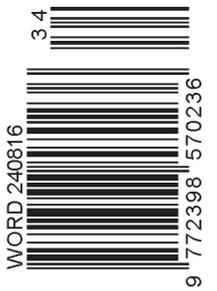
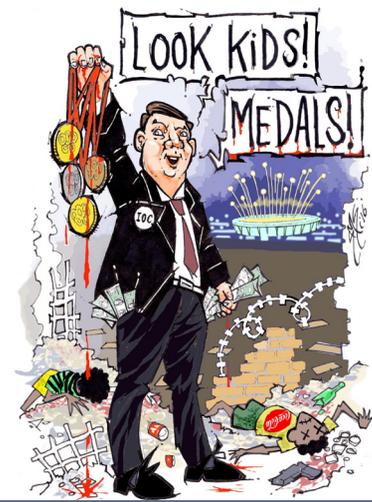


# THE **W**ORD



See Your Lefty Horoscopes  
Emmanuel Goldfish - Page 27

*Equality, Democracy, Truth and Courage*



**Joe Solo**

"Drawing inspiration from Owen Smith" - see page 8



**Wallace's World**

Is Labour facing an "existential crisis" - see page 20

**4M SCROUNGING FAMILIES IN BRITAIN**  
And there's 370,000 households where no one has EVER worked

**REAL DISCRIMINATION**

" Evidence shows that more money is lost to the UK via tax avoidance and off shore banking rather than the smaller amounts spent on benefits, these 'Scrounging Family' stories are vastly exaggerated by the mass media..."

Read More Page 18



**THE PARKING SCAM**

" Parking tickets are another form of taxation that unfairly hits the poor. It no longer matters how little you may use a car, you will always, eventually, find yourself in a situation where you have to park..."

Read More Page 6

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE WORD**

WE OFFER A NEW VOICE FOR THE UK

**A FULLY CROWD FUNDED PROJECT CREATED WITH PASSION**



Fortnightly Issue THIS EDITION - 24TH AUGUST 2016 Until 6TH SEPTEMBER 2016

**RESTRICTED**

**EXCLUSIVE**

**NEW MEMOS**

**EXCLUSIVE - OUR REPORTERS FIND CLEAR EVIDENCE PROVING WAR FOR OIL WAS A KEY MOTIVE IN IRAQ. DETAILS HELD BACK FROM THE CHILCOT REPORT - WE WONDER WHY?**

**DISCLAIMER - We do not endorse Capital Punishment. Next issue we will be writing about it and it's relationship to human rights. This cover image was made to highlight the treatment given to the people of Iraq during and after the war.**

**WE PRESENT TO YOU THE SECRET MEMOS & EMAILS KEPT FROM THE CHILCOT REPORT**

**AT LAST A PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE!**  
CONTACT US TODAY IF YOU WANT TO SUBSCRIBE AND CONTRIBUTE

This newspaper will be left wing, radical and campaign for justice. We are independent of any political or corporate funding - based on the following principles: Equality, Democracy, Truth, and Courage

**D**ata not included in the Chilcot Report CLEARLY IDENTIFIES a plan to go to war and split up the Iraqi Oil resources between private corporations. There is however no mention in any memos about re-building the water or power facilities for people after the war. One of the reasons for the chaos after the take over.. See more on page 3

**Great Comics**  
Start on Page 30



**LIARS SCHOOL**

**CHRIS THE CAREERIST**

**XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD**

**St. Jeremy of London - The Big Match**

THE CROWD WANTS TO

## 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,  
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer,  
We'll keep the red flag flying here.*

### Creators of The Word

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The Bugle	Andy Keir, Alan Davies
Advertising sales manager	Mike Christian
Advertising sales	John Ball
Overseas news	Roxanne Checkley
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Quiz master	Phil Brown

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# Peterloo Massacre 1819



Peterloo - one of the defining moments of its age.

# 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

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 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 WORD  
WILL APPEAR IN ALL  
GOOD NEWSAGENTS.  
THE PLAN IS TO  
EVENTUALLY GO TO  
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](http://www.thewordmedia.org) [www.thewordmedia.org.uk](http://www.thewordmedia.org.uk) 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](mailto:thewordnewspaper@outlook.com)

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IN THE WORD!**

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.



# BLAIR HANGS! ON BY A THREAD

Public perception over the Iraq war has been misled by the mass media. Many now can see that the war was about oil and that Tony Blair lied to us about WMDs and Iraqi oil, but we never had the evidence ..... *until now!*

The general perception by the UK public that the war was fought to liberate the Iraqi people and to secure Weapons of Mass Destruction is a clear lie.

The following never before released documents show that six months before the war, BP & SHELL were pushing Ministers in Blair's government for their share of the oil contracts in Iraq after Saddam's defeat.

## The Memos

**02 October 2002 Email from Edward Chaplin (An ambassador from the foreign office)**

Tony Wildig (SHELL - senior Vice president for new business in the middle east) met with Edward Chaplin of the foreign office to discuss a meeting that SHELL & BP had at Chatham House over Iraq. Both companies (Shell & BP) feared they would sell their support of US policy for a guarantee that their deals with the regime would be honoured after Iraq's liberation.

In the email Chaplin states with Tony Wildig that oil and gas potential is huge

and that Shell and BP could not afford to have a stake in it for the long term future. He goes on, we were determined to get a fair slice of the action for UK companies in a post Saddam Iraq. Baroness Symons or Mike O'Brien might be happy to receive them (BP & SHELL) Remember Mike O'Brien was the first western politician into Iraq after the war.

**Memo to Baroness Symons 31 October 2002 (Minister of state for trade in Tony Blair's government)**

BP, SHELL and BG were keen to play a full part in the reconstruction of the Iraqi oil industry if the opportunity arose.

“ SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE WAR, BP & SHELL WERE PUSHING MINISTERS IN BLAIR'S GOVERNMENT FOR A SHARE OF THE OIL CONTRACTS IN IRAQ

Baroness Symons agreed that it would be difficult to justify British companies losing out in Iraq in that way if the UK had itself been a conspicuous supporter of the US government throughout the crisis.

## The Word Concludes

Despite Tony Blair's denial that the war with Iraq was about WMDs, here we have (6 months before the war) BP,SHELL & BG pushing to have a large stake in Iraq's oil and gas which they say is huge and want a fair slice of the action after Saddam Hussein is toppled. They are certainly giving the impression that regime change has already been agreed. The Labour MP Baroness Symons was pushing the case that UK oil firms should not lose out because of the UK government's support for the US over Iraq. Did this lead to Tony Blair using the UKs support for the war as a bargaining chip to gain concessions for UK oil firms? Probably, but this evidence is not available so has to remain conjecture - for now.

From the emails you can reasonably assume that the oil companies are making plans for a post war Iraqi oil and

## Restricted memos published on the next pages



It is clear that vital information was withheld from the Chilcot Report

# The Reasons

## TONY BLAIR EXPOSED

# THE MEMOS



Possibly we will never know the real reasons why politicians decide to go to war - they keep the secrets so well.

But we can all see the lasting effect of the war as well as the UK and US casualties, Iraq is still fractured by the war and shows no signs of peace or stability.

“ ONE OF THE HARDEST PARTS OF MY JOB IS TO CONNECT IRAQ TO THE WAR ON TERROR. George W. Bush

*Continued >*

pushing their case to Baroness Symons. Another reasonable assumption is that Baroness Symons is pleading with the US that the UK should be rewarded for its support for the US invasion of Iraq, ie by awarding contracts to BP, SHELL & BG.

**All discussion about BP and shells pursuit of oil contracts is missing from Chilcot.** Edward Chaplin during the Chilcot inquiry is asked whether there are any other pertinent matters. Chaplin says no. **Where are the emails, before the Iraq war, that show clear evidence of BP and SHELL pushing the government hard to get their share of the oil contracts after Saddam Hussein is toppled? Why have they been**

From: Edward Chaplin  
Sent: 02 October 2002 17:59  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: IRAQ - VIEWS OF UK BUSINESS  
Importance: High

Tony Wildig (Shell - Senior Vice President for New Business in the Middle East) came to see me today. His main pitch was similar to para 4 of [REDACTED] minute and was, he said, shared by BP [REDACTED]. Both were attending a Chatham House round table discussion on Iraq today which [REDACTED] also took part in. Both companies feared that by sticking to the rules over Iraq and not going for post-sanctions contracts like the Russians, French and Chinese they would lose out. They were concerned by stories that all three [REDACTED], would sell their support for US policy for a guarantee that their deals with the regime would be honoured after Iraq's liberation.

Tony promised to send me some background on the potential for oil and gas in Iraq. The short answer is that it is huge - Western Iraq being the last unexplored area in the Middle East and deep reservoirs probably lying under existing ones. Shell and BP could not afford not to have a stake in it for the sake of their long term future.

I said we were seized of the issue and were in the process of consulting BTI about the commercial element of a post Saddam strategy - stressing that this was part of our contingency planning. I thought he could discount most rumours about guarantees for business for their competitors, who might find they had done themselves no good by cosying up to Saddam. But the Russians would clearly want some assurances. At any rate, we were determined to get a fair slice of the action for UK companies in a post Saddam Iraq (cf yesterday's Washington tel). I thought Ministers would be interested in hearing from Shell and BP and promised to consult - I guessed that Baroness Symons or Mike O'Brien might be happy to receive them, perhaps one meeting for both.

For discussion at your meeting with [REDACTED]. Grateful if you could then consult Private Offices about a meeting.

Edward

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 02 October 2002 16:54  
To: Edward Chaplin  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: IRAQ - VIEWS OF UK BUSINESS  
Importance: High



excluded? Would not the inclusion of these emails lead to a better conclusion as to whether the war was about oil or WMDs?

The word's opinion is that they have either been excluded or deliberately not supplied to avoid the damning conclusion that the war was about oil which Iraq had in abundance and not about WMDs of which there were very little. The dossier about WMDs was dressed up to justify the war to parliament to persuade them to vote for war. How else could you justify an unprovoked attack on a sovereign nation? The invasion of Afghanistan was an easier case to sell to the public because of the 9/11 attacks on America

from Bin Laden who was hiding in Afghanistan and planned the attacks from there.

Furthermore with the over concentration on the post war lack of planning that Edward Chaplin in his testimony to the enquiry and nothing about the frequent discussions of oil contracts for BP/SHELL, the conclusion is that this again is distraction to confuse the average follower of the Iraq war.

The war preparation was planned on 2 levels with the real negotiations behind the scenes over the oil in contrast to the one presented to the public and MPs via the media over WMDs.

Had parliament voted against the war, it would have been very unlikely that the USA would have gone to war alone. The USA needed a coalition of the willing to justify the war because of the lack of support from the UN at the time which they portrayed as weak. The death toll in Iraq stands at 500,000 from the war and the aftermath. Blair still has no regrets.

### Other memos:

\* Foreign Office memorandum, 13 November 2002, following meeting with BP: "Iraq is the big oil prospect. BP are desperate to get in there and anxious that political deals should not deny them the opportunity to compete.

## TONY BLAIR EXPOSED

The long-term potential is enormous..."

1. Tony Blair, 6 February 2003: "Let me just deal with the oil thing because... the oil conspiracy theory is honestly one of the most absurd when you analyse it. The fact is that, if the oil that Iraq has were our concern, I mean we could probably cut a deal with Saddam tomorrow in relation to the oil. It's not the oil that is the issue, it is the weapons..." (What can you say?)

2. BP, 12 March 2003: "We have no strategic interest in Iraq. If whoever comes to power wants Western involvement post the war, if there is a war, all we have ever said is that it should be on a level playing field. We are certainly not pushing for involvement." (Obviously wrong)

3. Lord Browne, BP chief executive, 12 March 2003: "It is not in my or BP's opinion, a war about oil. Iraq is an important producer, but it must decide what to do with its patrimony and oil." (Obviously wrong)

4 Shell, 12 March 2003, said reports that it had discussed oil opportunities with Downing Street were 'highly inaccurate', adding: "We have neither sought nor attended meetings with officials in the UK Government on the subject of Iraq. The subject has only come up during conversations during normal meetings we attend from time to time with officials... We have never asked for 'contracts'" (Obviously wrong)

### *20th March 2003 Iraq is invaded*

In June 2003, Baroness Symons was appointed Minister of State for the Middle East, International Security, Consular and Personal Affairs in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords.

A BP-led consortium 30th Jun 2009 won a deal to develop Iraq's largest oilfield - the only successful foreign bid.

On December 11, 2009, the Iraqi government awarded a license to a joint venture from Royal Dutch SHELL and Petronas to take over operations at Majnoon Oilfield, and triple production from the estimated reserve of nearly 12.6 billion barrels (2.00x10<sup>9</sup> m<sup>3</sup>) at a fee rate of \$1.39/barrel.

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 31 October, 2002

cc: [REDACTED]

**RESTRICTED**

**RESTRICTED**

TO: PS/Baroness Symons

### **IRAQ OIL**

1. The Minister for Trade had a meeting this morning with BP (Paniguan, Renton), Shell (Withrington, Graham) and BG (Bethell) to discuss prospects for the Iraqi oil province should current events lead to regime change. Baroness Symons set out our position on WMD, sanctions and inspectors in standard terms.
2. All three companies took a very similar view: they had been scrupulous in observing sanctions but were keen to play a full part in the reconstruction of the Iraqi oil industry if the opportunity arose. They did not want a privileged position but equally did not wish to be locked out through political deals done (by the US) for wider purposes. They wanted a level playing field.
3. BP, for example, said that for historical reasons they had considerable knowledge of the geography and potential of Iraq (which was enormous). Iraq's reserves meant it could become a decisive player in the oil market and would provide an immense strategic advantage to any company which emerged in a commanding position.
4. All three companies were therefore very concerned at rumours they had been picking up, particularly in Washington, that the USA might be making deals with the Russians and French over future access to oil or gas development projects in return for political concessions. They quoted conversations Gene Lawson of the US/Russia Business Council was said to have had with Lukoil, and one James Woolsey (now of the Defence Policy Board) had had with Texaco. (These in addition to the comments they had heard James Baker had made to HMA Washington in the margins of the US/Russia energy summit in Houston). Shell thought it was significant that the US Energy Commission had been reporting on this issue to Wolfowitz at the DoD.
5. Baroness Symons agreed that it would be difficult to justify British companies losing out in Iraq in that way if the UK had itself been a conspicuous supporter of the US government throughout the crisis. But she accepted that the considerable economic stake that the Russians had in Iraq made it very possible that a deal or deals might be under discussion to ensure that their interests were looked after. Anything of this nature would be highly sensitive and kept very close.
6. We would let our Embassy in Washington know of the companies' concerns in detail, and discuss ways in which these could be addressed with the US government. The Minister herself would be seeing US representatives later this week and would take the opportunity to highlight HMG's concerns. She undertook to report back to the companies on developments, and suggested that they call again before Christmas.



# THE PARKING SCAM

Parking tickets are another form of taxation that unfairly hits the poor. Parking tickets are a form of stealth tax because it no longer matters how little you may use a car, you will always, eventually, find yourself in a situation where you have to park

*George Christoforou*

Parking tickets are another form of taxation that unfairly hits the poor. Parking tickets are a form of stealth tax because it no longer matters how little you may use a car, you will always, eventually, find yourself in a situation where you have to park. All over London and in every city centre local councils have now put single, double yellow lines and the dreaded red parking lines everywhere. Unlike the 1980s where parking lines were often painted for a sensible reason, to stop you parking near school gates or entrances to fire stations, now there is not one parking space to be found!

The great parking issue, I believe, all started when Margaret Thatcher went to war with local councils (mostly Labour) because she wanted to reduce central funding to these councils. These councils were left with the unenviable task of raising council tax rates (very unpopular) or cutting local services also very unpopular. So as legislation was introduced, to allow local councils to issue parking tickets, it became evident that 'parking' became a way of raising funds by stealth. When parking charges were raised, motorists had to become cautious about where they parked. This led to distant parking and sometimes in awkward or dangerous spots, where there were no lines and maybe, walk a little. Soon after this, councils realised that they needed to cover the whole of their inner city with yellow lines and put up parking meters to prevent

their prey from avoiding payment.

So lucrative was this scam that even private companies began setting up business on private bits of land to clamp and force hefty fines on unsuspecting motorists. It was at this point that Privatisation entered the parking ticket industry. Many of these 'private' companies appeared to be acting illegally, charging extortionate fees for a failure to spot a well hidden sign with microscopic writing. All motorists had to pay up to the big chap sitting in his car, watching you, with a grin, as you parked and as you wandered off, rushed out to clamp you. You pay -of course! because he has you by the short and curlies and a very expensive wheel trim. Parking tickets are not easy to ignore with it being backed up with some severe enforcement methods. Methods such as impounding your car with wheel

clamps, having it towed away and even having it crushed. Where are our human rights to peaceful enjoyment of our possessions in the parking panic days?

In most of London today, you will not find a single free parking space. In many metered locations the fee is £4 an hour. In 24 hours that would become £96. A fee so expensive that it is cheaper to rent a hotel room at £80 per night and park your car inside, if that was possible. Around London it is easy to spot swarms of traffic wardens in their black and yellow, paid by the council, on some sort of a commission to hunt down and snap tickets onto unfortunate motorists. Gone is any thought that the council is performing a civic duty to its population by reducing parking congestion and dangerous parking. People do see it for what it is, a money making

## GREAT PARKING SCAM

scam by those in power against its own citizens which they now use as a cash cow. If you consider that an estimated 50% of parking tickets are not properly issued because of poor signage, faded yellow lines, mitigating circumstances or many other technical reasons only adds to the feeling of injustice. When challenged on appeal the majority of these penalties are quashed.

You would think that such a corrupt and widely hated system would be taken up by our politicians to champion the cause of the oppressed motorist. But no, its too big of a cash cow for our local councilors and so no MP has taken up this cause.

### EXAMPLES OF CASH HUNGRY COUNCILS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Over £11 million has been raised by Brighton and Hove City Council from parking fines and fees in the last year (2013/14). After costs, the council made £11.4 million from on-street parking charges and fines in 2013/14, with all the money being put into the council's pot for sustainable transport.

A staggering £22 million has been raised from parking fines in Islington over the last two years – despite a decrease in the

number of parking enforcement officers employed by the council. Data obtained under a Freedom of Information request shows that from January 2013 to December 2014, 416,608 parking tickets were given out and a total of £21,924,076 was raised for the council. Islington council currently employs 123 parking enforcement officers across the borough. However, from January 2013 to March 2014 the council employed 135 parking enforcement officers.

Sutton council raked in an extra £140,000 from parking charges last year after hiking fees. Drivers coughed up £651,531 to leave their cars in Sutton's pay-and-display roads and in the borough's car parks during the past financial year, a 26 per cent increase on £515,429 in 2014/15. The rise comes after the council ramped up charges. But the council's overall parking income fell by £220,000, due in part to a decrease in the number of fines issued to drivers. The bulk of the Sutton Council's parking income comes from penalty notices, which brought £1.04m into the authority's coffers between April 2015 and March this year – a fall from £1.4m in the previous month.



## PUBLIC PARKS SOLD

# SAVE OUR PARKS



***PUBLIC PARKS CLOSE - Tax payers are not the only ones feeling the squeeze; but we seem to be the only ones feeling the pinch!***

Parks are a great national asset - they give free access to wide open spaces for the general public, but with many councils under huge pressure - ***since 2010, £60 million has been cut from parks and open spaces budgets.*** In 2014, nearly half of councils said they were considering outsourcing or selling off their parks.

Now, across the country, councils are finding it harder to keep these spaces open and free to use. And there are some worrying signs that this is leading to privatisation.

In one of the worst cases, Battersea Park in London has handed over a chunk of the park to Go Ape. ***This company now charges £25 a pop*** to play in their high-end adventure facilities, whilst other children look on, and make do with the normal swings that were there before.



Joe Solo

Inspired by Owen Smith's push for the Labour leadership with the sure and certain promise of a socialist utopia, I told Mrs S that when I got home I would clean the windows, mend the garden gate and fix the door bell.

She told me I was a lying twat.

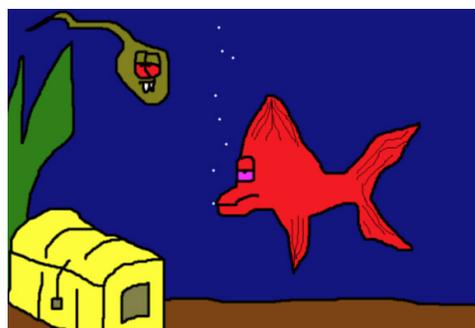
So much for inventing a load of bollocks you don't mean just so you can get some attention.

You can't please some people!

YOURS JOE

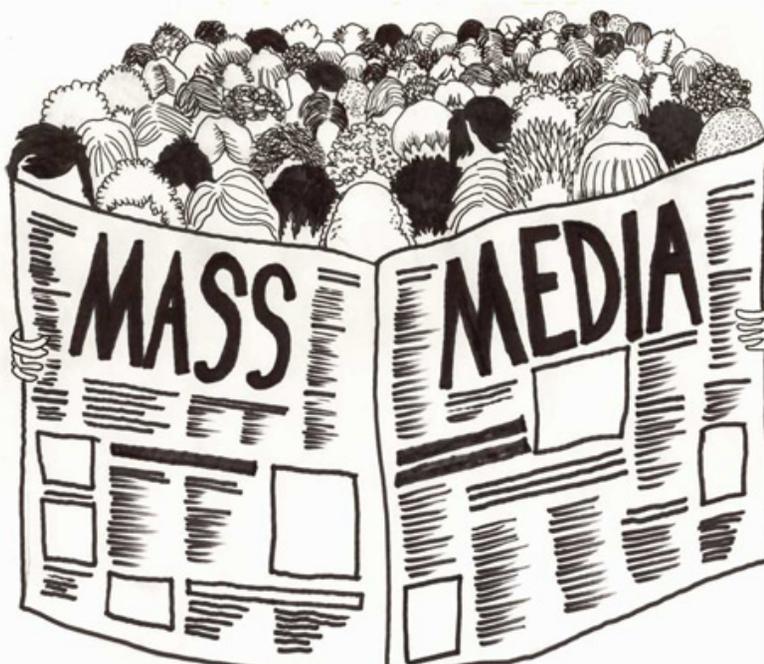


Silver beard is strange one  
I cannot bribe  
I think I will give up on him  
And join another tribe.



When they sunk old Kelly  
Who rubbished all their fears  
They cast away his treasure  
At sea for seventy years.

## BULLSHIT EVERLASTING



# BULLSHIT EVERLASTING

## 'Post-truth', and Bullshit Everlasting - apparently we are living in a post-truth political era

Jon Hastings

From what I can gather, this is supposed to mean that people in general, and politicians and those engaged by them in particular, have quite recently become far less concerned about whether what's said as if it were true, is actually true. To focus (for now) upon the political case: politicians say things that they know, or strongly suspect, will provoke a powerful emotional response amongst their target audience, and their target audience responds obligingly, because it makes them feel good about themselves, about their country, about their society, or whatever. As a result they are at best sanguine, and at worst wilfully resistant to the point of violence, if what has been said to them is shown to be untrue, or ungrounded in some serious way. They put their fingers in their ears, their heads in the sand, and/or become angry at those who point out the untruth, casting aspersions upon their qualifications to do so ('enough of so-called experts'), the provenance of their interest in doing so ('well, they would say that, wouldn't they?'), or just everything about them. Thus in order to persuade someone to abandon or even refine some commitment that's been inculcated in them by means of 'post-truth' methodology, it is very far from sufficient merely to demonstrate, however exactly, the untruth of what's been said; for the prevailing political attitude is one of faith, or something close to it.

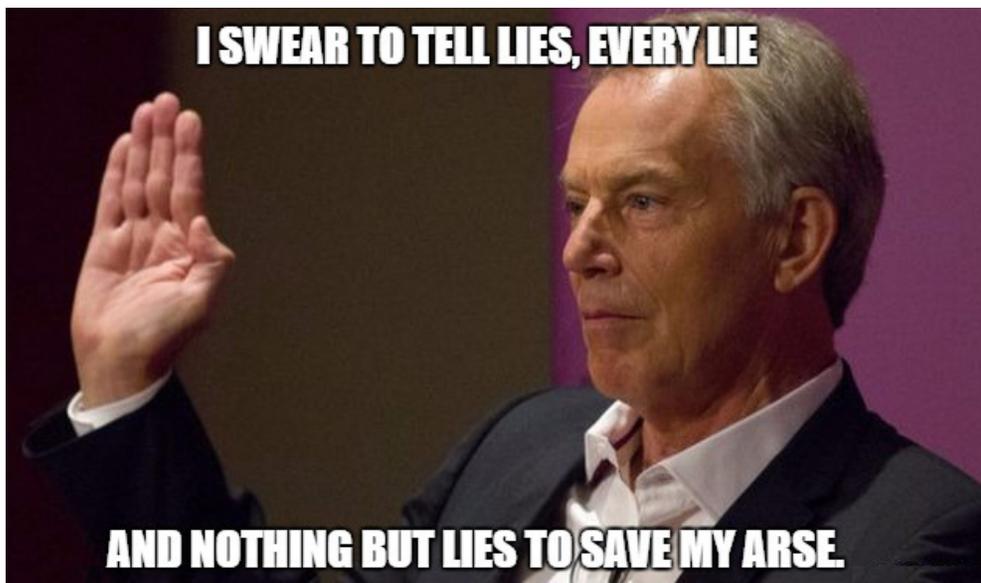
Presumably, then, the influence of this 'post-truth' factor is twofold. There is what the politician says, and there are the responses of the target audience. With regard to the former, acting out of what's now termed a 'post-truth' attitude comprises what we used to call lying and bullshitting. The philosopher Harry Frankfurt provides a helpful clarification of this distinction. Simply put, to lie is for the liar deliberately to impart what he or she regards as an untruth. This implies his or her knowing (or at least having the true belief) that what s/he imparts is untrue. Thus the liar retains a perverse kind of regard for the truth, as something that s/he is to this extent intent upon subverting. Someone who dispenses bullshit, on the other hand, has in this enterprise no regard for the truth, but is simply saying whatever s/he is saying - which might, for all s/he knows or cares, be untrue - in order to incite rouse desired reaction in the target audience.

The lying/bullshitting distinction is likely to be lost on the target audience, if they react as the liar/bullshitter desires them to react; although I guess that those with some regard for truth in the relevant domain of discourse might be more prone to disgruntlement, and even to revise their opinion, if a lie was exposed as such, whereas someone with no regard for truth would react to the exposure of a lie as to the exposure of bullshit: head in sand and shoot the messenger. (The fact that those who attempt to shoot the messenger whilst their heads are buried in the sand

are highly likely to miss their target is hardly comforting for truth-seekers, given that those with no regard for truth will be happy to suppose that they have struck with pinpoint accuracy twelve times over, and fatally so, if that supposition makes them feel good.)

It might be said that, if someone has no regard for truth in the relevant domain, the attitudes they acquire as a result of imbibing what political liars and bullshitters pump into them can't be beliefs, for to believe that p is just to hold the proposition p to be true. This forces me to amend my analysis somewhat, because surely one does want to say that at least some of Donald Trump's supporters, for example, genuinely believe that Trump will make America great again. So it cannot be that such people have no regard for truth in the relevant domain. The situation is rather that, while they do have some regard for truth, they tend to have no regard for any truths - for any facts, that is - that they suspect might constitute evidence against the propositions which, at Trump's prompting, they hold to be true. Which is to say, more or less, that they have abandoned standards for the justification of beliefs which might be regarded as a regulative ideal at least. Of course, they can't have abandoned these standards globally, or else they'd never have found their way to the stadium! But they have abandoned such standards locally, with regard to the claims that Trump makes, whatever he adduces in their support, and whatever critics of Trump, however eminent, adduce against what Trump says;

## BULLSHIT EVERLASTING



and they've done it, to reiterate, because what Trump says to them makes them feel good.

They wouldn't believe the lies and bullshit of just anyone, mind you, even if someone else's lies and bullshit were the same as Trump's. Part of what makes Trump's supporters feel good about what Trump says is that it's Trump who's coming out with this stuff. The circularity here reminds us that (ideally) normal standards of logic, as well as evidence, are being set aside.

I said that it'd be a stretch to regard the all-too-willing immediate 'victims' of so-called post-truth 'politics' as not holding genuine beliefs. This would change, however, if such people continued to say things like 'Trump's going to make America great again' if, in the future, it became manifestly obvious that there was no sense of 'great' in which America was (more) great for Trump's antics. Then I expect we should probably say that their attitudes had turned out to be, or to have become, void of all relevant descriptive content: they'd be affective rather than cognitive attitudes – feelings rather than beliefs.

This was the finding of the philosopher Anthony Flew, with regard to the religious utterances and attitudes of those who persist in saying things like 'God loves us as a father loves his children', even when faced with innumerable situations in which any criteria which we have for loving behaviour, fatherly or otherwise, were very clearly not met by any hypothetically immanent omnipotent being. To clarify: if someone continues to say 'God loves us as a father loves his children' in the face of human suffering of such magnitude that any genuinely loving father would prevent or allay it if only he could (and an omnipotent father most definitely could, of course), then his utterance is devoid of any propositional content, and fails therefore to express any attitude of holding true towards any proposition. There is no relevant belief here.

Which brings me to the first of two substantive points: 'post-truth' is at best an

inaccurate and unhelpful term if it implies, as it seems to, that there's something new about the phenomenon to which its users use it to refer. For there is nothing at all new about either the fairly systematic use of lies and bullshit in order to sway public opinion by bypassing people's cognitive processes, or the willingness of those on the receiving end to acquiesce in the process. Even if we confine ourselves to politics and ethics, the identification of so-called 'post-truth', so understood, goes back at least as far as Plato, who indeed credited his teacher and inspiration Socrates with championing the philosophical quest for truth against the sophists' peddling of rhetorical techniques designed to help people appear to win arguments without actually winning them. Relatedly, Plato also followed Socrates in his scepticism about democracy, the (false) ground of which might be summed up in the well-known words of Isaac Asimov: 'democracy means that "my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge".'

Of course the whole thing goes back much further. When the earliest known Western philosopher Thales of Miletus offered what he took to be good reasons for the claims he made about the nature of physical reality, he was evincing a contrast with prevalent mythologising which was probably already very well established in human discourse. I wonder what those ancient thinkers would've made of the fact that, millennia later, millions upon millions of people prefer to 'believe' the logically incoherent and counter-evidential claims of religion over those of sober philosophy and empirical science. Not that Plato was above advocating lying, if he thought that lying was the best or only way to persuade the masses. According to him, the perfectly just society – the ideal Republic – would of necessity be rigidly hierarchical, with a labouring class, an administrative class, a ruling class of intellectuals, and the whole structure under the guidance and authority of – who else? – a true philosopher. Social mobility – moving from one class to another – would have nothing to do with individuals' aspiration and enterprise, but everything to do with

a rigorously circumscribed assessment of their innate aptitude. Thus Plato proposed that if, in the ideal society, the offspring of a labouring couple belongs by innate disposition to the ruling class, it must as an infant be removed from its natural parents and sent to be brought up in the fitting political stratum; and so, mutatis mutandis for all offspring across the social spectrum. Mindful that people mightn't take kindly to having their children removed from them and given to someone else, Plato speculated that they might be placated and brought into line by being told that the gods themselves had made them to be of different types, as if they had fashioned the rulers from gold, the administrators from silver, and the workers from iron and bronze. It might take a generation of two, but if through lies and bullshit people came to believe that individuals were divinely ordained for this or that social standing and role, then they would willingly relinquish their children, and indeed willingly do pretty much whatever else those in charge told them to.

Erring on the side of charity, we may suppose that some politically expedient lies, such as Plato's, have their authors' conception of the good of the people as their principal aim. They invoke, and aim to evoke, religious and more generally mythic conviction as the foundation of a social and ethical compliance and, indeed, a willing and eager obedience, that are taken to conduce to a utility which is quite general in its distribution. It isn't at all clear that we'd be justified in dignifying the lies and bullshit of the British press (to choose just one prominent example of a depressingly widespread phenomenon) with such an interpretation. Serving exclusively the interests of a tiny elite would appear to be the aim there.

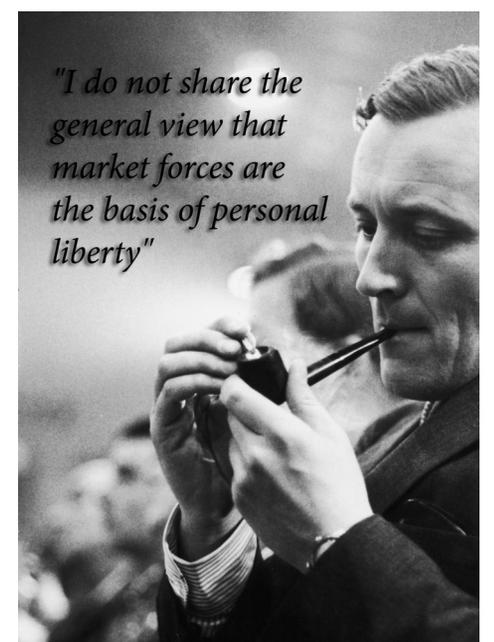
Here's the second substantive point: those people are lying, who use the term 'post-truth' to imply that we're living in a new era, when they know that there is nothing new about lies and bullshit; while those who do so without caring whether we're living in a new era or not, just to provoke some desired reaction, are promulgating bullshit. So used, the term 'post-truth' is itself post-truth, if anything is.

What is the aim? What do such people want to stimulate their audiences to do, when they use the term 'post-truth' in a lying or bullshitting way? I suggest that they are attempting to get them to give up caring about truth, with regard to the chosen domain of discourse. They want their audiences to think (or else to feel, if there's a feeling that's concomitant) 'Oh well, truth is unfashionable. It's passé. This is a new world. Everyone else, politicians included, is past caring about truth, so why should I care about it? Why hold politicians to account for lying to me or spouting bullshit? Why not just bask in

the good feelings that their lies and bullshit give me?'

If this is right, then there is, after all, something new about the term 'post-truth'. It refers to old-fashioned lies and bullshit, for sure, but it also encourages those on the receiving end of lies and bullshit not to care that they're being lied and bullshitted to. It writes off lies and bullshit as in some way an inevitable component of life in general and contemporary politics in particular. Thus we must resist any temptation to let the use of this term go unchallenged. Yes, pure reason never moved anyone to action. Since it is 'the slave of the passions', as Hume put it, we must engage with people at an emotional level if we are to change things. That doesn't mean that politicians are entitled to bypass the truth in order to do so, however. For any politician that's worthy of one's vote must have the public's best interests at heart, and the public's interests are unlikely to be served, in the medium-to-long term, by way of lies and bullshit. Plato was wrong.

So, people ought to have been much more concerned than many of them appeared to be, when, on the day after the EU referendum was won by those who wished to leave, Nigel Farage casually admitted that the campaigning claim that leaving the EU would provide an extra £350,000,000 a week for the NHS had been false; and people ought to get mad whenever Donald Trump pretends that he didn't mean what he so clearly meant when he said whatever he said. And, finally, people ought never to consider voting for politicians, within and without the Labour Party, who will say just about anything in order to dissuade them from listening to and supporting that most refreshingly bullshit-free of politicians, Jeremy Corbyn.



TOP 10 DISHONEST POLITICIANS IN THE UK



# TOP 10 DISHONEST MPS

## Based on Spin, out and out lies, taking dodgy political donations and outright corruption

### 10 Jacqui Smith

During the time when she was feeling the full heat of the expenses scandal Jacqui Smith plays the terror card. She warned of grave danger, she spoke in the House of Commons of a "Suspected bomb plot" despite the absence of certain key elements normally associated with the phrase "bomb plot".

Like a bomb.

Or a plot.

"He [John Lyon] has also concluded that Ms Smith spent more nights at her constituency home than at her London home between 28 June 2007 and 31 March 2009. Ms Smith has agreed with this conclusion.<sup>13</sup> The figures which underlie it are based on a reconciliation between witnesses'—including Ms Smith's—personal recollections, the evidence provided by Ms Smith's personal and ministerial diaries, and the evidence of police records (ie, records of the protection provided to Ms Smith by the police when she was Home Secretary)." (Pages 4 and 5)

But this is what Jacqui Smith said when the original story broke:

"The spokeswoman said Ms Smith spends 'the bulk of the week' at her sister's home in London. Asked how many nights she stayed there, the spokeswoman said: 'She tends to go home Thursday evenings and returns on Sunday or Monday.' When it was pointed out that this suggested an average of three-and-a-half days a week, the spokeswoman replied: 'She doesn't count the number of nights.'" (Mail on Sunday 8 February 2009).  
choosing the family property as her second

home has enabled Ms Smith to claim £116,000 over several years for it from the tax-free Additional Costs Allowance

Ms Smith's husband – whom she pays £40,000 from public funds as her assistant – and two children live in a detached house worth around £300,000 in Redditch, West Midlands.

Smith claimed that her expenses had been scrutinised because she was a woman, saying: "[I] know that it was my expenses people looked at first because I was a woman and should have been at home looking after my husband and children." Smith said that she had felt "frozen rather than angry" on learning that her husband had entered a parliamentary expenses claim for two pornographic films

### 9 Nicola Sturgeon

misleading Scots for repeatedly stating during the referendum that a Nationalist victory would not be used as a mandate for a second referendum. Yet after a landslide SNP victory

Nicola Sturgeon. Back in September, the SNP leader said she would be 'more than happy' to take in refugees into her own home. 6 months later and not a single refugee has accepted her generous offer. Could it be it was not a genuine offer, but political grandstanding?

Nicola Sturgeon: "An independent Scotland would automatically inherit EU membership on the same terms as the remainder of the UK" When past UK governments were pro-Europe Nicola Sturgeon was anti-Europe. Now that UK is leaving the EU Nicola Sturgeon has become pro-Europe

Nicola Sturgeon, Deputy Leader, reiterated in October 2006: "The SNP supports Scotland joining the Euro" "Sweden joined the EU after the obligation to join the euro was in force and Sweden, it is commonly accepted, will not join the euro unless it wants to," she said.

In 2012 Ms Sturgeon expressed her revulsion at the News of the World (owned by Murdoch) hacking scandal but said: "First Ministers have a job to do and that is to promote the economic interest of Scotland." The SNP leader attended a meeting of the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal (owned by Murdoch) and he turned up towards the end. The Scottish Sun is strongly pro SNP, SNP taking Labour seats assists the Tories gain a majority.

### 8 Boris Johnson

The day before the referendum Boris promised a cut in immigration and a £111 billion would be saved and spent on the NHS, cuts to VAT, lower council tax, higher pensions and a better transport system. The day after they admitted that it may have been an exaggeration. Immigration might actually fall and the cost of BREXIT will offset the savings.

After BREXIT in The Daily Telegraph Boris Johnson wrote, "I cannot stress too much that Britain is part of Europe, and always will be." He was an ardent eurosceptic the day before BREXIT leading the battle against the EU.

In 2009 Boris Johnson had been asked to explain why he retracted evidence he gave to MPs about the Damian Green arrest. He denied that he had any conversation about it

with David Cameron and the eventually admits he spoke to him twice.

Johnson already faces a City Hall standards inquiry over the matter, triggered by Len Duvall, the leader of the Labour assembly group and Johnson's predecessor as MPA chairman, who lodged a formal complaint in which he accused the Conservative mayor of a "serious breach of the codes of conduct" by discussing the case with Green, possibly giving him advance notice of his arrest.

As Mayor of London he promised to totally eradicate rough sleeping by 2012; it doubled by 2015. His 2008 manifesto promised there would be manned ticket offices at every tube station. Actually, he closed all of London's ticket offices. He pledged to reduce London transport fares instead they increased by 4.2 per cent

### 7 Margaret Thatcher

in Chile, Thatcher gave totally unwarranted support and protection to General Pinochet when he was arrested while in London. The Spanish were looking to extradite him following his indictment for human rights violations in his native Chile. This was the first time that several European judges applied the principle of universal jurisdiction, declaring themselves competent to judge crimes committed by former heads of state, despite local amnesty laws. Alas Thatcher thwarted their attempts to bring a brutal dictator to justice.

The violent coup which brought Pinochet to power occurred while Thatcher was busy

## TOP 10 DISHONEST POLITICIANS IN THE UK

climbing the greasy pole of politics. She would have been fully aware that British supplied jets dropped bombs on the government buildings in Santiago no doubt killing the democratically elected Marxist President Salvador Allende.

The painting of the miners as the aggressors and the out and out denial of a secret hit list of more than 70 collieries earmarked for closure are now proven as lies. Mrs Thatcher was involved in the wilful destruction of the coal industry and micro managed the government's side of the strike, prepared to use any possible measures to win – whilst lying to the country about the scale of the closures programme and simultaneously scheming to use the armed forces to ensure victory.

This matters because in the key Commons showdown over the Westland affair Thatcher insisted to Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, that she did not know how the law officer's letter reached the public domain (lying as she had ordered the leak) and if she had, she would not have approved of it. In her own memoirs, Thatcher records she had confessed to friends on the day of the debate: "I may not be prime minister by 6pm tonight."



### 6 - Jeremy Hunt

After analysing the last 41 years of funding data in their research, Prof John Appleby, the fund's chief economist, and Adam Roberts, of the Health Foundation, found that the NHS real-spend increase of 1.6% is the 28th-largest increase since 1975-76. Jeremy Hunt lies saying NHS is getting the sixth-biggest increase in history. Hunt also often claims that they are giving the NHS in England an extra £3.8bn this year, the true amount is only £1.8bn.

Jeremy Hunt claimed that 500 junior doctors had already signed up for the new government contract. A lie, 500 had applied for training hospital places not for signing the contract.

Jeremy Hunt claims that the junior doctors are getting a pay rise. When in fact they are being forced to work longer hours as well which ended up as a fall in pay rates.

He misrepresented the stats over weekend deaths.

Hunt twists the knife (or scalpel) by saying he will not allow a trade union to prevent the Tories from carrying out a manifesto pledge of a 7 day NHS. Even though the BMA is a professional non political body rather than a trade union.

The British Medical Association, to which doctors belong, is a 186-year-old professional body obliged by law to register as a trade union because it represents its members.

During his time at the helm of the UK's culture department Mr Hunt was accused by the Plaid Cymru MP Jonathan Edwards of misleading the public about a £2m cut in S4C's budget.

Mr Hunt's department, however, insisted the cut "was agreed by both". The accusation came after a freedom of information request released details of exchanges between Mr Hunt and the chairman of the Welsh-language broadcaster John Walter Jones. The documents show that Mr Jones wrote to the Culture Secretary stating that, on the basis of legal advice, the broadcaster could not legally agree to cut its budget by £2m.

In 2012, he lied over his interfering in a Murdoch's News Corp bid for BSkyB. He said there was a difference between lying and "misleading Parliament inadvertently" – which, he admitted to.

### 5 Ian Duncan Smith

Another do as I say not as I do politician. He makes false claims against about Labour's spending being up 58% as opposed to the actual 8%. He told off benefit claimants for not living within their means and then gets his parliamentary credit card suspended for running over £1000 in debt.

A man of learning on his biography

According to the BBC, Duncan Smith's biography on the Conservative Party website and his entry in Who's Who originally stated that he had studied at the University of Perugia in Italy. A BBC investigation in 2002 found this statement to be untrue.[8] In response to the BBC story, Duncan Smith's office stated that he had in fact attended the Università per Stranieri, a different institution in Perugia, for a year.[8] He did not complete his course of study, sit exams, or gain any qualifications there. Duncan Smith's biography, on the Conservative Party website, also stated that he was "educated at Dunchurch College of Management" but his office later confirmed that he did not gain any qualifications there either, that he completed six separate courses lasting a few days each, adding up to about a month in total.[8] Dunchurch was the former staff college for GEC Marconi, for whom Duncan Smith worked in the 1980s.

IDS insisted that those on benefits should live within the means and planned to introduce pre-payment cards instead of cash. And to demonstrate how a person who lives on state handouts behaves, he maxes out his parliamentary credit card by spending over £1000 on expenses.

His antics at the DWP have led to misery, poverty and suicide for many who survive on disability payments.



### 4 Peter Mandelson

Mandelson bought a home in Notting Hill in 1996 partly with an interest-free loan of £373,000 from Geoffrey Robinson, a cabinet colleague and millionaire whose business dealings were subject to an inquiry by

Mandelson's department. He had not declared the loan and resigned in December 1998.

In October 2000 it was reported that Robinson had "accused Peter Mandelson of lying to the Commons about the home loan affair"

On 24 January 2001 Mandelson resigned from the Government for a second time, following accusations of using his position to influence a passport application. He had contacted Home Office Minister Mike O'Brien on behalf of Srichand Hinduja, an Indian businessman who was seeking British citizenship, and whose family firm was to become the main sponsor of the "Faith Zone" in the Millennium Dome.

In 1999, 2009 and 2011 Mandelson was an invited guest of the Bilderberg Group and attended the annual conferences.

George Osborne, Peter Mandelson and Oleg Deripaska meet with financier Nat Rothschild on Oleg's yacht in Corfu. The allegation was that Osborne's fund-raiser Andrew Feldman launder money through one of his UK companies. Judge a person's politics by his friends.

### 3 George Osborne

Passes all the blame for welfare cuts onto Ian Duncan Smith. Promises to bring the national debt down. Then changes that to bringing the national deficit down by 2012,2014,2015,2016 or by 2020. But leaves office before his target could be proven to be unattainable. All these promises of reducing the national debt and it has tripled under his chancellorship.

His family wallpaper firm for the past 7 years has failed to pay any income tax. He has received dividends over the years while the firm apparently does not make a profit. I think his accountant is wallpapering over the cracks in his financial affairs. All the while he insists that the HMRC are clamping down on tax avoidance. He is on record on giving advice on tax avoidance.



### 2 David Cameron

Promises to cut immigration down to below 100,000. Actually sees it rise to a record 350,000. Gives an iron clad guaranteed to not cut working tax credits before the 2015 election and then does exactly that. He resigns as PM with the single largest collection of broken election pledges on records. If only he had stayed the full course to 2020 he would have made good on all his pledges. And anyway, all his pledges were removed from the Conservative website. It is reported that David Cameron has left office with the proud record of not answering a single question put to him by Jeremy Corbyn or members of the public.

David Cameron's dad was a stockbroker who

earned a fortune without ever paying any taxes. David Cameron is proud of his father. And David Cameron managed to inherit his share of the fortune without being liable to inheritance tax. We ae all in it together except those of us who have to pay tax.

His broken promises include

1. No increase in VAT then increases it immediately on coming to power.
2. Balancing the books by 2015. Failed miserably and passes the blame onto Osborne which he looked like sacrificing to save himself.
3. The infamous cast iron guarantee on live TV that there will be no cuts to tax credits.
4. Tackling relative child poverty. It has increased and also children living in homelessness has increased alongside children going to school hungry.

### 1 Tony Blair



The tales about weapons of mass destruction and Saddam being able to hit Britain within 45 minutes are probably the biggest whoppers going.

Before the Iraq war BP and SHELL inform the Edward Chaplin of the foreign office of the huge oil bonanza after Saddam Hussein has been toppled. Tony Blair aware of this fact announces on the 6 February 2003, "the oil conspiracy theory is honestly one of the most absurd when you analyse it."

And on expenses and the shredding of the receipts after a high court asks for their productions. And then to add insult to injury, making a claim for shredding costs.

And on the family house that he raised 300,000 pound be re-mortgaging to use this as a deposit on another property worth 4 million and having the mortgage payments claimed on expenses. Tony Blair built up a large property portfolio while PM. The very generous Cheltenham and Gloucester building society loaned him 18 times his salary and probably took into account his ability to claim off his expenses.

***But let's not forget the £7000 he claimed 2 days before he resigned.***

Cheers Tony, No. 1 is Yours..

YEARS OF PAIN



# YEARS OF PAIN

Prepare for Tory rule for years to come - Jeremy Corbyn has been derided by most of the main media outlets and a majority of Labour MPs as 'unelectable'. But democracy is under a grave threat in Britain

## Alexander Dommerholt

According to the mass media and the Labour PLP Jeremy is unelectable, but isn't that what the Tories would like you to think?.. As the Tories try to show Labour - and any other opposition - unelectable.

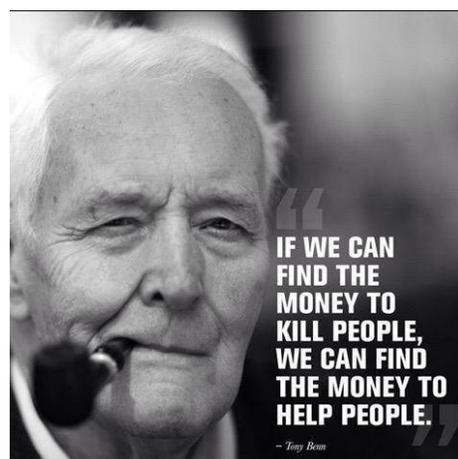
Though the Tories tactics of reducing the influence of the opposition are by no means new, they have gained a new level of urgency for the Conservatives. The problem that the Tories now face are based on Theresa May's bold statement that "Brexit means Brexit" - three simple words that cannot possibly explain their far-reaching consequences, yet their explanation is rather ambiguous. Whatever meaning May wants to give to her words, in a real democracy they would cost her dearly in the next general elections.

### Brexit woes

May's problem is that her wishes - full access to the single market whilst capping immigration - are impossible to achieve as the EU will never allow for this to happen. Even a return to the European Free Trade Organisation may not be possible as Norway's minister for EU Affairs, Elisabeth Vik Aspaker, declared

in Aftenposten that Norway may block Britain's application, declaring British membership could "disturb the balance, which is not necessarily in Norway's interest".

Overall, the number of choices at May's disposal following Brexit are limited. Firstly, she can declare that Brexit does not mean Brexit after all by ignoring the referendum result, which she legally is allowed to do. Secondly, she can proceed with Brexit in which she tries to obtain EEA membership or thirdly, she can opt



for Britain to go it alone completely and fall back on trading via WTO agreements.

Each option has negative consequences. The first option means breaking a huge promise, which will be hard to brush

over. The second option means that three main issues raised by the Leave campaign (EU contribution, immigration and EU legislation) remain untouched. The last option will mean an economic downturn in the short to medium term. All of these options have huge losses in the next general elections as a logical consequence for the Conservative Party.

The Tories have several cards up their sleeve in their bid to cling on to power, the foundations of which have already been laid by the Cameron administration since 2010, by i.e. heavily influencing the composition of Parliament.

### Parliament

No modern Prime Minister has awarded as many peerages as David Cameron has during his 6 year tenure at Downing Street, thus ensuring that the House of Lords is filled with Tory peers who favour the government line. Cameron's handing out of favours has been so blatant that even the Daily Mail has voiced its unease about it in an article published on the 8th of August this year, lamenting the huge cost to the taxpayer.

The excessive growth of the House of Lords means that Parliament now contains nearly 1,500 members. However, instead of cutting down the

size of the House of Lords, the Tories are openly contemplating to cut down the House of Commons instead by reducing the number of MPs from 650 to 600 by axing 50 constituencies by redrawing the constituency borders.

The Conservatives maintain that the measure is to promote electoral fairness, by having "fewer and more equal sized constituencies". However, several studies have already concluded that the negative impact of the measure will mostly affect Labour. Had the boundary reform been introduced in 2015 as the Tories initially wanted, Labour would have lost out on many seats, even in their traditional strongholds. On the other hand, the Conservatives would have won a much stronger overall majority of approximately 22 seats.

The measure will be welcome to the Conservatives if the negative fallout from Brexit will affect their polling rates in 2020. During the latest elections they only needed 36.9% of the votes cast for an overall majority, but after the boundary reform it is possible that only a third of the vote will suffice for the Tories in order to gain overall control of the House of Commons.

### Attack on Labour funding

## YEARS OF PAIN

However, this plan is not fool proof and may backfire on the Conservatives. It is therefore not surprising that other measures have been taken to undermine Labour's position under the guise of "saving the taxpayers' money". One of the measures proposed by George Osborne in late 2015 was to cut the "Short Money" (government funds that the opposition parties are entitled to) by a staggering 19%, a measure not affecting the Tories but hugely affecting Labour.

Unsurprisingly, this was perceived by Labour as a direct attack. Rhondda MP Chris Bryant took to Twitter to express his anger: "in opposition Tories argued short money was vital to hold government to account and took £46 million. In govt they want to cut it for others". Due to the backlash, negotiations began on the measures. Chris Grayling, who was Commons Leader at the time, released a statement that he "recognised the importance of an effective opposition to hold the government to account" upon reaching a compromise, which still means that the opposition will lose out on £3 million of funds.

However, Grayling's lack credibility as the measures taken by the Tories to attack Labour's vital funding continued. This was most evident when the new Trade Union Act was introduced this year, during the time that the Brexit referendum dominated the national headlines. As the bill was enacted, it now requires trade unions to ask its new members to opt in when it comes to contributing to the unions' political funds, which are used by the Labour Party. It is estimated by Labour that the measure will cost the party millions per year, which is an incredible blow to the party's funding.

This thinly veiled measure to weaken the Labour Party has even attracted criticism from prominent Tories, as David Davis, the current "Brexit secretary" called the plans "mean-spirited". House of Lords crossbencher Lord Bew questioned why trade union donations were attacked by the Tories whereas they showed not a glimmer of interest in capping individual donations to political parties – a major source of income for the Conservatives.

### The role of the press

The above measures have not been widely publicised in the British press this year. It was the late Jimmy Reid who once declared that the "task of the media in a democracy is not to ease the path of those who govern, but to make life difficult for them by constant vigilance as to how they exercise the power they only hold in trust from the people". The major news outlets appear to have abandoned this beliefs entirely.

Saddening as this may be, it is not a surprise. The UK's freedom of press is on the wane as evidenced by a rather frightening set of statistics that Reporters Without Borders publishes each year in the shape of the Press Freedom Index, which measures the freedom of the press in most world countries. The statistics show that the UK was ranked at a respectable 19th position in 2010 when Labour rule ended. Since then, the UK's ranking has plummeted year upon year as the UK currently occupies the 38th position on the list, far behind countries as Costa Rica and Ghana. If the current trend persists, the UK will drop from the 'satisfactory' category to the 'noticeable problems' category, where countries such as Nicaragua and Uganda would keep the UK company.

As the report reveals, the UK scores

particularly bad in the political and legal categories of press freedom. This is in line with the current trends where the British press occupies itself largely with attacking Labour instead of holding the government to account. Instead of highlighting the issues above that are a severe threat to British democracy, major news outlets have published instead fabrications on Britain being "flooded by migrants" and that Turkey is "on the brink of joining the EU".

The woeful quality of the articles published by the likes of The Sun has even attracted criticism from the United Nations, as High Commissioner for Human Rights Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein openly took issue with the way migrants were portrayed in The Sun. In his statement about a column of Katie Hopkins, he noted that "this type of language is clearly inflammatory and unacceptable. The Sun's editors took an editorial decision to publish this article and – if it is found in breach of the law – should be held responsible along with the author".

He continued by saying that "history has shown us time and time again the dangers of demonizing foreigners and minorities, and it is extraordinary and deeply shameful to see these types of tactics being used in a variety of countries, simply because racism and xenophobia are so easy to arouse in order to win votes or sell newspapers".

The words of Prince Zeid ring true and tie in with the dire situation the UK's press finds itself in, as it has traded its democratic goals for pursuing their own interests. This directly results in the threats the Tories pose to British democracy by taking measures against the Labour Party barely being touched

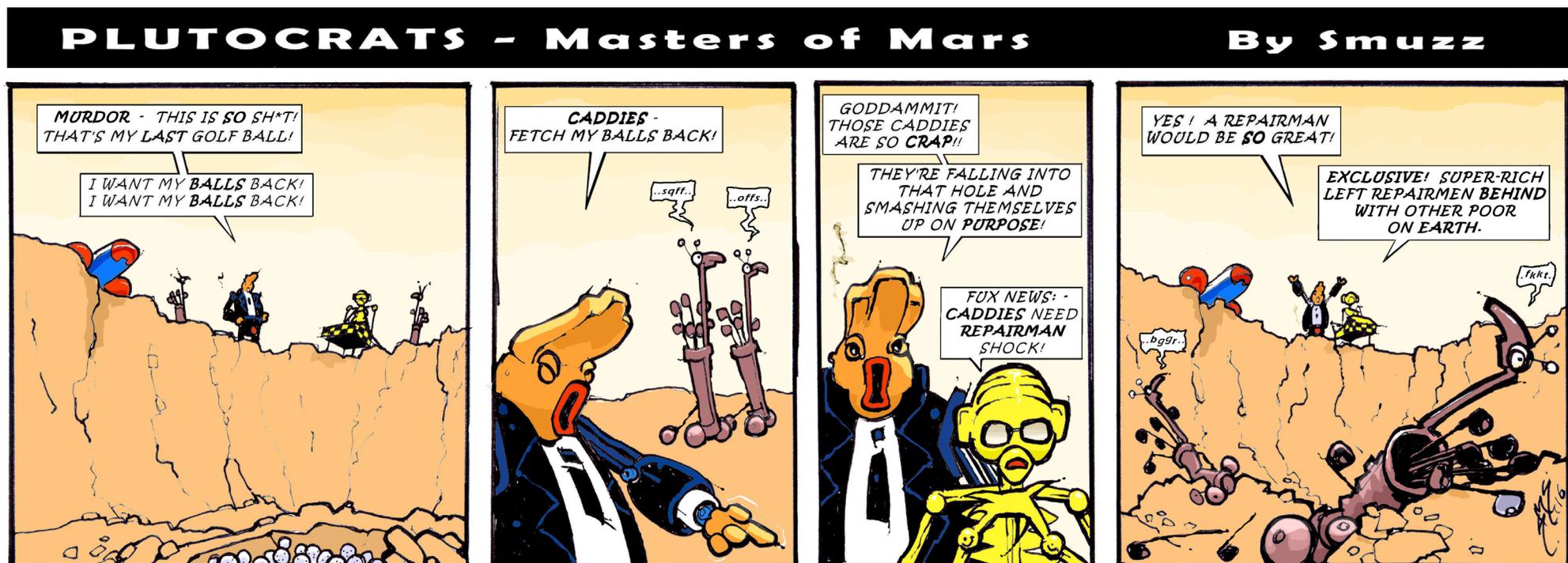
upon by many news outlets.

### Future of British democracy

The Tories won the general elections in 2015 with 36.9% of the vote, which granted them an overall majority in the House of Commons. The future of British democracy looks rather bleak if the mandate of the British people can be used for the ruling party's own gain, and may result in the Tories winning an overall majority in 2020 even if the electorate decides to punish the Conservatives for the post-Brexit fallout. Should this transpire, Britain sees itself chained to a democracy that is hollowed out.

Should Labour fail to secure any gains over the Conservative Party in the 2020 general elections, the blame will likely be directed at Jeremy Corbyn, who is expected to win the leadership challenge of Owen Smith with ease. Corbyn has proven to be an easy target over the past months, but blaming him will not change a thing and neither will replacing him in the light of the above undemocratic measures.

These problems highlight that democracy is much more than simply tick a box on a ballot sheet every five years; even North Koreans get to cast a vote in general elections every few years. Afitete Jahjaga, the current president of Kosovo who has put much effort in democratising her country, could be a valuable inspiration for Britain, by stating that "**democracy must be built through open societies that share information.** When there is information, there is enlightenment. When there is debate, there are solutions. When there is no sharing of power, no rule of law, no accountability, there is abuse, corruption, subjugation and indignation."



## THE RUSSIAN COUP



# THE RUSSIAN COUP

In March next year it will be exactly 100 years ago that Czar Nicholas II was forced to abdicate, after which the Bolshevik communists seized power in a series of events that we now know as the Russian Revolution

### *Alexander Dommerholt*

Though Western countries traditionally dislike communism, they have somehow accepted some of the communist mythology as truth. It's time to separate fact from fiction.

Before the events of 1917, Russia was ruled by Nicholas II who possessed absolute power, though in 1905 he was forced to share a fraction of power with a newly founded parliament: the Duma. Russia was not a happy place for those not belonging to the aristocracy as poverty was widespread. The country's involvement in World War I only further increased the population's misery.

The scarcity of staple foods in Petrograd (present-day St. Petersburg) caused protests and widespread strikes in 1917 as the population had had enough. The protests soon spread to other cities across Russia. The Czar sent troops to quash the unrest, but he found himself forced to abdicate when it

transpired that his soldiers refused to shoot at protesters.

Were these protests masterminded by the Bolsheviks, and was Lenin uniting the Russians under the flag of Bolshevism? Far from it. When the protests broke out, Lenin was in exile in Switzerland and only learnt about the revolution in Russia when he read about it in a newspaper. Many other Bolsheviks were imprisoned in the icy Siberian tundra or were in hiding elsewhere.

Though Lenin's ideas were popular among soldiers and in some major cities, they did not warm the hearts of the majority of Russians living in the countryside. Instead, they favoured the more moderate ideas of socialists who wanted to ready Russia for socialism in the future, while Lenin wanted socialism to be imposed immediately.

After the Czar's abdication, a new government was formed which was weak and ineffective; the power of the Socialist-Revolutionaries was now on

the rise and the Bolsheviks seemed to have missed the boat. However, they received help from an unexpected source: Germany.

Germany and Russia were still at war, but the Germans were eager to end hostilities quickly; yet the only prominent Russian willing to give the Germans what they wanted was Lenin. Therefore, the Germans arranged for Lenin to return from exile by sending him to Petrograd by train, hoping that Lenin would seize power.

Upon arrival, Lenin had no intentions to stabilise Russia and steered towards causing turmoil, which set the Bolsheviks apart from all other factions which increased their support in the cities. The provisional government tried to suppress the Bolsheviks as they headed quickly for an open confrontation, which made them somewhat more popular.

The Bolsheviks' vital powerbase lay in the military, not the masses – in November 1917, soldiers were put to



This cartoon by Robert Minor appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch in 1911. It shows Karl Marx surrounded by enthusiastic Wall Street financiers: Morgan partner George Perkins, J.P. Morgan, John Ryan of National City Bank, John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie. Immediately behind Marx is Teddy Roosevelt. Communism itself was funded by wealthy US & Europeans - The Germans funded Lenin so as to bring down the Russian government & take them out of the war.

## THE RUSSIAN COUP

use by the Bolsheviks as they rounded up all officials of the government and replaced them with men who favoured their cause. This event would enter history as the “October Revolution”. The other socialists were appalled.

Although the government had been violently taken over, the Bolsheviks allowed for free elections to take place for the Constituent Assembly a few weeks later. Once again, the popularity of the Bolsheviks was evidently limited as they only managed to win 25% of the vote. The more moderate Socialist Revolutionaries garnered over twice as many votes, but they fell apart due to internal disagreements.

The Bolsheviks were lucky again – a faction of the Socialist Revolutionaries agreed to form a coalition, which quickly decided to dissolve the Constituent Assembly

and give their powers to the various Soviets (labour councils) around the country. Unsurprisingly, the Soviets had already been manned almost exclusively by Bolsheviks.

Now that all governing bodies were in the hands of the Bolsheviks, all other parties were pushed out of all institutions of power and a peace deal was brokered with Germany, which was hugely disadvantageous to Russia. Anger against the Bolsheviks turned to violence, leading to one of the most devastating civil wars the world has ever witnessed.

The Russian Civil War posed the “Reds” (Bolsheviks) against the “Whites” (other socialists, monarchists, anarchists, hosts of different ethnicities and the aristocracy). The Bolsheviks initially had to cope with heavy losses, but the Reds ultimately won the war as the White alliance started falling

apart. During the war, the Bolsheviks began purges against their enemies, resulting in the execution of the Czar and his entire family as well as many of Lenin’s political enemies.

This series of revolutions shows that “the” Russian Revolution does not exist. The events in March 1917 were a revolution in the true sense of the word, though the Bolsheviks only played a marginal role in these events. What is now called the “October Revolution” wasn’t much of a revolution, but rather a calculated move by Lenin and his associates to eliminate their enemies – which constitutes a coup, not a revolution.

Straight away, the revolutionary narrative was cleverly bent by the Bolsheviks to favour themselves over their opponents by using all methods possible, including the relatively new medium of film. *October: Ten Days That Shook The World* from 1928 by

Russian director Sergei Eisenstein is a famous example of this. To a certain degree, even non-communist countries partially accepted this narrative.

All the glossing over of history aside, the Bolsheviks simply played their cards right in a volatile situation, rather than causing the revolution. The real revolution was caused by the simplest reason of all: the civilian population found themselves starving while the aristocracy bathed in riches, and their grievances were responded to with oppression rather than the helping hand they so desperately needed.

The events of nearly 100 years ago could have ended very differently, but the question how different the course of Russian history – and world history – could have been had the moderate socialists prevailed is one that will remain unanswered forever.

## HYBRID HUMANITY



# HYBRID DNA HUMANITY

Scientists Given The Go Ahead To Mix Human & Animal DNA - But what will be the main motive? Will scientists use this for the good of humanity?

The federal government in America announced plans Thursday to lift a moratorium on funding of controversial experiments that use human stem cells to create animal embryos that are partly human. The National Institutes of Health is

proposing a new policy to permit scientists to get federal money to make embryos, known as chimeras, under certain carefully monitored conditions.

The NIH imposed a moratorium on funding these

experiments in September because they could raise ethical concerns. One issue is that scientists might inadvertently create animals that have partly human brains, endowing them with some semblance of human consciousness or human thinking abilities. Another is that they could develop into animals with human sperm and eggs and breed, producing human embryos or fetuses inside animals or hybrid creatures.

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“ 150 HUMAN ANIMAL HYBRIDS GROWN IN UK LABS: EMBRYOS HAVE BEEN PRODUCED SECRETIVELY FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS

According to a Daily Mail article in 2011

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## SOUTH WEST REVIEW



# SOUTH WEST REVIEW

Rumours that Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn is unable to reach out to people in what some see as Conservative heartlands were dashed earlier this month when the man himself addressed a rally at Heartlands Redruth – site of a former Cornish tin mine

### **Labour alive and well in Cornwall**

Addressing a crowd of about 2,000 Corbyn pledged that under his leadership “nobody will be left behind” and committed to building new council homes in the area as well as improving transport links.

Later Jeremy Corbyn held a private meeting with party representatives from around Cornwall, listening to them outline issues facing Cornwall and pledging them support. Currently Cornwall is represented by six Conservative MP’s and is seen by many as a traditionally conservative area, so it was with great delight that Jeremy heard of the amazing and rapid growth of Cornish Labour since he became leader, with around 5,000 new members and some areas reporting 800% increases.

### **Big Donors or mass membership?**

Battle broke out last week between former Labour candidate for Camborne, Redruth and Hayle and South Western Labour activists. In July Foster had launched an unsuccessful bid in the courts to try and block Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn from even being allowed to stand again as a leadership candidate. This drew accusations of using his wealth to seek influence in the party, after previously being believed to have donated as much as £400,000. However the mood of activists worsened when Foster wrote in *The Mail* on Sunday (14th August), “Why I despise Jeremy Corbyn and his Nazi stormtroopers”. The article caused a furore amongst the party faithful with many calling for his expulsion.

The Plymouth Herald and Western Morning News later picked up the story and quoted local activist Kevin Neil saying, “I’ve never

met Foster so cannot comment on him as a person, but his words are vile, insulting and offensive. There should be no place for language like this within the Labour Party or within the leadership campaign. If Foster thinks this is acceptable within political debate then I truly hope he never stands as a Labour candidate at any level ever again”.

During the past week online petitions have been circulating calling for disciplinary action to be taken against Foster and many have taken their complaints directly to party general secretary Iain McNicol. Whatever the outcome the battle between those with deep pockets who have got used to calling the shots and the growing mass membership who expect a democratic hearing looks set to intensify over coming months.

### **Momentum on the march in Plymouth**

Plymouth Momentum group are growing in both numbers and confidence as they are set to hold a city centre rally dubbed “Corbyn’s ten pledges rally”. The event is scheduled for the city centre on Saturday 3rd September and local organiser and Plymouth Momentum Co-Chair said, “These ten pledges show how relevant Jeremy Corbyn’s ideas are to ordinary people in Plymouth and it’s up to us to get out there and get across this message. We’ve spent too long talking about the quite unnecessary leadership election and now it’s time we got out and started campaigning in public”.

The Word will have a reporter at this event and will bring you up to date in a future edition.

**Fury over fortnightly bin collection plans**  
Plymouth residents and council Trade Union

representatives are furious over plans being hatched by the new Conservative/UKIP council administration to cut bin collections across the city. Many residents are outraged that neither party owned up to this plan in their election manifestos, whilst local union bosses have slammed the way these plans were leaked to the local press before any consultation had taken place with staff who could face job cuts.

Unite Branch secretary Diana Beal said: “It is becoming increasingly frustrating to find out from the Plymouth Herald what plans this council administration are intending to put in place. The joint unions have an accord with PCC around media use, and this administration is clearly breaching that accord by not talking to the unions first”.

Ms Beal claims Unite has not had any contact from the council’s cabinet about the proposals. “It was under the previous Conservative administration that changes to waste collection resulted in job losses,” she said. “In my view, ‘Blukip’ are already failing their workforce and council tax payers by proposing such a reduction to services.

### **Take care in Cornwall and have a safe holiday**

With a fortnight still to go of the family holiday season, locals warned Cornish visitors to play it safe at the seaside. This followed yet another holiday tragedy where a family of five were swept into the sea by a large wave near Fistral beach in Newquay.

One man later named as Rudy Bruynius (33) from Surrey died and his two year old daughter was left fighting for her life in intensive care, whilst other family members

were fortunate to escape with minor injuries.

The family of five from Surrey had been confronted by treacherous conditions, according to the Falmouth Coastguard. James Instance of the Falmouth Coastguard said: “The conditions were extreme. We went through a 24-hour period where the waves went from half a metre to three to four metres.

Totnes Tory, Dr Sarah Wollaston speaks out against ‘watered down’ government childhood obesity plans

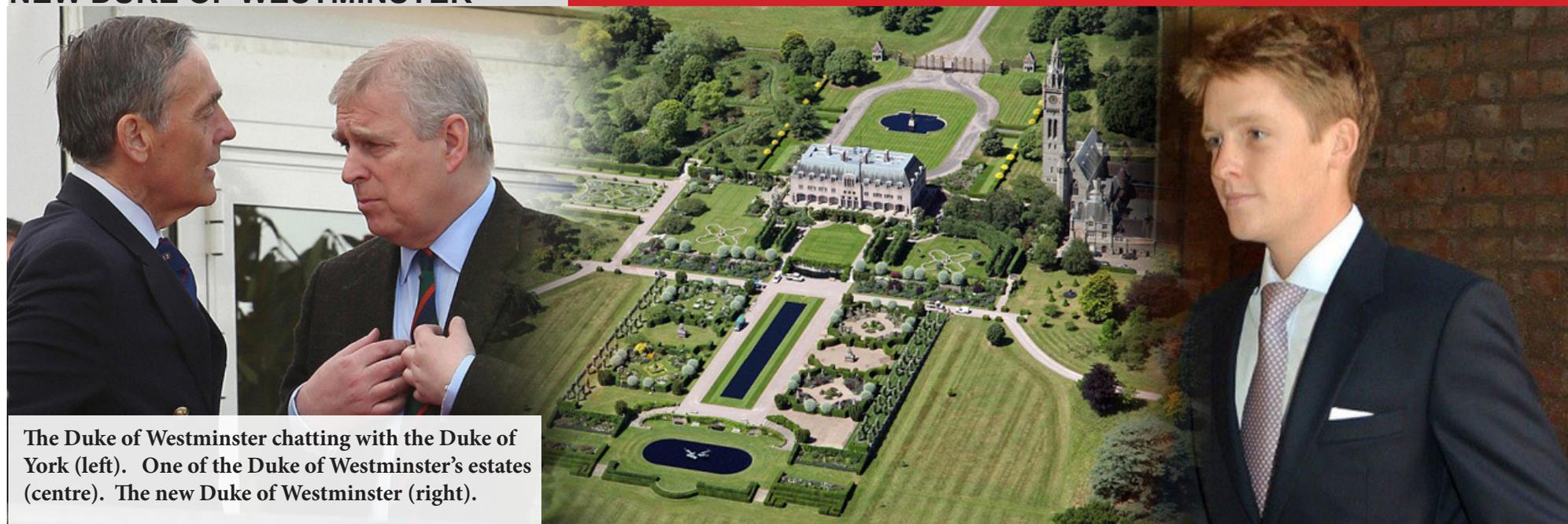
Teresa May’s Conservative government recently launched a new ‘childhood obesity’ plan months after outgoing PM David Cameron pledged to do more to protect the health of our children. However the plan has been attacked by health experts, campaigners, MPs and the even boss of one of Britain’s biggest supermarkets.

The British Medical Association said the government had “rowed back” on promises, and the CEO of Sainsbury’s Mike Coupe said the plan did not go far enough. MP Sarah Wollaston said the plan showed “the hand of big industry lobbyists”, but a government minister said insisted that their proposals are “ambitious”.

Dr Wollaston (chair of the health select committee) said it was “really disappointing” that “whole sections from the original draft have been dropped”, including measures on advertising junk food to children and on promotions such as two-for-one deals. She told BBC Radio 5 Live that these could have made a “real difference really quickly”, and added: “I’m afraid it does show the hand of big industry lobbyists and that’s really disappointing”.

Pulling no punches in her opposition to May’s government over this issue Dr Wollaston says on her website “The childhood obesity strategy has been downgraded. The final paragraph sums up the tone that it will be ‘respecting consumer choice, economic realities and, ultimately, our need to eat’. This crass statement entirely misses the point; of course children need to eat, but the childhood obesity strategy needed to make sure that they benefited from a better diet”.

**NEW DUKE OF WESTMINSTER**



The Duke of Westminster chatting with the Duke of York (left). One of the Duke of Westminster's estates (centre). The new Duke of Westminster (right).

# DUKE OF WESTMINSTER DIES

UK's third richest man, the Duke of Westminster, dies of heart attack - leaving his £9bn fortune to his 25-year-old son

So we have a "new" Duke of Westminster! Long live the Duke etc., etc ., He will now "own half of London" according to Tatler. Well half of Westminster anyway, which is I suppose what they mean...The rest of London being inhabited by mainly plebs and the middle classes (remember them?!) will of course be of little interest to Tatler.

The new Duke is one of only 9 billionaires aged under 30 and Sky News are in a great hurry to remind us that even so "we're all in it together" reporting immediately that:

"As part of his new role, he is expected to take responsibility for the Westminster Foundation, a charitable body which manages the philanthropic activities of the Grosvenor family.

Formed in the 1970s, it has awarded more than £40m in grants.

Hugh's father, Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, worth around £9.35bn, was said to be the 68th richest person in the world."

SOOOOOO..... That's about £1.1 000 000 per year (assuming about 35 years of "philanthropy") and when compared to the family of worth of

£9 000 000 000 we are talking about approximately 1/1000th of the net worth. Are YOU feeling the "Trickle Down Effect" yet? No? Thought not! And yet, the Christian Church recommends 1/10th of ANYONE's income should be given in charity and in Islam 1/10th is the very least acceptable.

Let's look at what people give to charity each year in the UK (I mean normal people - no not Owen Smith! Genuinely normal people!) The amount given has risen by 138% between 1978 and 2008 (after accounting for inflation) and you can see from the graph below that the poorer the household the greater the donation over that whole 20 year period as well.

So how does The Duke of Westminster's "charity" compare with normal people? (Sorry I mean..... No actually let's leave it).

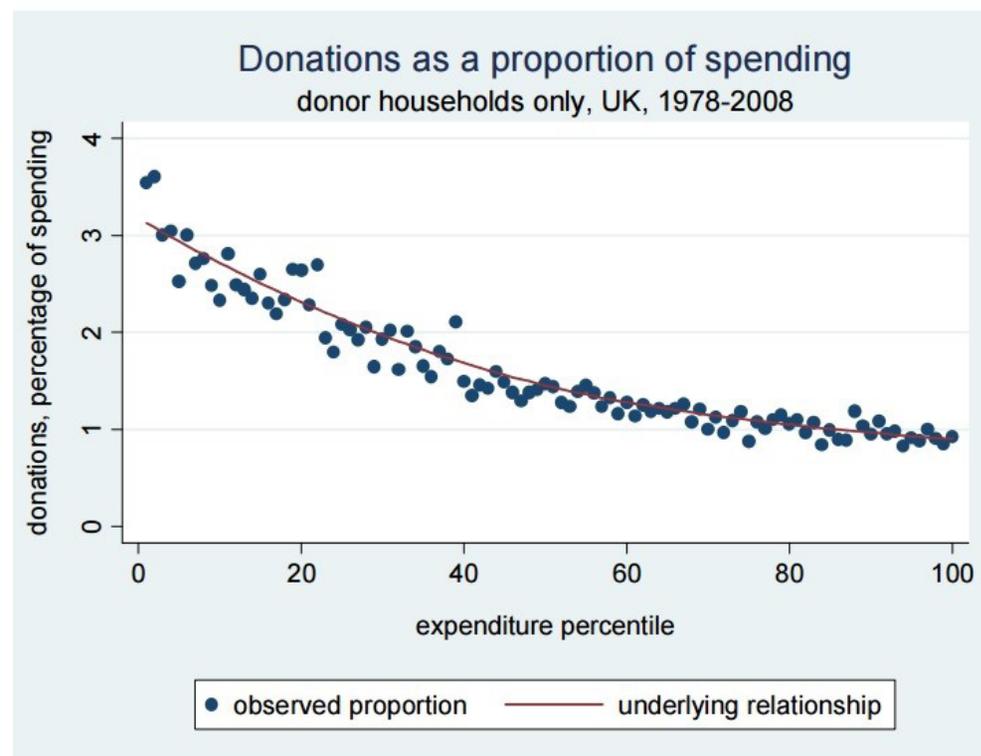
Well this amazingly wealthy family gives a pitiable 0.01% of its worth and compares very unfavourably with UK giving in general. An astonishing 3.5% of income is given by the very poorest few percent of household in the UK over this the 20 year period from 1978 - 2008.

So is the Duke of Westminster unusual in his giving habits? (Regardless of who "he" actually is). Well, actually no - he follows the exact trend given by the graph (except perhaps that the DoW is in fact even less generous than ANY of the groups on the graph, but that may well be because no billionaires where in the original survey). The data shows that the more people earn, the less they actually give. And in the Marxist analysis of capitalism this shouldn't really surprise us: as people become more interwoven into the privilege system and benefit more from it, their tendency to equilibrate

and 'normalise' themselves with the population as a whole disappears. Capitalism, after all is about creating inequality, so at its best it creates extreme inequality, naturally.

More importantly we can see a clear pattern that wealth doesn't create any kind of trickle-down effect at all, and in fact leads to the reverse - an increase in accumulation and a lack of charity towards the poor.

***THIS my friends, is the true face of the monster we call Capitalism.***



Graph showing Charity donations by members of the public from 1976 to 2008.

## DEMONISATION OF WORKING CLASSES



Mass media tend to showcase the working classes in a very negative way, even in our most popular TV programmes we are put down, Of course we all like a joke at ourselves but are there other motives at work here?

# DEMONISATION OF THE WORKING CLASS

The discrimination against the many - Evidence shows that more money is lost to the UK via tax avoidance and off shore banking rather than the smaller amounts spent on benefits, these 'Scrounging Family' stories are vastly exaggerated by the mass media who are often run by the same off shore tax avoiders.. do we wonder why?

### *George Christoforou*

The Labour party talks about all sorts of discrimination against women, against Muslims against Black people, against homosexuals, against the disabled and even anti-semitism. And over the years has rightly introduced legislation and programs to reduce if not remove discrimination. And that has been commendable. The Labour party under Jeremy Corbyn is likely if elected to have the first gender balanced government in the UK.

But there is one discrimination that is never mentioned, that is never tackled and it is the discrimination that brought the Labour party into existence. That is the discrimination against the working class. Very few of our MPs are working class. Very few of our Law Lords are working class. You hardly hear a working class voice on the BBC.

### *Tackling class discrimination*

If we are to truly have a representative democracy then we need parliament and the Judiciary to reflect and represent the people. It took young Owen Jones to touch on it in his book the demonisation of the working class

to bring it back into the conversation. But one thing his book should have developed is a way to tackle this discrimination. If discrimination is the question then what is the answer? If the Labour party is to be truly democratic then it must take steps to push forward working class candidates in the same way it does with positive discrimination for women candidates.

A tentative idea I propose is to have some officer for class discrimination within the Labour party and a motion to amend equal rights discrimination law to extend the groups to include discrimination based on class.

### *Labour is the party of the working class, isn't it?*

In the same way that women shy away from putting themselves forward, working class people also shy away from putting themselves forward. A working class person in a room full of middle class socialists, what does she/he think? She/He opens her/his mouth, makes a speech and judging by the expression on her/his audience's faces, she/he does not make a good impression. So sits down and withdraws from putting herself/himself forward.

So, we end up with a group of articulate middle class socialists speaking on behalf of the working class. And as these middle class socialists make it up the ranks of the Labour party, they ditch their socialism for pragmatism. And why? Because they never lived the life that they preach they want to make better. We end up with a Labour party full of middle class people with a few token working class people. In 1964 we had 37% of Labour MPs from a working class background. We now have less than 10%. Hardly representative.

### *But there are some working class Labour MPs*

The likes of Dennis Skinner, John Prescott are very few in the Labour party. What would a Labour party full of the likes of them look like? MPs are role models for teenagers. The media demonises these two, but they are two of the most trusted MPs despite the media. And what of Jeremy Corbyn being middle class? Jeremy Corbyn spends all of his time listening to, speaking to and being with ordinary people. This informs his politics. He speaks not for himself but for the millions that have been excluded from the political process. He speaks for those millions

labelled "a rabble" by the media and even members of his own party. His integrity shines through. He inspires many young people with integrity to become politically active.

### *Barriers to Labour becoming a representative party*

And the reason why class discrimination never gets tackled is because to do so would mean the upper class would have to give up some of their status, their wealth, privileges and power. Tackling race and gender discrimination has left the class structure in society intact and may have even strengthened it by allowing additions to its ranks women and ethnic minorities who would otherwise be the enemy of the elite.

The Labour party not only has to become the party for the many. It needs to become the party of the many. We need to remove the social and financial barriers that prevent working class people becoming Labour councillors and MPs.



# DUTCH NEWS ROUNDUP

## *Alexander Dommerholt*

### **Explosion kills two**

A heavy explosion in a flat block's basement in the Dutch city of Schiedam killed two people and left two others severely injured. Although the cause of the blast is still subject of an ongoing investigation, it is assumed that the explosion was caused by petrol fumes that caught fire as some of the victims were completing maintenance work on a moped.

One of the victims who died in the blast was a 4 year-old boy whereas the other was an 18 year-old man who succumbed to his injuries a few days later. The two survivors are reported to have suffered severe burns.

### **No freedom of information, court rules**

A Dutch court has ruled that the municipality of Oss, in the province of Noord-Brabant, did not break any laws when refusing to honour freedom of information requests made by a local couple.

The man and woman sent an astonishing 579 freedom of information requests to the municipality, followed by several hundreds of further requests and complaints in a mere 7 weeks' time. The municipality refused to process any of the couple's requests, who responded by taking the municipality to court.

The court has now ruled that in its view, the man and woman did not care about the information they asked for and merely made their requests to annoy municipality staff.

### **Van Gogh killer moved to different cell**

Mohammed Bouyeri, the murderer of

controversial Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh is to be moved from solitary confinement to the so-called "terrorist unit" in the prison where he is serving his life sentence. Though the event was much publicised in Dutch media, undersecretary Dijkhoff has assured that the overall changes to Bouyeri's prison regime will be minimal.

Bouyeri stabbed Van Gogh to death in the streets of Amsterdam in 2004, as he felt angered about Van Gogh's films and writings about Islam. Van Gogh, a distant relative of famous artist Vincent van Gogh, had built himself a reputation for his extreme interpretation of freedom of speech which ultimately cost him his life.



### **Holland remembers end of World War II**

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte attended a ceremony commemorating the end of World War II in the Dutch East Indies, present-day Indonesia. During the war, the Dutch East Indies were occupied by the Japanese who imprisoned tens of thousands of Dutch in prison camps, where many of them perished due to the horrific conditions they were exposed to.

The commemoration remains a sensitive subject among the Indonesian and Moluccan population in the Netherlands; after World War II ended the Dutch had no intention

to give up their colony and regained control of it during the so-called "Police Actions" in 1947 during which 150,000 Indonesians were killed by Dutch forces.

### **Olympic woes**

Edith Schippers, Dutch Minister of Sport, has lashed out against the critics of the Dutch Olympic Team as many people have taken to social media to voice their disapproval of the failure of "Team NL" to win any medals in swimming, an anomaly in Dutch Olympic history.

Ms Schippers said to news website Nu.nl that "these are all athletes who have worked hard for years in order to be here and they're trying their very hardest to win medals. Therefore, this mudslinging on Twitter is annoying me enormously".

At the time of writing, the Netherlands had won 6 gold medals and 11 medals overall – good for an 11th position on the medal rankings. The Dutch won 20 medals during London 2012.

### **String of Dutch bankruptcies continues**

Countless of familiar high street brands have disappeared from the Dutch shopping centres recently due to bankruptcies, including department store giant Vroom & Dreesmann, off-licence chain Mitra, shoe retailer Schoenenreus, among many others.

The past few weeks several clothes chains have gone into administration, including McGregor and MS Mode, meaning hundreds of their employees are expected to lose their jobs.

### **Dutch military to shout 'bang bang' instead of firing bullets**

Military personnel of the Dutch army have voiced their extreme displeasure about the latest plans of the Ministry of Defence regarding their gear. Although the MoD has ordered 45,400 sets of new uniforms, they have only ordered 22,500 new helmets – meaning soldiers will not be issued their own helmet, but will be forced to share.

It is the latest in a string of reports about the woeful state the Dutch military currently finds itself in due to lack of funds. It has been reported that leaky coats cannot be replaced and are fixed with duct-tape while many vehicles are in such a bad state of repair that they are unusable. Most embarrassingly, a lack of ammunition meant soldiers recently could not shoot live rounds during training exercises, forcing them to shout "bang bang" instead.

### **"Lord of the Rings" turned into "Lord of the Drinks"**

Yuri van Gelder, nicknamed the "Lord of the Rings" did not get to make his Olympic debut after being sent home by the Dutch Olympic Committee (NOC\*NSF). The gymnast (33) had already qualified for the final on the rings, but angered his coach and NOC\*NSF officials after indulging himself in Rio's nightlife.

Van Gelder was deemed to have broken multiple rules, as he left the Olympic village without permission and returned in the early morning whilst intoxicated, causing him to miss that morning's training session. To his – and the nation's – surprise he was excluded from the competition by NOC\*NSF and was sent home immediately.

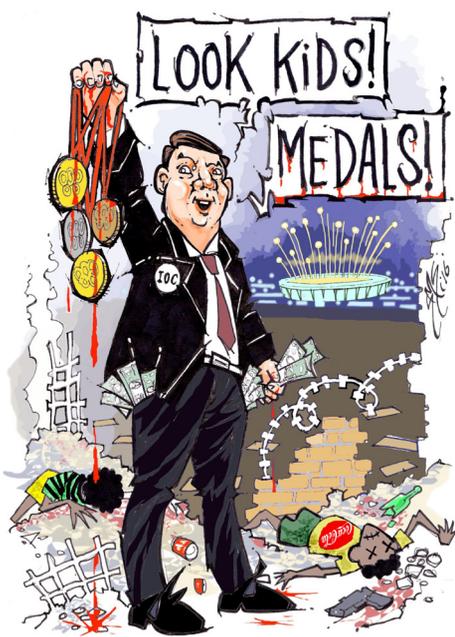
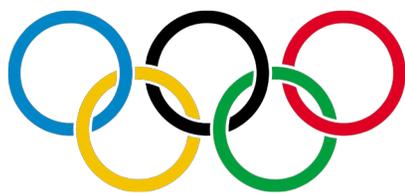
The 2005 rings world champion and three times European champion had never competed in the Olympics before, due suspensions due to cocaine abuse and injuries.

### **"Rules are rules, even when you're 80" railway operator says**

NS, the Dutch railway operator, has caused a minor uproar as it was revealed that one of its train guards removed an 80 year-old lady from a train at night. The old-age pensioner had made a mistake when attempting to check-in at the train station with her chip card, which has replaced paper train tickets in the Netherlands.

Upon discovering that the woman had not checked in correctly, the train guard forced the elderly lady to leave the train at the next station and told her to check-in correctly and catch the next train, despite it already being 8:30 at night. To add insult to injury, the woman was told by the guard that she had been "lucky" as he "could have fined her as well".

NS initially responded that it saw no reason to investigate the matter any further, though admitting that their employee could have acted more emphatically. After suffering a backlash on social media, NS has now promised to further investigate the matter.



## WALLACE'S WORLD



Labour politician Keir Hardie speaking in Trafalgar square at a women's suffrage demonstration 1908 Emmeline Pankhurst stands behind him. Child labour was also a big issue at that time. Peter Mandelson would have difficulty connecting with such an audience in any way & would possibly be more at home in the Tory party of the time.

### RIO THE LEGACY

Two years after hosting the World Cup, Rio de Janeiro put on the Olympic Games. In the UK excitement has been high but suddenly the issue of poverty in Rio has disappeared from all news coverage.

It is estimated that **60,000 people lost homes** to the development of the Rio Games - The figure being an estimate because no real count was taken. In such a place can there ever be a real Olympic legacy based on fairness and truth we wonder.

Rio residents live with raw sewage, rampant electricity shortages, **child prostitution and abduction**, uncertain water supplies, chronic gang warfare and an unhealthy dose of government and police corruption. And while some in the West present these Rio games as a gold medal bonanza it is fair to say the glitter of gold will not be seen by those who live there.

We take this moment to thank all participating athletes but we also ask that you spare a thought for those who were not invited (considering all the empty seats) to the Rio games this year.



# WALLACE'S WORLD

The UK Labour Party is said by a good number of commentators to be currently suffering an 'existential crisis' in the wake of the general election defeat of 2015 and with Corbyn's surprise accession to the leadership

### Andrew Wallace



**E**xistential seems an apt description to capture the turbulence of ideological upheaval and struggle that has currently engulfed the party. Such a struggle is by no means unique within the party's 116 year old history, and neither is it a struggle confined to a single party and country. A cursory examination of international news from around the globe reveals intense political upheaval across the spectrum of views.

So whilst we can recognise that there are prescient global forces that give us some context for understanding the current turmoil, we can also acknowledge particularistic and localised features for this 'overdetermined' crisis.

### Labour's confused genesis

Of course this particular 'crisis' has been

a long time in the making and has been unfolding since the Labour Party came into being in 1900. Like all other political entities, the Labour Party is born of contingency and gave rise to a number of hostages to fortune from its outset. It seems the original intent behind the formation of Labour was to challenge the limitations of the then Liberal party who were the only alternative to the Establishment Conservative party. It was expected that 30 or so Labour MPs could help to create more favourable representation of trade union interests. It wasn't anticipated at this stage that Labour could make up the numbers and aspire to their own Government. However the Liberals began to badly split during the course of the First World War. A widening franchise gave Labour its chance to cultivate a mass working class base and eventually established as the official opposition before going on to run short lived minority administrations in 1924 and 1929-31.

Labour had now inherited the Liberal's previous role as the principle adversary of the Conservatives in a 2 party duopoly. The so called first past the post majoritarian electoral system means candidates with a majority of votes triumph on a winner takes all basis. Losing candidates are eliminated without representation and smaller independent candidatures are practically impossible. Winning parties can also

be disproportionately rewarded in terms of seats (2015 General Election. Conservatives win less than a quarter of eligible vote share whilst getting over half the seats in the House of Commons). This electoral system underpinned a strategic and constitutional conservatism that meant Labour would have to pursue a broad based strategy to keep favour with the Liberals, since it was felt that pursuing a more single minded socialist approach would be perceived as too sectional and damaging to their electoral fortunes. Whilst Labour had now become the principle challenger to the Conservatives they still had Liberals snapping at their feet. Furthermore a good number of Liberals calculated in view of their party's demise, that it was better to join Labour.

This big tent coalition necessarily made for a certain amount of ideological tension and muddle, as the various competing streams of left wing and new liberal thinking led to systemic fault lines and dangerous chasms. The Labour Party represented a potentially unstable and explosive coalition of sorts as its broad church effectively contained two separate antagonistic ideologies.

At various parts of Labour's history, it seems that its right wing has gone on to dominate for a generation or so, effectively resolving this existential crisis for a good period. However in dialectical

## WALLACE'S WORLD



The Labour clash! Ed Miliband has disappointed many by his refusal to listen to the membership - alike many in the PLP he seems to prefer leadership and policy selection from the 'Top Down'. Clive Lewis on the other hand along with many new Labour MPs show great promise as an outlet for new ideas and new ways to connect with the electorate!

fashion we can see that history is now revenging itself on this complacency.

### *End of Labour's Big Tent*

The Existential crisis consists in the fact that the various parts of Labour's body politic have come completely unhinged. The Selectorate – Labour's membership who collectively vote for leader and the National Executive Committee (NEC) and its MPs are clearly in the middle of a bitter struggle. The MPs are clearly unhappy with the leadership election of Jeremy Corbyn from last September and have now asked us to vote afresh. It seems the one man one vote (OMOV) that was taken up so enthusiastically with some irony by the Labour right wing is now something to be picked apart, perhaps to revert to an era when leadership decisions were exclusively the preserve of the PLP, or following the Conservative model of MPs gate keeping candidatures down to the last two (as favoured by the New Statesman).

Labour MPs are also anxious to point out the unrepresentative nature of their party membership as drawn against polling from the electorate as a whole and Labour voters in the round rather than the ideologically engaged activist base. And whilst this is of course a legitimate worry for us, can we really be happy with Labour MPs ready to sever historical links with their trade union foundations, neutering their membership in favour of a docile and complaint supporters ready to stump up cash and resources for an unfettered parliamentary elite?

### *Leftist antinomies*

Antinomies are those most fundamental of head-scratching unnerving posers rarely thrown up outside the confines

of philosophy or cosmology. They usually refer to fundamental mutual incompatibilities between two different competing perspectives of our place in physical space and time, such as finite versus infinite realities and free will versus causality.

However these lofty and daunting intellectual irreconcilables are also visited upon humanity in altogether more mundane guises, such as politics were many of us pursue essentially fruitless metaphysical quests in an attempt to ascertain the realm of the possible and the feasible, as any number of weighty tomes attests to.

A perennial leftist favourite conundrum is the trade-off between fidelity to left wing idealism and the imperative to political power/electoralism. For what shall it profit a politician if s/he gains power only to lose their integrity? Or put in the reverse New Labour vernacular, What is the point of having ideals if we can't have influence?

There is a simultaneous equation here that needs to be addressed between the two separate crucial planks of politics, that is 1) principles and integrity 2) electoral realism/electoralism.

For leftism this equation has become increasingly problematized and rendered as a political antinomy. Rightists of various hues have branded the left as unelectable. New Labour argued we had to 'triangulate' in order to gain political power, modern liberal democracies were structured in a way that necessitated the left diluting its programme and accepting the vast bulk of the neoliberal settlement.

However for those of us opposed to

these new verities, this new capitalist realism was a counsel of despair that told us we could expect little in the way of amelioration, whilst social democracy increasingly surrendered to the narcissism of small differences. Blair and Mandelson's rebranding of New Labour was a retelling of The Emperor's New Clothes. With this surgical excision of left wing ideas from the body politic, the UK increasingly resembled the US with regards to its political duopoly of capitalist parties, replete with lower levels of engagement and voter abstention.

### *Balancing the equation – the quest for a new Left Realism*

There's a welcome recognition in many parts that right-wing triangulations on behalf of ostensibly left parties is a busted flush. Blairism always was likely to prove a short run thing once a good number of Labour supporters began to realise just how craven and hollowed out the party had become. The Blairities fell back on complacency in many instances, given they thought their working class voters had nowhere else to go. However discontent would find expression in various guises as the smaller nationalist parties began to Hoover up the left behind.

Whilst there were a number of fringe left wing groups outside Labour, there were only a handful of left Labour MPs within the party. A good number of socialists remained unaligned, having been unable to defy the factious and segmented nature of the left. The Labour party thus continued to represent for many the only credible vehicle for advancing their cause under a unitary umbrella.

It is ironic that this congenital factious nature of leftism has proved something

of a lethal paradox to a set of ideas in which collectivism and solidarity remain premium, and yet have proved so tragically illusive in an age of hyper-individualism and identify. Therefore it is imperative that we recognise this and find ways to incubate and nourish a left alternative within a looser set of pluralist alliances. As we have recognised, a change in the electoral system in favour of rigorous proportional representation must be at a premium. Alas this is the cruel paradox in which we have to recognise. Just as the present electoral system imposes upon us a vicious black/white winner takes all, so many of us are geared to an unrealistic strategy of winning an election outright in a multi-party system. It should not need spelling out how this is an extremely unlikely scenario, given Labour's bleak Scottish prospects and the further calamity of imminent boundary changes that are expected to be a major boon for the Tories.

Clive Lewis MP and other thinkers like Paul Mason have sketched out a strategy of how Labour will need to engage in something akin to a Grand Anti-Tory Alliance in order to secure a one-off coalition devoted to electoral reform. Yet even here we haven't reckoned with the obvious present difficulties with Labour civil war, let alone contemplating all the other logistical impediments.

And even if we secure PR at some juncture in the future, we will have to be realistic to the potency and traction of a left wing parliamentary party which would hopefully be able to play a lead part in recalibrating our politics towards something altogether more radical and progressive.

## THANK YOU OWEN



# THANK YOU OWEN SMITH

From a Jeremy Corbyn supporter - I just have to say how much you have helped me to make up my mind who I support and why I support them, With frustration I have watched the PLP try to destroy the Labour party rather than work with the many new members, I can understand that the massive increase in members might be too fast indeed - putting you all at ease, here is my personal letter to you

### *Dear Mr Smith,*

I'm sure you'd agree that 2016 has been a turbulent time for UK politics – indeed I wouldn't be surprised if my young son were to be writing about it in future exam papers in years to come.

I am one of those pesky newcomers to the Labour Party, I joined because, after years of voting Labour through gritted teeth (my first ever vote was in 1997), I had finally found someone willing to speak up for me, and those like me, in Jeremy Corbyn. Oh Mr Smith, how wonderful it was last year to hear the results come in and feel as if I were part of a great change to politics. The hope! The end to feeling disenfranchised by a party I knew in my heart was supposed to be for people like me but had moved so far to the right it made my teeth itch! It was truly a glorious moment!

The grassroots movement (Momentum) set up to help spread the word that the Labour Party had had a reboot and was fit for purpose again reinvigorated me, made it possible to promote Labour again, and even feel included as it was okay to say the word socialism again.

And then came the growing discontent amongst the PLP followed by the mass resignations and the call for a second leadership contest. Okay I thought, if this is going to clear things up and show

who the members truly want to be leader then I'm all for it. But, Mr Smith, the way this has come about is truly despicable. The underhand tactics used by some are so very disappointing, I was angry at first but now I am resigned to the fact that these people will not go away, they have too much to lose.

The NEC's decision to prevent us newcomers from voting in the leadership contest (despite advertising the point that they could when they joined up) unless they had the £25 to prove their Labour credentials was the biggest clarion call to just how frightened the PLP have become.

The faux declarations of Jeremy Corbyn's 'unelectability' by Labour Party MPs in a bid to make it true via the media's continual use of the word is so very dispiriting and utterly transparent. This is the job of the Tories, not our own party.

The 'concerns' over Jeremy Corbyn's ability to lead the party are, again, so transparent it'd be laughable if it had come from another party. But it didn't. It came from our party.

If Jeremy Corbyn is unelectable then why has the membership grown immensely under his watch?

If Jeremy Corbyn is not able to lead the

party then why are you keen to create a new role for him as 'President of the Labour Party' were you to become leader?

Mr Smith, this just does not ring true.

However, I do want to thank you Mr Smith and I really mean this.

Since you contested the leadership, Jeremy Corbyn's support has grown.

Since you contested the leadership, support for Momentum has grown.

Since you contested the leadership, the mainstream media has been forced to cover the policies of the Labour Party.

Since you contested the leadership, the Labour Party is being talked about again by the electorate.

I believe it is essential for every person to engage in conversation with people that hold opinions different to their own. It's a great intellectual exercise that either bolsters your beliefs or alters them. You have done this for me Mr Smith without even realising it. Jeremy Corbyn's supporters are not blindly following him; if there were a credible opposition that held the same integrity I would be open to changing my mind. I do not believe Jeremy is the only socialist in Westminster, no one does, I do not

understand why you are pushing this as if it were the case.

Jeremy Corbyn is about to win the leadership contest. However, this time I am apprehensive instead of hopeful. This past year has opened my eyes to just how unwelcome real change is to those in power in the Labour Party. And yet, it is this change to politics that places us in the best position to be in government!

Right now I am working with my local Momentum group in order to bring about change in my local community. We are a lovely bunch (with ne'er a Trot or Nazi, or whatever else we're being accused of being this week, to be seen) and have already achieved so much in such a short amount of time and have so much to offer in the future. That is a direct result of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership.

So thank you again Mr Smith for your part in galvanizing my support for a Jeremy Corbyn led Labour Party. I'm sure it's all been part of the plan hasn't it?

*With best wishes,  
Louise*

PS. Can we please get back to work immediately after 24th September? This Tory government is destroying everything we hold dear. Thank you.

## VOTE FOR OBLIVION



# VOTE FOR OBLIVION

John McTernan has written an inflammatory opinion piece for the Telegraph in which he condemns Corbyn's ability to lead the Labour Party

*Georgie Harrison*

Under the heading of "Now it is clear: a vote for Corbyn is a vote for oblivion", McTernan uses hysterical and emotive language to make unsubstantiated claims regarding Jeremy Corbyn's "love of Russia", "hate for the West" and "hate for Britain".

"Corbyn was pressed on whether he would support military action by the United Kingdom to support a European ally attacked.

Equally insistently he made clear that he would not.

His words leave no doubt that he would betray our allies.

First he said: "I would want to avoid us getting involved militarily by building up the diplomatic relationships and also trying to not isolate any country in Europe, to bring them up. "Then he added: "I don't wish to go to war. What I want to do is achieve a world where we don't need to go to war, where there is no need for it. That can be done."

The Telegraph have inserted the clip where Jeremy explains that Zionism does not represent ordinary Jewish people in the same way that ISIS does not represent ordinary Muslim people.

Whilst Jeremy's assertions are correct, this clip does not appear to be relevant to the statement above; It appears McTernan is attempting to confuse the possibly already befuddled and jingoistic Telegraph audience with additional material which will be

misinterpreted in a negative manner.

McTernan continues his spurious claims by informing Telegraph readers that Corbyn is in breach of article 51 of the NATO treaty which states that NATO countries defend each other against armed attack.

McTernan proceeds by making the outrageous declaration that Jeremy has "aligned himself with Donald Trump's approach to foreign policy"!

Stop the War Coalition have released a piece endorsing Corbyn's erudite response to the questions posed to him regarding defence.

In the piece, Chris Nineham explains that Jeremy is concerned about us initiating a devastating war as a result of ill-conceived military interventions 'we can't allow a military build-up which is going to lead to some calamitous, incredibly dangerous situation'.

These are words of wisdom from a seasoned campaigner for world peace whose credentials for "loving" our nation ought to be obvious to all.

Nineham also affirms Jeremy's view on NATO, explaining that Britain has adopted an aggressive foreign policy since the Blair years and that we are bound up with US priorities; This is something which Jeremy wants to change and is not "unpatriotic" in my opinion.

The Telegraph inserted a clip dated from when Jeremy was still chair of Stop the Warcoalition, a position which he stepped down from. I believe the clip is actually from 2014 and is well worth watching but, in

my opinion, shows Jeremy in an extremely positive light.

The Telegraph also interleaved a clip from the Victoria Derbyshire television show where a young Labour Party supporter nervously says that she would feel more comfortable at a Tory conference confirming her support for Labour than at a Labour conference "admitting" to supporting Owen Smith, following unpleasant experiences at a Labour event.

I am concerned about any problems that young lady encountered and I understand this will be investigated; however, that clip was out of context. It appears to have been included to vilify Jeremy and his supporters and incite the Telegraph audience.

McTernan informs his audience that voters tend to trust the right wing in matters of law and order and defence; in addition, he claims that the electorate's mistrust of the Labour Party commenced in the 1980s but does not present satisfactory evidence.

Neither does he mention the millions of Labour Party members that left during Blair's reign.

Interestingly, there is no mention of the Chilcot report and its indictment of Blair; subjects I feel are extremely pertinent to a piece expounding the merits or otherwise of Labour Party leaders, NATO and "treachery". I recognise he did not use the actual word but it is implicit in his demonization of Jeremy for his select audience.

Finally, we arrive at McTernan's conclusion; he is encouraging all to vote for Owen Smith.

## Who is John McTernan?

John McTernan is a British Labour Party political adviser, political strategist and commentator. McTernan was Tony Blair's Director of Political Operations from 2005 to 2007. He then worked on the Australian Labor Party federal election campaign of 2007. From 2007 to 2010 he was special adviser to two Cabinet Ministers in Gordon Brown's Labour Government. From June 2010 to October 2011 he was a columnist at The Scotsman, and then director of communications for the Australian Labor prime minister, Julia Gillard, from September 2011 to June 2013.

When talking about Oblivion John knows what he's talking about having recently been Chief of Staff to the 2014-2015 leader of the Scottish Labour Party, Jim Murphy who resigned after the Labour Party lost all but one seat in Scotland, including Murphy's. Possibly the centre ground wasn't so successful then after all when up against the politics of spin & fear from the Tories.

Cue a clip of the recent leadership hustings where Owen "sensibly" made the following comments: "Were there an invasion of a Natostate by Russia, I am clear that we would need to come to the aid of that state militarily. I believe in us supporting one another, I believe in us working against countries. And the nature of that accord, that treaty, is to do that. "We shouldn't be anything other than robust in facing up to Putin, especially if there were military action against a Nato country."

I do not believe that the majority of Telegraph readers will be participating in the Labour Party leadership elections though I expect that they will be voting in the next general election.

McTernan's piece is intended to fuel suspicion and mistrust of Jeremy and his supporters.

What McTernan and others intent on unseating Jeremy fail to grasp is that their antics reflect badly on the Labour Party in general.

They do recognise that Jeremy Corbyn is not some icon and his supporters are not hero worshippers.

They know that Jeremy Corbyn represents a sweeping change in politics.

He stands for transparency and democracy. Jeremy's policies are popular with the electorate and he actually engages with all peoples. They are fearful of this and appear prepared to destroy the Labour Party's credibility in a bid to keep the status quo at all costs.

THE WORD DEBATE



GREEN VISION // HS2



High Speed 2 (HS2) is the proposed new High Speed rail network for the UK - connecting London to Manchester and Leeds via Birmingham. The Wildlife Trusts are concerned about the impact HS2 will have on the landscapes and habitats and the damage it will cause to wildlife and ecosystems along the proposed route.

The Wildlife Trusts own research shows that investment in green infrastructure, habitat restoration and creation as part of HS2 is affordable (within the scale of the overall budget for the project) and cost-effective. To demonstrate this the Wildlife Trusts affected by Phase 1 and 2 of HS2 have identified and mapped habitat creation opportunities along the route. These areas were subsequently refined to identify the areas where the opportunity for nature restoration is greatest and most cost-effective to devise a strategic corridor (or stepping stones) of habitat that would reconnect fragmented habitats and strengthen local ecological networks.

Text sourced from The Wildlife Trusts.  
<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/>

# HIGH SPEED TRAVEL 2



Julie Stephens

Capitalism in the form of financial and political institutions seeks to maximize profit and political strategies for their own gain, in their own time. Capitalism today is a time that also dictates to us what spaces are available to us, at a cost. Capitalism is paradoxical, a paradox that creates both movement and travel and restricts both movement and travel at the same 'time'. 'Hs2' appears as an example of capitalist movement and restriction of people and commodities at the same time. This statement therefore argues that 'Hs2' is merely a contemporary high speed configuration of capitalist ideology, in motion and on route.

'Hs2' is an example of the expansion of financial and corporate institutions seeking to ensure mobility for all, yet in doing so only attempts to maximize mobility of profit for its investors. One way 'Hs2' achieves this is by the tracks that the company lays out ahead of time. 'H2' is therefore an engine for growth. A high speed engine but for who

benefits? Who actually grows? And who actually benefits from speed?

Granted, technological advances in transport have grown, that is evident. Certainly global and local capitalist modes of production have also grown. Corporate lobbyists have grown and infiltrate nations worldwide. Also the costs of laying train lines have grown. Last lay person estimate indicated that 'Hs2' rail tracks will cost between 55 to 70 billion pounds to construct. That estimate does not include the cost of relocation for a number of displaced people and communities. I am a theorist not an economist, so I rely on you to work out the socio political economic maths. However I am guessing that the costs are speeding up!

'Hs2' is indeed speeding! In doing the basic thought pattern behind it's ideology is part of what David Harvey, a prominent Marxist calls 'Time Space Compression' and Anthony Giddens, a former advisor to Tony Blair calls 'Time Space -Distanciation'. Harvey, means that capitalism dictates your time and Giddens means that time is speeding up. In short, they are both arguing that some group creates time and at the same time the same group speeds up time...keep up! Keep in time!

Although these are both ideological and theoretical theories they have for example, practically applied global consequences, in local cities, for local people. These ideas have consequences for us as individual travellers in capitalist time. Regardless of the space and time to are travelling to a fro within.

Theories have consequences. Consequences that dictate what constructs time and what is an available space for people to travel within capitalist time. For example, traditional and contemporary capitalism decided and continues to decide for us what 'time' is and what space we inhabit within that 'given' time. Capitalist modes of travel therefore, creates ; "processes that so revolutionize the objective qualities of space and time that we are forced to alter, sometimes in quite radical ways, how we represent the world to ourselves." This can be evidenced by the people that stand waiting for a train on platforms to travel to and fro, from where to there. Through travel we represent ourselves to ourselves and to others but do we ever question why we travel to and fro? Imagine this; you are standing at a station, your departure and your destination is worked out in your mind. You see your destination, you have your fare, you imagine the journey to and fro but do you ever question why you are travelling? If you do, does high speed travel matter in your journey? Will it matter that you clock in and out quicker or sooner?

Certainly time mattered during the process of industrialisation. In this time many working class people lived within the city centres, each city had its own enclave and each person lived and worked within its boundaries. Travel mattered, getting to and fro mattered, especially if you had a clocking in card! You have only to look at the history of inner city factory life, the working and living conditions to evidence this remark. However Contemporary City Centres are no longer 'industrialised'

**THE WORD DEBATE**



Manuel Cortes - General Secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs' Association (TSSA) making some good points about the HS2 proposal below

capitalist places they are now economic service centres. Same difference? Well Yes and No. For example for those with economic, social and cultural capital, travel is not just post-industrial, capitalist kitsch. Travel is big business. Travel politics has big objectives and capitalism through the means of travel, harnesses the illusion of speedy movement that is in reality, very slow and restrictive for the poor.

Tory governments appear to achieve slow and restrictive movement of the poor through controls of travel and more so through availability of high speed travel. Tory policy achieves this via the expansion and promotion of privatised transport networks. Their 'transport' networks appear to create the image that places are closer together through the physical assumption of speed. However; this discussion argues that places are now further apart through economic availability. Why? Because in contemporary society, people need transport to pop in an out of main British cities, locally and around the globe. They need transport to access employment, education and health and social welfare facilities. However, employment appears to be controlled in city service centres and many local resources are now closed down due to lack of funding means that travel, for many is a daily trek. FACT. Mobility costs.

Indeed 'Hs2' committee members seems to understand this and the strategy makers have made transport the top of their agenda. However 'Hs2' committee members may have realised or failed in their analysis to realise that the poor, are time - space dislocated from British city centres due to a disparity in economics. Sometimes, quite often actually, a person has no travel fare, due to poverty, they can not travel or travel times are slower

due to the slow time it may take to save for the fare.

For the working classes, most of their time is likely to be spent in no or low wage employment. For this reason many working class people have little time or money to access the resources of employment, leisure and or pleasure in city centres. In contrast, if a person had money and could pay airfare immediately, an individual could get from Istanbul to London in hours and consume and enjoy the service resources on arrival in any city centre. Therefore for the poor, 'Hs2' service provides neither time nor efficiency, **'Hs2' is neither fast, nor now.**



**Manuel Cortes  
Technology is Rather Neutral**

I read your argument. I see the point that you are making however as socialists shouldn't we be arguing the environmental, economic and social benefits that public transport offers society?

Are you saying that public transport should be free? After all it's a social good? -or should there be low fee concession offers for those on a lower incomes? I am not convinced by your argument that people on lower incomes do not

**“ AS SOCIALISTS SHOULDN'T WE BE ARGUING THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS THAT PUBLIC TRANSPORT OFFERS SOCIETY?**

Manuel Cortes

benefit from advances in transport. For example, many economic and social migrants arrive by plane and train in and out of the United Kingdom. They decide to travel because the economic and social prospects in the country they are travelling to and from are better. Of course poverty is a relative term. There is absolute poverty and relative poverty. A person or family that leaves the United Kingdom to emigrate to Australia, under take that journey because they may be better off by moving. However, someone leaving Bangladesh to travel and stay in the United Kingdom may experience a different socio economic outcome. Is that technology or economic policy?

The invention of the steam engine enabled mobility and enabled large numbers of working class poor to move and settle around and in and out of the United Kingdom. An example is : Europeans to the Americas via steamers, which were then the fastest form of inter continental transport. However, without fast transport there would be less mobility therefore might poverty remain static?

Travel Fees do highlight economic disparities, however that does not mean that we should argue against the technology. The problem isn't high-speed rail, which can deliver environmental, social and economic benefits; the issue to be addressed appears to be : is high

speed travel being used to specifically benefit only a small elite rather than society as a whole?

Railways are a mass transport system so they need lots of people to use the system to make them economically viable. In fact, railways in the UK only started to make money in the 1900s, when the working classes began to use them. The main reason Rail fares are so high is because of lack of investment by the companies that own them, not the numbers of people that could potentially use them. The high price of rail travel is being used as a mechanism to manage the lack of people capacity. Just a cursory glance at the rail fares between 'peak' and 'off peak', tickets indicates that sometimes, the difference in the price of mobility, is twenty times higher! Therefore the issue is not high speed travel bit more so about investment and growth. Had investment kept up with population growth the companies would have supplied more rail lines. Whilst I agree that in our contemporary society not everyone can benefit from 'Hs2' I disagree that it should be narrowed down to the technology.

As I have stated earlier in this discussion, technology is rather neutral, people are not. It is a socio political reality that many people are on no to low incomes. For this reason many people are economically disenfranchised from travel and mobility. However many people will also benefit from 'Hs2' even if it only means a couple of trips during their life time. Furthermore, if the transport system were to offer low fares and free concessions, certainly for those on low incomes the benefits, social, political and personal will become evident.

**Hs2 technology is neutral, Hs2 economics is not**

JEREMY CORBYN PLEDGES



JEREMY CORBYN PLEDGES

10 PLEDGES TO REBUILD AND TRANSFORM BRITAIN



**1. An economy that works for all**  
We will create a million good quality jobs across our regions and nations and guarantee a decent job for all. By investing £500 billion in infrastructure, manufacturing and new industries through a publicly-owned National Investment Bank and regional investment banks we will build a high skilled, high tech, low carbon economy that ends austerity and leaves no community behind. We will invest in the high speed broadband, energy, transport and homes that our country needs and allows good businesses to thrive, and support a new generation of co-operative enterprises.



**2. Secure homes for all**  
We will build a million new homes in five years, half of them council homes through our public investment strategy. We will end insecurity for private renters by introducing rent controls, secure tenancies and a charter of private tenants' rights, and increase access to affordable home ownership.



**3. Security at work**  
We will give people stronger employment rights from day one in a job, end exploitative zero hours contracts and create new collective bargaining rights, including mandatory collective bargaining for companies with

250 or more employees. We will create new employment and trade union rights to bring security to the workplace and win better pay and conditions for everyone. We will strengthen working people's representation at work and the ability of trade unions to organise so that working people have a real voice at work.



**4. Secure our NHS and social care**  
We will end health service privatisation and bring services into a secure, publicly-provided NHS. We will integrate the NHS and social care for older and disabled people, funding dignity across the board.



**5. A free national education service**  
We will build a new National Education Service, open to all from throughout their lives. We will create universal public childcare to give all children a good start in life, allowing greater sharing of caring responsibilities and removing barriers to women participating in the labour market. We will bring about the progressive restoration of free education for all; and guarantee quality apprenticeships and adult skills training.



**6. Action to protect our environment**  
We will act to protect the future of our planet, with social justice at the heart of our environment policies, and meet the Paris C20 climate change targets. We will accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy; and drive the expansion the green industries and jobs of the future, using our National Investment Bank to invest in public and community-owned renewable energy. We will deliver cleaner, cheaper energy for households for the 60 million, not the big 6 energy companies.



**7. Democracy in our economy**  
We will rebuild public services and expand democratic participation, put the public back into our economy, give people a real say in their local communities, and increase local and regional democracy. We will rebuild our economy with public investment to deliver wealth for all, across our regions and nations in a genuinely mixed economy. We will act to 'insource' our public and local council services, increase access to leisure, arts and sports across the country and expand our publicly- controlled bus network. We will make our railways publicly owned and build democratic social control over our energy.



**8. Cut income and wealth inequality**  
We will build a progressive tax system so that wealth and the highest earnings are

fairly taxed, act against executive pay excess and shrink the gap between the highest and lowest paid – FTSE 100 CEOs are now paid 183 times the wage of the average UK worker and Britain's wages are the most unequal in Europe. We will act to create a more equal society, boost the incomes of the poorest and close the gender pay gap.



**9. Act to end prejudice and injustice**  
We will ensure that the human rights of all citizens are respected and all are protected from discrimination and prejudice. We will take action to tackle violence against women and girls, racism and discrimination on the basis of faith, and secure real equality for LGBT and disabled people. We will guarantee full rights for EU citizens living and working in Britain – and not allow them to be used as pawns in Brexit negotiations.



**10. Peace and justice abroad**  
We will put conflict resolution and human rights at the heart of foreign policy, commit to working through the United Nations, end support for aggressive wars of intervention and back effective action to alleviate the refugee crisis. British foreign policy has long failed to be either truly independent or internationally co-operative, making the country less safe and reducing our diplomatic and moral authority. We will build human rights and social justice into trade policy, honour our international treaty obligations on nuclear disarmament and encourage others to do the same.

Borrowed from Jeremy for Labour website

# Talk like a Leftie

With  
**EMMANUEL GOLDFISH**

The Class Conscious Carp says "Reds, they be all like this .."



## TALK LIKE A LEFTIE WITH EMMANUEL GOLDFISH

Parents to a teenager with a 24-hour Grand Theft Auto and Pizza lifestyle, live in fear of being called "Sad"

*Sebastian Melmouth*

**Number 3:**  
**"BOURGEOIS"**  
(Pronounced "Borj-Waa"  
- Like a burping baby)

Parents of a teenager who reads and doesn't share their love of the washing machine live in fear of being called 'Bourgeois'. Because... in a way... they are.

It's as French as it sounds but more Middle-Ages than Teenage in origin.

The Bourgeois own the house the teenager lives in and so decide whether there will be a new cooker or a new music-activated laser display system.

By the Industrial Revolution, Marx (and his drinking buddy Engels) described those who owned both property and the Means of Production (the cooker, the car AND the washing machine) as Bourgeois and those who own nothing but their Labour (who have to wash the car ALL THE TIME!! And NEVER get to drive it!) as the Proletariat.

To be properly Bourgeois though, the parents must watch as the teenager makes enough money from cooking, car-cleaning and taking in washing to cover their own living expenses, pay for their parents lifestyles, maintain and replace the equipment when it wears out and ALSO make enough profit for the parents not to hire a nice quiet Exchange Student who'd be glad to work for less.

This is where the teenage "I'm just your slave!" analogy usually falls down.

**DO SAY: "Going to church to get your kid into a Church School is so Bourgeois"**

**DON'T SAY: "I don't have to wash my own socks. I'm not your slave. You and mum are SO Bourgeois"**

## YOUR STARS by EMMANUEL GOLDFISH

**SATIRE WARNING!**  
**CERTIFICATE 15**

*He's forgotten the past but he knows the future*



**♈ ARIES**  
March 21 - April 20  
Worried your kids may have heart conditions before 25? Is it because the 2012 Olympics sold off public parks, the Con(servative)s cancelled the £162m for school sports, sold off school playing fields or refuse to regulate sugar in food or advertising to kids? No. It's your genes.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Monosodium Glutamate.

**♉ TAURUS**  
April 21 - May 21  
After decades of no hope, you've got the chance to vote to bring back Democratic Balance to the country - and, if elected, will halt the Rich asset stripping of the Poor. That the Rich have done everything to stop this shows how much they fear it. Now is a good time to vote for Corbyn.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Love.

**♊ GEMINI**  
May 22 - June 20  
This is a recursive month for Horoscope-makers in Gemini. After your first star-cast being accused of being more sick than the bombing of Syria, your second horoscope was lost in a time-warp so the ones that were printed were from the previous week, and now your future refers to nothing but your past. Spooky!  
Your Lucky Mineral is Quartz.

**♋ CANCER**  
June 21 - July 22  
Anyone suffering from Cuadrilla - causing congestion, polluted water and corporate take-over - can take comfort from Balcombe. They rallied their neighbours, fought it off and opposed both Big Business and Con(servative) Policy by funding and building community solar energy that supplies TWO villages.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Silicon.

**♌ LEO**  
July 23 - Aug 22  
If you're a multinational business that sells advertising to multinational corporations, this was YOUR month. Global Media coverage pay YOU to advertise, public tax pays your expenses. The Talent pay YOU to attend and whatever land or property you take from the Natives you get to sell for profit later.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Coca Cola. Or Napalm.

**♍ CAPRICORN**  
Aug 23 - Sept 22  
This summer you may meet someone worrying about how their pension. Tesco, BT and BP have avoided paying 63 billion in pensions because they're only making 72 billion. Tell your friend it's all great for their Karma.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Homeopathic.

**♎ LIBRA**  
Sept 23 - Oct 23  
With sunshine and blanket coverage of the Olympics, it's a perfect time to sneak in a plan to isolate political prisoners from other prison inmates in 'Sealed Units'. So far, the talk is of 'Jehadi's but since it's designed to 'Prevent spreading extremist ideologies' Libra Lefties may soon be eligible to join too.  
Your Lucky Mineral is The Oxygen of Publicity.

**♏ SCORPIO**  
Oct 24 - Nov 22  
If you're a programme born in November 1963, this may be the month the BBC are forced to sell copyright to your theme tune to an American Corporation. With the Con(servative)s planning to asset strip and exterminate the remaining Publicly Owned Services in the UK, it's unlikely hiding behind the settee will save you.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Public Support.

**♐ SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov 23 - Dec 21  
Sagittarians are taking over from Virgo in the Fictional Creatures department this month as Scientists reveal that the 'TB Spreading badger' the Con(servative)s have been paying over 6.3 million to exterminate is actually imaginary.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Administratium

**♑ VIRGO**  
Dec 22 - Jan 20  
Having trouble sleeping or finding time to drink a glass of water? Companies destroying everything you work to protect? Do you cry from stress? You may be NHS Nursing Staff, you very probably come from the EU and it's time to save your and other people's lives by UnionAction. The public are behind you.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Unison.

**♒ AQUARIUS**  
Jan 21 - Feb 19  
Aquarians are having a month of one piece of 'News' from the USA - like all the other months. It's the same for all the other star signs because the mass media would rather tut about a fascist child-pudding than mention most popular Presidential candidate in decades... Because Sanders & Corbyn have lots in common.  
Your Lucky Mineral is Snake-Oil.

**♓ PISCES**  
Feb 20 - Mar 20  
Pisces hoping to visit relatives in Montana's Yellowstone River will be glad to know no fishermen or noisy boats will ruin their enjoyment of the National Park. Be careful - the reason for the quiet is a parasite killing the locals. Bad luck for Whitefish and a time for Trout to be cautious..  
Your Lucky Mineral is trimethylamine oxide

# MIND BENDING CROSSWORD PUZZLES

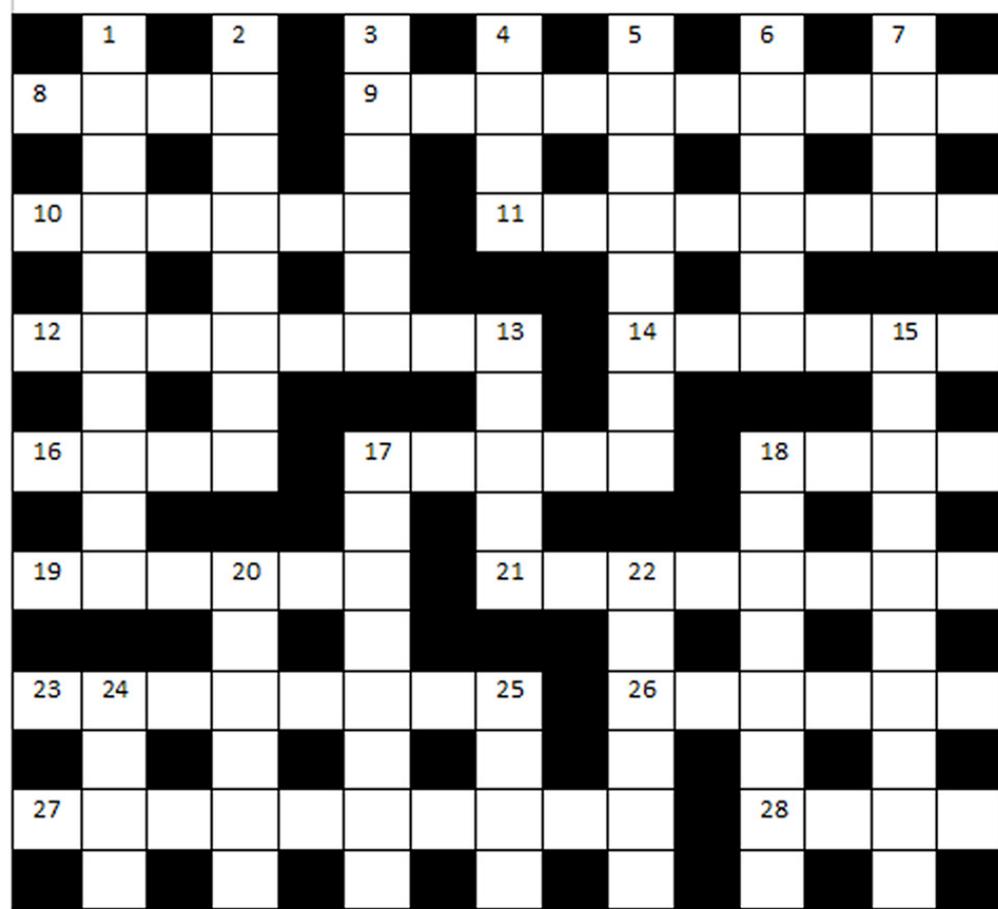
## This weeks Themed Crossword

### Clues Across -----

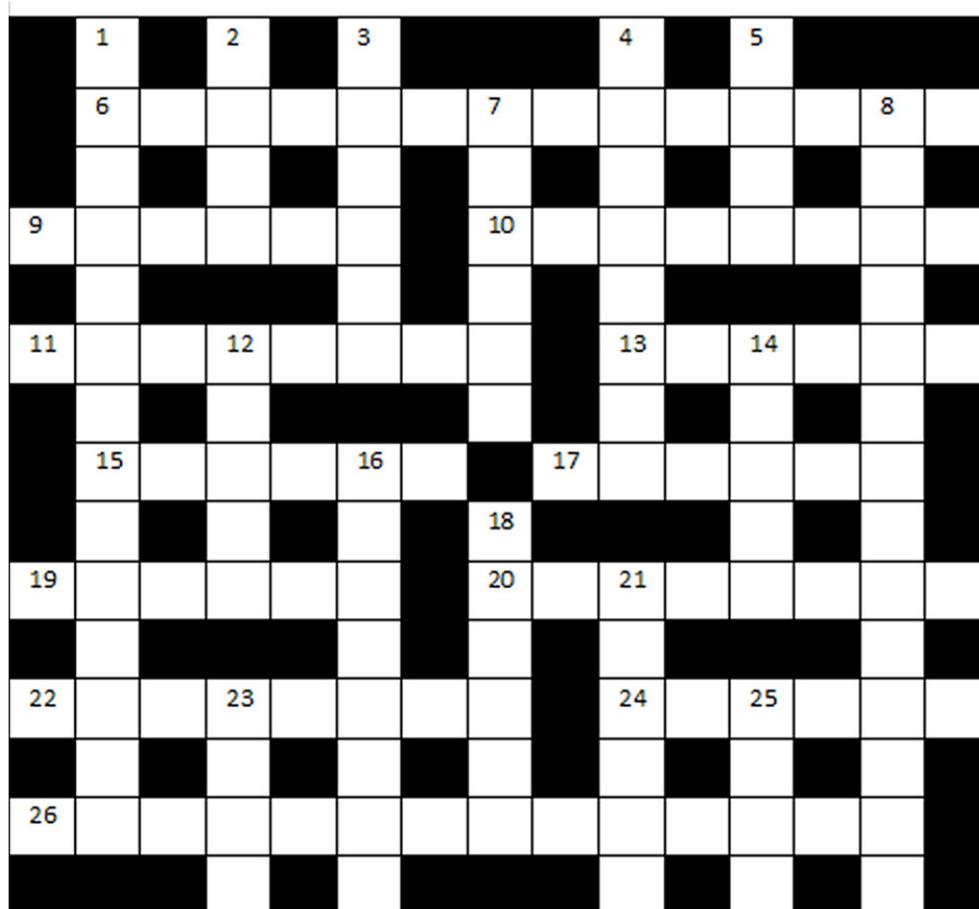
- 8 Hemingway's one of the 7s 27 met (4)
- 9 Four-eyed 7 (10)
- 10 Journalist infiltrates respected IT organisation (6)
- 11 Ernie's horse pulled a fast one! (4,4)
- 12 Perennial wintery weather leads to sudden decline (8)
- 14 Cheap and nasty attempt to enclose wood (6)
- 16 Religious figure receiving a year's reprieve (4)
- 17 Airline toilet's 7 (5)
- 18 Bring back some brass buckles - 7s have them (4)
- 19 Old lag's cigarettes - 7s have them (6)
- 21 Famous film about alien resistance is studied by NASA (8)
- 23 Desire a soft little French female (8)
- 26 Show airhead into party (6)
- 27 Met 7s with combination of skill and good note-taking (10)
- 28 Bookish type is European, but no Romeo (4)

### Clues Down -----

- 1 It might be written on platform 7 (10)
- 2 Feel free to choose actor for role in Lost (8)
- 3 Addict takes half an hour to find moneylender (6)
- 4 Drink with moderation initially, like the Chicago 7s (4)
- 5 Heel trashed toilet at bottom of street (8)
- 6 Article by government agency includes account of suburban avenue (6)
- 7 Report of naked prowler in the woods (4)
- 13 Heartless official breaks the average 7 (5)
- 15 Breathes in laboriously like a 7 does (10)
- 17 The sick prepare for a roasting outside fortress (8)
- 18 Wielding a gavel in church creates division (8)
- 20 Overturns positive results (6)
- 22 Is concerned about small pet (6)
- 24 Ring up 7 (4)
- 25 Every middle of March Caesar's resurrected (4)



## This weeks Cryptic Crossword



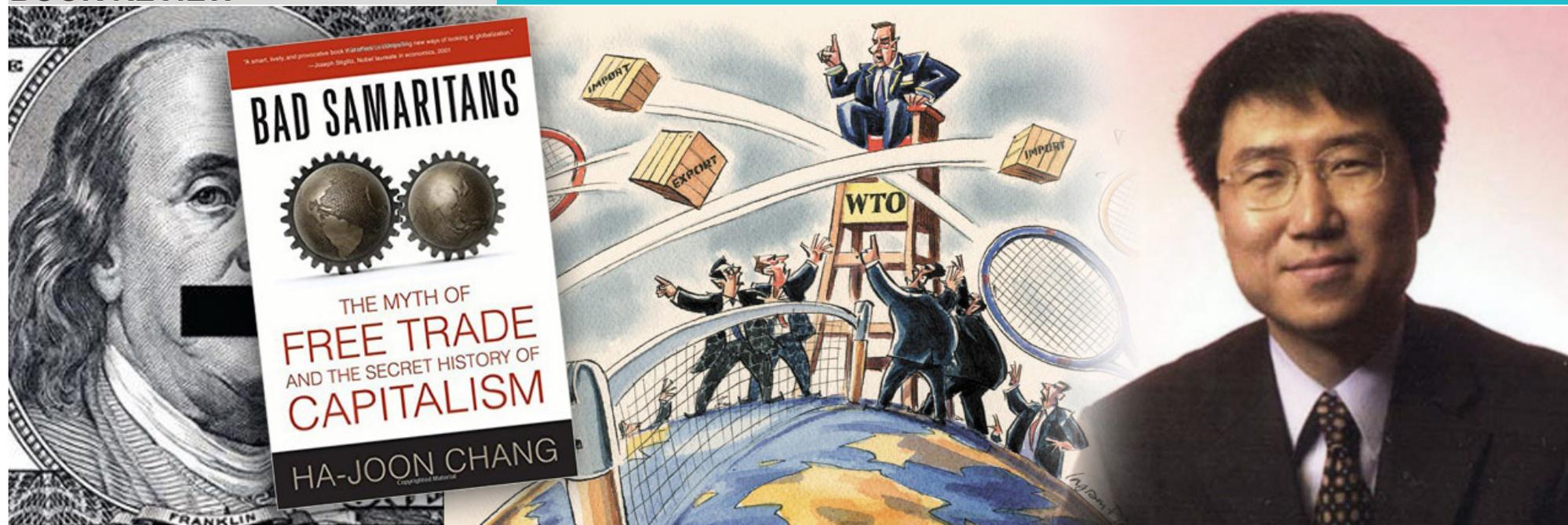
### Clues Across -----

- 6 Main actor upset when performing Much Ado about Nothing (5,2,1,6)
- 9 Read part of Mitch, a stereotypical virgin (6)
- 10 Fellow attorney has breaking news about Rhode Island official (8)
- 11 Cut or scar treated with good result (5,3)
- 13 North African agents take watering hole back (6)
- 15 Harp on about Annie (6)
- 17 Journalist obtains victory with the help of a girl (6)
- 19 Decadent leaders of English Fascist Party (6)
- 20 Suggested it's no crime to follow servant of Satan (8)
- 22 At this table doctor gets first-class return on account (8)
- 24 Old boy, not short on form (6)
- 26 Real swindle involving LSD upset Cubans, amongst others (6-8)

### Clues Down -----

- 1 Getting straight to the point in a murder, say (2,3,4,5)
- 2 Toasting unnamed American ship's launch (4)
- 3 Slow advance up motorway with deep misgivings (6)
- 4 It's not unusual to see a stall by the side of a road (8)
- 5 A joke about Queen's radio station (4)
- 7 Traditional tribes where son supports mother in retirement (6)
- 8 One attaining illuminated state in Mauritian's bizarre philosophy (14)
- 12 The old temptation to have very quiet beer outside (5)
- 14 Cover story reveals Mohammed's sexual proclivities! (5)
- 16 Queen's advisor following a wrong lead (8)
- 18 Reportedly receive cash prize for architectural feature (6)
- 21 Dog died in seaside town (6)
- 23 Take it easy in the bakery? (4)
- 25 Look in general direction (4)

BOOK REVIEW



# NEOLIBERALISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS

## The Word reviews: “Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism by *Ha-Joon Chang*”

Just half a century ago, South Korea was one of the poorest countries in the world. As it stands now it is one of the most wealthy; Ha-Joon Chang sheds some light on why some countries become formidable in the global market and others continue to play catch-up.

Through drawing on his own experiences growing up in South Korea, the author identifies how nationalistic and protectionist policies achieved substantial economic growth in the long term, going against the orthodoxy of neoliberalism. His findings are compounded

when he delves into the history of the western world, even touching on how the North of England achieved supremacy in the wool trade via government intervention, to our competitors’ demise in the Low Countries.



This interventionist history has long been forgotten, whether by choice or not. He states that this phenomenon of coercing developing countries into free-trade rather than allowing them

to follow in our footsteps is like “kicking away the ladder”.

Dispelling myth-upon-myth promoted by the Bretton Woods Institutions, Ha-Joon Chang proves that the only way to achieve a level playing field for developing and developed economies is for those who are developing to use those interventionist policies that we have once used ourselves.

### THE VERDICT

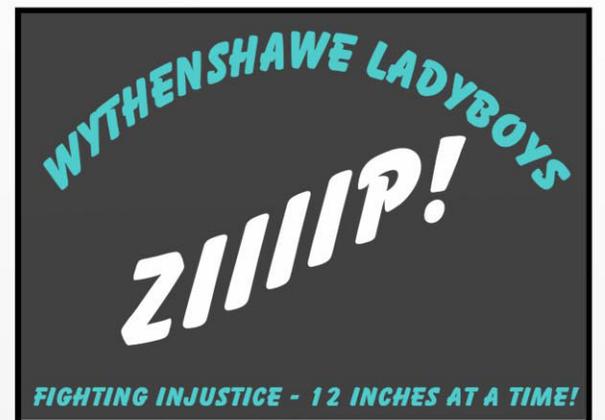
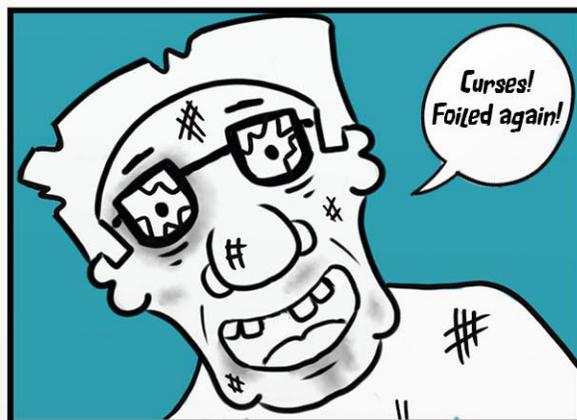
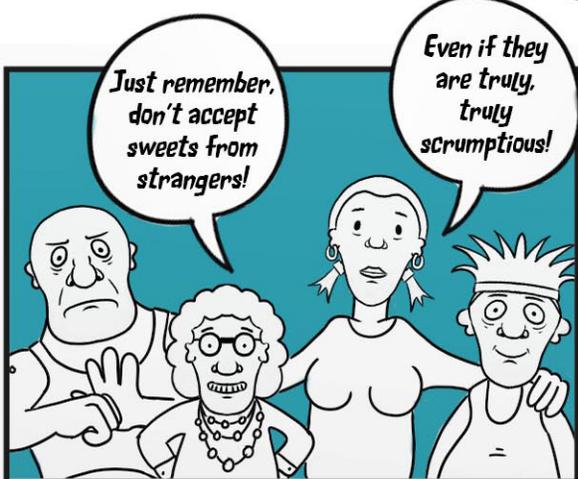
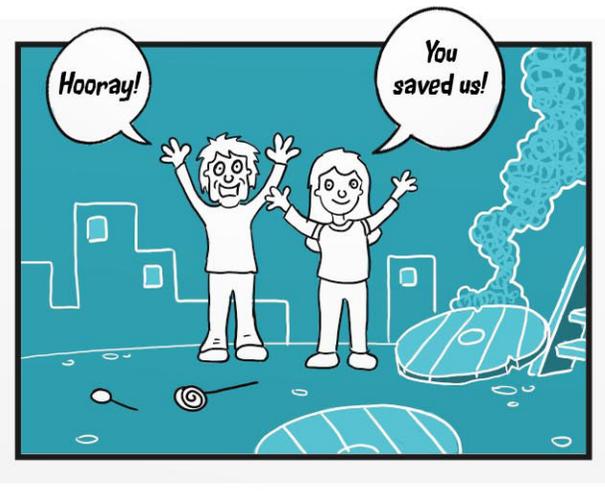
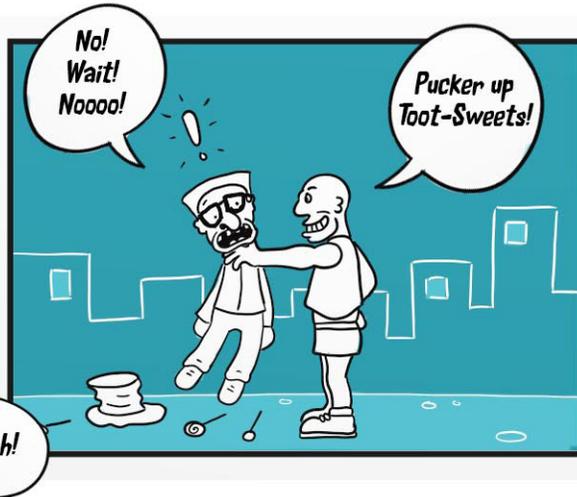
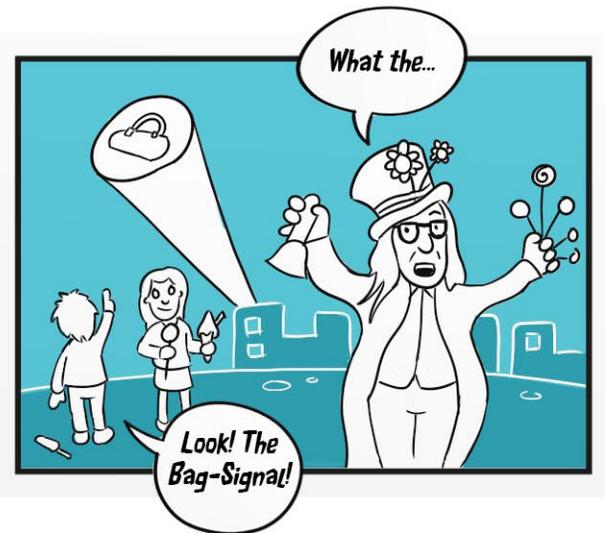
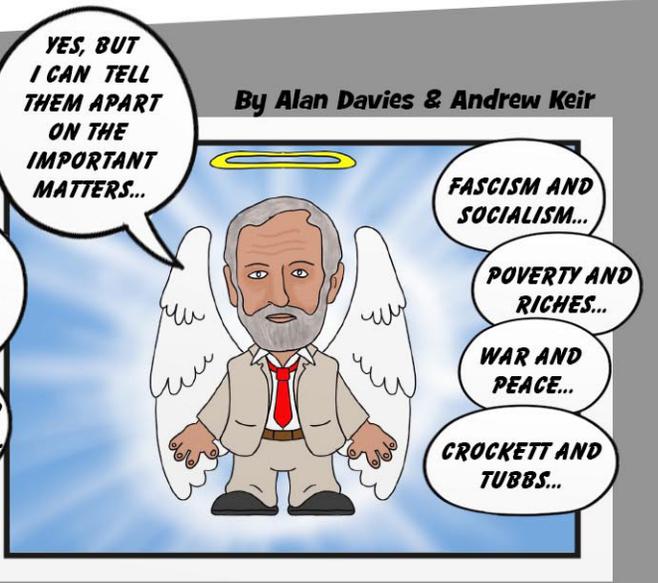
Bad Samaritans provides an alternative approach to Development Economics, utilising historical and personal examples in an effective way. This combined with a logical structure and a lack of jargon makes this book one that I would recommend to anyone interested in development.

*We are very happy to award this Fantastic book 4 out of 5 Monsters!*



# St. Jeremy of London

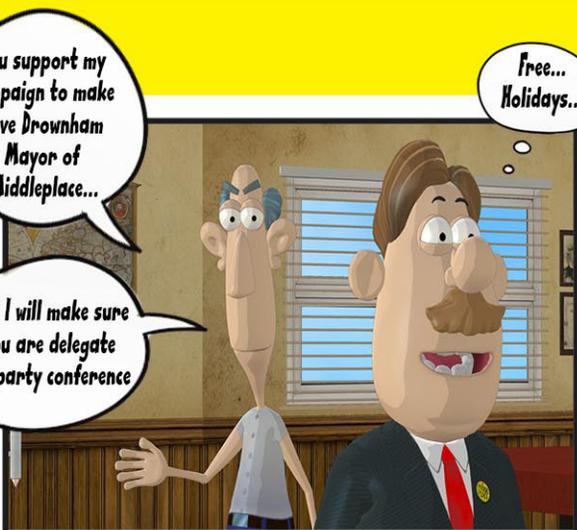
By Alan Davies & Andrew Keir



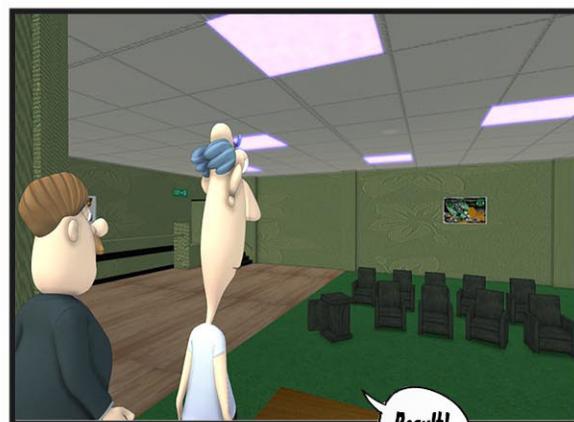
STORY BY ALAN DAVIES

ART BY ANDREW KEIR

# CHRIS THE CAREERIST #04

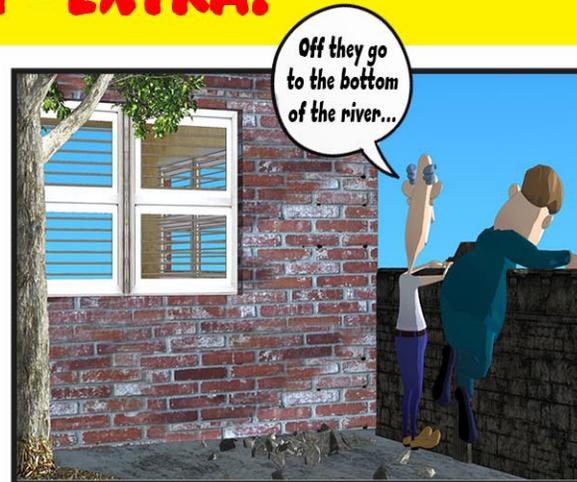


Middleplace will never stand for it!



## CHRIS THE CAREERIST - EXTRA!

### CHRIS AND NICK'S SHIFTY SHENANIGANS



# LARS SCHOOL

## PART 4 - Lie like a master with the Tony Blair Guide

Ok, listen up chaps, you have shredded my expenses claim?

Oh, is it on?!

**FREE IN TODAY'S BUGLE:**

The first thing you do when you're asked a question is never answer it directly

You can either ignore it and keep talking

proof m

recording

Answer a question you are not asked

Or ask a question yourself

Idiot proof mode on

Time to come with me, Tony

recording

I haven't actually got time because I'm working in a passionate sort of way...

So probably best if you take David Cameron instead. Dismissed

See, with a bit of confidence you can lie your way out of anything!

# LARS SCHOOL

# POETRY CORNER

## JOHN LENNON - WORKING CLASS HERO

AS SOON AS YOU'RE BORN THEY MAKE YOU FEEL SMALL  
BY GIVING YOU NO TIME INSTEAD OF IT ALL  
TILL THE PAIN IS SO BIG YOU FEEL NOTHING AT ALL

A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE  
A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE

THEY HURT YOU AT HOME AND THEY HIT YOU AT SCHOOL  
THEY HATE YOU IF YOU'RE CLEVER AND THEY DESPISE A FOOL  
TILL YOU'RE SO FUCKING CRAZY YOU CAN'T FOLLOW THEIR RULES

A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE  
A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE

WHEN THEY'VE TORTURED AND SCARED YOU FOR TWENTY ODD YEARS  
THEN THEY EXPECT YOU TO PICK A CAREER  
WHEN YOU CAN'T REALLY FUNCTION YOU'RE SO FULL OF FEAR

A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE  
A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE

KEEP YOU DOPED WITH RELIGION AND SEX AND TV  
AND YOU THINK YOU'RE SO CLEVER AND CLASSLESS AND FREE  
BUT YOU'RE STILL FUCKING PEASANTS AS FAR AS I CAN SEE

A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE  
A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE

THERE'S ROOM AT THE TOP THEY ARE TELLING YOU STILL  
BUT FIRST YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO SMILE AS YOU KILL  
IF YOU WANT TO BE LIKE THE FOLKS ON THE HILL

A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE  
A WORKING CLASS HERO IS SOMETHING TO BE

IF YOU WANT TO BE A HERO WELL JUST FOLLOW ME  
IF YOU WANT TO BE A HERO WELL JUST FOLLOW ME

I SIT HERE HALF MADDERED  
AT BEING SO BLADDERED  
AND BED TEASES WITH UNWILDLY BECKONS.  
EMPTIED BOTTLE OF RUM  
WITH THE INLAW VERSIONED MUM  
TV THROWS IMAGES OF OLD ANT & DEC-ONS.  
ON A CHANNLE OF SKY  
THAT I RANDONMLY SPY  
JOHN CLEESE IN A FISH CALLED WANDA.  
BUT UNABLE TO FIND  
REMOTES WITH EYES BLIND  
I STOD UP TO GAZE OVER YONDER.  
FOUND SAID REMOTE  
T WAS UNDER MY BOAT  
THING FLEWW OFF MY CHEST TO THE DOOR  
MUMSIN-LAW NOW SLEEPIN  
SO I DID MY NINJA BEST CREEPIN  
AND SHE BARELY LET OUT A SNORE  
WITH NO SIGN OF BATTERIES  
AND CRAWLING UNFLATTERIES  
I BEGGED TO GIVE LIFE TO THE ZAPPER  
BOUNTY AHOY!  
I YELPED OUT WITH JOY  
DURACELL'S SPOTTED 'NEATH NAPPER  
POWER STICKS SLAPPED IN WITH GLEE  
PHASER NOW SET FOR BBC  
THE FACE OF LAURA KUENSSBURGE  
I CHOKED BACK THE GAG  
FROM SEEING DECEITFUL HAG  
WHITE RUM LEADING THE CAMPAIGN FOR REGURGE  
NOW MY EYELIDS GROW HEAVY  
AFTER SINKING THAT LAST BEVVIE  
I LEFT MUMLAW TO SLEEP SHOULD I OUGHTTA?  
AS I TRUDGE TO MY SACK  
THERE'S NO TURNING BACK  
JUST LIKE WHEN I MARRIED HER DAUGHTER.

GRAHAM DUNN

## CLASS OLYMPICS

HARPURHEY SKIN IS SALLOW AND WORN CRACKED INTO LINES FROM THE DAY YOU ARE BORN.

WRINKLED AND BLIGHTED FROM HUMANITIES TRACES;  
GREYNESS EXUDES FROM THE FAG DRIPPING FACES.

CARLSHALTON SKIN IS PORCELAIN WHITE; SHINING AND NEW FROM THEIR PRIVATE PAID RIGHT.

IT'S LEARNED WITH A TRICK NOT KNOWN BY THOSE OTHERS;  
PASSED DOWN WITH THEIR MONEY BY FATHERS AND MOTHERS.

HARPURHEY PEOPLE ARE LAST IN THE QUEUE.  
GOLD MEDAL FOR CHEATING, CARLSHALTON IT'S YOU.

KEVIN JOHN

# QUIZ

## Quiz 1



- 1) Where was the battle of Cable Street?
- 2) Which football team play their home games at Highbury?
- 3) Name the priest that led the peasant's revolt?
- 4) How many yards are there in a Furlong?
- 5) Name the leader of the Labour party in the 1945 general election?
- 6) In which year was the battle of Trafalgar?
- 7) Name the world's biggest living land carnivore?
- 8) In which city would you find Pennycomequick?
- 9) Name the second planet closest to the sun?
- 10) Who won the FA cup final 6:0 ?

### True or false

- 1) Tony Blair once sang in a pop band called ugly rumours?
- 2) Owen Smith donates all his outside earnings to the national health service?
- 3) Vaduz is an infectious disease?
- 4) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once played in goal for Portsmouth?
- 5) The Clinton's named their daughter Chelsea after watching a game against Millwall?

### Adds up

The year England won the world cup + The year Magna Carta was signed +  
 The day Pearl Harbour was attacked - Don Bradmans batting average (rounded  
 up) - The year of the great fire of London - the number of seats in the house of  
 commons =

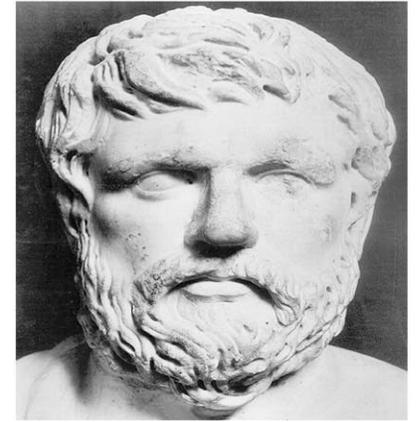
Quiz 1  
 1) London 2) Fleetwood 3) John Bull 4) 220 5) Clem Attlee  
 6) 1805 7) Kodiak bear 8) Plymouth 9) Venus 10) Bury



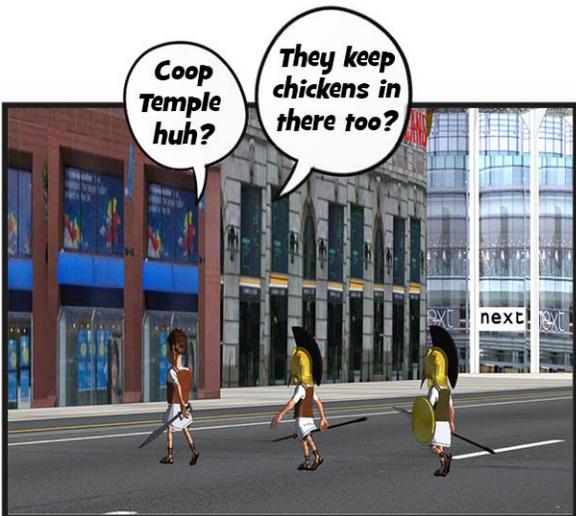
True or false  
 1) (t) 2) (f) 3) (f) 4) (t) 5) (f)

# XENOPHONS ADVENTURES IN SALFORD

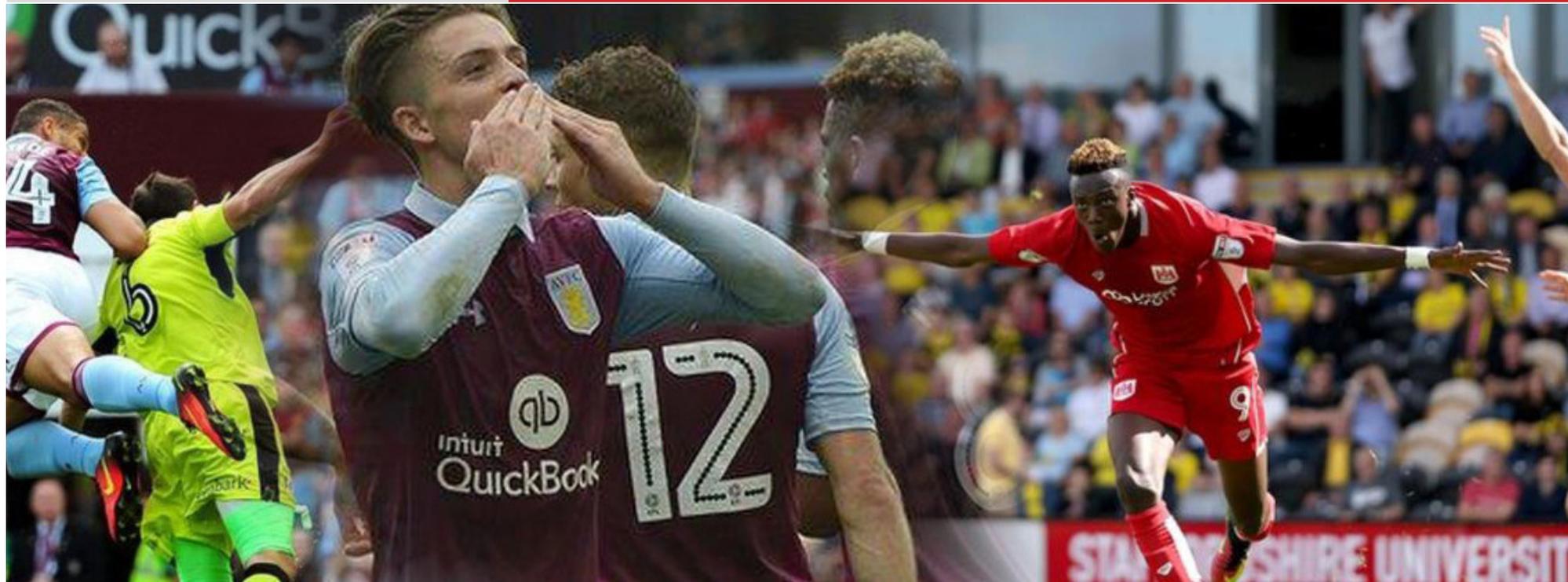
*FLEECING THE GOLDEN COINS*



**Manchester: AM 8:32...**



## CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS



# THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL

QPR are sitting pretty at the top of the Championship at this early stage after an impressive 2-0 win in Cardiff

*Colin Jones*

**Q**PR are sitting pretty at the top of the Championship at this early stage after an impressive 2-0 win in Cardiff. Goals from Steven Caulker and Tjaronn Chery's second goal in as many games kept up Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink's winning start to the season at the Bluebirds expense.

Huddersfield also made it two wins from two with an excellent win at St James Park, turning Benitez' opening day defeat into more than just an isolated result. Nahki Wells and substitute Jack Payne scored either side of Dwight Gayle's first goal for the Toon Army.

Newcastle's victors on the opening day, Fulham, also recorded their second successive win, goals from Sone Aluko and Matt Smith seeing them overcome Preston. Bristol City are the other team with a 100% record from their opening two fixtures, again it was a 2-1 scoreline as the Robins subjected Burton to their second defeat by a single goal of the season.

The match on the weekend on paper, just like last weekend's battle of the giants between Derby and Brighton, saw another goalless stalemate, as Norwich hosted Sheffield Wednesday. Concern to Wednesday fans however, will be the news that in-demand forward Fernando Forestieri reportedly refused

to travel with the team and wants away from the club. But a point at Carrow Road without him should please Carlos Carvalhal.

It was contrasting fortunes for the two teams that cancelled each other out last week, Brighton saw out a convincing 3-0 win against Nottingham Forest on Friday night, whereas Nigel Pearson's Derby succumbed to a shock 2-0 defeat at Barnsley.

Aston Villa returned to winning ways for the first time in 6 months with a Rudy Gustede double helping to see off Rotherham. Two other teams yet to score a point is Leeds, who have started slow under Gary Monk, losing 1-2 at home to Birmingham, as well as Blackburn Rovers, following on from Owen

THE MORE  
DIFFICULT THE  
**VICTORY,**  
THE GREATER THE  
**HAPPINESS**  
IN WINNING.

— PELE —

10

Coyle's baptism of fire losing 4-1 to Norwich on the opening day, they lost by three goals again, this time newly promoted Wigan the beneficiaries of Blackburn's poor form.

## CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

# CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

Championship, the opening match saw a shock. Hull are being touted as relegation favourites but they upset the odds to record an opening day victory

*Colin Jones*

Not only that, but that victory was against last season's champions Leicester City. If it's one thing the Foxes can do, it's upset the odds. Mike Phelan, in temporary charge, masterminded a great victory for the threadbare Tigers, and the team pulled together in adversity to work hard for their win, but one look at the bench shows how much work is to be done before the end of the transfer window, if allowed to be done. Claudio Ranieri, in the other dugout, will not panic, instead he will keep his likable and calm persona to try to give perspective to his players moving forward. Leicester are in uncharted territory and where the club finish this season is anyone's guess.

The match of the weekend was undoubtedly to be found at the Emirates, as Arsenal opened up with a 4-3 defeat to Liverpool. The hosts were in control in the first half, Theo Walcott missing a penalty before making amends within a minute by opening the scoring. But the sides went into the break all square, Philippe Coutinho with a sumptuous free kick to give Liverpool hope for the second half. Whatever Jurgen Klopp said at halftime worked, as his side raced into a seemingly unassailable 4-1 lead with goals from Adam Lallana, Sadio Mane and a second from Coutinho. But within minutes of the Liverpool's fourth, Arsenal replied through Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. Defender Calum Chambers gave Arsenal hope for a comeback with a goal with fifteen minutes to play, but that proved the final goal and Liverpool snatched all three points.

On Sunday, Jose Mourinho's Manchester United won convincingly at Bournemouth. Goals from Juan Mata, Wayne Rooney and a Premier League debut goal for Zlatan Ibrahimovich put the Red Devils into a

commanding lead before Adam Smith pulled one back for the Cherries. Last season, Luis Van Gaal's men lost at the Vitality Stadium, going down 2-1, so Mourinho is three points ahead of his predecessor, and with the Community Shield in tow, the Portuguese manager has made a promising start to life at Old Trafford.

Pep Guardiola also began his Manchester City reign with a win, but also an introduction to the difficulties of being successful in the Premier League, the Citizens dominated possession but created a lack of chances and one suspects City will improve as the season goes on. They will have to in order to meet expectations. Joe Hart has been dropped before in favour of Willy Cabellero, but with this being the first match of the season and under a new manager, it could be the signal of intent from the manager to show who his number one is. And with the transfer window still open, it will be interesting to see if Hart remains on the bench in the coming games whether his City career could be in jeopardy. Sunderland meanwhile, worked hard and almost won a point, it will be encouraging that Jermaine Defoe showed his lethal touch to gobble up one of very few chances in the game for the Black Cats, but David Moyes will know that it's not at places like the Etihad where he will be judged.

Neither team at Goodison Park pre-kick-off would have been that content with a point, but both may consider it a decent point post-match. Everton impressed in the first half, making Spurs look poor. Tottenham came into the game in the second half, after some changes by Mauricio Pochettino, and in the end a draw was probably fair. Ronald Koeman avoided defeat in the opening game against a team with Champions League aspirations, and Spurs gained a creditable draw at where may be a strong Premier League side this season.

Crystal Palace brought their poor form with them from last season, and a defeat at home to WBA puts early pressure on Alan Pardew. He needs a striker, it's as simple as that. West Brom were typical West Brom; resolute in defence and scoring from a set piece. Many feel that Salomon Rondon could step up this season to become a real goal scoring force this season and he is off the mark early, unlike strike partner Saido Berahino, who has struggled to score in recent performances.

From two experienced Premier League managers at Selhurst Park, to two newcomers at St Mary's. Walter Mazzarri started the better with Etienne Capoue's early strike, as his Watford side, with largely last season's starting eleven, looking bright. Claude Puel's side also looked recognisable from last season, but it was his new man Nathan Redmond who rescued a point. Pre-match Puel likened Redmond to a young Thierry Henry and that confidence booster seemed to work as the winger come forward bagged a goal and almost scored a winner late on.

Middlesbrough had a tough fixture against Stoke, but Alvaro Negredo's early goal suddenly turned the fixture into a difficult one for Mark Hughes' side. Both teams created but neither threatened convincingly until Xherdan Shaqiri scored from a free kick to even the score line, where the game finished 1-1.

The other promoted side in action on Saturday lost by the odd goal to Swansea. It was a big win for Swansea, who had Lukasz Fabianski to thank for keeping the Swans in the game, most notably denying Sam Vokes from scoring his first Premier League goal, before Leroy Fer's close range finish settled the tie. Late on Fabianski was on hand again to deny Dean Marney and to inflict a home defeat on Burnley. Burnley will need Vokes and Andre

Gray to find their scoring boots to stay up as scoring goals was their downfall last time they were in this league.

## PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEWS

Next weekend begins on Friday evening, as Puel's Southampton travel to Mourinho's United. It will be a tough match for the French manager as United come fresh from their win at Bournemouth, and Mourinho will be keen to make Old Trafford as much of a fortress as Stamford Bridge was in his first spell as Chelsea manager.

The early kick-off on Saturday sees Guardiola face another test as the Britannia plays host to Manchester City. The top sides really struggled at Stoke's ground last season as Manchester City were beaten, teams such as Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and even championship winning Leicester dropped points there during last season, and if Guardiola's side struggled at home against Sunderland, then they're sure to be facing an uphill struggle in the Potteries.

For the three o'clock's, Burnley will want to get off the mark against Liverpool, Everton face a tough test at West Brom, Palace face an even tougher test at Tottenham, Hull will have to follow up their opening day heroics by taking on Swansea in South Wales and Watford face a tricky home tie against Chelsea.

The late kick-off on Sunday offers up an early season marker for Leicester, as Arsenal travel to the Walkers Stadium. Ranieri might start to worry that last season's bubble is truly over if Arsenal manage to win convincingly. Whereas Wenger will be keen to set a signal of intent by knocking down the only team to pip them to the post last season, especially after losing their seasonal opener against Liverpool. Jamie Vardy will also face the club he turned down in the summer to add extra heat to the fixture.

On Sunday, the early match sets up a match to give an indication of who is in relegation mire for the season ahead. Moyes' Sunderland will take heart from almost matching Manchester City last weekend, but Middlesbrough showed they can compete with a draw against Stoke. With Newcastle in the Championship, it is also an opportunity for both clubs to claim an early claim to being kings of the North East for 2016/17.

## PALESTINE &amp; CELTIC



# CELTIC LEADS THE WAY

Despite a ban by officials entire sections of fans at Glasgow Celtic's stadium displayed Palestinian flags to protest Israeli occupation

Hundreds of fans at a football match between Glasgow Celtic and Israeli side Hapoel Beer Sheva turned whole sections of the stadium into a sea of Palestinian flags in a protest against the Israeli occupation, ignoring an official ban on political demonstrations.

Before the start of the Champions League cup qualifier, activists from the group Palestine Alliance handed out flags and leaflets on the Nakba, or Catastrophe, the 1948 war that led to the creation of Israel and rendered millions of Palestinians refugees. Police outside Celtic Park warned fans against bringing flags into the stadium. Celtic could face penalties from UEFA, Europe's football governing body, for allowing the protests to

go ahead, but some fans said they were prepared to pay any fine themselves to show their opposition to Israel's participation in the competition.

The demonstration for Palestine was organised a week in advance, according to the Jerusalem Post. More than 800 people joined a Facebook group titled "Fly the flag for Palestine, for Celtic, for Justice."

The group's creators called on Celtic fans to support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, saying that people should express their "democratic rights to display our opposition to Israeli apartheid, settler colonialism, and countless massacres of the Palestinian people".

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## SCOTTISH FOOTBALL FANS FLY FLAG OF PALESTINE IN MATCH AGAINST ISRAELI TEAM.

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The Facebook group also said that UEFA should not support Israel and its policies.

"When someone is representing Israeli state institutions it is sadly never merely a game; football, UEFA, and Celtic FC are being used to whitewash Israel's true nature and give this rogue state an air of normality and acceptance it should not and cannot enjoy

until its impunity ends and it is answerable to international law and faces sanctions for the countless UN resolutions it had breached," it read.

Scottish police urged fans to not bring Palestinian flags, threatening them with arrest, the Daily Record reported.





Continued from rear cover >>

Just seeming to punish one country is not enough as there are other countries sometimes turning a blind eye to it. There will always be individuals who cheat but when coaches and officials are involved. Some national bodies seem happy to give a relatively short ban and allow athletes back into, not just international competition, but into the pinnacle of sporting endeavour, the Olympics. The semi finals of the Mens 100 metre sprint was full of athletes who had received bans.

Echoes of the scandal in Olympic Boxing at the London Olympics came out at Rio, where in response to accusations of biased officials the organisers suspended a small number of judges. The complaints came from a number of countries but the most vociferous voice was that of Irish Bantamweight boxer, Michael Conlon. He went on record as saying he would never box under any competition run by the AIBA 'If people watch this Olympic Games and they see some of the decisions ... I think boxing is dead. It's about whoever pays the most money. Whoever has the biggest [influence] wins'. This despite a report in the Guardian before the Games of 'senior officials who have spoken to the Guardian, who wish to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals against them ..... have said the alleged corruption has become more sophisticated and more widespread since the London Games.'

In those games even though there had been allegations prior of the Azerbaijan Boxing Association paying the AIBA \$9million to guarantee some Olympic gold medals. Despite this controversy being swept aside before the games there was a major scandal in the first round of the bantamweight

competition. Japan's Satoshi Shimizu knocked down Azerbaijan's **Magomed Abdulhamidov** five times in one round of a London 2012 fight, for instance, but Abdulhamidov was still somehow awarded the round. The decision was reversed on appeal and Shimizu won the bout.

I hate being negative so let me point out some of the 'feel good' stories from the games. Where better to start than boxing and the story behind the boxer who gave hosts Brazil their first ever Boxing Gold! He was Robson Donata Conceicao born in a tough neighbourhood on the outskirts of Salvador City. In his words, "As a child I worked, helping my gran sell things so we could get by. And all the energy, the focus, the determination that I bring to the ring comes from my past and I use that to achieve my goals. It's made me a humble person since the start of my career." Inspired by an uncle he started boxing without the basic equipment so he faked an arm injury to get it bandaged at the hospital, then used the bandages to bind his hands for sparring. His friend used flip flops on his hands for Robson to punch against. Despite failure in London he persevered to achieve his dream in Rio.

Illustrating the Olympic creed '...the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought', was the Haitian 110m hurdler who crashed into the first barrier, fell, picked himself up and completed the course. This competitor was not expected to win a medal, but one who was, Dutchman Epke Zonderland was the man to beat on the high bar, having won gold four years ago. The 'Flying Dutchman' came crashing down when he lost his grip on the horizontal bar and fell flat on his face. Undeterred Epke got up and completed the routine brilliantly

including the move which resulted in his fall. This was an even more spectacular recovery than Mo Farah's fall in the 10,000metre final, but Mo was able to go on and get gold, sadly for Epke he finished seventh of eight in the final.

There will be a plethora of other 'feel good' stories, but the side show of drugs and corruption must not diminish the achievement of a 15 year diver, an event where drugs are not an issue but there is scope for bias as the judging has to be objective. Ren Qian from China became the youngest gold medal winner at Rio by outclassing the field in the 10 metre platform diving final. Courage, hard work, grace and belief earned her that success. Not enough for Ren as when asked to comment on her performance she said "I did pretty well, but not really so perfect, according to my expectations -- you can consider me a perfectionist." No one who saw this competition can doubt the validity of her win, in stark contrast to some of the boxing decisions.

Just as I was finishing writing on a positive note I found that The organisers of the Rio 2016 Olympics may have spent money intended for the Paralympics on renovations to the Olympic village among other things, according to an article in the Independent. As many as 50 of the poorer nations may no longer be able to compete at the Paralympics as a result.

Sadly the troubles in the Middle East have been played out before and during the Olympics, surely not the stage for political gestures. There have been numerous instances of Arab competitors snubbing or avoiding Israeli opponents over time, but one hit the headlines this time. Egypt's

judo champion, Islam El Shahaby, dropped the mandatory bow and snubbed the outstretched hand of his Israeli counterpart. Whilst I would urge athletes to show respect for other competitors as individuals, because whatever the political rights or wrongs, sport can act as a unifying agent. Israel may feel to be the aggrieved party in most of these stories, but one that has not hit the headlines shows their reluctance as a STATE to show the hand of friendship through sport to the Palestinians.

It was good to see six athletes representing Palestine at the Olympics, the largest team since Palestine began competing in the games in 1996. However it is understood that they Brazil without equipment. It is alleged the team had to buy everything when they got to Rio, as Israel had prevented equipment donated to the team, mostly by foreign governments, from reaching the athletes. One of the Palestinian athletes said she hoped their participation in the Olympics will help raise awareness about the plight of the Palestinian people.

Hopefully we can take more positives than negatives from these Olympics. There are lessons to be learnt and they need to be learnt quickly, however there has been much to celebrate in terms of human endeavour, sportsmanship and in general respect for other athletes from other nations. The Olympic movement must strive for greater inclusivity, less elitism and as far as possible the reduction of corruption and cheating. Long live the Olympic Dream.

Next, what can the Olympic legacy be, particularly for the UK?



# OLYMPIC VALUES

Well I finally got hooked on the Olympics but like many of you I have ambivalent views on the games because the values espoused in Olympic creed are not adhered to by all. The official creed states that ‘The most important thing in life is not the triumph, but the fight; the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought’

The Olympic torch and flame also serve to symbolise the goodwill and harmony that are the spirit of the Olympic games.

One can in general see a lot of evidence of goodwill and harmony which are symbolised in the Olympic torch and flame. Whilst it is commendable to strive for excellence and for others to celebrate it, there are major concerns over these major events such as the Olympics and the Soccer World Cup.

One of the concerns I have is elitism in sport where smaller nations are disadvantaged in many respects, which is sad when the Olympic rings symbolise inclusivity by representing the 5 continents. Another is fervent nationalism, more so perhaps in soccer, which is engendered at times when the creed seems to be win at all costs and by any means.

Let me deal with inclusivity first. The choice of sports discriminates against emerging nations. Sports like golf, equestrian events, sailing are examples. Whilst the concept of amateur sport no longer applies to the Olympics I strongly feel the ultra professional sports like golf, soccer, and tennis, whilst entertaining, do not fit the ethos of the Olympic

Games and have their own major World Competitions. The Olympic Committee need to look at making it possible for smaller nations to compete in more sports. One good example was the introduction this time of rugby sevens, it proved entertaining and gave an opportunity for a smaller nation, Fiji, to win a gold medal, in fact their first ever medal.

It is worth mentioning that the sport of rugby sevens was in my view one of the successes of the Manchester Commonwealth Games for me personally, and 14 years later the Olympics have followed suit. As an example of competitive sport played in the right spirit the opening rounds of the Commonwealth Games are etched in my mind. As well as seeing a relatively new rugby playing nation, Kenya, beating Samoa and then scoring two tries against England, the game between Nuiue Island (population 1,300) and the mighty All Blacks of New Zealand was memorable. The reason for this was not that it was not a competitive game as regards the score, which was I think 70 points to 5 in favour of the All Blacks. It illustrated why the Commonwealth Games are referred to as ‘The Friendly Games’

whilst also fitting in with the creed of the Olympics, ‘the essential thing is not to have won, but to have fought’. The Islanders performed their own version of the ‘Haka’ in front of the All Blacks’ but left the field of battle with their arms round the shoulders of the victors like long lost brothers!

The spirit of the Olympics needs to move more towards the ethos of the Commonwealth Games so that not just powerful, well financed nations take centre stage. Let us celebrate more have the likes of Michael ‘Eddie the eagle’ Edwards achieving his dream of competing in the Ski Jump of the 1988 Winter Olympics. Then long came Eric

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“ THE SPIRIT OF THE OLYMPICS NEEDS TO MOVE MORE TOWARDS THE ETHOS OF THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES SO THAT NOT JUST POWERFUL, WELL FINANCED NATIONS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

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‘the eel’ Moussambani Malonga from Equatorial Guinea to be allowed to compete in the 2000 Summer games in the 100 metres Freestyle Swimming Competition. Moussambani gained entry to the Olympics without meeting the minimum qualification requirements via a wildcard draw designed to encourage participation by developing countries lacking full training facilities. His preparation for the games were done by swimming in a lake and then in a 10 metre long hotel pool! This year has seen the chance for refugee athletes to be allowed to compete without the same entry restrictions and not under a national flag. I praise these initiatives but there is more to be done to make the Games fairer for clean competitors and develop facilities in poorer countries.

There are other reasons to be concerned that the ethos of this competition is tarnished. The ‘spectre’ of drug abuse refuses to go away and this is not driven just by the individual’s desire for success but this desire for many nations to buy, or cheat, to feed their nationalism. The games should be about Internationalism and celebrating effort as well as excellence.

Continued overleaf >>