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THIRD JABS PUT SPOTLIGHT ON VACCINE HOARDING



Global Justice Now slams Britain's greed as 'slap in the face for global South'

by Ceren Sagir

THE government's decision to offer a third vaccine to Britain's over-50s is a slap in the face to the global South struggling to access a first dose, campaigners charged yesterday.

Booster vaccines will be offered to people aged 50 and over, those in care homes and front-line health and social care workers from next week.

But Global Justice Now slammed the decision, pointing out that people in low and middle-income countries struggle to access a first dose due to richer countries hoarding the world's limited stocks.

More than 140 former world leaders and Nobel laureates, including former British prime minister Gordon Brown, called on the next elected German chancellor to support an

Health Secretary Sajid Javid told the Commons that the NHS would contact all those who are eligible and was preparing to offer the jabs from next week.

Wales has also said it will begin a rollout of booster vaccines. Updates were expected from Scotland after the Star went to press.

The British and German governments have so far blocked the waiver, first proposed by South Africa and India last year, despite pleas from low and middle-income countries and support from the United States, Russia, China and France.

Signatories said they were deeply concerned with Germany's continued opposition to a temporary waiver at a time in which "the artificial restriction on manufacturing and supply is leading to thou-

sands of unnecessary deaths from Covid-19 each day."

They signed a letter, co-ordinated by the People's Vaccine Alliance which includes Global Justice Now, to coincide with the Word Trade Organisation meeting to discuss the waiver rules.

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sands of unnecessary deaths from Covid-19 each day."

Experts have warned that the global vaccine inequality threatens to undermine efforts to end the pandemic, while a report from the Wellcome Trust and Institute for Government warned that virus mutations will "chip away" at the protection offered by vaccines.

Global Justice Now director Nick Dearden said: "This announcement is a slap in the face to the billions of people living in countries that cannot access first shots, let alone a third."

"The UK has persistently pushed low and middle-income countries to the back of the queue, hoarding the world's limited stocks of vaccines for ourselves."

"Taking even more of them, while unvaccinated people in the global South die by the thousand, is a disgrace."

"The real scandal is that this doesn't need to be a choice – we could be producing far more vaccines if only the British government would stop putting Big Pharma profit ahead of lives around the world."

Mr Dearden said ministers have an opportunity to heal the great vaccine divide at the World Trade Organisation by supporting the waiver which will "radically upscale" global production.

"If the UK continues to block the waiver, it will be yet another blow to international vaccination efforts," he said.

Islington North MP and Peace and Justice Project co-

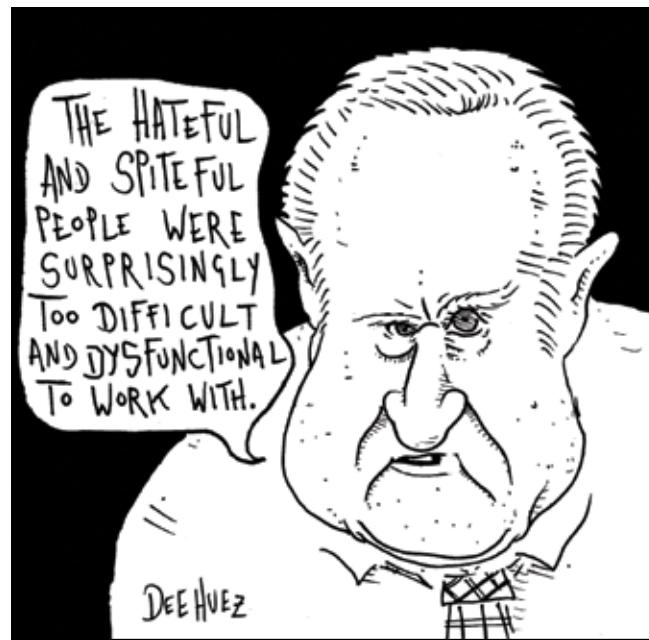
founder Jeremy Corbyn told the Star: "The longer this situation continues, the more the likelihood increases of more vaccine-resistant variants emerging and dragging the entire world frighteningly backwards."

"Not only are richer countries hoarding vaccines; they are preventing poorer countries from producing their own."

"The US now supports a waiver – albeit limited – of intellectual property law to allow all countries to produce vaccines and so must all other countries."

"And we must come together as a movement to challenge the rigged trade system that routinely prevents vital products like vaccines getting to those who most need them."

cerensagir@peoples-press.com



Cartoon: Dee Huez

■ LABOUR

De Cordova quits in blow to Starmer's team

LABOUR MP Marsha de Cordova has quit Sir Keir Starmer's shadow cabinet just weeks before the party's autumn conference.

The former shadow women and equalities secretary said she was resigning "with much sadness" to spend more of her time on her constituency work.

However, the timing of her resignation will raise eyebrows in Westminster with Labour's autumn conference due to begin on September 25.

The Battersea MP said: "It has been an immense privilege to serve as the shadow women and equalities secretary for the past 17 months.

"It therefore comes with much sadness that I am resigning with immediate effect.

"Having only been elected in 2017 for the historically marginal constituency of Battersea, I would like to focus more of my time and efforts on the people of Battersea.

"I will continue to support Keir Starmer from the back-benches."

Labour leader Sir Keir

thanked Ms de Cordova for her work highlighting the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on black, Asian, minority ethnic and disabled people.



RESIGNING:
Marsha de
Cordova

In fond memory of

CLIFF COCKER

friend and comrade of many years, and in appreciation for his invaluable work as Morning Star Arts Editor.

A life well lived, cut short too soon.

Our deep sympathies to Mary, Lizzie and Jane and families.
Kate and Ricardo

TUC CONGRESS 2021

■ HEALTH

Right to healthy food campaign gathers strength

by Matt Trinder

THE bakers' union's right to food campaign was backed by delegates at the TUC's annual Congress yesterday.

BAFWU's motion – passed without opposition – said a right to affordable, nutritious food must be enshrined in law, as up to 11 million people suffer from food poverty in Britain.

The move, backed by the British Dietetic Association and Unite, would "clarify government obligations on food poverty" and introduce legal avenues to hold ministers to account, the groups stressed.

The motion comes after Henry Dimbleby, co-founder of fast food chain Leon, published his national food strategy in July.

Commissioned by the Tory government in 2019, its stated aim was to transform England's food system "from farm to fork" to prevent food poverty and align the nation's diet with climate change goals.

Mr Dimbleby's report did

not recommend a statutory right to food, but it did call for the protection of British food standards after Brexit and the extension of free school meals.

Yesterday's motion backed these proposals, adding unions must be consulted ahead of the government's imminent food strategy white paper.

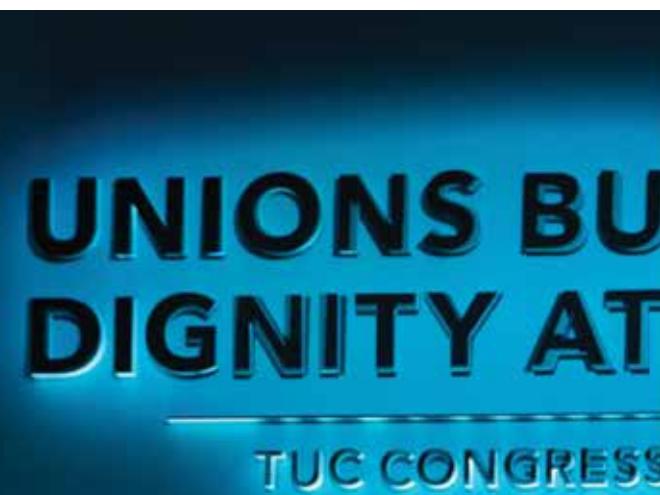
A demand to tackle supply chain inequality and ensure profits go to "impoverished food workers, not just investors," was also included.

BAFWU general secretary Sarah Woolley, who was elected to the TUC general council yesterday, said: "The [Covid-19] pandemic has shone a light on the real key workers in this country; not the bosses, not the shareholders or the millionaires – the people on the front line.

"Those struggling to make ends meet while propping our country up through the toughest 18 months any of us have ever experienced.

"We can't allow them to be failed any longer."

matttrinder@peoples-press.com



■ WORKERS' RIGHTS

Starmer backs a new deal

THE TUC welcomed Sir Keir Starmer's backing of its "new deal for working people" on the last day of the union confederation's annual Congress yesterday.

The Labour leader committed the party to backing more generous statutory sick pay for all workers, a £10-an-hour minimum wage, job rights from day one, and a flexible working guarantee.

A Labour government would also ban fire-and-rehire attacks on workers and outlaw zero-hours contracts, Sir Keir promised.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said: "Keir Starmer is right to focus on dignity at work. This pandemic has exposed the inequality and insecurity at the heart of our labour market."

But Unite's new general secretary Sharon Graham urged Sir Keir to focus urgently on defending jobs.

"This is the only way we can make sure workers do not pay the price for this pandemic. This is happening now. Labour needs to do the same."

■ NATIONAL INSURANCE HIKE

WORKERS HIT HARDEST BY TAX RISE AND PAY FREEZE

DOUBLE WHAMMY: Unions call on ministers to make pandemic profiteers pay their fair share

by Matt Trinder

THE Tories' "double whammy" of tax rises and public-sector pay freezes will hit working people the hardest, the TUC's annual Congress heard yesterday.

Delegates backed an emergency motion calling for the union confederation to campaign against the impending rise in national insurance contributions, supposedly to help support the NHS and overhaul social care after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Coming as many key workers face real-terms pay cuts, the motion – moved by GMB – demanded Prime Minister Boris Johnson make pandemic

profiteers pay their fair share.

Jobs must be safeguarded against the "wholesale cronyism that has seen highly lucrative contracts awarded to well-connected profiteers who have accumulated wealth to the cost of our communities," they added.

They cited Tory former prime minister David Cameron's involvement in the Greensill lobbying scandal as an example of how vested interests have special access to power at the expense of workers.

The motion called on ministers to publish a transparent report on all public spending during the pandemic as well as fully costed alternative proposals for raising revenue.

Many unions have backed

the TUC's call for an increase in capital gains tax as a fairer, more sustainable alternative.

The motion also made clear that reintegrating public services – including by ending disguised profits, consultancy contracts, and artificial management fees in the care sector – could be a source of cost-saving revenue.

GMB's Linda Mercer slammed the "aggressive and regressive" tax rise as "another kick in the teeth" for workers after more than a decade of Tory austerity.

She said: "This government has shown whose side it's on. We're told we live in a meritocracy, where hard work and dedication will be rewarded.

"But it turns out we live in a

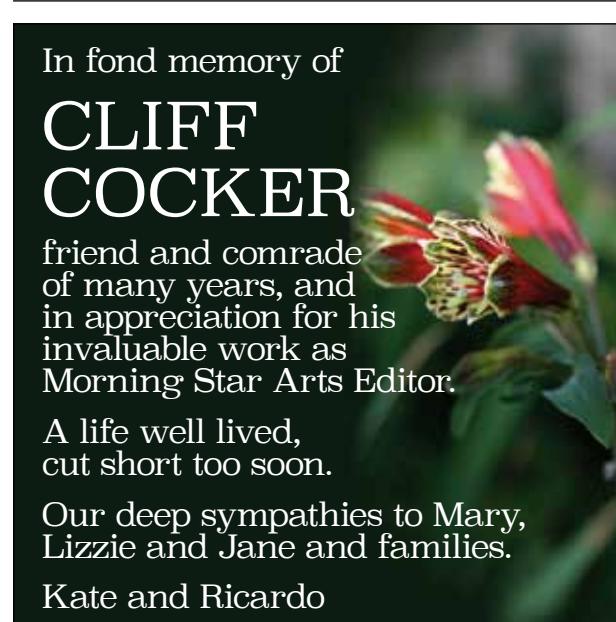
'chumocracy.' If you [have] the Prime Minister's WhatsApp, you'll get what you want."

And Aslef's Simon Weller added: "This is not the way to fix the care crisis, but it is the way Johnson and [Chancellor Rishi] Sunak have cynically chosen to put the tax burden on the lower-paid workers and not the wealthy, the landlords, or Tory donors. This must change."

Supporting the motion, Unison general secretary Christina McAnea said "those with the broadest shoulders" should pay their fair share.

She called for fair pay and working conditions for all care staff as part of a new "comprehensive socialised care system."

matttrinder@peoples-press.com



TUC CONGRESS 2021



PLEDGE: Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer speaking at the TUC Congress



NEW BEGINNING: Sue Ferns

ELECTION

Ferns elected TUC president as Congress draws to close

SUE FERNS was elected as the TUC's new president yesterday, as the 2021 Congress drew to a close.

Ms Ferns, senior deputy general secretary at the Prospect union, will serve in the role for 12 months and preside over next year's Congress.

She will chair the union's confederation's general council and executive committee.

Ms Ferns also heads the TUC's women's committee and is the general council's lead on energy, environment and sustainability as well as sitting on the government's green jobs taskforce.

She said it was a "great honour to be elected" ahead of a vital year for workers' rights.

"My focus will be on getting the best deal for members post-Covid-19, ensuring a just transition for workers as we move to a greener economy, and on closing the gender pay and pension gaps."

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady welcomed the result. She said: "It's time for a new age of dignity and security at work for everyone – women and men – and it's great to have Sue leading the way."

MORNING STAR FRINGE

Workers 'will unite to fight Tories for their rights'

by Matt Trinder

THE Tories were warned that workers are ready to "embrace collectivism" as part of a new deal for working people at the Morning Star's TUC fringe meeting yesterday.

The virtual event saw the paper's editor, Ben Chacko, joined by union leaders, activists and parliamentarians to discuss the future of work after the Covid-19 pandemic.

CWU general secretary Dave Ward said he was excited by the growing confidence in the union movement as workers reject a return to the status quo following the crisis.

"I think this is a good moment for us to build collectivism," he argued. "Ordinary working people want to see an authentic change in the direction of this country, and I think people are ready to move away from individualism."

He warned Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer that his take on the new deal – unveiled during Sir Keir's keynote speech to Congress yesterday – needed to be "bolder" as it was too focused on individual rights and did not back a return to sectoral collective bargaining.

Mr Chacko agreed, warning Sir Keir's strategy would eventually fail as he was "not challenging capitalist power."

Labour's Leicester East MP

Claudia Webbe decried the national and global retreat of workers' rights during 40 years of neoliberalism and urged as many workplaces as possible to become unionised.

Bakers' union general secretary Sarah Woolley stressed only unions could tackle precarious pay and "allow working people to live in dignity."

And Labour peer John Hendy QC, whose private member's Bill aims to create a single statutory category of "worker," said MPs and Lords must campaign for the repeal of laws restricting trade union freedoms and the right to strike, calls missing from Sir Keir's speech yesterday, he pointed out.

A ministry of labour is also needed to help safeguard future advances in workers' rights, he added, as is the regulation of supply chains to protect workers across the globe.

Liberation general secretary Roger McKenzie agreed, warning bosses would simply outsource work without "true international solidarity."

The Morning Star's management committee chair Bob Oram issued profound thanks to the paper's readers for keeping the Star – founded as the Daily Worker in 1930 – going through "bombings, being banned, fires [and] numerous cashflow crises" as well as coronavirus.

matttrinder@peoples-press.com

INDUSTRIAL

Unions rally behind calls for a four-day working week

by Matt Trinder

DEMANDS for a four-day working week with no loss in pay were backed by delegates at the TUC's annual Congress yesterday.

The University and College Union's (UCU) motion, passed without opposition at the virtual event, called for a three-day weekend with no reductions in wages so workers could make the most of more leisure time.

The union said the move echoes labour movement demands in the 19th century for "eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, eight hours for what we will" and that people deserved nothing less after the coronavirus crisis.

The motion, supported by the Communication Workers Union and rail union RMT,

stressed that working hours in Britain are among the highest in Europe, warning they had increased even more during the pandemic.

The successful motion now commits the TUC to launching a public campaign for a longer weekend alongside a programme of political lobbying.

A working group of trade union representatives should also be set up to discuss how to implement the policy in each sector, the unions said.

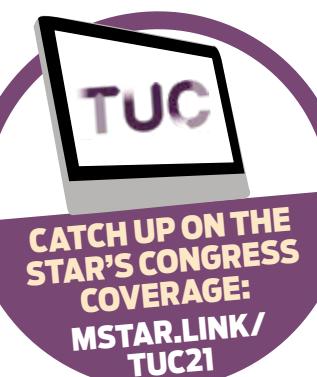
UCU general secretary Jo Grady said workers in Britain are often "exhausted by the end of the working week, too tired to enjoy their free time or build quality new memories with their loved ones. This isn't right."

The trade union movement has sent a clear message that workers are long overdue a reduction to their working

week and I am looking forward to discussing how we can deliver it with trade unions in each sector."

Congress also supported UCU's motion on climate justice which called for climate education to be embedded across the education system and within trade unions by 2030.

matttrinder@peoples-press.com


TUC
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Morning Star

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■ TRAWLING

Fishing skippers declare state of emergency

A STATE of emergency was declared by Britain's skippers and environmentalists yesterday who say that industrial trawling has devastated fishing communities on the Channel and southern North Sea coasts.

Skippers in small-boat – less than 30 metres in length – fishing fleets and campaign group Greenpeace have called for government action to stop industrial-scale fishing.

They say that giant trawlers are "leaving some local fishers

with nothing left to catch."

Greenpeace is now being prosecuted by the government's Marine Agency for its recent dropping of boulders in Britain's protected marine areas, which were intended to stop the destructive activities of super trawlers. It says the government is taking no action against industrial fishing.

Greenpeace UK oceans campaigner Chris Thorne said: "We've been at sea all summer, bearing witness to the destruction taking place in the Chan-

nel and nearby waters.

"We've worked closely with local fishers, and when you're on the water with them, it's very clear: our fishing communities are at breaking point.

"They won't survive much longer without urgent action from the government."

The Department for Food & Rural Affairs said that now Britain has left the EU, the Marine Management Organisation is consulting on extra safeguards for marine protected areas.

■ TEACHING

Education unions slam pay freeze in joint statement

by Our News Desk

EDUCATION unions have criticised the pay freeze imposed on teachers and school leaders by the government in a joint response to the school teachers' review body consultation yesterday.

The sector's union leaders said that there was no justification for the pay freeze on teachers as the body's consultation period came to an end.

They said that with RPI inflation at almost 4 per cent, teachers and school leaders were facing another significant real-terms pay cut.

The response also highlighted the urgent need to address recruitment and retention problems, warning that pay cuts would only worsen the issue, and called for the restoration of a fair national pay structure and the end of performance-related pay.

National Education Union

joint general secretary Dr Mary Bousted said: "Teachers and school leaders are key workers who have shown their value to the country during the pandemic and will be essential to the recovery from the pandemic.

"The government must change course and support them instead of attacking their pay."

School leaders' union NAHT general secretary Paul Whiteman said: "Pay for experienced teachers and leaders has been severely eroded over the past decade, while at the same time they have been asked to take on more and more."

"Ultimately the government has a very simple task: pay these people properly for the essential work they do."

Association of School and College Lecturers general secretary Geoff Barton said that the government has dealt a body blow to the morale of teachers with its decision to freeze pay.

He said: "Its short-sightedness further reduces the incentive for people to join or remain in the profession and puts at risk the supply line of teachers which is essential for our schools to deliver a high-quality education to children and young people."

Voice, the education and early years section of Community, assistant general secretary Deborah Lawson said that the ongoing pay freeze means there is no financial incentive to remain in the profession or join it, leaving key workers demoralised and exhausted.

In Wales, teaching assistants met with education minister Jeremy Miles yesterday to urge him to tackle poor working conditions during the Unison Cymru Wales school support staff forum.

They highlighted issues of low pay, a lack of career opportunities and part-time casual working.

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■ IBMT

Fundraising walk will honour left war heroes

LEFTWINGERS from Brighton and Hove who fought against General Franco's fascism in Spain will be remembered during a fundraising walk this Saturday.

The seven-mile walk from Hove station, led by International Brigade Memorial Trust (IBMT) trustee Pauline Fraser, will look at the former homes of local volunteers who helped the Spanish Republic during the 1936-39 civil war.

Also highlighted are the sites where some of the 4,000 Basque children who arrived as refugees were housed.

The event is aiming to raise money for the IBMT and its local affiliate, the Sussex Brigaders Remembered, which wants a memorial erected in the city to the 23 men, and possibly one woman, who took up arms. Some were killed in battle.

Ms Fraser said she wanted to "inform local people of the part that the Sussex Brigaders played in the fight for democracy in Spain."

"Their example of anti-fascist action and international working-class solidarity should never be forgotten," she added.

Attendees should meet on Saturday at 11am at Hove station. Further details can be found here: mstar.link/sussexbrigaders



■ TRANSPORT

ScotRail privateers hurtling towards an industrial crisis

by Peter Lazenby

PRIVATEER bosses of Scotland's rail industry are hurtling towards a crisis as unions warned of strike action if last ditch pay talks fail to produce a decent wage increase.

Unite has warned that services will be "brought to a standstill" if Abellio ScotRail bosses fail to make a "serious offer" in negotiations scheduled for today.

Rail union RMT has also vowed to take action during COP26 to "secure pay justice" if talks break down.

The union's general secretary Mick Lynch said that he expects "serious movement over the attempt to impose a de facto pay cut on rail workers."

Abellio, which is owned by the Dutch state-owned rail operator, has agreed to talks only after pressure from MSPs, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Scottish Transport Minister Graeme Day.



Unite has warned that continuous industrial action short

of a strike involving its engineering members will begin on Friday, September 24, if no progress is made in the talks.

The union represents around 250 engineers who provide safety critical maintenance, overhaul and repair services for the railway.

Unite has revealed the deplorable state of Scotland's rail services, with passenger numbers down by 90 per cent, workers constantly called in to work on their rest days at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds to taxpayers and passengers, and a state of

"disorganised chaos and understaffing."

The pay dispute adds to ScotRail's likely slashing of 300 services, causing four rail unions – Aslef, RMT, Unite and TSSA – to call for intervention by the Scottish government.

Unite industrial officer Pat McIlvogue said: "We can't emphasise enough the disorganised chaos which prevails at Abellio ScotRail."

"Due to mismanagement and staff shortages, engineers are being called back in on their rest days and overtime levels have increased costing around £1 million since 2020."

peterlazenby@peoples-press.com

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STONEHENGE: A worker carries out crucial restoration work on Stonehenge yesterday. Specialist contractors from SSH Conservation repair defects made during previous repairs from the 1950s on a trilithon in the stone circle and carry out vital conservation work at Stonehenge, Wiltshire



SCANDAL

GOVE FACES BACKLASH IN LIGHT OF BIGOTED SLURS

PREJUDICE: Minister told to resign after sexist and racist remarks were made public

by Ceren Sagir

SEXIST, racist and homophobic slurs and jokes about paedophilia made by Michael Gove as a student and journalist have been made public.

The Cabinet minister referred to people living in countries colonised by the British as "fuzzy-wuzzies" and described Margaret Thatcher's policies as a new empire where "the happy south stamps over the cruel, dirty, toothless face of the northerner."

He also said that gay people "thrive primarily upon short-term relations," according to recordings made public

this week. The comments were made at three evening debates at the Cambridge Union in February and December 1993, and after his graduation in 1987, the Independent newspaper revealed.

Mr Gove boasted that Prisons Minister Lucy Frazer, who had invited him to speak at one of the debates, was "actually capable of tempting me into bed with her" and that one college's entire rugby club had had group sex with her.

He also referred to her "preference for peach-flavoured condoms" and said she had done "remarkably well" to come from "the back streets of the slums of Leeds."

During a debating competition in his final year at Oxford University, Mr Gove said: "It may be moral to keep an empire because the fuzzy-wuzzies can't look after themselves."

"It may be immoral to keep an empire because the people of the third world have an inalienable right to self-determination, but that doesn't matter whether it's moral or immoral."

Mr Gove also said that Eton "took the cream of the colonial system, it took fettered foreigners and it turned them into gentlemen."

Stand Up To Racism convener Sabby Dhalu told the Star: "The policies coming from this government are

no surprise when you see the exposed racist views of some of those in it.

"Such vile, racist, sexist and homophobic comments are not acceptable from anyone, let alone a Cabinet minister. Michael Gove must resign."

The Liberal Democrats called for the Prime Minister to consider whether Mr Gove should remain in the Cabinet.

"However, given Boris Johnson's own history of disgraceful remarks, I expect this will be another shameful issue he lets go unchallenged," chief whip Wendy Chamberlain said.

The Cabinet Office was approached for comment.

cerensagir@peoples-press.com

DSEI

Arms fair opens to repressive tyrants

by Our News Desk

THE arms fair in London opened its doors yesterday to official delegations from the most repressive and violent countries in the world, a parliamentary question revealed.

In response to Green MP Caroline Lucas, the government revealed the list of countries officially invited to the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) arms fair at the Excel Centre.

It includes Bahrain, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, all of which

are on the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office's list of human rights priority countries. Eleven invited countries are rated as "not free" by Freedom House, including Qatar and Turkey.

Saudi Arabia continues to pursue a devastating war in Yemen and still receives British arms despite calls from the United Nations group of eminent experts on Yemen to cease all arms supplies to the warring parties.

The war is estimated to have caused an estimated 233,000 deaths from violence, hunger and disease by the end of 2020.

Hundreds of protesters

gathered outside the Excel Centre yesterday to express widespread disgust that the event was allowed to take place despite the conflict, repression and devastation that the arms trade fuels.

And ExCel staff set off protest flares in a protest claimed by the Young Communist League, which said it wanted to "protest [against] and disrupt the event." The staff had reportedly told bosses they were willing to work at it before letting off smoke grenades outside the Lockheed Martin stall.

Protests, organised by groups in the Stop the Arms Fair net-

work, have also been taking place in the week leading up to the fair.

Campaign Against Arms Trade's Dr Samuel Perlro-Freeman said: "The list of countries by the UK government to send official delegations to DSEI, with the express purpose of bringing them together with the UK's and the world's leading arms dealers, shows they are not serious about arms export controls, or global peace, human rights or good governance.

"The arms deals sealed at DSEI will make the world a more dangerous place."

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LIFE IN ART: National Museums Liverpool senior paintings conservator David Crombie looks over the painting Easter during a photo call for the Sickert: A Life in Art exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool, a major retrospective of artist Walter Richard Sickert



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IRELAND

Day of protest over Brit amnesty

by Our Foreign Desk

FAMILIES of those killed during the Troubles will hold protests across Ireland next week in opposition to the British government's proposed amnesty for soldiers.

Supporters of the Time for Truth Campaign have been angered by plans that would prevent prosecutions for "conflict-related offences," thereby denying justice for the loved ones of those killed by Britain's armed forces.

The British government paper contains a statute of limitations that would end all prosecutions for incidents up to April 1998 and would apply to military veterans as well as ex-paramilitaries.

The proposals, which Prime Minister Boris Johnson claimed would allow Northern Ireland to "draw a line under the Troubles," would also end all associated legacy

inquests and civil actions. Campaign organiser Ciaran MacAirt described the amnesty law as "insidious and perfidious proposals, which would have embarrassed Chile's Pinochet dictatorship."

"Britain is only interested in burying its war crimes in Ireland and protecting its war criminals," he said.

Mr MacAirt said the protesters will be marching "to tell Boris Johnson and [Northern Ireland Secretary] Brandon Lewis that all families have a right to truth and justice."

"We are mobilising to protect our basic human rights and will demand no less than equal access to due legal process and investigations which are compliant with article two of the European Convention on Human Rights," he said.

Marches, vigils and rallies will take place across Ireland on Saturday September 25.

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CLIMATE AGENDA:
Labour leader
Jonas Gahr Store

NORWAY

Labour aims to construct coalition after election win

NORWAY'S left-wing opposition won Monday's general election, bringing an end to eight years of conservative rule in the Scandinavian country.

Labour Party leader Jonas Gahr Store, who is expected to be named prime minister, celebrated victory in a campaign dominated by the environment and the future of Norway's oil industry.

"We waited, we hoped, and we have worked so hard, and now we can finally say it: We did it," he said after preliminary results were announced.

With 95 per cent of the votes counted, five left-wing parties were projected to win 100 of the 169 seats in the Norwegian parliament.

"Norway has sent a clear sig-

nal: the election shows that the Norwegian people want a fairer society," Mr Store said.

Conservative Prime Minister Erna Solberg, who had led the country since 2013, conceded defeat, offering congratulations to Mr Store.

Last month's report from the UN's intergovernmental panel on climate change, declaring a "code red for humanity," put the environment at the centre of the election.

The oil sector accounts for 14 per cent of Norway's gross domestic product, as well as 40 per cent of its exports and 160,000 direct jobs.

Mr Store will now lead negotiations with a left that is divided on the issue of the pace of withdrawal from the oil industry.

WEST PAPUA

Jakarta's troops 'burn school and hospital down'

INDONESIAN armed forces were accused of burning down a school and a hospital during military operations in the West Papuan district of Oksibil on Monday.

Photos provided by the Free West Papua Campaign show the buildings on fire.

The liberation group responded by demanding an end to Jakarta's military offensive.

"This action is a crime and needs to be stopped," the campaign said, describing the attacks as horrifying.

Jakarta stepped up its military operations in West Papua, its most easterly region, in April, declaring all organisations campaigning for independence to be terrorists. It claimed the troop mobilisation was necessary after the killing of a government intelligence chief who was directing operations in West Papua.

Indonesian parliamentary speaker Bambang Soesatyo provoked outrage when he urged the government to crush the West Papuan rebellion. "Destroy them first. We will discuss human rights matters later," he said in an inflammatory statement.

Indonesia annexed West Papua under 1969's so-called Act of Free Choice, a referendum among just over 1,000 people selected by the military, many at gunpoint.

Some 500,000 West Papuans have been killed since the annexation. Liberation leader Benny Wenda has accused Indonesia of a genocide and is demanding a referendum on the issue of independence.



NORTHERN IRAQ

Turkey continues ruthless assault on Kurdish villages

by Steve Sweeney
International editor

TURKEY continued its four-month bombardment of Iraqi Kurdistan yesterday with missiles targeting a number of Kurdish villages in the mountainous Duhok province overnight.

Ankara claimed to have struck suspected Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) positions in Hirore village, close to the border with Turkey.

But a PKK source told the Morning Star that the organisation has "no fighters based there," and accused Turkey of bombing an area full of innocent civilians.

Turkish helicopters and artillery also struck a number of other villages in the Berwari Bala and Heftanin mountain regions in the early hours.

The air strikes were reported to have targeted agricultural land – Turkey has already



DEFIANT: A PKK cadre parade at the weekend

destroyed thousands of acres of forest and green land that Kurdish villagers rely on for food.

"Intense bombings carried out by the invading Turkish army caused serious material damage in the settlements, vineyards and gardens belong-

ing to our people," a PKK statement said yesterday. Houses were destroyed by Turkish shelling, electricity cut and infrastructure was damaged.

Residents of Berwari Bala were forced to flee their homes due to the intensity of the artillery fire and cattle were slaughtered by the invaders.

Thousands of Kurdish villagers have been driven from their homes since Turkey launched Operation Claw Lightning in April, according to the Christian Peacemakers Team.

The Morning Star has spoken to residents in the affected



■ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

CUBA WARNS MEPS NOT TO PUSH WASHINGTON'S LINE

Havana says rightwingers are not interested in human rights, they are just following the US

by Steve Sweeney
International editor

CUBA has condemned a "dangerous politicised move" by a group in the European Parliament that it says is turning the body into a pawn of Washington.

The European People's Party group has tabled a motion for debate on human rights on the socialist island entitled Government crackdown on protests and citizens in Cuba.

It refers to the US-funded instability on the socialist island in June, when a co-ordinated social media campaign attempted to stir up anti-government sentiment.

Despite its efforts, large demonstrations were held in support of the Cuban government, demanding an end to the crippling six-decade US blockade which is estimated to have cost its economy \$754 billion (£544bn) since 1959.

US President Joe Biden was accused of hypocrisy in his claim to support the Cuban people – while instructing delegates to block a UN resolution calling for an end to the punitive US embargo.

As US hostility escalated, Miami Mayor Francis Suarez pressed the case for military intervention to force regime change, calling for air strikes on Cuba.

The European Parliament

debate, due tomorrow, is intended to place more pressure on Havana.

Yesterday's statement from the Cuban parliament's international relations commission said it had noted the motion "with disgust," saying that, once again, the chamber was being turned "into a pawn in manoeuvres of escalating aggression that is contrary to genuine European interests."

"The promoters of this latest manoeuvre lack the moral authority to hold themselves out as defenders of the rights of the Cuban people," the statement said.

The MEPs who tabled the motion were accused of "bending to the will of a foreign power

that is waging against our country a brutal economic, commercial, financial, political and communication war – intensified at a time when we are faced with the pandemic – as the most flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cubans, a fact which these persons, demonstrating their emblematic political hypocrisy, have never even bothered to denounce."

The Cuban government warned that the MEPs pushing the anti-Cuba line do not have a genuine concern for human rights but are instead pushing a political agenda.

"We call on the MEPs not to lend their support to this latest manoeuvre," it said.

international@peoples-press.com

■ UN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Bachelet calls on US to lift its sanctions on Venezuela

by Our Foreign Desk

UNITED NATIONS high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet has called for United States sanctions on Venezuela to be lifted to alleviate their devastating impact on its people.

Speaking during Monday's session of the human rights council, she condemned Washington's punitive measures, which have been in place since 2014.

"The pre-existing humanitarian and economic situation was aggravated both by the Covid-19 pandemic and by sector sanctions ... I reiterate my call for these sanctions to be lifted," Ms Bachelet said.

Venezuelan Foreign Affairs Minister Felix Plasencia branded the sanctions "a crime against humanity," explaining that the restrictions have caused the country's income to fall by 99 per cent – with "devastating effects on the population."

Caracas has brought a case before the International Criminal Court over the imposition of the sanctions, which have been labelled "a punishment against the innocent population" of Venezuela by the UN. But the US is not a member of the Hague-based global body and withdrew



CONDEMNATORY: Michelle Bachelet addresses Monday's opening of the 48th session of the UN's rights council

from the UN's rights council under former president Donald Trump.

Washington's hostile approach toward Venezuela escalated under former president Barack Obama, who signed a 2015 executive order declaring the South American country "a national security threat."

The US has continued to seek to overthrow the democratically elected government of President Nicolas Maduro and replace him with opposition figure Juan Guaido, who has spearheaded a number of botched

coup attempts, including an operation launched last year from neighbouring Colombia with the support of former US marines.

That attempt was foiled by Venezuelan security services. Mr Maduro said that Mr Trump had been the "commander in chief" of the assignment, which was conducted by the Florida-based Silvercorps private security company.

Negotiations have been taking place between the Venezuelan government and opposition figures in Mexico City, with the next round scheduled for later this month.

international@peoples-press.com



ACCUSATION: Nicolas Maduro, pictured in 2019

Pic: www.kremlin.ru

■ HUNGER STRIKE

More afraid of climate change than death

AN ENVIRONMENTAL activist in Germany said he is willing to die for his cause as he enters the third week of a hunger strike to draw attention to the impact of climate change.

Jacob Heinze is one of at least six people who have gone without food for more than two weeks; he says that his fear of climate change is greater than his fear of death.

"I already told my parents and my friends there's a chance I'm not going to see them again," he told the BBC.

"I'm doing this because our governments are failing to save the young generation from a future which is beyond imagination ... We're going to face war regarding resources like food and water, food and land, and this is already a reality for many people in the world," he said.

Describing his hunger strike as "indefinite," he and the others who have joined the action have vowed to continue until the three leading candidates to replace Angela Merkel as German chancellor come and speak to them.

So far only Green Party candidate Annalena Baerbock has responded, though only via a phone call to urge them to end their hunger strike.

But Mr Heinze has vowed to continue his action, saying: "It's really necessary to wake people up all over the world."

 in brief

Leader omits party from indy talks

SPAIN: Catalan President Pere Aragonès has announced that he is excluding Together for Catalonia, a separatist party in his ruling regional coalition, from talks with the central government on deadlocked independence demands.

The party wanted two of its members who had served jail sentences for their role in the tumultuous bid for Catalan independence four years ago to attend the talks.

Gloomy prospects for change in Kabul

AFGHANISTAN: New foreign minister Molavi Amir Khan Muttaqi said yesterday that he would not give a timeframe for how long the interim Taliban government would be in place or whether it would be opened up to other factions, minorities or women.

Asked about the possibility of elections, he demanded that other countries not interfere in Afghanistan's internal issues.

Aeroplane death of Netanyahu witness

GREECE: Authorities have launched a probe into the crash of a private plane from Israel that killed a prosecution witness in the corruption trial of former Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu.

Haim Geron, a former communications ministry senior official, and his wife Esther died in Monday's crash off the island of Samos.

Eggheads train cows to use 'moo-loo'

GERMANY: Scientists at an animal research lab in Dummerstorf have been training cows to use a "moo-loo."

Mimicking potty training, they put calves into the special pen and waited until they urinated, then gave them a reward of molasses.

A single cow can produce about eight gallons of urine a day, and poses a serious environmental problem. The hope is that toilet-training animals will make it easier to manage waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

★Star comment

A blow for GB News but no great loss to the media landscape

CHAIRMAN Mao once said: "Let a hundred flowers bloom and a hundred schools of thought contend," in an effort to promote a culture of questioning and constructive criticism.

But what if one of the new flowers turns out to be a toxic weed without even the saving grace of a pleasant fragrance or a pretty blossom?

Best, surely, to tear it out by the roots or, in milder mood, allow it to wither and die in isolation from the rest of the garden. The latter appears to be the likely fate of GB News.

The television channel was launched in June with a mission to provide a radical alternative slant on the news, politics and current affairs to that supplied by the so-called "liberal metropolitan elite."

It would challenge what its founders saw as the "woke" and "cancel culture" allegedly suffocating freedom of expression in Britain today.

This would inevitably take the new station in a rightwards direction ideologically but, we were assured, it would broadcast voices from the centre and the left as well.

Now comes the announcement that GB News chair and lead presenter Andrew Neil is standing down, after taking an unscheduled two-month holiday at his holiday home in the south of France only weeks after going on air.



The Professor Moriarty of Wapping was not only upset by the technical calamities that befell the new channel's programmes in its first month.

Neil has also, it seems, been dismayed by the carping, one-sided and unremittingly right-wing content of much of its output, including the obsessional ranting of the "it's political correctness gone mad!" kind.

In tune with the vast majority of the viewing public, most Morning Star readers may be unaware of the dross excreted by a typical GB News programme.

A few days ago, for example, leading presenter, former Sun journalist and self-styled comedian Dan Wootton was joined at length by another white man to bemoan the perceived injustices of anti-hate crime legislation.

They dwelt on a handful of cases where the law has been an ass – or has at least been interpreted by asses – to the mild discomfort and irritation of white male heterosexual pundits and comedians such as themselves.

It is unthinkable, on the other hand, that a GB News programme would simply investigate and report – let alone sympathise with – those who experience Britain's thousands of real hate crimes every year.



Similarly, GB News presenters and guests habitually sound off about how the rights of disadvantaged groups of people at home or abroad are supposedly being used to silence fearless champions of free speech such as ... themselves.

Neil's departure from his top post will do even more damage to the station's credibility. In many television and business circles at least, his professional reputation as a broadcasting strategist and tough interviewer outweighs his ignominious past as a Murdoch lieutenant.

Replacing him with Nigel Farage as lead presenter may fire up the channel's dwindling band of right-wing ghetto-dwellers, but it will do nothing to stem the steady exodus of broadcasters and technicians with any skill or integrity.

Neil's presence at the helm of GB News played a key role in attracting investors to the enterprise. Whether they wish to continue subsidising this ugly, vile-smelling waste remains to be seen.

Certainly, Britain's media garden would benefit from some new blooms, not least those that would provide alternative perspectives to fake-left liberalism and right-wing neoliberalism. But GB News is merely a waste of both oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Blessed are the peacemakers

BOB NEWLAND welcomes the acquittal of Eta member turned peace negotiator Josu Urrutikoetxea, who was facing terrorism charges in a French court despite a supposed guarantee of immunity

NA landmark case for the Basque independence movement, Josu Urrutikoetxea, Basque activist and peace negotiator, was acquitted of all charges following his trial at the 16th Anti-Terrorist Correctional Chamber in Paris.

Urrutikoetxea's prosecution for "criminal association with a terrorist aim" arose from his role as a peace negotiator during talks between Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (Eta) and the Spanish government.

These ended one of the bloodiest conflicts in 20th-century Europe and led to Eta's voluntary dissolution. It is the first time that charges against a Basque militant have been dismissed.

This outcome was not simply a personal victory for Urrutikoetxea, welcome though that is. It emphasises the importance of peace negotiators in bringing about the end to conflict and for them to be granted and retain immunity for their work.

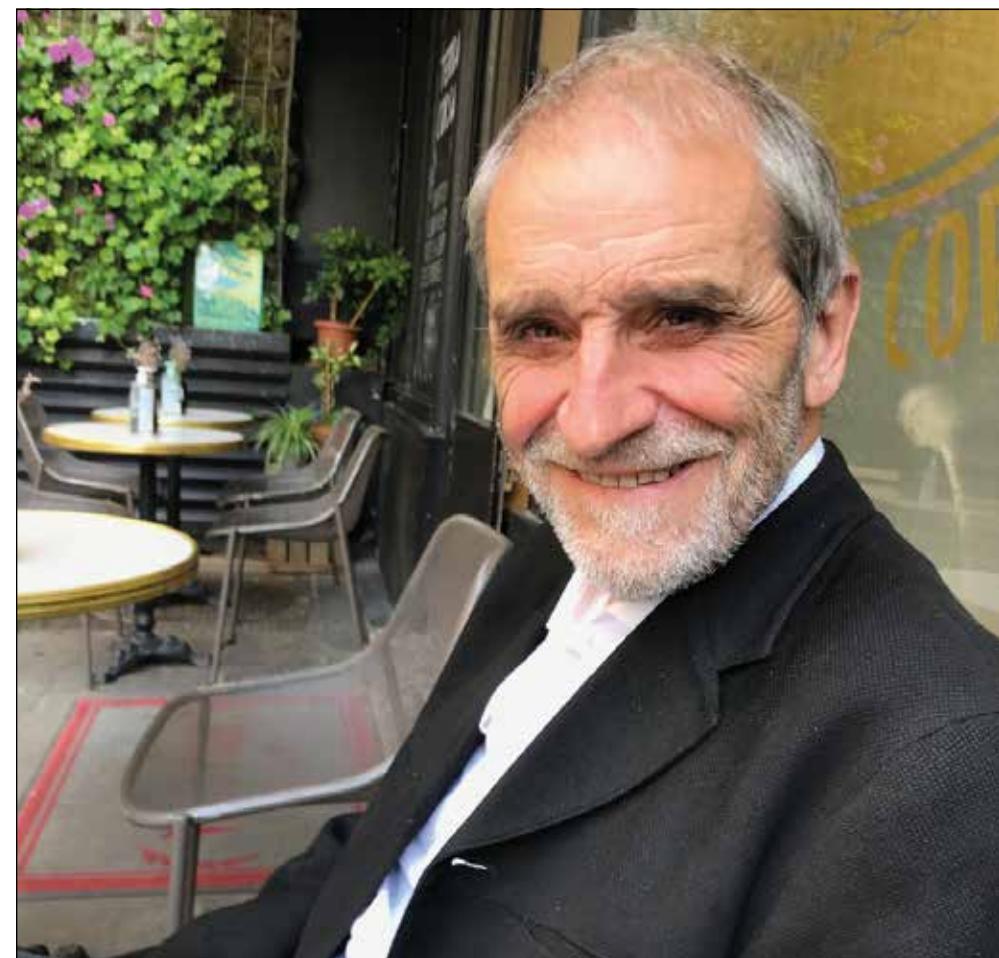
It was also a major victory for international solidarity. No-one denied Urrutikoetxea's role as a former leading figure in Eta. The issue was that he had been granted immunity with international guarantees to allow him to partake in that conflict resolution process.

Declaring the verdict the president of the chamber concluded her judgement by stating: "The fact of participating, in one way or another, in negotiations, parley talks, trips, meetings with the aim of bringing a terrorist organisation to definitively stop using violence cannot constitute the delict (liability) of participation in a criminal association with a view to preparing acts of terrorism; as the project does not consist of the preparation of one of the acts of terrorism mentioned in Articles 421-1 et seq (of the French criminal code)."

She continued by emphasising that "neither the material nor the intentional element of the delict of participation in a criminal association for the preparation of acts of terrorism has been established."

One of the key lessons from Urrutikoetxea's acquittal is the power of international solidarity. This has been true in the fight against apartheid in South Africa, in the fight against British occupation of Ireland and many other struggles.

It is not surprising therefore that key figures from these



conflicts were prominent in endorsing the international appeal for Urrutikoetxea's acquittal and release.

These included Peter Hain and Gerry Adams who played a key role in implementing the Good Friday Agreement. Another was Ronnie Kasrils, a member of the ANC team which negotiated the peaceful transition of power in South Africa.

Other supporters were London Recruits Alex Moumbaris, Ken Keable and myself who supported uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK), the ANC's armed wing, through clandestine actions in South Africa in the 1970s.

The long list of international signatories also included Ken Loach and Noam Chomsky.

History tells us that all conflicts must eventually come to an end. Negotiations between former protagonists play a key role in achieving this.

In that process "terrorists" often become transformed into the freedom fighters they always knew themselves to be.

This was true for the Mau Mau in Kenya, the ANC in South Africa and of course more recently the IRA in Ireland.

In those struggles close associations are often formed and mutual support assumes great importance. South Africa's MK veterans helped the IRA end the armed struggle in Northern Ireland.

In turn, IRA leaders shared with Eta their experience of transition from armed to peace-

"

One of the key lessons from Urrutikoetxea's acquittal is the power of international solidarity

ful struggle thereby assisting Eta's decision to disband.

Urrutikoetxea's trial was a political case with terrible unforeseen consequences. Without the protections promised to him (flagrantly disregarded by the French authorities in bringing these charges) peace negotiations cannot take place.

A conviction could have been disastrous for future and ongoing conflict resolution. According to his legal team, the international appeal on behalf of Urrutikoetxea played a significant role in helping them present their argument to the court. It is hoped that this acquittal may set a clear precedent for the protection of future peace negotiators.

Unfortunately, Urrutikoetxea will be back before the French courts on September 13 and 14 facing further charges. He also faces one possible outstanding charge in Spain – three others having been dismissed or settled without imprisonment.

The international campaign for his acquittal will continue. Meanwhile he has been released on bail and is, for the moment, enjoying freedoms he has not experienced for over 20 years.



DEVASTATION: A bus that was torn apart in London's Tavistock Square in a terror bombing on July 7 2005

THE omissions and distortions that have been made by politicians about Afghanistan over the last few weeks, echoed by much of the media, have been so big and unremitting it's easy to start questioning one's own grip on reality.

Why are the media giving so much airtime to the politicians and senior military figures responsible for the carnage in Afghanistan?

Why is no-one pointing out it was the violent Western occupation of the country that fuelled the rise of the Taliban-led resistance?

Or that the West worked closely with warlords and human rights abusing militias? That the West backed the "worst crazies" among the mujahedin forces in the '80s?

A recent edition of BBC Radio 4's Any Questions political debate programme raised the propaganda and dishonesty to stratospheric levels.

Asked by an audience member if the war in Afghanistan has been a failure, James Heappey, the minister for the armed forces who served in Helmand himself, replied: "In the 20 years that have followed [the September 11 2001 attacks] there have been no international terrorism attacks from Afghanistan into the West, and in that sense it was successful ... on the macro level, no international terrorism. That's success."

No-one, not BBC presenter Chris Mason, the other three guests or any of the audience said anything in response to this disingenuous BS.

Frustratingly, fellow panellist Diane Abbott MP, who boldly opposed Britain's participation in the war in Parliament in 2001, made a similar argument herself: "If you are going to look at it in narrow security terms, you can point to some success. Osama Bin Laden was found and killed and so on." Note: Bin Laden was killed in Pakistan, not Afghanistan.

Presumably on a list of talking points given to Tories appearing in the media, Prime Minister Boris Johnson made the same point as Heappey in his "address to the nation" on August 29: "To the families and loved ones of those British troops who gave their all, your suffering and your hardship were not in vain. It was no accident that there has been no terrorist attack

launched against Britain or any other Western country from Afghanistan in the last 20 years."

There are several obvious flaws in this astonishingly deceitful claim.

First, terrorist attacks have taken place in Britain and the US that have been inspired by the US-British invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

In his martyrdom video Shehzad Tanweer, one of the suicide bombers who killed 52 people in London on July 7 2005, said: "What you have witnessed now is only the beginning of a string of attacks that will continue and become stronger until you pull your forces out of Afghanistan and Iraq and until you stop your financial and military support to America and Israel."

Michael Adebolajo was clear why he killed British soldier Lee Rigby in London in 2013, telling a woman who spoke to him: "I killed him because he kills Muslims over there and I am fed up that people kill Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan."

And, according to the Huffington Post, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the perpetrators of the April 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, "told interrogators that the American wars in Iraq and Afghanistan motivated him and his brother to carry out the attack."

Second, it is widely understood by intelligence agencies and experts that the West's military intervention in Afghanistan led to a heightened terrorist threat to the West.

In 2004 Britain's Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office co-published a report titled Young Muslims and Extremism.

The study concluded that a major driver of "extremism" among young British Muslims was "a perceived 'double standard' in the foreign policy of Western governments ... in particular Britain and the US."

The study elaborated: "The war on terror, and in Iraq and Afghanistan are all seen by a section of British Muslims as having been acts against Islam."

After prime minister David Cameron claimed in 2010 that British troops in Afghanistan made people "safe and secure back home in the UK," Richard Barrett, a former director of global counter-terrorism operations at MI6, was scathing: "I've never heard such nonsense ... I'm quite sure if there were

Tell me lies about Afghanistan

Misleading narratives about the Afghan invasion and its motives are still promoted by the BBC and others. The families of those who died in this futile adventure deserve a proper national reckoning, says **IAN SINCLAIR**



no foreign troops in Afghanistan, there'd be less agitation in Leeds, or wherever, about ... what Western intentions are in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

The Establishment Chatham House think tank came to a similar conclusion, noting in a briefing published just after July 7: "The UK is at particular risk [from al-Qaeda terrorist attacks] because it is the closest ally of the United States" and "has deployed armed forces in the military campaigns to topple the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and in Iraq ... riding pillion with a powerful ally has proved costly in terms of British and US military lives, Iraqi lives, military expenditure, and the damage caused to the counter-terrorism campaign."

The final problem with the government's claim that the war stopped terrorism on the West from Afghanistan is that it's based on a simplistic understanding of the September 11 2001 terror attacks – that it was necessary for terrorists to "have a safe haven to plan and launch attacks on America and other civilised nations," as president George W Bush explained in 2006.

In reality we know that September 11 was "conceived and initially planned in Germany,



that the training was carried out in the US and that most of the hijackers were Saudi," as Frank Ledwidge explained in his 2013 book Investment In Blood: The True Cost Of Britain's Afghan War.

July 7, the 2017 Manchester Arena bombing and London Bridge attacks – none of the perpetrators of these atrocities required a "safe haven" to deliver death and destruction in Britain.

Indeed, as foreign policy analyst Micah Zenko argued in his 2015 article The Myth of the Terrorist Safe Haven, "Americans, themselves, have been responsible for 50 per cent of plots and attacks against the

RAVAGED: A scene of a ruined street in Kabul, 2002, and (left) a Stop the War protest in Hyde Park, London, also 2002

United States since 9/11, followed by Brits at 21 per cent."

"If anywhere is a safe haven for terrorism against the United States, it is America." Ditto Britain.

In addition, Western military action in so-called safe havens increases terrorist attacks on Western forces in these countries.

Zenko again: "According to the State Department and Global Terrorism Database, of the 335 Americans who have died from terrorism since 9/11, 268, or 80 per cent, died within Iraq or Afghanistan – the very places where the United States started wars to prevent or destroy safe havens."

The government's focus on the impact of the British war in Afghanistan on terrorism in the West serves a broader purpose: obscuring the real reason for Britain's intervention.

Ledwidge explains: Britain was involved so heavily in Afghanistan (and Iraq) because of "the perceived necessity of retaining the closest possible

links with the US."

This, he notes, "is accepted in private by most politicians and senior soldiers."

After his staff interviewed over 600 people with first-hand experience of the war, the head of the US government's Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, told the Washington Post: "The American people have constantly been lied to" for 20 years.

The Post's impressive December 2019 reporting of the \$11 million Lessons Learned project was covered by the British media, but has been quickly forgotten, and hasn't framed the subsequent political debate and media coverage of the conflict.

There has, in short, been no national reckoning in Britain about the Afghan war, no public inquiry. The families and loved ones of the 457 members of the British armed forces who were killed in Afghanistan, and the thousands of civilians who died at the hands of the British military, deserve the to hear the truth.

Follow Ian on Twitter @IanJSinclair.

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY

Low cloud and fog lifting steadily during the morning, then dry for many with sunny spells developing. Showers in the north-west moving eastwards. Warmer, particularly in northern England.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Mostly dry with sunny spells tomorrow. Cloud and rain, locally heavy, spreads from the west on Friday. Some rain in the east on Saturday, mainly dry with sunny spells in the west.

CONTACT US

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

The Morning Star,
Ruskin House,
23 Coombe Road,
London CRO 1BD
[\(020\) 8510-0815](mailto:enquiries@peoples-press.com)
(Mon-Fri 10am-5pm)

ADVERTISING

Moshfiqur Noor
ads@peoples-press.com

CIRCULATION

Bernadette Keaveney
circulation@peoples-press.com
0778 0220-391

CAMPAIGNS

Calvin Tucker
campaigns@peoples-press.com

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DAILY SUDOKU

(tough)

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QUIZMASTER



Pic: Glen Bowman/creative commons

with William Sitwell

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

- The lawyer Sydney Carton is a character in which Dickens novel?
- What would an Italian do with a rapini?
- Which type of eclipse can only occur at a new moon?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. Was Harry Hems a notable English painter, sculptor or musician? **Sculptor, in both wood and stone**

2. True or false: there is a species of pheasant endemic to Vietnam. **True. It is**

also called the Vietnamese fireback (pictured)

3. Which TV comedy was about the Boswell family of Liverpool? **Bread**

Fighting Fund

with Keith Stoddart

15 days left

YOU'VE RAISED: £7,909 **WE NEED:** £10,091



SEPTEMBER'S Fund now sits at £7,909 thanks to two little ducks – 22 – worth of contributors sending £360, which brings the total to just under 44 per cent of what we need; we're halfway through the month but still two grand away from half of our target.

I know things are tight now and the expected loss of the uplift for universal credit claim-

ants will be a concern for many. Add to this the proposed abandonment of the limited protection that pensioners had with the triple lock and job losses post-furlough, and it's a bleak time for lots of households.

I don't want folk already worried about what's to come to feel under pressure, but if you can, please do what you can to move the Fund along.

Our advance comes thanks to a £100 in memory of Cliff Cocker; Unite Branch NW-1400-5 sent £25; the same was in thanks for our coverage of not only events in Afghanistan but the background as to how Nato and its allies created the problems the country now faces; and "solidarity forever – keep up the wonderful work" came with £5.

Talking of solidarity, I'm hoping that yesterday's Morning Star fringe at the TUC has raised a good few quid.

If you've enjoyed our TUC coverage (rounded up online at mstar.link/tuc21) have a chat in your branch about a whip-round for the paper: the only daily that gives Congress the attention it deserves is the one you're reading right now.

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TV preview

with Neil Jenkins



Following the decision-makers with the weight of the world on their minds

IN 1795, French revolutionary leaders enshrined the metric system in law in a bid to establish a democratic approach to measurement: one whereby working people would not be diddled out of their hard-earned cash when they were buying their baguettes, as measurements would be standardised throughout the country.

They looked to nature to provide their constants: the metre, for instance, was meant to be a fraction of the Earth's circumference. But that proved too tricky to measure accurately and consistently, so instead they created artefacts – physical points of reference for the new units of measurement. And that's why, just outside Paris, in a vault, encased in three vacuum-sealed bell jars, sits a metal cylinder about the diameter of a golf ball. It's the

kilogram, based on the mass of 1,000 cubic centimetres of water at 4°C, and serves – or rather served – as the base unit of mass in the International System of Units. It dates from 1889, when this platinum-iridium international prototype of the kilogram replaced the revolutionaries' original platinum chunk.

But a century later, at the turn of the 1990s, it was found that its mass had eroded by about 50 micrograms – about the mass of an eyelash – since it had been created, unleashing a crisis with potentially dire consequences.

Miriam Margolyes narrates tonight's documentary **Measuring Mass: The Last Artefact** (9pm BBC4), which tells the story of the artefact and follows the high-stakes two-year race to redefine the weight of the world.

More telly: **The Man Putin**

Couldn't Kill (10pm Channel 4), documentary retells the story of the attempted assassination of Alexei Navalny, the Russian president's most vocal critic; **It's Got to Be Funny** (10.55pm Talking Pictures), old-time music hall comedian and actor Max Wall, whose performances ranged from Samuel Beckett to Coronation Street, traces his life and career in this 1983 profile.

Films on TV: **Wild Rose** (9pm Film4), 2019 musical drama about the travails of a Glaswegian country singer and single mum, played by Jessie Buckley; **The Magnificent Seven** (9pm 5 Star), 2016 remake of the 1960 western with Denzel Washington and Chris Pratt; **Gunda: Mother, Pig** (10pm BBC4), Victor Kossakovsky's 2020 documentary looks at life from some farm animals' point of view.



SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

with Rox Middleton, Liam Shaw and Joel Hellewell

Keeping something in reserve

THE challenge of climate change is an existential crisis. Not for humanity, but for capitalism.

The energy consumption of our societies relies on the extraction of fossil fuels. Existing reserves of coal, crude oil and gas all formed slowly over millions of years.

Though these fuels may seem unnatural, they are organic in origin: layers of plankton and plants laid down in sedimentary layers, heated and squeezed, transformed into a fuel.

Their high energy density comes from trillions of cellular lives previously lived, soaking up sunlight before being transmuted by geology.

There are already millions of victims of climate change dying today from increasing floods, heatwaves and famines caused by man-made climate change.

The problem of global warming is harming people now. There is also the harm caused to future human lives – those who don't exist yet – whose needs and wellbeing we balance against our own.

Philosophical approaches to these future people differ, but we might think of these as our children or simply other humans with whom we must stand in solidarity.

When we decide to prioritise our personal comfort now, we steal wellbeing from the future, forcing more future people into dire circumstances.

Burning fossil fuels also relies on stealing from accumulated time in the past. When coal, oil or gas are burned, this slow and steady accumulation of energy goes up in smoke.

We are burning fossil fuels at a much faster rate than they naturally accumulate. In a literal sense, capitalism steals both from the past and from the future.

This stolen time is an amazing economic shortcut. Capitalism performs a conjuring trick, releasing ancient stored energy in a flash of smoke, producing immediate wealth now at the expense of negative impacts in the future.

Since the Industrial Revolution, expanding energy needs have been largely met by increasing fuel extraction.

Across the world, corporations and governments have worked hand in hand to map the presence of these precious fuels, then drained the Earth dry.

Aside from the huge ecological damage of extraction, we now know the climate change caused is so extreme that the balance between benefits and

A new study calculates that the majority of fossil fuels must remain in the ground to limit climate change



THE ART OF PERSEVERANCE: (Above) Extinction Rebellion faith group protest in Parliament Square, London before continuing the CAMINO to COP protest walk to the Cop 26 climate conference in Glasgow; (below) Extinction Rebellion perform outside the SEC 'Armadillo' in Glasgow, site of COP26 in November - the performance is part of an action to raise awareness of rising sea levels

negatives of the fast burn of fossil fuels is detrimental to humanity.

We know with alarming confidence that continuing to extract and burn fossil fuels will lead to a global mean temperature increase.

Some temperature increase is now unavoidable. International agreements focus on limiting the temperature increase below 1.5°C, by trying to work out how much further carbon can be added to the atmosphere and at what rate.

So it's already known that we have to stop using fossil fuels. But since the world cannot do this overnight, how steep does the decline need to be?

A new study in Nature led

by researchers from UCL has estimated the amount of fossil fuels that need to remain unextracted to allow a 50 per cent probability of limiting warming to 1.5°C.

Their paper, led by first-author Dan Welby, found that nearly 60 per cent of oil and gas and 90 per cent of coal in the reserves that currently exist has to remain unextracted to keep within a "carbon budget." That gives a hard limit on what future fossil fuels could be considered available.

The team also estimated that global oil and gas production needs to decline by 3 per cent a year. Peak production needs to occur "now or during the

next decade."

Fossil fuel projects are costly and long-term projects. This assessment demonstrates that current and planned projects to extract fossil fuels cannot be continued.

Remember that this estimate is just for a 50/50 chance of limiting warming to less than 1.5°C. A higher confidence would require even more drastic reductions. The reason the team did not estimate this is probably because it would be too depressing.

There are some "promising signs" in the ambitious model. Coal production peaked in 2013. Oil output is estimated to be near peak demand.

Furthermore, the team's model estimates for unextractable fuels are higher than previous ones in part due to improvements in low-carbon technologies which will decrease demand for fossil fuels and make it economically unattractive to extract more.

The model also assumes substantial improvements in

"

The British university sector pension scheme has over £1bn invested in fossil fuels companies and is a 10 per cent owner of Heathrow airport. These are not good investments



carbon dioxide removal technology to take in carbon from the atmosphere. This is positive, but risky: false confidence in that option inevitably means that the can continues to be kicked down the road.

Fossil fuels are not evenly distributed around the world, with concentrations of reserves of oil in the Middle East and Canada, as well as gas in Russia.

The study therefore makes interesting reading from a geopolitical perspective, particularly for the United Nations summit COP26 in Glasgow on November 1-12.

The future trajectories of all regions will be affected not just by climate change itself but also by this disruption to their economies as fossil fuels stop being used.

The global economy is built on the assumption that fossil fuels are good economic prospects. For example, as scientists within the British university sector, our pension scheme (the universities superannuation scheme) has over £1bn invested in fossil fuels companies and is a 10 per cent owner of Heathrow airport. To put it mildly, these are not good investments.

As the scientists behind the study put it, there is still a "disconnect" between "the production outlook of different countries and corporate entities and the necessary pathway to limit average temperature increases." Quite.

This disconnect is fundamental: it is corporate capitalism. As David Whyte puts it in his book Ecocide, the structure of corporations is inherently deadly. The corporation is "the perfect vehicle for devouring nature."

It is not hyperbole to point out that corporations have more of a plan for the next hundred years than governments do. Corporations have plans for their existence in a world with over 1.5°C of warming. The rest of us do not.

The challenge of climate change should be seen not just as a need to change the energy we use to destroy the environment, but an opportunity to fundamentally change the global economy.

Corporations will fight this change; citizens must unite against them. The power of capitalism really does rest on borrowed time. It's optimistic, but we'd like to believe that our lifetimes will see this time come to an end. It has to start now.

MUSIC | END OF THE ROAD
★★★★★ | LARMER TREE GARDENS, WILTSHIRE

Thankfully, no end in sight for this tongue-in-cheek misnomer

TOM STONE has a whale of a time at the provocatively named festival in southern Wiltshire

PUNK-RAP duo Sleaford Mods drew the biggest crowd of the weekend with their Saturday night headline slot at End of the Road festival, Larmer Tree Gardens, Wiltshire (September 2-5).

Their no-holds-barred, anti-Establishment rhetoric tore into the capitalist political system, with lines like: "This daylight robbery is now so f***g hateful/ It's accepted by the vast majority" (*Faces to Faces*) and: "The trappings of luxury can't save you from the nail-biting boredom of repetitive brain injury/ The injury of your useless mind, stuck to the track" (*TCR*).

With the crowd very much on their side they proved, beyond doubt, that the spirit of protest is alive and well in British music.

But it wasn't just the loudest disrupters – Sleaford Mods' frontman Jason Williamson's passionate, expletive-laced anger could be heard right across the site – that challenged and provoked in the Covid-restricted and therefore almost exclusively British line-up.

Hen Ogled – their name taken from the Welsh term for The Old North – the region they hail from, called into question the status quo with their progressive folk on Saturday afternoon, encapsulated by their 2020 song *Time Party*: "Bomb the banks! Shrink the economy/ The economy is shrieking/ Leave your wallet / In your pocket."

Elsewhere on the line-up, artists were perhaps less overtly political, but certainly cutting edge and helped to continue End of the Road's reputation as the festival that books the finest-quality acts, digging beneath the mainstream to uncover the up-and-coming who e x u d e the talent that is the very lifeblood of music.

The act who perhaps encapsulated this best was avant-garde heavy prog-punk rockers Squid.



Add to all this an impressive after hours area "hidden" in on-site woodland, literature, spoken word, cinema and performance art installations, enjoyed by a wide demographic of young and old, in a spacious, uncrowded site – the 15,000 tickets sold out months in advance – and you can see why End of the Road, in its 15th year now, is rightly hailed as the best s m a l l music festival in Britain.

FILM

'Covid-proofed' Venice Festival reels on

MASKS on, double-vaccinated, socially distanced, thermal cameras at every entrance and tubs of hydro-alcoholic hand gel beside every door – that was Venice Film Festival in the age of Covid.

This year's top prize went again to a young, female director, this time Audrey Diwan for an abortion drama *Happening*



UPSETTING: Anamaria Vartolomei in *Happening*

student in France in 1963 who finds herself unwittingly pregnant. Determined to do something about it, she immediately finds every door in her world closed to her.

A moving study of a struggle for the right to abortion ensues. The film is often a tough watch, almost breathless, but compassionate and unflinchingly honest.

The subject is not new, but the battle of the young woman is potent and feels all too relevant today with abortion still illegal in many countries and under renewed threat in others. *Happening* serves as an urgent reminder of the need to protect and keep fighting for women's rights.

The Silver Lion (second prize) went to Paolo Sorrentino's *The Hand of God*, a breathtaking, autobiographically inspired coming-of-age story of a boy growing up in the tumultuous Naples of the 1980s. The movie was also one of the three main prizes scooped by Netflix in the competition, the other two went to Jane Campion's *The Power Of The Dog* for Best Director and Filippo Scotti for Best Young Actor in *The Hand Of God*.

RITA DI SANTO

The only British interest was the Best Screenplay prize for Maggie Gyllenhaal's *The Lost Daughter*, based on the novel by Italian writer Elena Ferrante, with a marvellous performance by Olivia Colman. Colman was nominated for the Best Actress Award won by Penelope Cruz for her role in Pedro Almodóvar's *Madres Paralelas* (Parallel Mothers).

Among other titles of interest was Mexican director Michel Franco's moving *Sundown*. It follows a wealthy British man (Tim Roth) going through an existential crisis while on vacation with his family in Acapulco.

Cannes loss was Venice's gain as notable submissions from Pedro Almodóvar and Paolo Sorrentino, who skipped Cannes, raised the quality bar.

The shambolic festival organisation, however, led to many complaints lodged by most of the press with much anger in evidence especially among the young journalists with lower priority accreditation. There was even a momentary talk of a strike given that the director of the festival failed to recognise the problem or apologise for the muddle.

RITA DI SANTO

THEATRE | THE MEMORY OF WATER
★★★★★ | HAMPSTEAD THEATRE, LONDON

Best of intentions pave way to indifference

MARY CONWAY is disappointed to see a once award-winning comedy lose its spark entirely

SHELAGH STEPHENSON'S *The Memory of Water* at Hampstead Theatre is a prime example of how time changes everything.

In the year 2000, this play won an Olivier Award for best new comedy and was subsequently adapted for a film (*Before You Go*) starring Julie Walters. Now it seems less notable for its crowd-pleasing content than for a creaky storyline, laboured attempts at comedy and a range of under-developed and almost indistinguishable characters.

Not that I blame artistic director, Roxana Silbert, for selecting it. It must have seemed like a safe revival at a time when current themes are so dispiriting. But the result, despite huge commitment from director Alice Hamilton, cast and crew, is a listless affair, addressing too many inconclusive themes while seeming to grab at arbitrary cultural references that never take us to moments of genuine insight.

The popularity of the play's original production, also at Hampstead in 1996, was in response to its focus on women. It seemed almost to occupy the gap left by writers such as Pam Gems whose play *Dusa, Fish, Stas and Vi* had lit up the same stage 20 years earlier with a wonderful compassionate study of girls versus the contemporary world. Now we need more than just seeing women at the centre of the



ZERO INTERACTION: Lucy Black (Teresa), Laura Rogers (Mary) and Carolina Main (Catherine)

action; now we need to feel the truth of their lives.

Not that the cast don't pull

and delivering their moments of self-revelation as star turns. But somehow, I feel the actors, themselves, don't believe in the characters any more than I do, and their relationships simply didn't stack up.

The story, which tells of three sisters congregating at the family home on the death of their mother, inexplicably takes place solely in the mother's bedroom. (Anna Reid's set is impressive and takes on a life of its own with multimirrored wardrobes, snow scenes glimpsed through shiny windows and lowering clouds.) But when the coffin ends up there too it's just depressing, crying out for a Joe Orton to lift the mood.

Some revivals confirm a play's iconic status and parade its universal themes. This one, sadly, shows what's lacking, and while ostensibly exploring the vagaries of memory, has little of note to say.

There is a good play to be written here. But this isn't it.

■ Ends October 16. Box office: 020 7722-9301.



Photomontage: kennard-phillips

EXHIBITION

Art reflects the resolve of anti-war cause

Powerful pieces visually reflect and aid the political determination of Stop the War, writes **JOHN GREEN**

Cartoon: Martin Rowson



© Martin Rowson 03

IT IS amazing to recall that Stop the War Coalition (StW), founded in 2001, is this month celebrating its 20th anniversary and that it is 18 years since millions took to the streets in Britain to protest against Blair and Bush's war mania in 2003.

Since then StW has continued to organise and campaign vigorously against the continued misuse of armed might to intervene in the affairs of other countries with dire consequences for those living in the Middle East and Afghanistan and in the refugee crisis that is unfolding across the world.

In the process of mobilising huge numbers of people against foreign wars, StW movement has inspired a wide range of artists, designers, filmmakers, photographers and musicians. They have used their skills to help the movement project its message, to create a vibrant record of its activities and produce a body of anti-war art that has spoken personally to millions.

To commemorate this 20th anniversary, StW is presenting a unique exhibition of the anti-war movement. NO bridges the worlds of art and activism and brings the movement to life with remarkable immediacy. It combines both art and history that will forever be marked by the millions who took to our cities streets motivated by a profound desire for peace.

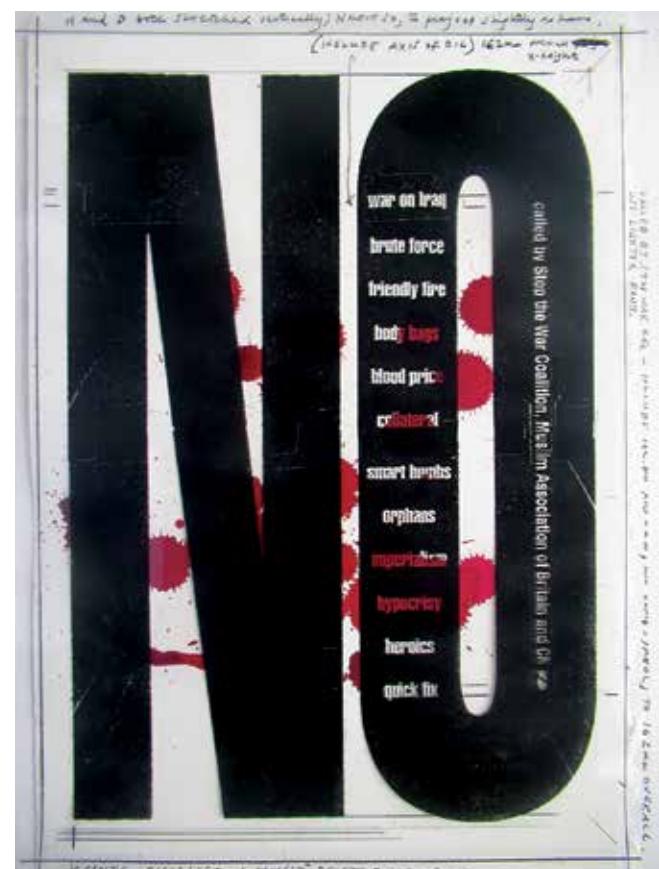
The exhibition reveals a wide spectrum of creative works, in diverse media and styles: shock-value posters, stitched banner work and other textiles, music, film, photography, prints, paintings and site-specific installations, including a film of a work that has been painted onto the apartheid wall in Palestine.

The works have been culled from the coalition's archives and wider artistic collections. They include the recurring and very effective "blood splat" placards designed by David Gentleman, Vivienne Westwood's calico prayer flags and satirical anti-Trump placard originals, now produced in a limited giclee (fine art quality) series for this exhibition.

There is kennardphillips's Tony Blair selfie and Brian Eno's unpublished musical works on the Iraq war. Also on view are Banksy's cardboard placards that were used on the original 2003 march.

Great protest movements have always inspired artists and the anti-war movement of the last 20 years is a remarkable example of that. Not to be missed. Visit it now and immerse yourself in 20 years of Stop the War history.

Entrance to the exhibition is free, and it features work from artists including Banksy, Vivienne Westwood, Ben Eine, David Gentleman, Brian Eno, kennardphillips, Katherine Hamnett, Robert Montgomery, Martin Rowson, Ed Hall, Karmarama, Noel Douglas, Amir Amirani, Jess Hurd, Jim Aindow, Guy Smallman, Kristian Buus and Steve Eason.



David Gentleman



Banksy

David Gentleman motif



10am-4pm every day until September 19 (except Monday September 13) Nunnery Gallery, Bow Arts, 181 Bow Road, London, E3 2SJ



■ EXCESS WEALTH Space cadet sadly still on this planet

IT'S GOOD to know that Nasa has grounded Sir Richard Branson's space rocket because it veered off course for two minutes.

Not all of us can live on a private island – unless you are Robinson Crusoe.

Richard Burdon's call for a wealth tax was a cosmic Flash Gordon-style bit of inspiration in these times of penny-wise and pound-foolish Tory Daleks.

MARTYN LEWIS
Leighton Buzzard

■ AFGHANISTAN

US may use Taliban against China

WILL the US profit from chaos in Afghanistan? Seriously, do you think that the US cares about the prospects for the women or the wider civilian community in Afghanistan?

The US and its military partners have been party to the killing of well over 60,000 since at least 2001, so I doubt it.

Liz Payne's article (The Taliban – A Win-Win For US Imperialism, M Star September 8) wiped away the crocodile tears shed by Biden, Johnson and their Nato allies for democracy lost.

Given the US record of doing deals with Islamist groups I agree with Payne that they are likely to already be doing business with the Taliban.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Write (up to 300 words) to letters@peoples-press.com or 23 Coombe Rd, London CRO 1BD

Although I'm no believer in conspiracy theories, it's probable that US officials have already come to an understanding with the Taliban that allows Afghanistan to be a haven for US-supported destabilisation in the region and a safe base for action against China by the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM).

Afghanistan only has 50 miles of border with China and the East Turkistan Islamists are Sunni, but the US will profit from chaos and, who knows, may have negotiated with the Taliban to provide the ETIM with a tactically important base from which they can be a irritating thorn in China's side and play their part in stoking the new Cold War.

Increased ETIM activity may be the litmus test of such speculation.

PHIL STREET
Warwickshire

■ MODERN MONETARY THEORY

Electronic transactions don't mean money is completely imaginary

CAROL WILCOX, with her magical monetary theory nonsense (Letters September 7 and 10) continues to be utterly bemused by the general shift towards electronic rather than cash transactions.

According to modern monetary theory (MMT), if I make an electronic bank transfer of £100 to a supplier, because no physical cash actually changes hands, I still have £100 in my wallet and the supplier has also gained £100, through "keystrokes on a computer." Everyone's a winner!

On planet Earth, if I pay a supplier £100, it makes no difference whether this is in hard cash or via bank transfer, I am still £100 less well off.

MMT claims that govern-

ment spending "creates money through keystrokes on a computer" and that taxation "destroys" money, the money doesn't go anywhere, the state doesn't use taxation to fund expenditure.

This is all complete and utter nonsense, of course. All taxation is paid into the government's bank account, the Consolidated Fund, and all government expenditure comes out of it. You can actually see the transactions going through.

MMT claims that this is all a mystique, that governments do something completely different and incredibly complicated to bamboozle us all for some weird conspiratorial reason.

Carol makes one good point – that it is the real resources

of an economy which matter. Governments can, of course, increase the money supply if they so wish. In the past, this was done by literally printing extra hard cash in the form of notes and coins. Now it is done electronically, which completely befuddles the MMTers.

The simple reason why governments are usually careful about increasing the money supply – cash or electronic – is because if it increases by more than the actual production of goods and services, this can lead to inflation, which devalues the currency and risks hyperinflation, which can ultimately destroy working people's living standards.

ANDREW NORTHALL
Kettering

■ SOLIDARITY

Tories promote racism while people show love

DURING the Uefa championship tournament this summer, Home Secretary Priti Patel profoundly misjudged the public mood when she defended the "right" of racists to abuse footballers who took the knee in solidarity with the anti-racist movement.

While Patel encouraged the racists, the overwhelming majority stood with the England team and with Marcus Rashford, Bukayo Saka and Jadon Sancho when racists singled them out for abuse.

Patel has similarly misjudged the public mood by authorising Border Force to forcibly intercept crafts carrying asylum-seekers trying to cross the Channel and turn the vessels back to France.

Such inhuman and dangerous tactics threaten the lives of those making the crossing.

Seeking asylum is not a criminal act, nevertheless Patel has built a political career on criminalising and abusing asylum-seekers.

Patel's plan may play well in the racist tabloids but it breaks the fundamental tenet of maritime law: that those at risk at sea must be rescued.

Patel, who only last week was cynically playing the Afghan refugees for the benefit of the media, claims that her deranged plans to endanger asylum-seekers on the seas is "what the public wants."

What Patel means is that her



NO PLACE FOR HATE: An outpouring of solidarity was the response to racist attacks on England footballers

plan is what racists want.

The vast majority of the public say "refugees are welcome here." The proof is that the public have overwhelmed

charities like Care4Calais and Baby Basics with donations for asylum-seekers.

That's because, unlike Patel, they recognise that refugees

and asylum-seekers are human beings who need help and who should be welcomed.

SASHA SIMIC
London N16

■ SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE

England can't veto Scots' vote

WILL PODMORE'S increasingly desperate arguments in favour of Scotland remaining in the United Kingdom surely reached a new low in his letter of September 10.

He speaks of "unilateral secession from the host state" and "the right of the non-seceding population" to block such action.

In other words, a smaller nation can only leave a political union with a larger state if the larger state gives permission.

That's not so much a political union, more the Hotel California from which you can check out any time you want but you can never leave.

The "Act of Free Choice" that Indonesia imposed on West Papua would surely meet

with Will's approval although, from Jakarta's point of view, it's unfortunate that they didn't come up with Will's latest argument prior to the secession of Timor-Leste from the Indonesian host state.

Indeed, the EU might have deployed the same argument to frustrate Brexit.

The last time I heard the suggestion that England had a right to a referendum on Scottish independence (or by extension Welsh or Irish secession) it was being advanced by Michael Gove.

It is always alarming when socialists make common cause with Tories or, worse, share platforms with the class enemy.

MARTIN ROGAN
Ayr

■ WAR & TERROR

Star's balance deserves praise

THE Morning Star should be applauded for the appropriate balance in its commemoration coverage of the dropping of the atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in its August 6 issue and the 9/11 terrorist attacks in its September 10 issue.

Far more people died as a result of the nuclear attack launched by a democratically elected Western capitalist government.

US military leaders and others regarded the attack as politically motivated with no military

value: a show of force as an act in the Cold War against communism but with so many civilian casualties. There was an inhuman callousness in this decision.

One could argue that a similar callousness was shown in pursuing a so-called "war against terrorism" instead of treating the 9/11 attacks as criminal acts.

It has been conclusively shown that the Iraqi government, for all its faults, played no part in this heinous act of terrorism.

KEITH WHITE
Cheltenham

MEN'S TENNIS

MURRAY BREEZES THROUGH HIS OPENING MATCH IN RENNES

by Our Sports Desk

ANDY MURRAY recorded a comfortable first-round victory over Germany's Yannick Maden at the Rennes Open Challenger event on Monday.

The three-time grand slam winner, a wild card at the second-tier competition and the fifth seed, saw off Maden 6-3 6-1 in an hour and 12 minutes.

After being broken in his second service game, Murray immediately broke back and then broke Maden again in the eighth game en route to claiming the first set.

The 34-year-old also broke his opponent in the opening game of the second set as he won nine games out of 10 to seal his passage into the next round.

The Scot, who has been through a number of injury problems in the last few years and is currently ranked at 116 in the world, told a press conference after the win over Maden: "It didn't start so well,

(it was) quite different conditions playing here to New York.

"It is quite a lot slower and the ball is bouncing very low, so it's quite different. But I think second set I did better, I served much better, and started to hit the ball a little bit cleaner from the back of the court. It was a decent start but it takes a bit of time getting used to the court and the conditions."

"I want to play matches. I haven't had many matches this year, and right now my body feels good. One of the goals between now and the end of the year is to make a big improvement in my ranking, and to do that I need to be competing often."

"I still feel like I can play at a very high level, but if all of the time when I go to the big tournaments I'm playing top players right at the beginning of the events, it is not so easy. So I need to try to improve my ranking to avoid situations like that."

"Right now I feel good. The few weeks I had over in America, I felt good each week,

which this year I've not really at many points felt good for like three, four, five, six weeks in a row."

"So that's why I'm here to compete and I'm going to try to play as many tournaments as I can between now and the end of the year while my body feels good."

Murray is to play the winner of the contest between French qualifier Manuel Guinard and Russia's Roman Safiullin in the last 16.

He is the first grand slam champion to compete in the tournament, which started in 2006 when it was won by Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

The likes of Richard Gasquet, the top seed, Gilles Simon and Lucas Pouille are also playing in the event.

Murray is in action in Rennes after his first-round defeat at the US Open to third seed Stefanos Tsitsipas, in which he pushed the Greek to five sets.

Murray has also been given a wild card into the ATP event in San Diego later this month.

ON FORM: Andy Murray competing at Wimbledon earlier this year



MEN'S BOXING

Joshua admits he needs to fight Fury before retiring

by Our Sports Desk

ANTHONY JOSHUA admitted yesterday that he must fight Tyson Fury before eventually retiring from boxing, believing the sport needs at least one bout between the British rivals to happen.

Negotiations between the heavyweights' camps stretched on for months and a deal seemed on the verge of being finalised earlier this year, only for a United States arbitrator to rule Fury had to fight Deontay Wilder for a third time.

Fury is therefore scheduled to make the maiden defence of his WBC title in Las Vegas next month but, before then, Joshua is set to take on WBO mandatory challenger Oleksandr Usyk on September 25 at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

A contest against the former undisputed world cruiserweight champion is expected to draw in more than 60,000 fans to north London but Joshua, also the WBA and IBF champion, believes a clash against Fury represents the acid test.

"Do I need Tyson Fury on my record? I need it," Joshua said on the BBC 5 Live Boxing podcast.



READY: Anthony Joshua (centre) celebrates beating Kubrat Pulev in 2020

"We need it for boxing. It's what we all need, I need it. Come on, let's see how good I am."

"Fight good fighters and they bring out the best of you. Training camp is hard. To get better is very difficult in boxing. To fight Tyson Fury is a big challenge."

"Let's see how far I can take myself during this period. It'll be a good challenge mentally. Not about him, but because I actually want to do well."

"When I wake up in the morning early and I'm tired, my body's battered, I still go out and do what I do. It's great rewards and only someone like Fury can give that to me."

Fury, however, claimed earlier this month that he has never

been optimistic the much-anticipated showdown with Joshua will happen.

"I've never been optimistic about this fight happening," Fury told Gary Neville's YouTube channel, The Overlap.

"And even when we said it was going to happen in Saudi Arabia and the deal was done, I still wasn't optimistic about it, and guess what? It never happened."

Fury, though, suggested he would be willing to give up his title if it meant being able to go head to head with Joshua.

"I do think sooner or later it has to happen, even if we have to go Awol and throw all the belts in the bin for whatever reasons, and then just fight each other."

in brief

Demba Ba to hang up the boots

FOOTBALL: Former Chelsea, Newcastle and West Ham striker Demba Ba has announced his retirement from football. The 36-year-old former Senegal international, who joined Swiss side Lugano in June, announced on Twitter that his "wonderful journey" had come to an end. He said: "It is with a heart filled with gratefulness that I announce the end of my playing career. "Football has given me so many beautiful emotions ... This will forever remain in my head and heart."

Coleman appointed Broncos' new boss

RUGBY LEAGUE: London Broncos have appointed London Skolars' Jermaine Coleman as their head coach for 2022. Coleman, who is also Jamaica's head coach, succeeds Danny Ward, who left the club in July. News of the appointment comes a week after the club announced its decision to go part time following a major reduction in central funding. Coleman said: "I'm very excited to be given the opportunity to work with the London Broncos."

Morgan pulls out of England squad

FOOTBALL: Manchester City defender Esme Morgan has withdrawn from England's squad for the forthcoming matches against North Macedonia and Luxembourg due to injury, the FA announced on Monday. The 20-year-old has been forced to pull out because of a shin problem sustained in City's 2-1 Women's Super League loss to Tottenham at the Academy Stadium on Sunday. The FA said Lionesses boss Sarina Wiegman would not be calling up a replacement for Morgan.

Scotland's World Cup hopes made harder

RUGBY UNION: Scotland Women suffered a blow in their bid to reach next year's World Cup when they were well beaten by Italy in the opening match of their qualifying group. The Italians ran out convincing 38-13 winners in Parma, leaving the Scots facing an uphill task to make it to the finals in New Zealand next autumn. Scotland face Spain on Sunday and then Ireland the following Saturday.

CHECKED: Hearts fans



MEN AND WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

Scotland mulls vaccine spot checks on fans

SPOT CHECKS could be used to check the vaccine passports of football fans, Scotland's health secretary said on Monday.

Humza Yousaf said the Scottish government is happy to engage with the Scottish Professional Football League (SPFL) and that spot checks are one of the options they are "absolutely" happy to consider.

It comes after SPFL chief executive Neil Doncaster said the organisation is "concerned" about the practicalities of delivering the scheme and said spot-checking is the only

way it can be done.

Mr Doncaster is calling for spot checks on fans rather than blanket inspections of vaccine certification, warning that the latter would risk "disorder" as fans become frustrated, since most turn up shortly before kick-off.

The Scottish Parliament voted last week to bring vaccine passports in for nightclubs and larger events from October 1.

This includes outdoor events of more than 10,000, which will cover football matches involving larger clubs.

OPINION

TIME TO APPOINT A WOMAN TO MANAGE A MEN'S CLUB

Football's growing gender inclusivity has yet to affect one of its top roles

by Bella Katz

IN A WORLD of football previously dominated by men, women have fought their way in to firmly establish their place as successful players, referees, pundits, journalists and coaches. Is now not the time to shatter the boundaries by appointing a woman to coach a Men's Premier League team or EFL squad?

Yesterday, the chair of Women In Football Ebru Koksal spoke out on the matter: "I think that would have a significant impact, because of the visibility of the role and having a role model there to aspire to."

"It would shatter a prejudice and a belief that there cannot be a female head coach for one of these clubs – why not?"

"We have an incoming FA chair who is female (Debbie Hewitt), she has had an amazing career, and I really look forward to hopefully interacting with her. I believe she will make a great change to the industry as well. So why not a female head coach?"

A WIF members' survey last month found almost four in five (78 per cent) would like to see more gender diverse representation on boards at clubs and other bodies.

The sport industry is becoming increasingly inclusive of its female counterparts, but the area that continues to go



WELL PLACED: Chelsea manager Emma Hayes celebrates with the FA Women's Super League trophy

unaffected by the ongoing gender equality battle is one of the most influential and well-respected roles – head coach.

Earlier this year, League Two side Forest Green revealed that they had shortlisted a female candidate to become their next gaffer, but it turned out her CV was handed in without her or her agent's knowledge.

The Gloucestershire club's owner and chairman Dale Vince said that they had been open to appointing a female head coach to succeed the outgoing Mark Cooper, and insisted football was "in need of evolution."

"The woman that we really liked for the job dropped out, or in fact was never quite in," Vince told the PA news agency.

"She was in the Women's Super League, I can't say that much. She was definitely shortlist material, no doubt about it."

Arguments against appointing a female manager struggle to hold up in this day and age, particularly when numerous male coaches lead women's teams out on to the pitch every week. In fact, more than half of the managers in the Women's Super League are male. It

seems hypocritical that the roles have yet to be reversed.

Koksal said one factor which might delay that first appointment is the continued success of the women's professional game in England.

"A number of coaches will feel it's worth staying with it, and riding that big wave as well," Koksal said.

The person that comes to mind who could make the ground-breaking move to a men's side is Chelsea Women's coach Emma Hayes.

Her ability, experience and unmatched success would

make her the perfect candidate.

Hayes won four league titles with Chelsea between 2015 and 2021, and led them to a Champion's League final against Barcelona, which they ultimately lost 4-0.

Her knowledge of the game is displayed in all aspects of her work, and she received particularly strong praise recently for her coverage of Euro 2020 as a co-commentator.

Twitter was flooded with messages from men saying they'd wish she'd become a regular, including former Arsenal player Ian Wright tweeting: "Just listen to Emma Hayes feeding us insight and knowledge. Elite."

Tactically, she could also offer something really different to the men's game.

The first weekend of the Barclays Women's Super League season attracted 1.5 million viewers watching the live games on Sky Sports and the BBC. That's what happens when women's football is given equal exposure and opportunities. Those numbers speak for themselves.

I'm optimistic that such a bold move would change a lot of football supporters' attitudes towards women and their abilities, in the same way that we have seen the support of the Liones and the women's game skyrocket in recent years.

I hope it happens sooner rather than later.

RUGBY UNION

New Covid regulations to encourage vaccinations

ENGLISH rugby's Professional Game Board announced a new Covid-19 strategy on Monday that aims to encourage players and management in the elite domestic game to get fully vaccinated.

The policy allows clubs in the Gallagher Premiership, Championship and women's Allianz Premier 15s to relax some elements of current Covid-19 minimum operating standards once a vaccination rate of 85 per cent or

more has been reached in both the player and staff groups.

The changes only currently apply in English domestic rugby.

Match-day changes for those clubs meeting the vaccination rate include social distancing for players and support staff within the so-called red zone, which includes changing rooms, no longer being required, and masks being recommended but no longer compulsory for players and support staff indoors and outdoors.

Medical staff will continue to wear PPE and masks must still be worn by players in the medical room.

PGB chairman Chris Booy said: "The health and safety of everyone involved in the elite game is our priority and we know it is vital we ensure the vast majority of players and management are fully vaccinated as soon as possible."

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Blues to probe alleged sectarian abuse

ABUSED: John McGinn playing for Scotland during Euro 2020



by Our Sports Desk

CHELSEA pledged yesterday to take the "strongest possible action" after a video circulated on social media of a spectator allegedly using "abusive language of a sectarian nature" towards Aston Villa's John McGinn.

The Blues have launched an investigation into abuse appearing to be directed at Scotland midfielder McGinn, during the Blues' 3-0 Premier League win at Stamford Bridge on Saturday.

The London club have appealed for help in identifying the alleged culprit from Saturday's match, which the hosts won thanks to two goals from Romelu Lukaku and one from Mateo Kovacic.

"We are aware of a video circulating on social media showing an individual using abusive language of a sectarian nature in the crowd at Stamford Bridge on Saturday," a Chelsea statement read.

"Chelsea Football Club finds all forms of discriminatory behaviour totally unacceptable and we condemn the language used."

"The club is working to identify the person involved and will take the strongest possible action against them."

"Any supporter who was present in that area of the ground and has information that can assist the club's investigation should contact the club via our discrimination reporting line, (020) 7386 3355."

Villa thanked Chelsea for acting on the incident in a statement of their own.

"Aston Villa are grateful to our friends at Chelsea FC for their swift and decisive action in both condemning the bigotry aimed at John McGinn at Stamford Bridge and in launching an investigation to identify the culprit," the Midlands club's statement read.

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Wednesday
September 15 2021



TODAY'S TIPS

Farringdon's Doubles

SUGARPIEHONEYBUNCH
Beverley 16:45 (nap)

EXECUTIVE POOL
Sandown 14:25

Houseman's Choice

VILLE DE GRACE
Yarmouth 14:15



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