



LABOUR CONNECTED

BREAKING THE BIG BUSINESS MEDIA STRANGLEHOLD

The Morning Star's fringe with Corbyn, Webbe and Leonard | **PAGE 10**



for Peace and Socialism

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TORIES WASTE BILLIONS ON COVID FAILURES

Labour exposes costs of Tory mismanagement after Johnson hands out cash for ineffective schemes and poor equipment

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

THE TORIES have handed billions to dodgy recipients in the name of beating coronavirus, Labour will claim today as it sets out its plan to help Britain recover from the economic fall-out of the pandemic.

Shadow chancellor Anneliese Dodds will publish a "file of failure" detailing about £3.9 billion that Labour said the government has mismanaged and spent on ineffective schemes and equipment.

It will be published ahead of her keynote speech at the party's online conference Labour Connected.

The file reveals that £133 million was handed over to Conservative donor

Radox Laboratories for testing kits, of which 750,000 had to be recalled by the Department of Health and Social Care because they turned out to be unsafe.

At least £150m of a £252m face mask contract with Ayanda Capital was wasted due to the unsuitability of one type of mask ordered.

Serco was contracted for £108m and Sitel £84m to run the national contact tracing service until late August, when their contracts were renewed despite poor performance. It is reported to have cost taxpayers £900 per person contacted by the scheme.

Edenred was awarded a £234m school meals voucher contract that is now under investigation by the National Audit Office. Parents and schools had reported problems with

issuing and redeeming the vouchers weeks after the scheme launched. The government was able to end the contract after a month but chose not to.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak has also admitted that his Job Retention Bonus scheme includes "dead-weight" costs. Labour's analysis puts the potential cost of handing this bonus to firms who would have retained staff anyway at £2.6bn.

In her speech, Ms Dodds will also criticise Mr

Sunak for handing over public funds to support businesses with no strings attached.

In response to the publishing of the file, a Unite spokesperson told the Star: "Labour is absolutely right to shine a light on the cost to the country of the Tories' approach to getting this virus under control."

"The cronyism and chaos sickens voters. The funnelling of masses of public cash the way of their mates while at the same time talking of cuts to benefits to 'pay' for this crisis is just the same old Tories. Not acting in the public interest and certainly not up to the job."

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■ **FEATURE**

The second wave is the Tories' fault

The government's shambolic handling of the virus, failure on test and trace and mixed messaging on the lockdown is responsible for the renewed outbreak of Covid-19 across our communities, argues Labour MP for Coventry South

ZARAH SULTANA

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■ **SPORT**

Tour marks BLM on final day

Tour de France celebrates victory for the ages as rookie Tadej Pogacar becomes the youngest post-war winner of the showpiece event that braved, and overcame, France's worsening coronavirus epidemic

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■ POVERTY PAY

LABOUR TELLS TORIES TO SORT OUT SOCIAL CARE

CONFERENCE: Rayner says low wages are an 'appalling moral outrage'

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

LABOUR demanded yesterday that Boris Johnson finally publish his promised plan to fix social care, which should include a pay guarantee of at least the real living wage for all care workers.

On his first day in office, the Prime Minister promised to fix the crisis in social care with a plan he said he had already prepared. But now it will not be published until next year.

Deputy Labour leader Angela Rayner said it was "unconscionable" and a "moral outrage" that the average wage for a care worker is £8.10 an hour while half of care workers do not earn the real living wage which is at least £9.30, and £10.75 in London.

She said it is "appalling" that many low-paid care workers also do not receive statutory sick pay of £94.25 a week, and that the situation has not

changed in the pandemic.

Ms Rayner condemned it as a "disgrace" that Mr Johnson "demeaned the office of Prime Minister by attempting to blame care workers for the spread of coronavirus in our care homes."

She continued: "It is his failure and incompetence that has resulted in 15,000 deaths in our care homes due to coronavirus."

Ms Rayner was a home-visit care worker, a shop steward and union official before becoming an MP.

She opened the party's online conference Labour Connected over the weekend by paying tribute to the "key worker heroes" who have worked on the front line during the pandemic.

She said: "The Prime Minister and government ministers have fallen over themselves to clap for our carers and offer them warm words, but applause and empty gestures don't pay the rent or

put the food on the table.

"We can't clap our key workers and then abandon them. We can't go back to business as usual, where the very same people who have helped to get our country through this crisis are still underpaid and undervalued.

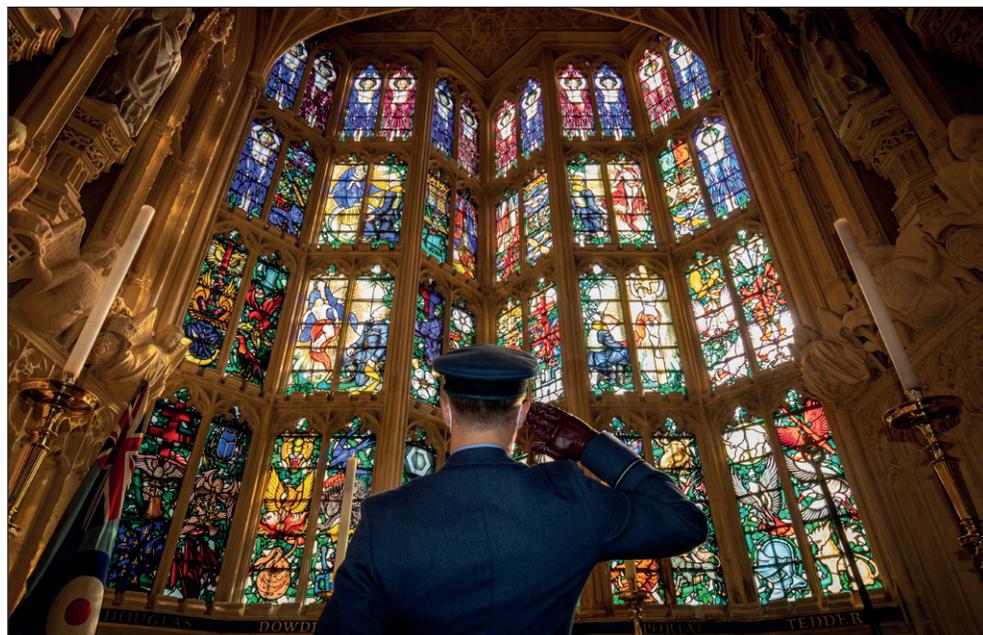
"After all their sacrifice and bravery, the very least that our care workers deserve is a pay rise."

Unison assistant general secretary Roger McKenzie said that Labour is right to call for a real living wage for care workers.

He told the Morning Star: "These workers, mainly women and many migrant workers have been struggling to keep a roof over their heads for far too long.

"Of course, the very best way for them to secure at least a living wage is to join Unison and for the care service to be taken out of private hands and brought back into public control."

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BATTLE OF BRITAIN: (Clockwise) A flypast to mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain flies over Westminster Abbey, Flying Officer James Buckingham salutes The Battle of Britain memorial window inside Westminster Abbey, the socially distanced service to mark the occasion

■ ROAD TO MAY 2021

Elections hailed as a chance to win back voters' trust

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

LOCAL and mayoral elections next year were hailed yesterday as a chance for Labour to gain voters' trust and put forward radical agendas.

Labour chairwoman and deputy leader Angela Rayner hosted The Road to May 2021 rally of Labour leaders in devolved nations, mayors, local government representatives and candidates.

The elections were to be held earlier this year but they were postponed for 12 months because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Mark Drakeford, Labour's First Minister for Wales, said that the "road to 2021 is like no other" as it will be influenced by "the sadness of coronavirus and the lessons we learn from it."

He said that public services and social partnership should be central to Labour



candidates' manifestos, and that Labour had "to earn trust again" as well as have "a radical agenda for these radically different and difficult times."

Ms Rayner said that Labour winning Scotland was essential to kicking the Tories out of Westminster.

Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard called on the government to enact a Scotland-

targeted job retention scheme when the current one runs out at the end of October, as "entire industries" are on the verge of being wiped out north of the border.

Mr Leonard added: "We cannot wait until next May, we need action to save jobs now."

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said that the elections on May 6 "will be the first opportunity for the British people to send a message to this government that we have had enough."

He added: "From now until May let's work harder than before to get people to vote Labour because we can, must and will do better."

Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham (pictured) said that Labour needed to "lead and win the levelling-up debate" against the Conservative government.

He suggested to "keep the radicalism of recent years but blend it with a new realism about what Labour needs to do."

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■ RAYNER SPEECH

'Bullington blagger is out of his depth'

LABOUR deputy leader Angela Rayner accused PM Boris Johnson yesterday of always pinning the blame on others for government failings over the last several years.

Speaking at the party's virtual conference Labour Connected, she said: "Never has there been a prime minister more out of his depth and ill-equipped to the task than this Bullington Club blagger."

She suggested that Britain could go into a second national lockdown because of his "failure and incompetence."

Ms Rayner added: "[Mr Johnson] lights up Downing Street green for Grenfell and then whips Tory MPs to block the Grenfell inquiry recommendations.

"He claps for our carers when it suits him for a photo opportunity but he doesn't even know what they earn and won't

pay them what they deserve.

"He calls a Covid war cabinet to allow grouse shooting when the front-line staff can't get the tests they need and people can't say goodbye to their loved ones.

"Yet it's always somebody else's fault: civil servants, the public health body they voted to create in the first place, or even the public for doing the right thing and trying to get a Covid test."





■ PLYMOUTH Five sent to hospital after stabbings

A MAN left with potentially life-changing injuries is among five people in hospital following a stabbing attack outside a pub in Plymouth.

Police were called to the Railway Inn on Albert Road in Stoke at about 10pm on Saturday to reports of three men being stabbed.

The suspect initially fled the scene but a 50-year-old man was later arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, Devon & Cornwall Police said.

Officers also found two pedestrians who had been involved in a collision with a vehicle.

One woman suffered serious injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening while the other woman received minor injuries.

All five people were taken to Derriford Hospital for treatment.

Superintendent Roy Linden said: "We would like to reassure the community that although clearly distressing, this was an isolated incident and is not being treated as terrorism-related.

"The suspect was known to some of the victims, and we can confirm that we are not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident."

■ LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS

BAME people hit the hardest by 'unclear' C-19 rules

by Our News Desk

THOUSANDS of people are being hit with fines for breaching "unclear and ambiguous" coronavirus lockdown regulations – and young men from ethnic minorities have been disproportionately penalised, a parliamentary committee has found.

In a report published today, the joint committee on human rights said it was unacceptable that many thousands were receiving fixed-penalty notices (FPNs) despite evidence the police did not fully understand their powers and with no means of redress.

The 12-person select committee, drawn from MPs and lords, said that the way the regulations were being enforced by the police was having a disproportionate impact on young men from black, Asian and minority-ethnic backgrounds.

Although fixed-penalty notices could result in fines of more than £10,000, there is

currently no realistic way for people to challenge them.

"This will invariably lead to injustice, as members of the public who have been unfairly targeted with an FPN have no means of redress and police will know that their actions are unlikely to be scrutinised," the report said.

It warned that many of the regulations were "confusingly named," making it difficult for people to establish what they were and were not entitled to do.

With the regulations changing on average once a week, the committee called for greater clarity from the government as to what was prohibited by the criminal law.

"More care must be taken by the government to distinguish between advice, guidance and the law, in media announcements as well as in official online sources," the report said.

The committee also expressed concern about the extent of the use of "do not attempt cardiopulmonary

resuscitation" notices in care homes during the pandemic, warning that their blanket use would be unlawful.

And it urged the Department of Health to take a more proportionate approach when it came to issuing guidance on visiting care homes, and called on ministers to ensure homes were not imposing blanket bans on visitors.

The report comes as the government has announced that anyone in England who refuses an order to self-isolate could face a fine of up to £10,000.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock warned yesterday that Britain is at a "tipping point" and refused to rule out a second national coronavirus lockdown if the public fails to follow social-distancing rules.

With cases rising across the country, Mr Hancock said there was a danger the numbers could "shoot through the roof" unless effective action was taken to halt the spread of the virus.

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■ STOP THE WAR FRINGE

'We must not bend to the warmongers,' Abbott says

by Our News Desk

"WE MUSTN'T bend to the propaganda campaigns of the warmongers," Labour MP Diane Abbott told a Stop the War fringe meeting during Labour Connected at the weekend.

Ms Abbott said that Britain's underfunded public services' struggle to cope with coronavirus showed that "every million spent on illegal wars would have been better spent on the NHS."

A Dangerous World: the US, China and the Threat of War heard MPs and peace campaigners call for resistance to US President Donald Trump's new cold war against China.

Ms Abbott pointed out that while in the US, as in Britain, there "is no money for proper personal protective equipment" Mr Trump had hiked the military budget by 18 per cent to \$738 billion (£571bn).

She condemned his aggres-

sive foreign policy, including the imposition of tariffs on other countries.

"Trump even slapped tariffs on Britain once – so much for the special relationship," she said.

"But Boris Johnson owes so much to Trump that when Trump says jump, Johnson says 'how high?'" – pointing to Britain's craven agreement to cease working with China's Huawei corporation under US pressure.

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said the world faced three huge crises: coronavirus, a refugee crisis that has displaced 70 million people and climate change.

"Yet where is the biggest humanitarian crisis? In Yemen because of the Saudi war.

"What is our contribution? To provide more and more arms. We are complicit in the killing of wholly innocent children," he charged.

Mr Corbyn said he was proud to have formally apolo-

gised when Labour leader for the party's role in starting the Iraq war.

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■ FRONT PAGE

LABOUR SHAMES TORIES OVER WASTE

FROM PI: In her speech, Ms Dodds will set out Labour's three-step approach to a "more secure future" for Britain.

She will announce a Job Recovery Scheme to enable key sectors to bring back more staff on reduced hours with a proportion of remaining wages subsidised, a National Retraining Strategy for those out of work or seeking a new career, and a Business Rebuilding Programme

to support struggling but viable firms ahead of Mr Sunak's debt repayments cliff edge next year.

It comes as the new Labour leadership has been warned against "watering down" the "radical policies" Sir Keir Starmer had promised during his campaign to succeed Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader.

The Fire Brigades Union told the BBC he must not "cede any

ground" to the Conservatives and fight for "root-and-branch" reform of society.

FBU general secretary Matt Wrack added that he had not "heard Keir make that case" since becoming Labour leader in April.

Labour's four-day conference, which will not feature votes, began on Saturday and will end tomorrow with a speech by Mr Starmer.

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In honour of Dr Alan McKinnon 1946-2015

★ Morning Star Scottish Conference

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS NO TO THE NEW COLD WAR

Sunday 4th October: 13.00-16.00, via Zoom

Speakers: Jeremy Corbyn MP, Kate Hudson, Roz Foyer, Jenny Clegg, Richard Leonard MSP, Bill Kidd MSP, Arthur West
Chair Lynn Henderson

tinyurl.com/morningstarconference

■ SCOTLAND

'Burning trees is no answer to climate crisis'

ENVIRONMENTAL and conservation groups told the Scottish government yesterday that "burning trees is not an answer to global warming."

Scotland's government is considering adopting Westminster plans to burn biofuels to create energy while reducing fossil-fuel emissions.

Biofuels include wooden pellets made from felled trees.

An open letter signed

by the RSPB, Trees for Life, Reforesting Scotland, Plantlife, Biofuelwatch, Friends of the Earth Scotland and others has been sent to the Scottish government opposing biofuel burning.

Friends of the Earth Scotland climate campaigner Jess Cowell said: "These dangerous plans to burn trees to tackle climate change should be opposed by anyone concerned about responding to the climate

and nature emergencies.

"The Scottish government should be protecting and expanding diverse mature forests, not planning on burning them as fuel."

Sally Clark of Biofuelwatch said: "Burning trees for energy in existing UK power stations is already causing the clear-felling of biodiverse forests in Europe and the southern US at a terrible cost to wildlife, communities and the climate."



NEWS ROUND: Keir Starmer does the usual tour of the news outlets yesterday before Labour's online party conference

■ LABOUR

Starmer 'frustrated' by Scottish indy talk

LABOUR Party leader Sir Keir Starmer said yesterday he is frustrated by talk of a new Scottish independence referendum.

Speaking on Sky News on Sunday, Mr Starmer said that the SNP government in Holyrood should be focusing on the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said: "I think another independence referendum will be divisive, and that's why the

Labour Party will be campaigning into the May elections on the economy – rebuilding the economy, on ensuring our public services are in the right place and defeating coronavirus.

"I'm frustrated in a sense that in the middle of a pandemic we've got the SNP talking about independence, we've got the Tory Party talking about Brexit when, in my view, they

should be focusing on pulling together to defeat the virus.

"One of the things I think will take many, many people by surprise is that there hasn't been a Cobra meeting for months."

His comments come as a series of polls suggest a majority of Scots now support independence. The latest poll, by Survation, found 53 per cent of people were in favour of independence.

■ CORONAVIRUS

Northern outcry over Tories' testing chaos

Peter Lazenby
Northern reporter

THE government's "world-beating" Covid-19 test-and-trace system has descended into further chaos with families being told they must travel hundreds of miles to be tested.

In England's north-east, where new lockdown regulations took effect at the weekend, people applying for tests were directed to Barnsley in South Yorkshire and Dumfries in Scotland.

One couple in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, were told to go to Bolton in Lancashire, the worst-affected town in Britain for new infections. Peter and Gill Hirst had developed respiratory illnesses.

Mr Hirst said yesterday: "Gill was trying for the elusive Covid test the last couple of nights with no success – except we could visit Bolton for a drive-through test.

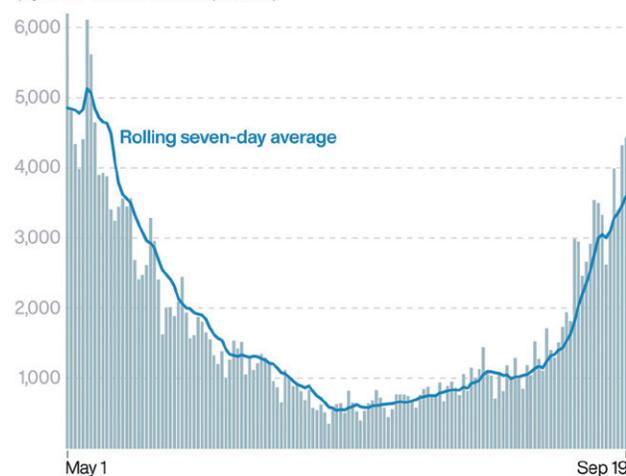
"Bolton: the town with the highest rate of infection in the country. Oh yes! Let's go there!"

The north-eastern family asked to make a 200-mile round trip to Scotland from Burnhope in County Durham were Karen Reynoldson, her partner David Smith and their daughters, aged eight and four.

They asked for tests after their eldest daughter developed symptoms – and were directed to Moffat in Dumfries & Galloway for tests.

Daily confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the UK

(by date cases were reported)



PA graphic. Source: Department of Health & Social Care. Figures are for confirmed cases identified through PHE, NHS and commercial testing

Ms Reynoldson said: "We must have passed loads of testing stations on the way up there, and I can imagine there were lots of people travelling in the opposite direction to us for tests down here."

Ian Lavery, Labour MP for Wansbeck in Northumbria, said: "It's no flaming wonder the entire north is having additional restrictions imposed on it.

"Only between 20 per cent and 40 per cent of those seeking a test got one.

"Many of those who did were then forced to take journeys of hundreds of miles to get their children tested.

"All the while, every single one of the children attending Eton were tested, symptomatic or not.

"If it's good enough for the rich and powerful, it's good enough for people here in Wansbeck."

On May 27 Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that a "world-beating" Covid test-and-trace system would begin the next day.

Infections have now risen to more than 4,000 a day.

More new localised restrictions will be imposed from tomorrow in the Midlands and West Yorkshire.

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■ PANDEMIC

Warning of Covid spikes as youngsters flock to uni cities

by Our News Desk

MORE than half of people living in university towns and cities fear the return of students will lead to coronavirus spikes, according to a new survey published yesterday.

Government scientific advisers have admitted that it was "highly likely" there will be significant coronavirus outbreaks linked to universities as students start returning this week.

The Survation poll, carried out for the University & College Union (UCU), found that 57 per cent of people fear local restrictions will result.

Half of respondents believe universities should cancel all face-to-face teaching.

UCU general secretary Jo Grady said that online learning needed to be the default position and the government and universities must "stop selling the lie to students that they can have a full university experience in the current crisis."

She said: "Vice-chancellors are in denial and creating hygiene theatre to pretend institutions are safe.

"It cannot be 'business as normal' at the moment and they need to stop pretending that is a credible option.

"People do not want to see local outbreaks on their doorstep.

"With the test-and-trace system in England at breaking point, it is no wonder that the public do not have confidence in the system or

this government.

"Without a nationally coordinated comprehensive testing system in place, universities and colleges simply will not be able to cope with outbreaks or potential outbreaks.

"Our main objective is to help avert a preventable public health crisis."

Ms Grady did not rule out balloting members for industrial action if they raise concerns about how their college or university is behaving.

A Department for Education spokeswoman said: "Opening universities is a part of the Prime Minister's cautious roadmap, and it is important that we continue to open education settings wherever it is safe to do so."

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In memory of Glyn Davies SRN RMN BTA COHSE NUPE

Labour Councillor and member of the Labour council 1971-1974 who built council homes and brought comprehensive education to Harrow.

Glyn would say fight for state pension at 60.

Restore the free TV license for all over 60.

Gillian Huw 07932 703 840

INTERNATIONAL DEMAND

Unions call for trade deals to cover jobs and rights at work

by Alan Jones

UNIONS in Britain, Australia and New Zealand have joined forces to call for decent jobs and workers' rights to be protected under any deals on trade.

In a joint statement published today, the TUC, Australian Council of Trade Unions and New Zealand Council of Trade Unions called for transparency and consultation with trade unions on the text of negotiations.

The statement highlights the importance of a UK-EU trade deal that locks in the highest standards of workers' rights.

The three organisations expressed concern about

the Comprehensive & Transpacific Partnership (CPTPP), which the British government has started steps to join.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said: "Good trade deals improve the lives of working people. They protect jobs, create new employment and raise global labour standards.

"There is already strong agreement between our nations' workers on what's needed for a good deal.

"If these shared goals are put at the heart of the talks, we can get agreements that will be welcomed by working families across the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

"Strong workers' rights must be a common thread

linking all the trade deals our nations make.

"The deal the UK makes with the EU has consequences for Australia and New Zealand too. If it does not lock in high standards of workers' rights, then the rights of their workers will come under pressure.

"Trade deals must not be hijacked by the narrow interests of global corporations or we will face a race to the bottom for workers' rights, and public services like the NHS will be served up as cash cows or asset-stripping opportunities.

"To protect against this danger, the negotiations must be transparent, and the negotiating teams must consult unions."

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BRUTAL: Police 'restrain' pickets at Orgreave, May 1984

1984-85 STRIKE

BELATED PARDONS FOR SCOTS MINERS

But quest for justice goes on for victims of Thatcher's war on workers

by Peter Lazenby

HUNDREDS of Scottish miners convicted during the 1984-5 strike are due to be pardoned after a review found that they were subjected to punishment in a "grossly excessive manner."

An independent review of policing of the strike in Scotland recommended on Saturday that striking Scottish miners who received criminal convictions should be pardoned.

The review was launched by the Scottish government in 2018 after "unrelenting" pressure from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and ex-miners, backed by Scottish Labour MSP Neil Findlay.

He said: "It is fantastic news that the review has taken on board my suggestion of a pardon.

"The miners were victims of a political war waged on them by the Thatcher government.

"Many innocent people have gone to their graves with the stain of a conviction against

their name. Now we can ensure that those who remain receive justice."

Mr Findlay said that he is looking forward to legislation being brought forward in Holyrood to deliver the pardons.

Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign (OTJC) secretary Kate Flannery said: "Today is an emotional and uplifting day.

"The independent review chaired by John Scott QC and established by the Scottish government has proposed this move, and we send our heartfelt solidarity to all who will benefit from this. It has been a long time coming."

John Dunn, OTJC activist and striking Derbyshire miner, who suffered head injuries at Orgreave, said: "Miners are obviously still angry about the abusive treatment meted out to us by the police and courts during the strike.

"Many of us were consequently dismissed and blacklisted from getting future work.

"The impact of this went beyond us miners, it affected

our families and communities and had severe financial consequences for us all."

Kevin Horne, OTJC activist and ex-miner arrested at Orgreave, called on British Home Secretary Priti Patel to declare a full public inquiry into the police riot at Orgreave on June 18 1984.

He said: "This will allow ex-miners and those from mining communities to have the opportunity to present evidence and seek justice.

"The Tory government must not delay any longer. We need to know the truth and get justice for all British miners."

Hilary Cave, former NUM national education officer, said: "This is really wonderful news, even though it has been far too long in coming. Hopefully, it may push along the campaign in England."

Scottish justice secretary Humza Yousaf said he is considering his response to the report and plans to update Holyrood in October.

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MANCHESTER

Show of solidarity with Elbit occupiers

PALESTINE campaigners were out in strength in Manchester on Saturday in solidarity with activists who occupied several buildings of Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit.

Protesters from Manchester Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) staged the action in recognition of activists who occupied the roof of a factory in Shenstone in Staffordshire for three days last week.

The Palestine Action occupiers poured red paint down the walls of the Elbit factory, which makes parts for military drones used to attack Gaza, symbolising the blood of Palestinian people.

Other activists chained themselves to

the factory gate. Production was halted and there were at least five arrests.

Elbit's factory at Oldham in Greater Manchester and its London offices were also targeted and splattered with red paint and slogans.

Manchester PSC chairwoman Norma Turner said: "We must shut down all the Elbit systems factories in the UK and end our complicity in the bombing of Gaza.

"The cost of closing Elbit for three days is nothing compared with [its] astronomical profits - profits made with the blood of Palestinians.

"The life of one Palestinian is worth more than any of their lost revenue."

CAMPAIGN FOR TRADE UNION FREEDOM

IER
Institute of
Employment
Rights

Labour Party Conference 2020 Fringe Event
Reconstruction after the crisis:
Repaying the nation's debt to our workers

The pandemic revealed that some 7 million key workers are among the worst-paid and least legally protected of the entire workforce. Join us to discuss how we can tackle this gross injustice and give workers the respect, dignity and pay they deserve.

TONIGHT: Monday September 21, 6pm-7.15pm, online

Register: <http://mstar.link/ctufier>

with Lord John Hendy QC, IER Chairperson Andy McDonald (shadow employment rights secretary); Dave Ward (CWU general secretary); and Claudia Webbe MP.

Chaired by Laura Pidcock

■ TURKEY

Kurdish farmers thrown out of helicopter and badly hurt

by Steve Sweeney

TWO Kurdish farmers remained in hospital yesterday after suffering horrific injuries when they were tortured and thrown from a helicopter in Turkey's south-eastern province of Van.

The families of Osman Siban and Servet Turgut filed a criminal complaint with the Van chief public prosecutor's office after the pair were treated in intensive care for injuries consistent with falling from a height.

They have demanded an urgent investigation is carried out into the incident, which has left the men with serious trauma.

According to reports, Turkish soldiers arrived in the village in the rural Catak district last

week, gathering the citizens in the square, forcing them onto their knees and demanding to see their identification.

The troops told them that they were angry about unspecified acts of terrorism and would burn down their village in an act of revenge.

A group of about 15 soldiers returned with Mr Turgut, who had been detained in another neighbourhood, and took him and Mr Siban into custody.

They threatened to shoot dead anyone who protested at the detentions. The men were last seen being bundled into a military helicopter.

As the village was surrounded by soldiers, the residents were unable to tell anyone about the detentions. The families of the men were not told of their whereabouts until they threatened to go to

the press two days after their disappearance.

It was only then that authorities confirmed that they were in the intensive care unit at Van District Training and Research Hospital.

Protests took place in a number of south-eastern cities and the capital Ankara on Saturday, amid fears of a return to the forced disappearances of the 1990s.

It comes after a wave of kidnappings of Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) representatives including Serhat Aktumur, who was threatened with execution after being bundled into a vehicle in Diyarbakir on Saturday.

One of the kidnappers, identified only as "Commissioner Nihat," warned Mr Aktumur not to go to the Human Rights Association or speak to the

press about his alleged torture.

"If we see you here again, we'll shoot you in the head," he says he was told before being pushed out of the car in the middle of a forest.

But the "mafia-style" behaviour of the state in targeting political opposition in such a way has been seen as a sign of weakness.

HDP MP Musa Piroglu said: "In the behaviour of [Interior Minister Suleyman] Soylu and the entire security apparatus, we see the concept of a regime that is losing strength.

"The crises are causing the power base of President [Recep Tayyip] Erdogan to crumble. Support is dwindling for both domestic and foreign policy. Well-known methods are being used to guarantee that power is maintained."

stevesweeney@peoples-press.com

TURKEY: Kurdish journalist and Morning Star contributor Seda Taskin has won the prestigious Musa Anter special photography award for this picture entitled Birds Mourn Hasankeyf.

It depicts Hasankeyf, a 12,000-year-old town in south-eastern Turkey which has been flooded by the Turkish state as part of a controversial dam project. This has been branded an act of "cultural genocide."



DON'T MOURN, ORGANISE: People at a vigil for Ruth Bader Ginsburg in Washington Square Park, New York

■ UNITED STATES

Vigils held for progressive icon Ginsburg

VIGILS took place at courthouses across the United States yesterday as people paid tribute to Supreme Court Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died from cancer on Friday at the age of 87.

Ms Ginsburg was seen by many as a progressive voice in the Supreme Court. She was only the second woman to serve and was one of just four liberals on the nine-seat bench.

Hundreds of mourners gathered at the gates of the Supreme Court building on Saturday, with a section of the crowd breaking into a rendition of Amazing Grace. They also recited the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead.

Samia Assed, who organised a commemoration in Albuquerque said: "I think that I can speak for most women that we are devastated by her passing. We know we lost a champion."

Fellow Supreme Court Judge Stephen G Breyer said that the court had lost "a woman of valour, a rock of righteousness."

Her death has led to accusations of political manoeuvring by President Donald Trump, who described Ms Ginsburg as "an amazing woman." He insisted that she should be replaced "without delay."

But his Democrat rival Joe Biden warned against attempting to elevate a Republican judge to the court, insisting



MUCH-MISSED FIGURE: Ruth Bader Ginsburg in 1977

any decision should be delayed until after November's presidential election.

■ ETHIOPIA

Opposition politicians face terror charges

ETHIOPIA said that terrorism charges had been filed against leading opposition politicians Jawar Mohammed and Bekele Gerba on Saturday, as ethnic tensions and violence escalated.

The pair are due to appear in court today and could face life imprisonment, a verdict that will only aggravate tensions in the country's Oromia region.

They were among some 9,000 people detained when violence flared after the murder of popular Oromo revolutionary singer Hachalu Hundessa in June.

At least 239 people are believed to have died in clashes with the police and soldiers in the days after the killing.

Saturday's charges against 24 people were announced by the attorney general for crimes including "trying to incite ethnic and religious-based conflict to cause citizens to turn on their fellow citizens."

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has been accused of trying to silence political opponents and earlier this month the northern Tigray region warned of civil war after the government attempted to block elections from taking place.

Mr Jawar's lawyer Tli Bayyisa dismissed the charges as baseless, saying: "It's astonishing. I'm 100 per cent sure that, it might take years and years and years, but they will not prove these allegations if the law really works."

■ PALESTINE

Protesters call for end to femicide after triple murder

by Our Foreign Desk

PALESTINIAN women held a sit-in protest in Bethlehem on Saturday against femicide and violence after three people were killed in a brutal attack in the occupied West Bank.

The Association of Women Development Institutions umbrella organisation called the action after the triple murder in which a woman, her husband and sister-in-law were killed in Wadi al-Nar.

According to director of the Women's Media & Development Centre Suheir Farraj, protesters wanted to highlight a worrying spike in crime and violence: at least 26 women have been murdered since the beginning of the year.

They called for action to end femicide and for the perpetrators to be held to account.

Mass protests took place last September as part of the #Talat movement, meaning "women rise up," after the shocking murder of 21-year-old Israa

Ghrayeb, who is believed to have been beaten to death by her relatives in a so-called "honour" killing.

Authorities were criticised for their response to Ms Ghrayeb's death. Video footage circulated on social media that appeared to show her screaming and pleading for her life while in hospital, where it is suspected she was subjected to further assault.

Police initially failed to investigate, insisting that she had told them she had been injured in a fall and that she had no visible marks on her body.

When arrests were finally made, three unnamed perpetrators were charged with "assault that led to an unintentional killing," which carries a sentence of at least five years in prison.

But women's rights groups have hit out at a lack of progress in introducing measures that will ensure that perpetrators are not able to continue committing crimes in a climate of impunity.

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IRELAND

HIGGINS DEMANDS THAT BRITAIN OWN UP TO PAST CRIMES

OPEN WOUND: President marks centenary of Black and Tan rampage

by Steve Sweeney

IRISH President Michael D Higgins said that Britain must face up to its history of bloody reprisals as he marked yesterday's 100th anniversary of the sack of Balbriggan.

He warned that the imperialist strategy was not limited to Ireland, highlighting British actions in India, the suppression of the 1952 Mau Mau uprising in Kenya and actions in Cyprus four years later.

Mr Higgins described the sacking of Balbriggan as an "act of collective punishment aimed at instilling fear into the public at a time when the Irish people were engaged in a struggle for independence from British rule."

Two days of violence took place on September 20 and 21

1920 in retaliation for the killing of two police officers by the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Around 150 Black and Tans went on the rampage, burning down whole streets of houses, four pubs and the Deeds and Templar hosiery factory, the biggest employer in Balbriggan.

Men, women and children were forced to flee their burning homes and hundreds of people were left unemployed.

Two Republicans, Sean Gibbons and Seamus Lawless, were taken in for questioning. They were beaten and bayoneted to death and their bodies left in the street as a warning.

Labour's deputy leader at the time, Arthur Henderson, demanded an independent inquiry, accusing British forces of operating "a policy of military terrorism" in Ireland.

But the government refused,

insisting that Mr Henderson had been taken in by "IRA propaganda."

Commemorations to mark the anniversary, including a church mass, were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We must all acknowledge that such acts of violence would be judged illegal by today's international standards of war and conflict," the Irish president said.

Mr Higgins insisted that the British should recognise their actions in Ireland as "a prerequisite for any meaningful healing."

"Let us all continue with, indeed embrace, the new beginning that the Belfast [Good Friday] Agreement represented as we continue to carve out our peaceful co-existence on the island of Ireland."

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IRAN

Fears grow for prisoner who testified to wrestler's torture

by Our Foreign Desk

CONCERNS have been raised about the safety and whereabouts of executed Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari's cellmate, who testified in court about the torture meted out by security services prior to his death.

Participation Front politician Mehdi Mahmoudian warned on Saturday that Shahin Naseri had not been heard from by his family for more than a week since he was transferred from the Adel Abad prison in Shiraz.

It is feared that he may be being tortured in a bid to get him to retract his testimony.

"It's been 10 days since his family has not been informed of his wherea-

bouts. It would seem as though he was handed over to the institution that he testified against," Mr Mahmoudian said.

Mr Afkari's execution triggered angry protests, with anger directed at Iran's clerical regime, which has escalated the pace of executions of people who took part in the anti-government protests that swept the country in 2018 and 2019.

Mr Naseri was present at the time the wrestling champion was beaten by Iranian security services at the Shiraz Police Criminal Investigation Department and gave an eyewitness account of what he saw. An audio recording of his testimony has been leaked into the public domain.

During one incident, he claimed to have seen two men beating Mr Afkari so badly that he lost consciousness. As he begged to be taken to the infirmary for treatment for a hand injury, he was tortured again.

When he gave his testimony to the court, Mr Naseri said he was threatened by the judge, who accused him of "interfering in a security case" and warned him that he would be made to regret his actions.

Mr Afkari was executed on September 12 after being found guilty of killing a security official during 2018's protests. He maintained his innocence until the end, insisting his confession was extracted through torture.

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GUYANA

Anti-Maduro exiles offered millions by Pompeo

UNITED STATES Secretary of State Mike Pompeo promised millions of dollars to Venezuelan exiles in neighbouring Guyana as he made it clear that Friday's visit was linked to Washington's bid to overthrow the Bolivarian government.

Stopping off on a speedy Latin American tour, he gave \$5 million (£3.87m) to "assist" Venezuelans who have fled the country in a donation believed to be a cash boost to opponents of the democratically elected President Nicolas Maduro.

"I hope that co-operation between Guyana and the US will continue in this regard. Working together great things could be achieved," he said. "Venezuela needs democracy and an end to the illegitimate Nicolas Maduro regime."

The two nations signed deals on energy and infrastructure, along with an agreement on combating drug trafficking.

Mr Pompeo's visit came weeks after the inauguration of Guyana's new President Irfaan Ali, who reaffirmed his country's commitment to the Lima Group, a body set up as part of the strategy



to overthrow Mr Maduro. Mr Pompeo led a US delegation to Suriname, Brazil and Colombia, all key allies of Washington in the region.

Earlier this year, the US mobilised war ships off the Venezuelan coast soon after putting a bounty on Mr Maduro's head.



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★ Star comment

Calling out Tory failure isn't enough – the rot at the root must be tackled

FOCUSING on the misuse of public funds by Boris Johnson's government is a shrewd move by shadow chancellor Anneliese Dodds.

It's unfortunate that, characteristically of Labour's front bench since the party picked "a new leadership" – the Morning Star recognises that these three words are merely a statement of fact, but Keir Starmer appears to believe they will suffice as a political slogan – Dodds seems determined not to draw broader lessons from the examples she gives.

Her "file of failure" – noting that the government has handed £130 million to a Tory donor for testing kits that turned out to be unsafe, £150m on unusable face masks, £192m on "botched outsourcing contracts" and so on – ought to be a prompt to decry the blatant corruption at the heart of Boris Johnson's administration's approach to coronavirus.

From the start it has seen the pandemic as an excuse to award contracts to its friends, further infiltrate the NHS with private-sector firms and reward cronies like test-and-trace supremo Dido Harding.

Test and trace has been a fiasco, and the total inadequacy of the system Harding oversees is certainly linked to the "second wave" of Covid-19 – a potentially misleading term as poet Michael Rosen points out, since it implies the renewed outbreaks of the virus are an inevitable natural phenomenon, when actually people are contracting the virus from other people because the government has failed to contain or eliminate it.



But the catastrophe was predictable, since the government placed this essential public health service in the hands of cynical profiteers such as Serco – a firm whose previous record of defrauding the taxpayer and bungling contracts should have ensured it was never under consideration.

The file of failure makes a compelling case against outsourcing and the terrible damage it has done to our public services. Not only are outsourced services run for a profit, meaning those running them have an incentive to cut corners, the ability of serial offenders like Serco and G4S to continue snapping up contracts after multiple high-profile failures, some on a disastrous scale, makes a mockery of the idea that tendering processes are designed to pick the best.

The whole miserable racket is simply a means to divert public money into private pockets whose remuneration seems unrelated to the quality of the service they provide.

If Dodds chose to highlight that aspect of the matter, vowing to drive outsourcing out of our public services as Labour was committed to when Starmer was elected, she could show that coronavirus has made a powerful case for bringing services back in-house.

Instead, she seems more concerned with outflanking the Tories on budget management, lamenting Chancellor Rishi Sunak's "cavalier" approach to public spending and highlighting her own "responsible approach to the national finances."



She feeds a right-wing press narrative that the government has been spending too much during the pandemic, when the problem is in many cases the opposite – public services and local government have not been given the resources they need – and where money has been spent, it has generally been thrown at parasitical businesses rather than allocated where it is most needed, hence the weekend's shocking news that the Department of Health has capped hospital spending on Covid-19 tests.

As the Fire Brigades Union general secretary Matt Wrack said yesterday, the pandemic has only strengthened the case for a "root-and-branch transformation of our society and economic system."

When Starmer stood for the leadership on a policy platform very similar to that developed by Jeremy Corbyn over five years, he indicated that he understood the need for such a radical challenge to the status quo.

Yet in Wrack's words: "We haven't yet heard Keir make that case in opposition."

Unless Labour can offer solutions that address the root causes of the social, economic and environmental crisis we face, it risks irrelevance.



We must step up our campaigning in defence of refugees and against right-wing scapegoating, writes **JEREMY CORBYN MP**

Refugee lives matter

THE global and ongoing refugee crisis has been back in the headlines in recent weeks, because of tragic scenes of the fire in a refugee camp in Moria, Lesbos.

But refugees have also been the focus of more media attention here because of a wave of hostility encouraged by the Tories and their allies.

The scapegoating of refugees has reached fever-pitch in recent weeks as the Tories employ their age-old divide-and-rule tactics, seeking to deflect attention from their disastrous and deadly handling of the coronavirus pandemic.

Tory MP after Tory MP took to the airwaves to argue for deploying military vessels to deter people crossing the channel, rather than taking the responsible approach in line with international law to provide safe and legal routes to people seeking to claim asylum.

The Tories' reactionary and divisive approach is, of course, straight out of the Trump playbook.

And in Europe, right-wing governments in Hungary and Poland have joined in, also proclaiming they will not accept any asylum-seekers, in keeping with the rise of the xenophobic right across much of the globe.

What all these right-wing governments – and much of the media as well – fail to mention is that refugees have a legal right to claim asylum here, and our government has international obligations in this regard.

And I would argue we also have a moral and humanitarian duty to give people the right to claim asylum.

The heartbreaking scenes earlier this month after the fire in Moria, Lesbos, were just a small glimpse into the desperate lives many refugees in these camps are living.

Our solidarity is with all those gravely affected by the fire, among them are 400 unaccompanied children who face a horrendous situation.

As Lord Alf Dubbs has said again and again, it's time for the British government to meet our obligations to these child refugees and those in Calais and elsewhere.

These conditions are faced by refugees here in Europe, but there are also over 65 million refugees around the world who are too often forgotten.

For this reason, this week in Parliament, I will be leading a



LOUD AND CLEAR: Pro-migrant activists during a 'solidarity stand' in Dover's Market Square in support of the refugees crossing the Channel to Kent

debate on the plight facing the Rohingya refugees. Their plight does not get the attention they deserve, even though there are over one million in Bangladesh today.

In these refugee camps, over 25 per cent of Rohingya children are malnourished.

Over 12 per cent are suffering from severe stunting, a condition resulting from starvation and malnutrition.

Babies under six months are among the most vulnerable and have malnutrition rates near 50 per cent.

This is a massive humanitarian crisis and the international community simply must do more.

And we must never forget the Palestinian refugees who were located in camps in Lebanon, Jordan and Gaza in 1948.

Now they house the great-grandchildren of the first arrivals, with still no prospect of returning home, and meanwhile Donald Trump is cutting vital funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA), which does so much work to give them basic support and services.

Fundamentally, if governments internationally do not change their approach to tackling the key issues of our time,

there will be even more refugees internationally.

The climate emergency, unless averted by urgent international governmental co-operation on a massive scale, will mean further crises, leading to more and more climate refugees.

In Brazil, for example, if the far-right Bolsonaro regime continues its approach of encouraging agribusiness in Amazon deforestation, we can expect the Amazon fires to reach higher and higher levels, meaning that increasing numbers of people will have to leave their homes.

In this sense, solutions to climate chaos based around local, regional, national and international green new deals are as important here as they are in other regions.

We should also acknowledge that Britain's support for numerous US-led wars and military interventions in the Middle East and elsewhere has contributed to many people having to flee their homes and countries.

Furthermore, arms sales fuel even more conflicts and wars; British arms sales to places like Saudi Arabia are set to resume even though they are used in the

disastrous war on Yemen, which is now one of the worst humanitarian disasters on the planet.

Standing with refugees, saying they are welcome here and that refugees' lives matter must therefore be central to our internationalist approach to the world.

When we see pictures of starving refugees on the television, see a dead refugee's body on the beach in Kent and see starving refugees our streets, surely it's time to recognise our common humanity?

■ Jeremy Corbyn is former leader of the Labour Party and MP for Islington North.

Those with the broadest shoulders should be the ones paying for the crisis

The virus itself might not discriminate, but it has clearly – and often tragically – highlighted pre-existing inequalities in society, says **LAURA SMITH**



DESPERATION: A refugee holds her baby as she runs to avoid a small fire in a field near Mytilene town, on the island of Lesbos

IN A week where Jacob Rees-Mogg has dismissed the British public for “carping on” about struggling to get coronavirus tests, and Chris Grayling has been hired as an adviser to the owner of Britain’s top ports on £100,000 a year for around seven hours a week, there has never been a more urgent time to build class solidarity.

The inequality in this country is blatant and the ruling class aren’t



to see tragic consequences. But we cannot become inured to bad news.

Long before the pandemic hit, there were signs that our record on tackling poverty and health inequalities was unravelling.

Covid-19 has just laid bare how stark those inequalities are. Where I live in the constituency of Crewe and Nantwich, the difference of three miles can see your life expectancy plummet by 10 years.

It is no coincidence that those who work in lower-paid jobs, live in more densely populated areas and stay in crowded housing have suffered and will continue to suffer the most.

If you live in this kind of community then you are likely to face greater delays in accessing healthcare and also struggle to retrieve public health information. You are also less likely to get a Covid test.

It is beyond farcical to witness our “world-beating” track and trace system completely implode and to be told daily by those in charge to stop “carping on.”

Once again it is working-class communities in the north of England who have been hit the hardest.

Those living in the north have experienced the highest

rates of Covid-19 deaths and are now suffering from greater increases in unemployment.

Before Covid-19 unemployment rates in the north were already above the English average, and they are increasing much faster than they are in the south.

This shocking figure is adding to the already high rates of people suffering with mental health problems and, tragically, the increase in suicides.

It is fair to say that the situation is now spiralling with more localised lockdowns being enforced – the north-east and Merseyside are the latest to see worrying levels of people being infected.

Central government is failing to offer consistent guidance and appears to be devolving as much responsibility and accountability as possible to already cash-strapped local councils without adequate additional resources.

At the same time, it is demanding children still be sent to school and people get back to work.

How successful can these half-hearted and contradictory measures be?

Quite simply, if the government fails to put in place the necessary precautions to support local economies, then the impact on working people will be catastrophic.

With more than 10 per cent

of the entire workforce in north-west England – about 351,000 people – employed in retail, the situation will get much worse if the Prime Minister and Chancellor fail to offer viable industries further short-term government assistance to weather the coming months.

I agree completely with Unite the Union that we should be looking to do the same as other countries and announce the extension or modification of the jobs retention schemes and a comprehensive plan must be drawn up for sector-specific support.

Labour has a duty to offer an alternative vision, one where inequality is not inevitable.

Inequality can go down as well as up and those with the broadest shoulders should be the ones paying.

We need new jobs and investment if we are to build back with a stronger economy and we need to develop a taxation system that forces the richest to contribute towards fixing this crisis rather than simply profiting from it.

It is vital that the trade unions join forces to organise and take a stand and demand that workers’ livelihoods are protected and that the big corporations who are happy to hold their hands out for bailouts provide the funds to protect those who have made them rich.

Labour needs to unequivocally back them up and there must be more collaboration and organisation across the movement.

Without doubt the sticking plaster that was put over the failure of capitalism after the financial crash of 2008 has burst open and the wound will not heal unless drastic action and a new vision are brought to the fore.

We need a new economic system, which has people’s wellbeing and public health as its main priority, while dealing with the climate catastrophe the planet is begging us to meaningfully act upon.

If we continue trying to keep this rotten economic model alive then the repercussions will be devastating for most people.

We need to consolidate working-class solidarity by focusing on the issue of economic inequality, especially when 1 per cent of the country currently owns approximately half of Britain’s wealth and has got considerably richer over the course of this pandemic.

Economic socialism must be explained in practical terms, stressing the positive, transformative impact it can make to people’s lives and we must do this by engaging with people in their communities and workplaces.

The virus itself might not discriminate, but it has clearly highlighted pre-existing inequalities in society that too many people are willing to turn a blind eye to.

We must act now because a society simply cannot survive when so few have so much and so many have so little.

The government is to blame for the virus second wave

The government's complacency, recklessness and utter incompetence have brewed a perfect storm for the virus, argues **ZARAH SULTANA**



ON Saturday, 4,422 people tested positive for Covid-19, the highest daily figure since early May.

A further 27 people passed away with the virus, while hospital admissions for Covid-19 are rising across England, in some places by more than 70 per cent.

The Office for National Statistics estimates that the number of people catching the virus has doubled in the last week, with the rate of infection, the R number, now thought to be 1.4.

This all points to the government once again losing control of the virus and the onset of the dreaded "second wave."

This wave – and its anticipated severity – was not inevitable, and the government has been quick to pin the blame on others.

Earlier this month, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock blamed young people for the rise in cases.

He now stresses that a second lockdown can be avoided if everyone follows the rules, laying the ground to blame the public when the inevitable happens.

But the truth is, the blame lies squarely with the government.

Throughout June, on average more than 1,000 people each day tested positive for the virus.

In July, the UK had more Covid-19 deaths than the combined total of France, Sweden, Italy, Poland, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Belgium, Austria, Greece and Denmark.

Yet despite this, the government not only pushed ahead with easing lockdown restrictions, but actively incentivised people to socialise.

Evidence already shows a link between the Chancellor's Eat Out to Help Out scheme and the rise in Covid-19 cases.

At the same time, in deference to the profits of companies like Pret A Manger, the government encouraged workers to return to offices, even where they had been happily working from home.



CLUELESS: Boris Johnson is shown the Jenner Institute in Oxford, where he toured the lab and met scientists who are leading the Covid vaccine research

During these months, the government should have been putting right the failures of the first wave.

It should have been building a test, track and trace system that could withstand and combat a rise in cases.

Instead, the track and trace app – once promised to be rolled out in mid-May – still hasn't materialised, while the "world-beating" testing system has gone into meltdown the moment demand increased.

Residents of Coventry have been directed as far afield as Inverness to get a test.

The government should have used this time to address the scandalously low statutory sick pay rate.

At just £95.85 a week, it is not enough to live on, forcing people to choose between health and hardship.

In March at Prime Minister's

Questions I urged Boris Johnson to fix this; six months on, he still hasn't.

And instead of building up our capacity to eradicate the virus, the government has pressed ahead with reopening schools and universities without providing them with adequate support to make them Covid-secure.

As more than a million students travel around the country to return to university this month, the government hasn't advised online teaching by default, expecting academics and students to meet in person for seminars.

A decade of underfunding and privatisation already brings the NHS to its knees each winter.

If combined with a hard second wave, the consequences could be catastrophic.

All in all, the government's complacency, recklessness and

utter incompetence have brewed a perfect storm for the virus.

But this isn't mere incompetence. It's the product of Conservative ideology that puts profits before people and whose neoliberal agenda has hollowed out the state.

This is perhaps no better seen than in the outsourcing farce of the testing system, where the government's response to Serco's manifest failures has been to suggest Amazon steps in to help.

This is why countries like the US, Brazil and other hard-right governments are similarly failing so abysmally, while countries less infected with this ideological disease have fared better.

In New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam, rather than aiming to merely "flatten the curve," their governments have effectively eliminated the virus from their populations.

While they have had small outbreaks since, their effective track and trace systems have kept these under control.

They have pursued a "zero-Covid" strategy, as recommended here by Independent SAGE.

As we see in the countries that have pursued this approach, this isn't just the best way to protect public health, it's a necessary precondition to restarting the economy.

This is the strategy I have called for alongside fellow members of the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs.

The government must now enact measures to combat the spread of the virus.

That does mean more lockdown restrictions. These are urgently needed – in March, the government ignored warnings from SAGE and delayed lockdown by a week.

Scientists say that meant tens of thousands of extra deaths.

But it also must put in more measures to prevent a deepening social crisis.

Instead of a wholesale ending of the furlough scheme, this should be extended in the industries that still need it.

And instead of ending the evictions ban, it should be extended for at least a year with rent arrears cancelled.

And the only way to rebuild for the future is with a radical Green New Deal, a plan that would create more than a million good new jobs and build a sustainable economy that works for all.

The government will continue to try to deflect blame from its failures.

It may well again scapegoat minorities to distract us, like it did over the summer with their focus on the "migrant crisis."

But the facts are clear. Its woeful handling of this pandemic has cost us dearly and the working class in particular.

The real crisis we face is Conservative rule. They are to blame for this second wave and for the rigged system that holds us back.

■ Zarah Sultana is MP for Coventry South.

HUNDREDS tuned in to watch the Morning Star's fringe meeting at Labour Connected on breaking the big business stranglehold on the media at the weekend, with thousands more viewing the livestream online.

MPs, campaigners and journalists discussed how we can "democratise the media and get our message of socialist change across," in the words of Claudia Webbe MP.

Webbe noted that "a strong, diverse and independent media is a cornerstone of a healthy society – but much of our press isn't free at all."

She cited a 2019 media report showing that just three firms – News UK, the Mail Group and Reach – own 83 per cent of newspapers, up from 71 per cent in 2015, "showing that monopolisation is continuing."

Online, five companies – those three plus the Guardian and Telegraph – controlled 80 per cent of the market, just five companies own 80 per cent of local titles and just two owned 46 per cent of all commercial local analog radio stations and two-thirds of all digital stations, she said.

"Monopolisation is bad for democracy," she warned. "The increasing concentration of media ownership allows the few to amass ever vaster social, economic and political power."

Webbe, who has a fortnightly Morning Star column, called on more Labour MPs to contribute to the only socialist daily.

People's Assembly national secretary and former Labour MP Laura Pidcock said the experience of the past five years showed that anyone proposing fundamental economic change would "not see their vision represented" in mainstream media.

"The daily realities of working people are very rarely reflected," she said, recalling an appearance she made on Politics Live when a shadow minister just after the UN's special rapporteur on extreme poverty Philip Alston published a devastating report on poverty in Britain.

"I was sat with my political adviser saying surely this will come up, they'll ask about the ramifications for the government" of a UN report stating that 14 million people lived in poverty.

"But after nearly an hour of the show there was no mention of that report. It took what some might have thought a rude interjection from me to say: 'Why aren't you talking about this?'"

"This was not just a few people living in awful conditions but millions."

Yet endemic poverty pay, the devaluation of labour and the "harsh employment terrain people were having to navigate" did not figure as news in the eyes of the programme, which was fixated on internal Tory Party machinations.

The cumulative effect on working-class people of never seeing their experiences

“
The track and trace app – once promised to be rolled out in mid-May – still hasn't materialised

Breaking the big business media stranglehold - a report from the Star's fringe at Labour Connected

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, MPs, journalists and trade unionists among those who address media meeting



reported is “an isolating and atomising one in which you are lulled into thinking your fears, your circumstances and your hardship is about your lack of capacity rather than a systemic experience of suffering in a capitalist system,” she observed, saluting the Morning Star for its role as an “uncompromising” alternative that prioritised working-class voices.

And she said social media was no panacea, noting that “we don’t own the algorithms, we don’t own the platforms.”

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn told the meeting that it was essential the Morning Star survived as a “voice for the left, a paper dedicated to redistributing power and wealth and giving a voice to working-class people and working-class organisations.”

He said he was “very happy to buy the Morning Star in the

local Co-op and very pleased the Co-op always seems to stock it” but called for pressure on other retailers to do so.

The demonisation of his own leadership was because of policies, he said, but pointed out that the media were mostly determined to avoid talking about them.

When he had revealed during an election debate with Boris Johnson “an absolutely accurate document” exposing that Britain had been secretly negotiating with the US Trade Department for two years over giving US companies access to public services, especially the NHS, “did the media say ‘Corbyn’s onto something, this is an issue that’s got to be addressed?’

“No, they decided that somehow or other the documents had been given to me by the Russians.



Corbyn also took a swipe at ‘those people now being paid a great deal of money to write books analysing the past five years’

“I was very puzzled by this. I met no Russians. I spoke to no Russians. I speak no Russian,” he noted wryly.

“And I couldn’t imagine what interest the Russians might have in a Tory plot to hand our NHS to American companies.”

But of course, the point of the media attack was “to divert attention from the issue and insinuate that I was a dishonest and unreliable person.

“Well – our NHS is under threat. It will be as long as there are people in Parliament willing to go along with the idea of privatising public services.”

Corbyn also took a swipe at “those people now being paid a great deal of money to write books analysing the past five years,” saying the books focused on “tittle tattle – gossip” like “who said what to who, who got the coffee for who where, who paid for the hotel” rather than

the politics of Labour’s left turn.

“The people who have written those books – and they know very well who they are – have completely failed to address the real issue which is the power structures in our society and the way in which the very powerful and very wealthy teamed up with the most powerful and well resourced media to attack the Labour Party and the individuals within it,” he said.

Scotland’s Labour leader Richard Leonard said the failure of recent attacks on his own leadership showed the “strength of feeling in the party and movement on sticking to a radical political and economic agenda” and called for a left media that would back the fight for “our values of solidarity, interdependency and uniting communities” in the face of rising nationalism and racism.

Unite assistant general secretary Howard Beckett emphasised too that the attacks came over left-wing policy, but warned against Labour adopting the tactics of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, who avoided mentioning policies in order to avoid being attacked in the press.

He said the left should never be frightened to talk policy, and backed the idea of a live YouTube channel operated by Unite.

Journalist and election strategist Steve Howell agreed that the promotion of our own left platforms was key when the mainstream media deployed various tactics to undermine the left.

Attacks and smears were one, he said, arguing that the demonisation of Corbyn had been more extreme even than the character assassination visited in earlier times on Arthur Scargill and Tony Benn.

Another was the framing trick Corbyn had mentioned with regard to the NHS trade talks, where the media turned the story into one about how the papers had been exposed rather than the substance of what they said.

But the third was simple – “blackout. We came up against this in comms when Jeremy was leader,” he said.

“You’d have people saying ‘why is Jeremy not doing any policy initiatives?’ – he was, but the media wasn’t covering them.”

A current example was the trial of Julian Assange, Howell pointed out, with Pentagon Papers publisher Daniel Ellsberg giving evidence last week.

With Ellsberg having been charged under the Espionage Act for exposing the lies of successive presidents over Vietnam, then being acquitted at the height of Watergate, “you might think that Ellsberg in London appearing in a historic trial like this was newsworthy. Actually apart from the Morning Star and one report in the Guardian, as far as I can see there has been a complete media boycott.”

The Assange case saw “journalism on trial,” he said, and quoted Ellsberg: “Everybody has a stake in Assange’s trial. If Julian is extradited, no journalist in the world is safe from life imprisonment in the United States.”

Howell also warned of the dangers of increased regulation of social media, arguing that newspapers – which are not subject to state regulation – “are campaigning for regulation of social media not to safeguard from abuse, but in order to control and limit the debate.

“They see the threat of people like ourselves speaking directly to large numbers of people,” he argued, saying it was “hugely problematic” that the current Labour Party position was to support further regulation.

■ The Morning Star’s Labour fringe meeting is available to watch at mstar.link/MStarFringe2020.

“A FIERY socialist without any principles and given to mere phrases” –

Vladimir Lenin on Victor Grayson

Albert Victor Grayson was the greatest working-class hero you've probably never heard of.

One hundred years ago, he was escorted from his high-end London apartment, never to be seen again.

Just 13 years before, in 1907, Grayson won a by-election so stunning, that the British Establishment and press feared him as the vanguard of a bloody, socialist revolution.

Grayson was born in Liverpool in 1881, into a Britain divided by class and whose leaders prided themselves on a mighty empire while those who created the wealth in factories, mills, and docks lived in poverty.

He was the third son of a perennially unemployed carpenter who had absconded from the British army and a servant girl whose parents could not afford to keep her.

Grayson was destined for factory life and served a seven-year engineering apprenticeship.

It was in the evenings when wandering around the Liverpool docks and hearing its street-preachers that he discovered a love of public speaking.

Soon enough, he was preaching the Gospel as the salvation of man in his spare time.

But he steadily came to realise that the poor were being played for fools.

While the promise of heaven in the next life applied to all, only the rich were allowed heaven in this one.

The Independent Labour Party and wider socialist movement drew Grayson in.

Despite his growing passion for politics, he accepted the offer of a career in the Unitarian church.

But, after moving to Manchester to study, he ended up building a reputation as a great public speaker and led demonstrations of the unemployed.

As he began to tour the north of England as a socialist speaker, he was expelled from the Unitarian college for neglecting his studies.

Grayson's religion was socialism and he put forth the case for a new society with such force that his listeners frequently left his meetings with tears of hope in their eyes.

Little wonder then that when a by-election was called in the constituency of Colne Valley in 1907, the local Labour Party wanted Grayson. However, the national party leadership didn't.

Grayson was a vocal critic of the conservatism of the trade union movement and urged Labour to fight on its own merit when, at the time, they were wedded to an electoral pact with the Liberals.

Despite being a member of the ILP, Grayson had to stand independently as a Labour & Socialist candidate.

His campaign captured the hearts of the constituency and,

Victor Grayson – Britain's lost revolutionary

100 years ago firebrand socialist politician Victor Grayson abruptly went missing. Despite the disappearance being investigated by Scotland Yard, the mystery of what happened to him still remains, writes **HARRY TAYLOR**



RIDDLE: What happened to Victor Grayson is uncertain, although there are clues

and pamphlets, and visited Britain's industrial areas to quell mounting unrest.

He was recapturing the spirit of his old self and talked of a return to Parliament after the war.

But when the armistice came, Grayson abruptly disappeared from public view.

Newly discovered evidence suggests that Grayson was being blackmailed by a senior trade unionist and Labour MP over his sexuality. That may be why a return to politics never happened.

Quite implausibly, in 1942, with Britain's very existence under threat, a senior member of the British government ordered an investigation into Grayson's whereabouts.

Scotland Yard officers were dispatched across the country, collecting documents from school reports to personal letters, which were never seen again.

The police then spent decades denying an investigation ever took place.

After a string of FOI requests they now admit an investigation took place, but that all the files and documents relating to Grayson were either given to the National Archives or destroyed.

The National Archives have never received said files and, as Grayson was a public figure and former MP, they should have been retained.

I am sure that somewhere, someone knows what happened to Victor Grayson. I have my own theory, which is guided by evidence old and new.

But in the centenary of his disappearance we should demand, as a movement, that we are allowed to put to rest the ghost of Victor Grayson, Britain's lost revolutionary.

■ Harry Taylor is a former Labour councillor who now works as a political director. Co-author of *Peter Shore – Labour's Forgotten Patriot and Victor Grayson: In Search of Britain's Lost Revolutionary*, to be published by Pluto Press in 2021. @harrygtaylor1, victorgrayson.com.

although many of his male lacked the vote and none of his female supporters had it, he won.

It was, said Grayson, "a victory for pure revolutionary socialism."

In the 13 years from then until his disappearance, Grayson became one of the most recognisable names and faces in the global socialist movement.

The Americans dubbed him "England's greatest mob orator" while European socialists debated over whether Grayson was sufficiently grounded in Marxist theory (new research suggests Grayson was well versed in the theory of surplus value and he had distributed extracts of Capital to workers as a student).

In Britain, the press treated him alternately as a buffoon and a bogeyman.

Increasingly, he took solace in alcohol, and lost his parliamentary seat in 1910.

Despite setbacks he formed his own political party, the British Socialist Party (BSP) in 1911 (which in 1920 helped found the Communist Party of Great Britain), which aimed to unite Britain's fractured socialist movement into a party uninhibited by trade union conservatism and the slow, parliamentary road to socialism.

For a brief moment the BSP looked like it might eclipse the Labour Party, but Grayson was outmanoeuvred and eventually sidelined from his own party by a small gang of old veterans of the left, jealous of his platform abilities and repelled by rumours of his bisexuality.

Grayson faded from view until the outbreak of the

Great War. He was a pacifist but, when the German SPD voted for war credits, Grayson was determined that Britain should fight.

It would be, he said, far harder to build socialism under the jackboot of the kaiser.

He was funded by the British government to visit Australia and New Zealand to encourage recruitment.

After a hostile crowd asked him why he didn't enlist himself, he did just that, and fought with the Anzac forces at Passchendaele, where he was wounded.

After being invalided out of the army, Grayson was recruited for the shadowy national war aims committee which was created to keep the war effort going.

Grayson published articles

THE TUC has in the past two weeks agreed a comprehensive policy on Palestine in regard to the situation in the Middle East.

British unions have always stood with those facing oppression and discrimination and those who are fighting in defence of workers and human rights.

We stood with workers in South Africa in the fight against apartheid.

We are standing with workers in Colombia where they are struggling to stop the murders and killings of trade unionists and human rights defenders.

And we have stood with Cuba as they fought for the right for their own future – free from aggression and interference.

And today we are standing with workers in Turkey, Syria, Belarus and many other countries as they fight for the same rights.

In recent years the TUC and many affiliated unions have stepped up solidarity work with the Palestinians – and now, with the threat of annexation of large swathes of Palestinian lands by the Israeli state, we must again step up our efforts.

For decades the Israeli state has occupied Palestinian lands

“YOU cannot achieve peace and stability in the Middle

East, except by addressing the key cause of the decades-long conflict – failure to achieve justice for Palestinians. It simply will not happen.”

This was the message delivered by both keynote speakers at a conference of communist parties on Saturday September 19.

Aida Touma-Sliman, of the political bureau of the Communist Party of Israel and member of the Knesset, and Dr Aqel Taqz, international secretary of the People's Party of Palestine, were addressing a symposium organised by the Co-ordinating Committee of Communist Parties in Britain.

It brought together representatives of 10 parties from Europe, the Middle East and Asia to discuss the implications of the new so-called "peace" agreements between the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain and the Netanyahu government of Israel.

The ceremony in Washington coincided with the 50th anniversary of "Black September," the catastrophic 11-day war, started by the armed forces of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, against PLO forces on September 16 1970.

The timing was clearly intended to signal another major blow to the Palestinian quest for justice and statehood.

Both speakers stated emphatically that the US-brokered accords had nothing to do with peace; neither Bahrain nor the UAE were ever at war with Israel.

We must step up our efforts in solidarity with Palestine

Unions are now committed to join with other progressive forces that are pledged to resist the annexation of the West Bank, says **TONY BURKE**

and engaged in massive discrimination against the Palestinian people.

Gaza has been under an inhumane blockade for over 10 years and has been regularly bombed and attacked.

In East Jerusalem the Palestinian population is subject to extreme restrictions concerning where they can go to work

and where they can live, and their houses are being systematically bulldozed, demolished and taken over.

In the West Bank the Israeli state continues to support the growth and expansion of illegal settlements in an attempt to effectively build Palestine out of existence.

And now the Israeli govern-

ment has gone a massive step further and laid out its plans to annex huge swathes of Palestine and to officially integrate the area into Israel.

It is has been said that Israel is "the only real democracy in the Middle East" – but can anyone remember the last time that the leader of a democracy went into a general election



AGAINST INJUSTICE: A protester holds a Free Palestine sign at a Uefa Nations League match at Hampden Park, Glasgow

and openly campaigned with a pledge to actually take over the territory of another country?

So it is absolutely essential that we make clear our total opposition to this move by Israel.

Unions are now committed to join with other progressive forces that are pledged to resist the annexation and we will work with the Palestine

Solidarity Campaign and wider civil society towards this goal.

The British government must make it clear that sanctions will follow if this goes ahead, and we must call on the international community to do the same.

Likewise, we will be working with unions internationally to build a mass movement that demands an end to the annexa-

tion plans and an end to the occupation and repression.

And let us be clear that the plans for annexation have not been dropped as part of Donald Trump's so-called "deal of the century" between Israel and the United Arab Emirates.

Benjamin Netanyahu says the annexation is postponed not abandoned. It is clear the delay is more to do with Israeli politics and the pending US presidential election, rather than a U-turn by the Israeli government.

If Trump loses the US election in November, Israel may push ahead with the annexation and try to present Joe Biden with a fait accompli so he cannot reverse the annexation.

Annexation has not gone away, and we have no choice but for unions and Labour to step up our support and solidarity with the Palestinian people.

■ A Labour and Palestine meeting takes place at Labour Connected on Monday September 21 from 6pm to 7.15pm Register online at labourandpalestine.org.uk. Speakers: Samia al-Botmeh, Birzeit University, via Live link from Palestine; ambassador Husam Zomlot; Professor Karma Nabulsi; Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP; Hugh Lanning, Labour & Palestine; Mick Whelan, Aslef general secretary. Chair: Tony Burke, Unite assistant general secretary.

No peace without Palestine

Communists discuss the future of peace in the Middle East and call for increased solidarity with the Palestinians in their quest for justice and statehood. **LIZ PAYNE** reports

In Aida Touma's words: "Israel, the UAE and Bahrain are not enemies but long-time allies – the deal is a mere formality. It will deepen the countries' commercial co-operation and will help consolidate the American imperialist agenda of aligning the region to its purposes."

She said that the deal signed in Washington was the opposite of a peace deal, since it aimed at dismantling international pressure for ending the occupation and establishing an independent Palestinian state.

In his contribution, Dr Taqz pointed to the flagrant breach of international agreements that the deals represented.

They were, he said, "contrary to UN resolutions, Arab League decisions and Arab initiatives which make 'normalisation' of relations conditional on solving the Palestinian problem."

Normalisation would follow, not precede, the creation of a Palestinian state.

The meeting heard that the current agreements were part of a concerted attempt to reconfigure the balance of forces, bolstering Israel's US-backed status as primary regional



INTERNATIONALISM: A young girl waves a Moroccan and a Palestinian flag during a protest on Friday

power, while at the same time diminishing or eliminating Iran's potential for domination and leaving the US more free to pursue policy objectives on

the Pacific rim and against its major economic rival, China.

The timing of the new accords also had everything to do with promoting the

popularity and prowess of Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu with their electorates – as deal-makers "of the century."

conflict in the region would furnish the US with an opportunity to justify its plans for strengthening its hegemony in the region.

He called for efforts to strengthen the peace movements in the countries of the region to oppose wars and foreign interventions initiated under whatever pretext. Action was needed immediately.

Aida Touma told those present that it was imperative for the anti-occupation forces, and especially the communist movement around the world, to act in solidarity with the Palestinians' pursuit of their cause – the right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

The chair of the symposium closed by pledging that support and sending solidarity greetings, on behalf of all parties present, to the Communist Party of Israel and People's Party of Palestine and to the Palestinian people.

■ Liz Payne is chair of the Communist Party of Britain and was chair of the symposium. The Coordinating Committee of Communist Parties in Britain (CCCPiB) brings together communist and workers' parties which are members of the International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties (IMCWP) and which have organisations in Britain. Current members of the CCCPiB include communist parties from Bangladesh, Britain, Chile, Cyprus, Greece, Guyana, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Spain and Sudan. The CCCPiB meets regularly and organises events and joint activities. It is at present meeting online.

SCHOOL SCANDALS

BY PAT THOMSON | BRISTOL UNIVERSITY PRESS/POLICY PRESS, £12.99

Pat Thomson blows the whistle on how corrupt neoliberal practice is wrecking education in Britain

THE CORE argument of Professor Pat Thomson's outstanding book is that when the economic logic of calculation and competition is the basis for organising the public sector, gross inefficiencies, ineffectiveness and inequities result.

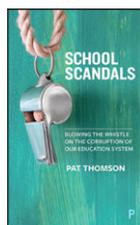
And, she asserts, England's school system represents "an

almost fully materialised case of economic logics at work."

Targeting the corruption, corrupted practices and the "fraud, lack of transparency, cronyism and spin" that lie at the heart of the British state, she investigates the undermining of local authority-run schools by neoliberal ideology

and how, in the public sector, the neoliberal funder-purchaser-provider infrastructure system has enabled the development of a marketised academy-based system.

Focusing on efficiency, Thomson delves into the cost of academy start-ups, along with conversion/rebrokerage and private finance initiatives and the business-mimicking practices of academies – high leadership salaries, financial reporting and



mismanagement, fraud and procurement malpractice and market failure.

The overriding impression is that the current marketised regime is nothing more than class and ideology-driven policy making, which has little if anything to do with either genuine efficiency or evidence.

Also under scrutiny are the nature of effectiveness measures and the distortions of

"teaching to the test," the toxic audit-culture accountability regime and its impacts – lack of transparency, gaming the system, skewing student intake, using vocational courses to improve league-table position, exclusions and "off-rolling," whereby schools fiddle performance indicators and toxic management practices.

Thomson outlines the challenge of humanising this toxic school system, focusing on ethics, the public good and strategies for reform and con-

cludes that unless morality and integrity are directly addressed, mere technocratic tinkering will not be enough.

The neoliberal experiment imposed upon England's schooling system has clearly been calamitous and this long-overdue book presents the left with an open goal for arguing that the marketisation and commodification of schooling have done huge damage and must be replaced, root and branch, at the next political opportunity.

RICHARD HOUSE

THE END OF THE MEGAMACHINE

BY FABIAN SCHEIDLER | ZERO BOOKS, £19.99

Bleak consequences of a malevolent machine age at the point of collapse

The End of the Megamachine reveals how the destructive history of militarised states, capital accumulation and ideological power is threatening our future, says **JOHN GREEN**

SPANNING 5,000 years of history, this magisterial book by Fabian Scheidler explains how and why both our ecosystems and societies are on the brink of collapse.

Scheidler does not provide a chronological history in the traditional sense but looks at the emergence of modern civilisation and the capitalist system from new and unusual perspectives. He does not aim to provide a history of humankind but the story of a specific social system.

To understand the origins and functioning of the "great machine," he argues, one must also examine its prehistory and he looks at the role played by wars, the evolution of the metallurgical industries, the key role of coal, the origins of the military-industrial complex, colonialism, slavery and much else.

"We are witnessing how the entire planet, which took four billion years to develop, is being used up by a global economic machinery that produces vast quantities of goods and mountains of refuse ... insane wealth and mass misery, massive overwork and forced inactivity," he writes.

"At the core of it all is the unrelenting increase of wealth stored in the bank accounts of a relatively tiny number of individuals. Today, 42 men possess the equivalent of that

owned by the poorer half of the world's population.

"It seems that the only remaining goal of the global 'Megamachine' is to incinerate the Earth for a small clique of the absurdly super-rich."

At heart, everyone realises how destructive this system is and that it is sick and makes us sick. Across nations and classes, millions no longer believe in the future of the system while, at the same time, there is an oppressive sense of impotence.

Yet there are alternatives. Almost every sector of our society and economy could be reorganised in a different way. All of the world's agriculture could be converted to organic farming in just a few years, eliminating a considerable amount of greenhouse gas emissions.

A money system serving the common good could replace the current financial casino economy and there are already concepts of decentralised renewable energy, intelligent public transport systems, the fair division of labour and regional economic cycles. All this is possible.

It has been said that the reason we have been led down this insane and fatal path is due to neoliberal politics, which in recent decades have led to increased social inequality and environmental devastation but this book asserts that the causes lie



much deeper.

Neoliberalism is only the most recent phase of a much older system that, from its inception roughly 500 years ago, was founded on predatory exploitation.

Every society cultivates its myths to establish and justify its own social and economic structures. But the problem with such myths is that they not only give a distorted picture of the past but reduce our ability to make the right decisions for the future.

The last 500 years of European expansion is a history that for most of humanity has been associated with expulsion, impoverishment, destruction of environments and massive violence, including genocide.

This violence is not a thing of the past but one of its permanent structural components. Current testimony to this is provided by the pending destruction of the livelihoods of hundreds of millions of people as a result of climate chaos.

The violent expansion of the capitalist system and the injustices it inevitably produced were justified by the claim that the West was undertaking a historical mission to bring salvation to the world.

In close connection to the military and economic levers of power, schools, universities, the

'MEGAMACHINE' VICTIM: Slum dweller, Jakarta

Pic: Jonathan McIntosh/Creative Commons



media and other ideologically influential institutions played a decisive role in elaborating and disseminating this mythology, despite important emancipation movements that continually arose within these institutions during modern times.

A central thesis of this book contends that during the 21st century, the "Megamachine" will encounter two limitations that will be insurmountable when combined.

The first is inherent in the system itself. For about four decades, the global economy has been headed towards a structural crisis that can no longer be explained away by the usual economic cycles.

At the same time, the system has been offering fewer and fewer people a secure livelihood. Although the 200 largest corporations in the world account for 25 per cent of the gross world product, they

employ only 0.75 per cent of the world's population.

More and more people are being dropped from the economic system and as the ability of the "Megamachine" to offer people a perspective for the future fades, the belief in its mythology is also disintegrating.

Ideological cohesion – Gramsci's "cultural hegemony" – is starting to fray.

The "Megamachine" has created an arsenal of weapons with overwhelming destructive power and is in the process of undermining the Earth's great life-supporting systems, devastating flora and fauna, soils, forests, oceans, rivers, aquifers and the climate system.

Industrialised civilization has already triggered the greatest species extinction since the disappearance of the dinosaurs 65 million years

ago. At the same time, the growing climate chaos threatens to make entire regions of the Earth uninhabitable, throwing more fuel on the flames of conflict.

Crises can set long-term learning processes in motion – and there are important lessons to be learned from the coronavirus pandemic.

It has shown that if they want to, states are quite capable of acting and can very quickly make far-reaching social decisions, including massive interventions in the economy and even in property structures.

In the long term, the historical task is to free the state and big business from their interdependence and to make the state an institution obligated to serve the common good.

This book is a valuable contribution to achieving that task.

WOMEN AND CLASS
BY MARY DAVIS | CPB, £4.50

Crucial perspectives on women, class struggle and socialism

SONYA ANDERMAHR recommends a book that could not be more timely or necessary

IN LIGHT of the economic and political crisis facing the working class in Britain and the capitalist world, in which attacks on women's rights are a prominent feature, the publication of the fourth edition of Mary Davis's pamphlet is more than welcome.

Since its first appearance in 1990, this slim pamphlet has been invaluable to generations of socialist readers seeking elucidation of the intransigent political and theoretical question of women and class. So it is to be welcomed that the Communist Party in its centenary year has published this updated and revised edition containing many new sections, including one on identity politics and an updated Charter for Women as an addendum.

Davis's starting point is the historical confusion in the Communist Party and the wider left over the relationship of women to class, class struggle and socialism itself. In the introduction, she sets out the problem succinctly.

The oppression of women has been consistently underplayed by the state and quite erroneously relegated to a secondary position by the left. Over past decades, there has been a move away from class politics more generally, even on the left, to an individualist politics which threatens the very concept of women's collective rights.

In this context, she argues, the left requires a systematic analysis of what progressives have long called "the woman question" which "recognises that female oppression is indissolubly linked to the operation and maintenance of the capitalist system" and that the fight to end it is an intrinsic and essential aspect of the struggle for social transformation.

As Davis points out, the oppression of women and black people is not incidental to class society but constitutive of it – the ideologies of racism and sexism serve to divide the working class and thus perpetuate capitalist society. "The key to understanding the situation of women under capitalism lies in the complex and dynamic relationship between exploitation and oppression," she writes.

In the opening chapter, Davis presents the Marxist view of the origins of women's oppression with commendable clarity. In contrast to radical



feminist accounts that locate it in sexual antagonism between men and women, Marxists see it first and foremost as a product of class society.

Early human societies were necessarily co-operative and egalitarian and the sexual division of labour was not therefore antagonistic. It was only with a change in the productive forces that a qualitative shift took place in relations between the sexes.

In this respect, the work of Friedrich Engels is pioneering. In *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, Engels argues that it was the emergence of property relations based on the production of surplus wealth and the development of patrilineal descent systems for its transmission that led to, in his evocative if slightly misleading phrase, "the world historic defeat of the female sex."

Yet, as Davis makes clear, while Marx and Engels made crucial links between the workings of capitalism and women's oppression in their writings, this did not amount to a systematic analysis. There are still many questions that remain unanswered by Marxism-Leninism, not least why women's oppression persists in socialist societies.

Davis goes on to examine the rival theories that have been advanced to explain women's oppression. Biological determinism, which maintains that male and female roles are determined by nature, is rooted in religious dogma and social Darwinism, and became the dominant ideology of capitalism.

In contrast, liberal feminism

challenges its underlying sex-role stereotypes and focuses on women's political and economic equality within capitalism through legal reform. As Davis argues, this emphasis on legal rights often ignores the specific situation of working-class and black women to the detriment of the women's movement.

Radical feminism grew in reaction to the limited goals of liberal feminism and picked up on those aspects of sexual politics frequently ignored by the left. Problematically, though, it identifies the conflict between men and women as preceding and transcending class and race conflict.

In claiming to go beyond

“ Liberal feminism focuses on women's political and economic equality within capitalism through legal reform - this often ignores the specific situation of working-class and black women, to the detriment of the women's movement ”

Marxist analysis, it becomes ahistorical and paradoxically risks affirming the very biological determinism it set out to challenge. Almost the opposite is true of the new gender identity ideology: in advancing a theory of individual choice based on feelings, this ideology substitutes what amounts to sex-role stereotypes for the material reality of sex.

In the former case, women's class exploitation is downplayed in the interests of sisterhood, while in the latter women's sexed bodies, the very basis of their oppression in class society, is ignored in the interests of individual rights. Both positions work to alienate the vast majority of women, whose subordination stems from their exploitation and oppression in capitalist society.

Davis advances a Marxist-feminist analysis of the relationship between oppression and super-exploitation within capitalism. While a class theory of women's oppression cannot itself supply the necessary political strategy, it can provide the framework for much-needed historical and political analysis and thus point the way forward for women.

"The struggle for equal pay for equal work, for subsidised childcare and for the socialisation of other aspects of domestic work, and for other issues of importance to women, such as reproductive and full legal rights, points ultimately to socialism," Davis stresses. "It is around issues such as these that most women are likely to be mobilised."

She provides a historical survey of women workers and the

women's movement over two centuries, focusing on the role of working-class women in the labour movement.

The strength of this section is the depiction of working women as agents of history, taking a significant role in the labour and trades union movement, from the female Charter associations of the 1830s and the Bryant & May matchwomen strikers of 1888 to the women machinists at Ford in Dagenham in 1968.

She brings the story up to date, looking at women workers and women's rights today, concluding that, despite some gains, there is still much to fight against. In particular, the feminisation of poverty is growing apace and exacerbating the super-exploitation of working-class and black women. She calls for a reinvigorated trade union movement to tackle sexism and racism head on and take up the struggle for wage equality.

In conclusion, Davis turns her attention to women and the Communist Party, focusing on history, policy and perspectives. She includes the text of the historic resolution on women and gender, passed by the 55th Congress of the CPB in London in November 2018, which commits party members to defend and promote women's sex-based rights and develop a branch education programme to disseminate understanding of the relationship between oppression and exploitation in Britain and around the world.

A superb document, it is to be hoped that it will form the basis for political education across the labour movement as well as bringing new women members – like myself – to the party. It concludes with the Charter for Women, which identifies broad-based campaign goals in three sectors – society, work and the labour movement.

The aim is to "ensure that by these means women's collective demands are not only heard but acted upon."

The strength of this work is in surveying and critiquing both the theory and history of women and class and in identifying what still needs to be done by way of analysis and practice in clear and accessible terms.

Although well organised, with accompanying illustrations of labour movement figures and activists, a criticism that could be made is of the pamphlet's production – the typeface is cramped, faint and difficult to read, at least for this short-sighted reader. More generous margins and font size would have made this a more user-friendly publication.

That minor criticism aside, this is a compact and absolutely indispensable read.

■ Available from the CPB online bookshop, shop.comunistparty.org.uk. There will be an online book launch and panel discussion of *Women and Class*, organised by the Marx Memorial Library and Workers School, with Professor Mary Davis, Professor Selina Todd and Dr Sonya Andermahr at 7pm on Tuesday September 29. Register at Eventbrite: eventbrite.co.uk/e/120007225843

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY

Early fog and low cloud clearing by mid-morning. Otherwise, most areas fine, warm and dry with plenty of sunshine. Cloudier and windier in the very far north, with rain later.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Fine and warm across the south-east tomorrow. Rain moving south-east across northern and western areas, bringing far more unsettled, cooler conditions to all parts on Wednesday and Thursday.

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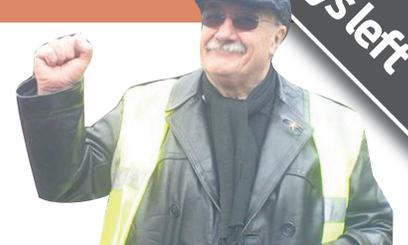
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Fighting Fund with Keith Stoddart

9 days left



YOU'VE RAISED: £9,884 **WE NEED: £8,116**

WHEN one is 90 years old, it's inevitable that you will have lost more than few good friends along the way. The Fund column is used to salute their passing and to mark birthdays and other anniversaries as well.

This autumn's Morning Star Scottish Conference, on October 4, is dedicated to the memory of a solid supporter of the paper. Dr Alan MacKinnon,

who died five years ago, was a lifelong communist and peace activist, so it's unsurprising that the theme of the conference will be peace – or more accurately, the threats to it.

Sadly, the title No More Hiroshimas – No to the New Cold War is one that could have been used for most of the last 70 years. A growing number of countries now possess nuclear

weapons and China is being painted as the new "threat." We live in dangerous times.

Speakers include Jeremy Corbyn, who used Dr MacKinnon's research on South China Sea tensions at Westminster in the early days of his Labour leadership.

Sinologist Jenny Clegg, CND's Kate Hudson, Scottish CND's Arthur West and STUC general secretary Roz Foyer will

make contributions on their own areas of expertise, while Scottish Labour leader Richard Leonard and SNP Chief Whip Bill Kidd will bring a Holyrood perspective to the gathering.

The conference is online, so attending is easy wherever you are. Tickets are on Eventbrite – just search for Scottish Morning Star Conference.

I hope to see you there.

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DAILY SUDOKU

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Solution tomorrow...

Previous solutions

Weekend crossword 1,360

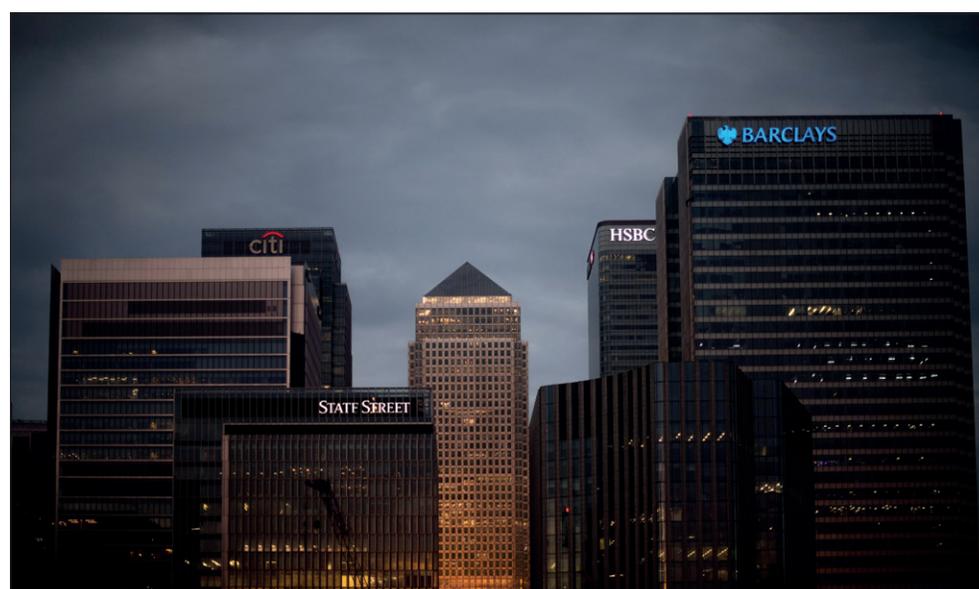
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Weekend sudoku

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TV & radio preview

with Neil Jenkin



Panorama report uncovers banking secrets of the rich and powerful

A WELCOME change from the mind-numbing One Show, we get a hefty **Panorama** at 7pm tonight (BBC1). Reporter Richard Bilton exposes some of the business deals that billionaires would rather we didn't know about in a documentary that also promises to uncover secret reports exposing how banks have failed to tackle crime and how terrorists, money launderers and crime bosses are able to use the same banks as us.

More telly: **The 7.39** (9pm BBC1), romance blossoms on the daily commute (whatever that is) in this two-part drama with David Morrissey and Sheridan Smith; **The Secret History of Writing** (9pm BBC4), first episode of three looks at how writing came about some 5,000 years ago and uncovers the link between ancient hieroglyphs

and the letters we use every day; **Brain Surgeons: between Life and Death** (9pm Channel 4), new series follows patients undergoing life-changing brain surgery at the Neurological Centre in Southampton, one of Britain's foremost neurosurgical units; surely the lowest point in a distinguished career, Trevor McDonald tells the story of the relationship behind bars of two notorious murderers for the ghoulish **Rose West and Myra Hindley: Their Untold Story** (9pm ITV); **Jazz** (9.45 pm PBS America), Ken Burns's epic series looks at the cities of Chicago and New Orleans, whence came Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong.

Films on TV: **Sharknado** (4pm Horror Channel), it's raining sharks in this 2013 cheapo that's become a cult movie; **The**

L-Shaped Room (11pm Talking Pictures) 1962 bedsit drama with Tom Bell and Leslie Caron.

Radio: **Vaccines, Money and Politics** (11am Radio 4), Sandra Kanthal analyses the complex decisions over who should get a Covid-19 vaccine, once it's developed, and how to convince people to take it; **Composer of the Week: Beethoven** (noon Radio 3) in the first of a week of programmes exploring Beethoven's world, Donald Macleod is joined by Professor Nicholas Mathew to discuss the economy during the composer's lifetime; **Forum Internum** (9pm Radio 4), Helena Kennedy QC explores the need to safeguard what lawyers are calling the forum internum (our own private mental space) from the incursions of social-media technology and new kinds of surveillance and manipulation.

QUIZMASTER

with William Sitwell



Pic: Brad Flickingern/Creative Commons

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

1. A complete skeleton of an extinct species of which mammal was found on a Russian island recently?
2. By what name is the Workers Uniting union better known in Britain??
3. Of which Commonwealth country was David Granger president until his resignation last month?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. What is the name of the Sheffield theatre where the Snooker World Championship is held? **The Crucible**
2. Which famous travel company is set to

be relaunched, but only online? **Thomas Cook**

3. What type of reptile is the olive ridley (pictured)? **A sea turtle**

■ ECONOMICS

Confusion at the heart of MMT

TONY BRISCOE puts his finger on the key issue in the “banks create money” myth (M Star September 18).

A non-magical approach to banking would indicate that broadly speaking a bank can only lend out roughly the value of total assets deposited with it. MMT and “banks create money” theorists seem to think banks can lend many times that value.

Mr Briscoe points out that banks assume that they need to keep around 10 per cent of their total value of deposits available at any one time in case their depositors need to withdraw their money and are usually regulated to this effect

by the central bank or other regulatory authority.

So banks can on average safely lend out around 90 per cent of the total value of their deposits ie nine – 10 times the value of the fractional reserve they choose or have to keep.

This is completely different proposition from being able to lend a multiple number of the total value of their deposits, and appears to be the confusion at the heart of MMT.

“Creationists” also appear to “forget” that people or firms repay as well as take out loans.

If what “creationists” are ultimately trying to say is that a progressive, left or socialist government should use all economic and

monetary levers available to it, I would of course completely agree.

There is a good argument for printing money to stimulate the economy especially through capital investment as this generates a multiplier effect and growth in the economy and less likely to lead to inflation.

Such a government would need to take additional actions to ensure additional money translated into growth, jobs and peoples incomes, probably including extensive public ownership, planning and controls over the economy and through direct investment in industry and infrastructure.

ANDREW NORTALL
 Kettering

■ SHEFFIELD

Libraries need professional staff

THERE are currently big issues with the running of branch libraries in Sheffield, and none are to do with austerity.

The charity commission has written to Stanington and Broomhill volunteer libraries to remind them of their responsibilities regarding safeguarding after it was revealed that their respective volunteer applica-

tion forms allegedly either fail to ask for references or state that they may not be taken up.

There is also the issue of the implementation of volunteer libraries being divisive, pitting community against community, with some areas of Sheffield getting a professionally staffed library service while many deprived areas, such as Tinsley

and Broomhill, are lumbered with a volunteer-led facility.

Library users in all areas of Sheffield will need libraries more than ever before as we enter the post-lockdown economic downturn. The city council should reinstate a professionally staffed service at all libraries.

NJP ARTRIDGE
 Sheffield

■ POLICY

Zero C-19 initiative deserves support

I AM SURE that all readers welcome the initiative launched by socialist Labour MPs to achieve a zero Covid strategy, as in New Zealand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

This was reiterated in Diane Abbott’s most recent article (M Star September 19-20).

The Communist Party and Keep our NHS Public, as well as all health unions, should support this initiative as a matter of the utmost urgency.

PHIL BRAND
 London SW17

A LITTLE HELP ... Have readers got this history book?

I AM LOOKING for a book called A Short History of the World, Volume 2, produced by Progress Publishers in the Soviet Union.

Does anyone know how I can get a copy? Please let me know by email to pauldorran1@gmail.com.

PAUL DORAN
 Dublin

■ WELSH LABOUR

Drakeford’s claim inspires laughter

MARK DRAKEFORD claims: “Making common cause strengthens the ability of people in Wales to get economic, social and environmental justice” (M Star September 19-20).

I dare say that in the Labour-controlled borough of Torfaen, thousands of people will be in danger of dying of laughter due to the Welsh government’s dismal record on our environment and wellbeing.

Our campaign against the destruction of the green belt was totally ignored and it is now a private housing estate.

Torfaen council’s pension fund has BlackRock as an investment manager.

This company has been implicated in the

ongoing destruction of the Amazon rainforest, has it not?

Our council has also ignored a petition against the ongoing spraying of our housing estates with a toxic glyphosate-based weed-killer. The biodiversity officer thinks that this is OK, as do most Labour councillors and the Welsh government.

In Cardiff, we have next to the Senedd a nice incinerator belching out toxic fumes and, yep, the campaign against it was ignored (ask Rob Griffiths).

Another incinerator is planned for the beautiful Usk Valley and our rivers are regularly polluted with chicken shit.

TERRY BANFIELD
 Cwmbran

 **HAVE YOUR SAY** Write (up to 300 words) to... letters@peoples-press.com
 52 Beachy Rd, London E3 2NS

Exploring the Morning Star archives

80 YEARS AGO TODAY...

Headline here, pro

THE Daily Worker of Saturday September 21 reported on “The people’s battle with government on raid protection.”

It said that “the great tussle – people v the government – to decide how much shelter, how much housing bombed workers are to get is getting hotter by the hour.”

“After taking one bad beating from London citizens on the Tube question, and with demand for deep shelters rising fiercely on every hand, the government is fighting back with every trick that it knows.”

It appears that the government were so concerned with the strength of public anger over the apparent apathy shown in regards to their lives that it had mobilised Lord Beaverbrook, Lord Ashfield and Sir John Anderson to visit Holborn Tube station in order to calm the situation.

Even the Royal Family and been mobilised at frequent intervals for the same purpose.

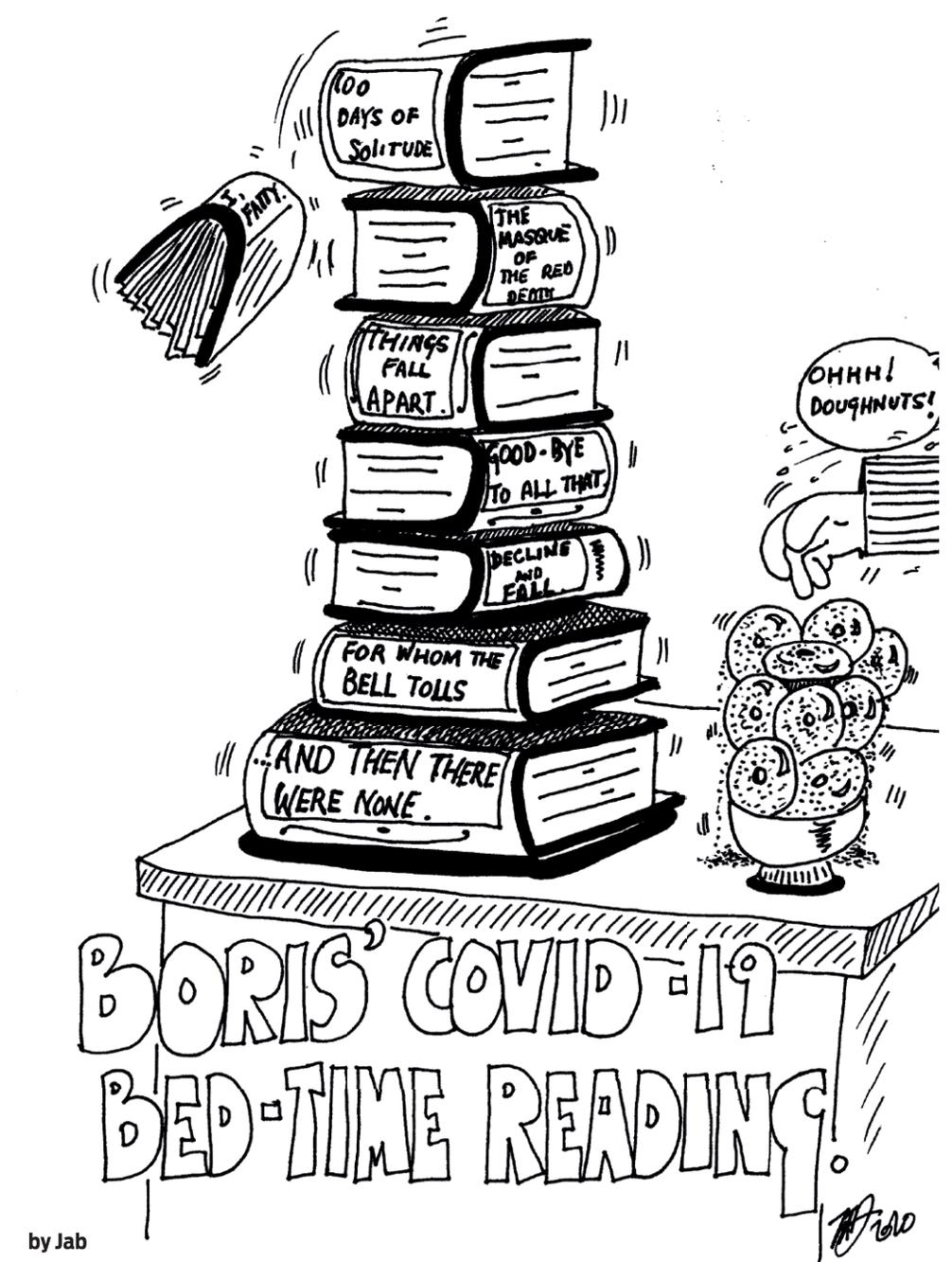
But this was mere sugar to coat a very better pill as evidenced by an official government statement on the matter which

said: “As regards deep or heavily protected shelters, the Prime Minister and the government as a whole are convinced that the provision of these is impossible to wartime.

Huge levels of agitation had only forced the government into opening some private shelters at night and to provide better lighting and sanitary arrangements in public shelters. These limited concessions, the Worker said, were the direct result of the public agitation led by the Communist Party which led a deputation a week prior.

But this was an attempt to play down the issue and the government was “standing pat” on centra issue of mass construction of bomb-proof shelters.

You can read editions of the **Daily Worker (1930-45)** and **Morning Star (2000-today)**, online at mstar.link/DWMSarchive
 Ten days’ access costs just **£5.99** and a year is **£82**



by Jab



INSPIRATION:
Dominic Calvert-Lewin celebrates on Saturday, when he was compared to goal-poaching legend Filippo Inzaghi (inset)

■ MEN'S FOOTBALL

Everton's poaching powerhouse draws Pippo comparison

Everton 5 – 2 West Brom
by James Nalton
at Goodison Park

DOMINIC CALVERT-LEWIN drew comparisons to one of the game's great goalscorers after netting his first senior hat-trick in Everton's exciting win against West Brom on Saturday. The 23-year-old topped the Premier League scoring charts with four in two games and has shown that he can fit perfectly into Carlo Ancelotti's new-look lineup.

Stadiums lack atmosphere and feeling without fans, but there was no shortage of commotion on Saturday – seven goals, two red cards (one for Kieran Gibbs after he pushed James Rodriguez in the face; the other more spuriously for West Brom boss Slaven Bilic after he protested against the decision), and some outstanding individual performances on both sides.

But it was Calvert-Lewin who claimed the match ball and the headlines, as well as a flattering comparison to one of the

game's great goalscorers from his manager.

Aside from the occasional piece of hold-up play, the Englishman did little but try his luck in front goal.

He made just ten passes throughout the game but managed to take six shots. There was nothing lucky about the three that found the net, though, and this type of poaching is something he has been working on in training.

"A striker has to score with one touch," Everton manager Ancelotti said of Calvert-Lewin after the game.

"I told him that with more than one touch it is difficult to score. He's scored four goals [this season] all with one touch.

"I had a fantastic striker in [Filippo] Inzaghi, who scored 300 goals and 210 with one touch.

"A striker has to be focused in the box and I think Calvert-Lewin understands really well because in the box he has speed, he jumps really high, he has power.

"Where he has improved

more is there, in the box. He's more focused."

West Brom opened the scoring following a mix-up between James and Andre Gomes. The loose ball was intercepted by Grady Diangana who ran almost the length of the pitch before firing past Jordan Pickford from distance.

It set the tone for a game full of great goals. And though Calvert-Lewin's were less spectacular, they were impressive in their own way.

The first was back-heeled past keeper Sam Johnstone as the ball dropped to Calvert-Lewin from Richarlison's knock-down via Darnell Furlong – a poached goal of which Inzaghi would be proud.

"The manager is on to me every day about one-touch finishes and being in the box, being in the right areas to put the ball in the back of the net," Calvert-Lewin told Everton TV.

"Thankfully, today I was. It's nice to know what I'm working on in training is coming off on the pitch and that's the biggest reward, really."

■ MEN'S FOOTBALL

VAN DE BEEK: UNITED TOO SLOW IN TERRIBLE DEFEAT

BEDEVILLED: Debutant not satisfied just to score against Palace as Shaw urges more transfers

by Our Sports Desk

DEBUTANT Donny van de Beek bemoaned Man United's ponderous play during a "really bad" home defeat to Crystal Palace on Saturday.

The 23-year-old midfielder arrived from Ajax at the start of the month for a fee rising to £40 million and made an immediate impression by coming off the bench to score.

But he will not look back on his debut fondly as Palace deservedly won 3-1 at Old Trafford, where Andros Townsend's early goal was complemented by a second-half Wilfried Zaha brace – the forward punishing his former employers.

The performance highlighted the need for improvements, with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer calling for introspection and left-back Luke Shaw

urging the club to bring in more players.

Van de Beek said: "My first match for the club ... you want to win. It doesn't matter how you want to win.

"I'm really disappointed that we lost 3-1 at home. I think it's really bad."

"We trained [well], so my feeling was really positive. But today we played too slowly.

"We went too long with the ball and I think against an opponent like Crystal Palace you need to speed up the game to create something. That was not good enough."

Candid in his assessment, the Holland international also clearly took no consolation in netting on his debut.

"To play for all the fans in stadiums like this, it's more nice to score," he said.

"Still I scored, but we lost. And this is the most

important thing, that we win."

United have precious little time to recover

SOUR START:

Donny van de Beek



as a trip to Championship outfit Luton awaits in the EFL Cup third round tomorrow before next weekend's league match at Brighton.

"I mean, next week we need to step up and we need to win," Van de Beek said. "Also for our feeling, we need to step up now."

The player is United's only signing during this window and Shaw urged executives to push on in the transfer market after the defeat.

"We have a very good group but, personally, I think we need more players to strengthen the squad," he said.

"It can give us a boost. When you look around at how other teams are strengthening their teams, then we must also do it to keep up with the others."



City of Liverpool FC



DIP: COLFC take a free kick during the defeat

Full Marske for visitors as Purps' fightback fails

CITY of Liverpool FC were beaten 2-4 on the opening day of the Northern Premier League NW season on Saturday as striker Matty Tymon's hat-trick secured the points for Marske United.

Despite the loss, the hosts hailed a successful return to competitive football for just under 400 fans – having pulled off the "big ask" of a Covid-safe match-day plan.

Adam Boyes had given Marske the lead after seven minutes, tapping home from close range after a great ball from the lively Curtis Round.

Tymon then scored a quick-fire double for Marske as the visitors took a firm grip of the game.

Nathan Burke scored a penalty for the Purps just before the interval after Dom Reid was fouled.

And substitute Jack Hazlehurst scored a magnificent 30-yard free kick to give the hosts hope late on, but Tymon made sure of the headlines as he fired a low finish across Wheeler in the Purps goal one minute later to make it 2-4 to Marske United.

MICHAEL MEADOWS

Sport in brief

Foxes are burrowing Under from Roma

FOOTBALL: The Foxes announced the signing of Turkish winger Cengiz Under on a season-long loan from Roma yesterday.

The 23-year-old was due to join his new teammates before last night's game against Burnley, though the move was subject to Premier League and international clearance.

The Foxes reportedly have the option to buy Under, who said he was excited to join his "best friend" and fellow Turkey international Caglar Soyuncu at the club, once his loan spell expires.

Alpaca takes to pitch, stops play

NON-LEAGUE: Play was stopped for 20 minutes during a non-league match in North Yorkshire after an alpaca ran onto the pitch.

Footage of the elusive Oscar went viral after he galloped into the game between Carlton Athletic and Ilkley Town on Saturday from a nearby farm.

Ilkley went on to win 2-0 and are now considering an alpaca mascot – though one fan said that the allegations of Oscar himself, "often is spotted engrossed in the games on a Saturday," actually lie with Carlton. They added that the animal had likely acted in protest against the referee's first-half performance.

Last-ball victory for Root and Yorkshire

CRICKET: Joe Root and Harry Brook led Yorkshire Vikings to a dramatic six-wicket victory off the final ball against the Derbyshire Falcons in the Vitality Blast yesterday.

Root scored an unbeaten 60 from 50 balls while Brook smashed 50 off 29 to take the Vikings to their target of 168 at Headingley and end a run of four straight T20 defeats.

They had been well off the pace at 80 for four, but Root and Brook shared an unbroken stand of 91 to overhaul the Falcons' 167 for six.

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Bruce: We never had a chance after poor start with Seagulls

Newcastle 0 - 3 Brighton
by Harry De Cosemo

A BRIGHTON side full of pace, energy and intent overpowered Newcastle United to run out 3-0 winners at St James's Park yesterday.

Optimism was in the air on Tyneside after victory over West Ham United last week, but Newcastle were punished for a slow start.

Steve Bruce was brutally honest in his assessment, admitting his side gave themselves a mountain to climb – ultimately proving too difficult.

"We never gave ourselves a chance," he said.

"The penalty looked really soft but I'll let other people make their mind up about that. Then we've let them in again, with a basic piece of play.

"Before we know it, we've given ourselves a mountain to climb. When you start like that in any game of football, let alone at this level, unfortunately you're going to get punished and it turns into one of them awful afternoons.

"We changed at half time and 20 minutes after the restart we had a chance. But let's be honest, I'm clutching at straws if I thought it was going to make any difference."

Within just three minutes, Allan Saint-Maximin caught Tariq Lamptey in the area for a penalty, which Neal Maupay converted.

MAXIMIN PRESSURE: Allan Saint-Maximin and Brighton's Tariq Lamptey do battle



Moments later, Lamptey broke down the right again before Leandro Trossard crossed for Maupay to finish delicately into the corner.

Initially disallowed for an offside in the build up, a VAR check saw the decision overturned to compound the home side's early misery.

The game was effectively over by then, with Newcastle failing to register a single shot on target all afternoon.

Lamptey continued to threaten, racing through on the counter-attack only to commit a foul before getting a shot away. His high position exposed Saint-Maximin's poor defensive intuition and isolated Jamal Lewis.

Saint-Maximin soon hobbled off to be replaced by Ryan Fraser as Newcastle's front two continued to feed off very little service. Callum Wilson was working hard, but Bruce's deci-

sion to persist with Andy Carroll up front backfired.

As half-time approached, Lamptey went close again – forcing a save from Karl Darlow. And Newcastle were forced to tread the line after collecting a number of bookings for fouling their superior opponents.

Miguel Almiron replaced Carroll at the break and there was a notable increase in intensity after the Paraguayan's introduction.

A missed Wilson header seemed to wake Brighton up, though they missed a series of chances. But with eight minutes remaining, Connolly found space at the edge of the box again and curled home to make sure of the victory.

The only loss encountered for Brighton was the otherwise excellent Yves Bissouma, who saw red in the closing stages for a high boot against Lewis – upgraded by VAR from a yellow.



“
Finally. It took the world's biggest race for the message to pass

Kevin Reza on cycling's anti-racist action

BACK PAGE

Celebrations and solidarity as Tour reaches destination

FROM BACK PAGE: The 36.2km time trial was supposed to suit the man who was spending his 11th day in the yellow jersey, but Roglic looked off his game from the start before his ambitions were shattered on the steep gradients to the finish.

He'd started the day with a 57-second advantage. But by the time he rolled over the line, looking dishevelled and a little shocked, he had shipped almost two minutes to Pogacar, who said he had not been able to hear the time gaps on race radio due to the noise of the crowds.

It completed a remarkable three weeks for Pogacar, making his Tour debut and riding only his second Grand Tour after third place in the Vuelta a Espana – won by Roglic – last year.

"I think I'm dreaming," Pogacar had said on Saturday

before his interview was interrupted by Roglic, who picked himself up off the floor to embrace the new race leader.

"We were dreaming that from the start and we achieved that and it's just amazing. It was not just me, it was all the team. We did the recon – I knew every corner, every pothole on the road, where to accelerate. It was a road you need to know and that's all thanks to my team ...

"My dream was always just to be in the Tour de France, and now I'm here and I've just won before tomorrow the last stage, it's unbelievable."

Those victories aside, riders also came together yesterday in solidarity with the only black rider in the race, B&B Hotels-Vital Concept's Kevin Reza, to denounce racism.

Reza, who had recently expressed doubts that cycling

could change to become more inclusive, started at the front of the pack yesterday – partly because it began in his home region of Yvelines, but also in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Reza has been the subject of racist abuse from at least one other rider – Gianni Moscon, who was punished by his team for being kept from racing for six weeks – and the black rider told Cycling News this week that he didn't see a lot of solidarity among the peloton.

But Cycling Weekly quoted Reza as saying yesterday: "Finally. It took the world's biggest race for the message to pass. I couldn't make myself clear on this subject..."

"There's still a lot of work to do. This is a great start."

Sam Bennett won the points contest while Pogacar took the climber's and youth honours.

MEN'S FOOTBALL

Gerrard in war of words as draw ends clean-sheet run

STEVEN GERRARD (pictured) warned Ryan Porteous that talk is cheap yesterday – biting back at the Hibs defender's full-time finger-pointing.

The Hibernian centre-back was involved in a heated exchange with the Gers boss after supposedly accusing skipper James Tavernier of being a bad loser as the whistle blew on a pulsating 2-2 tie at Easter Rd.

He had already been involved in an off-the-ball clash with Alfredo Morelos during the first half before finding his offer of a handshake snubbed by Gerrard and Tavernier as they made their way off the pitch at the end of the 90 minutes.

But Gerrard was in no mood to take lessons in sportsman-

ship from the Scotland Under-21 international after seeing his side's seven-game British clean-sheet record ended by Drey Wright's opener.

The Ibrox boss said: "I think Porteous was saying that Tav's a bad loser, which I think is a bit cheap coming from him.

"He got sent off for a really bad tackle [on Borna Barisic] when he was losing 3-0 against us here last season.

"Hibs have played their part in a really good game today. We're not happy with the outcome but there's no need to panic."



Porteous decided to keep his thoughts to himself afterwards, saying that "what happens on the pitch should probably just stay on the pitch."

Gers had gone 776 minutes since they last conceded a domestic goal back in March but that run was shattered as Wright fired past Jon McLaughlin.

But Gers responded with an Alfredo Morelos strike right on half-time before adding a second through Scott Arfield.

However, a Connor Goldson mistake put the Light Blues under pressure and they paid the price as Christian Doidge bulleted home.



FOUR FOR TWO



Son's shedload off four Kane assists as Spurs stomp Saints

by Our Sports Desk

SON HEUNG-MIN showed that he has no intention of losing his shirt to Gareth Bale after firing four goals – all assisted by Harry Kane – in a 5-2 Spurs win at Southampton yesterday.

After Kane demonstrated his vision and technique to produce more assists than he managed in his last injury-hit season, the England international even grabbed a late goal of his own.

Spurs had fallen behind to a Danny Ings goal that showed exactly why they want to sign the striker – but then it became the Son show, with Kane as his able understudy.

The South Korean equalised on the stroke of half-time and then scored three after the break to claim his first Premier League hat-trick, before Kane got his deserved goal in the final 10 minutes.

“We have a good relationship on the pitch and off the pitch as well,” said Son of Kane.

The prospect of adding Bale to that front line – his season-long loan from Real Madrid confirmed on Saturday – will have Spurs fans licking their lips and give Premier League defences some sleepless nights.

They did not even miss Dele Alli, left out by Jose Mourinho, as they produced a scintillating second-half display to earn their first Premier League points of the season.

And with Sergio Reguilón also incoming from Real Madrid, Mourinho appeared

pleased to have a selection headache.

“A coach always likes to have the best players in his squad. Gareth, when fit and in condition, is one of the top players in Europe, and Sergio was amazing last season in Sevilla,” he said.

“So if you ask me if I’m happy to have these players, I have to say yes I am. But there are other things that make a team and make a squad.”

Reflecting on yesterday’s turnaround, he said: “In the

second half Harry Kane, in my opinion, changed the game.

“His movement was tremendous, his link play was absolutely incredible and he allowed Sonny to play in a different position on the pitch.”

Few will have seen the result coming in the first half as Southampton ran Spurs ragged and could have been more than one goal in front.

But their capitulation after the break had echoes of last year’s harrowing 9-0 defeat to Leicester as Mourinho’s men

threatened to score every time they came forward.

It is three defeats from three now for Ralph Hasenhuttl’s side this season.

“If we made it that easy for them then we can see how much quality they have and how quick they can score,” Hasenhuttl said.

“We were very naive. We had to bring some experienced players off and bring young lads in because at the moment we don’t have anyone else.”

MEN'S CYCLING

Tour counts its blessings at Paris conclusion

by Our Sports Desk

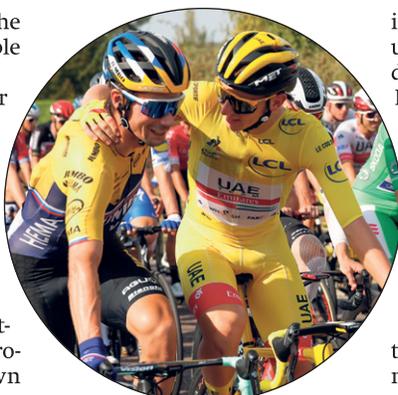
RIDING high on Saturday’s performance for the ages, 21-year-old Tour de France rookie Tadej Pogacar cruised into Paris in the yellow jersey yesterday, assured of becoming the youngest post-war winner of the showpiece event that braved, and overcame, France’s worsening coronavirus epidemic.

On the 21st and final stage, a traditional procession where only riders not in the running for the podium chase the pres-

tige of the stage victory, the Tour was celebrating multiple victories.

First and foremost, for Pogacar – who left the race breathless by snatching away the overall lead from Slovenian countryman Primoz Roglic at the last possible opportunity, in a high-drama time trial on Saturday.

But the Tour was celebrating a victory, too, over the coronavirus. It left the start town of Nice on the Mediterranean three weeks ago unsure that



COMPATRIOTS: Roglic (l) and Pogacar

it would be able to negotiate unscathed through the epidemic to Sunday’s finish on Paris’s Champs-Élysées.

But none of the 176 riders who started, or the 146 finishers, tested positive in multiple batteries of tests, validating the bubble of measures put in place by Tour organisers to shield them from infection.

Roadside fans still cheered them on, mostly through face masks, but were kept well away at stage starts and finishes.

They were most noticeable

on Saturday, during the most dramatic finale to a Tour since Greg Lemond snatched yellow off the shoulders of Laurent Fignon in Paris in 1989.

◀ Continues inside

TODAY'S TIPS

Farringdon's Doubles

GUNMAKER
Wolves 18:00 (nap)
EMBARKED
Leicester 13:00

Houseman's Choice

SHINE FOR YOU
Leicester 13:30

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