MacKenzie have all been transfer listed. Time will tell whether Ferguson will be able to mold a successful team together, but on paper the squad looks stronger than last season and Rovers will have to start as one of the favorites to add another division change in their remarkable recent history.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC**CHARLTON BACK IN THIRD TIER**

Charlton Athletic fans are facing football in the third tier of English football for the second time since their Premier League journey ended in 2007, new manager Russell Slade will be hoping to replicate Chris Powell's promotion to the Championship in 2011, but with talks of club takeovers and legal battles behind the scenes, the Roland Duchatelet era still looks tumultuous



Russell Slade was appointed on the 6th June, replacing Jose Riga who left a month earlier after the club's final

league match of the 2015/16 season against Burnley. Slade joins at a level he knows well, having previously managed Yeovil, Brighton and Leyton Orient in League One before his steady yet unspectacular spell in the Championship with Cardiff that ended towards the end of last season.

Slade appears to be targeting an overhaul in forward positions within the team, with Igor Vetokele loaned out to Belgium side Zulte Waregem and the releases of Reza Ghoochannejhad and George Tucudean. Lee Novak and Nicky Ajose have been brought in from Birmingham and Swindon respectively. Ajose finished the league's second top goal scorer last season with 24 goals. Ricky Holmes comes in as either a forward or winger option from Northampton, after earning himself a place in the PFA's team of the year for League Two after impressing in the Cobblers'

promotion campaign. Highly rated Stevenage teenager Louis-Michel Yamfam also comes in to bolster the forward options.

But fan unrest continues at the ownership of billionaire Duchatelet. According to their Tumblr page, Charlton Against Roland Duchatelet (CARD) claim to have a 7,500 strong petition against the Belgian's ownership of the club. Reports also suggest that former Charlton chief executive and current Ebbsfleet vice-chairman Peter Varney is considering legal action against current Chief

executive Katrien Meire's claims that Varney wishes to purchase the club and move the Addicks from the Valley. Duchatelet is not unfamiliar with this kind of opposition; we was forced to sell Standard Liege a year ago after fan unrest and protests around player sales.

However, despite unrest behind the scenes, many see Slade's appointment a step in the right direction and it will be interesting to see how quickly his side acclimatise to league one football.

IT COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER

ICELAND, COULD WE BEAT AN ALDI SELECT 11?



Pass it Wayne! No, our team are in white, shoot Wayne, or should that be shoot, Wayne. No, Wayne, that's the crowd

Dive, Joe...towards the ball. Don't you worry about the hair commercials you haven't moved yet. Oh dear, did you miss the ball again?

We hear the lovable cockney tones of Ray Winstone telling us

all to bet away our hard earned cash. Some of us just wonder how much betting and football are entwined? We cry inside for the money mad mess that the beautiful game has become. Iceland score again. Hart takes a beating. Could it get worse?

Maybe? Maybe we didn't lose to Iceland, the small volcanic country that floats somewhere in the mists of the North Sea, maybe it was a select 11 from the shop, perhaps they had gotten there by beating Aldi in the discount food stores cup?

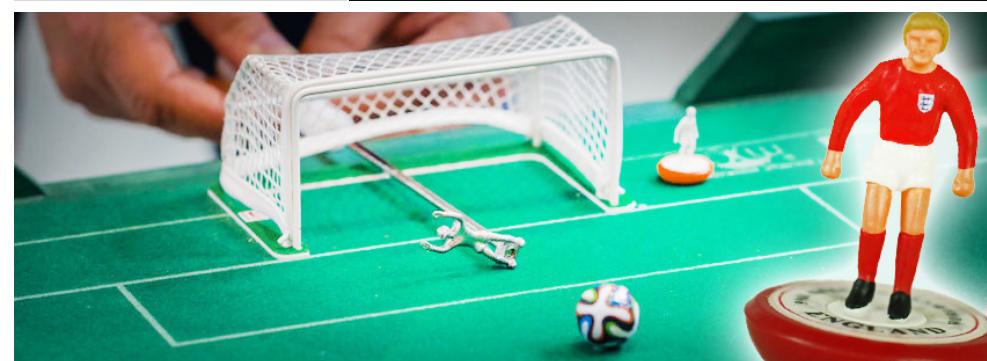
Why would a group of millionaires feel anything but relief at going home early? They have hurt us too much. They have had their chances. Are FC United more fun to watch than Manchester United? Do England women care more than England men? We think so.

England Form Sheet 2016 – 2018
England 1 – 2 Iceland
Netto 3 – 0 England

ALDI 1 – 0 England
England (P – P) Lidl
(Pools Panel: Away win)

Blind Monkeys 5 – 2 England
England 2 – 2 No Opposition
(England lose 6 -3 on penalties)

HAVIN' A LAUGH



/Breaking News - Breaking News - Breaking News - Breaking News/

Shock and alarm today as England crash out of the international Subbuteo Cup. Concerns were initially raised as the England team fielded actual players against a team of small plastic men, however England were roundly thrashed by Trinidad and Tobago after a catalogue of errors by England keeper Joe Hart who scored a record of six own goals - four minutes into stoppage time.

The England FA are considering abandoning the beautiful game and taking up tiddlywinks instead. It is also understood that top ranking FA executives are worried about Mr Hart and his ability to hold his Squidger in a Bristol fashion. The English Tiddlywinks Federation are understandably concerned...



JOE.CO.UK with his YouTube video // Roy Hodgson Iceland Delivery joe.co.uk I do like Roy - so I feel for him, I just hope all the lads can pick themselves up after this one, and one day look back to laugh at this silly video...