

Catch up on the key themes with exclusive content including Mark Drakeford on the PM shutting out devolved administrations, Diane Abbott, Ian Lavery, Paula Barker and more! [p12-19](#)



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Rallies take place across Britain calling to support refugees

ASYLUM IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

by Bethany Rielly

PROTESTERS are rallying across Britain today to demand that the government take responsibility for refugees in Europe and end its “racist” border regime.

The nationwide day of action, called by Stand up to Racism and Care4Calais, is being held in solidarity with asylum-seekers displaced by the Moria camp fire in Lesbos last week and those facing routine police brutality in northern France.

Campaigners condemned the British government’s “shameful inaction” in response to the humanitarian crisis in Lesbos where 12,000 refugees have been sleeping in the streets for over a week, with little food or water.

Lord Alf Dubs, who is supporting today’s rally, said: “No human beings should be left to exist in such circumstances.

“In the interests of humanity and interna-

tional solidarity we should immediately offer to take some of these unfortunate victims, especially the children, and give them safety in this country. That is my plea to the Home Secretary.”

The protests, which are taking place in cities including London, Glasgow, Newcastle and Manchester, will also highlight the “dangerous scapegoating” by political leaders of refugees and migrants who cross the Channel.

The Home Office has taken a particularly hard-line approach, threatening to deploy the Navy to intercept dinghies and pledging to deport 1,000 asylum-seekers who arrived in this way before the year ends.

Campaigners warn that the recent escalation in anti-refugee rhetoric is “fuelling violent far-right and fascist forces,” pointing to demonstrations in Dover earlier this month and harassment of refugees in hotels by fascist group Britain First.

Labour MP Diane Abbott, who also supports the day of action, claimed that the government

is seeking scapegoats to distract from its “catastrophic mishandling” of the Covid-19 crisis.

Campaigners also condemned the government’s “racist border policies” which they blamed for the death of a Sudanese refugee who drowned in the Channel after attempting to reach Britain in a small dinghy.

Stand up to Racism co-convenor Weyman Bennett said: “The heartbreak and rage we all felt seeing more needless deaths as a result of racist border policies is something that anti-racists cannot stay silent about.

“This is about showing those in the most desperate situation that they have our solidarity, such as those fleeing fire at the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos with nowhere to go, or those who have had to flee each time the French police come to smash up the camps at Calais or Dunkirk.”

Separate demonstrations are also taking place today in London, Coventry and Manchester against Britain’s hostile environment for migrants.

Migrant-rights groups Rapar and Regularise are calling on the government to grant all undocumented migrants leave to remain.

Regularise, which is holding a demonstration outside Downing Street at 1pm, said that the Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated the suffering felt by people without status who are not entitled to public funds, housing or full access to healthcare.

The group said that giving all the right to stay in Britain would “provide the necessary protections against issues that those without status currently face such as lack of access to healthcare, which has led to preventable deaths.”

The groups are also condemning the restarting of the government’s detention and deportation regimes despite a rise in Covid cases, with Rapar protesting outside Manchester’s Asylum and Immigration Tribunal Offices at 1pm against the reopening of Immigration Reporting Centres.

▶ Turn to page 3
Star Comment: p12

■ WELSH LABOUR

DRAKEFORD: 'THE TORIES HAVE NOT CONSULTED US'

'BAFFLING': The Welsh FM says the government has not spoken to the devolved administrations

by David Nicholson

THE Conservative government has refused to meet the devolved administrations to discuss the worsening coronavirus crisis, Welsh First Minister Mark Drakeford has revealed in an exclusive interview with the Morning Star.

He spoke out as local lockdowns have been announced across the UK.

"It is baffling to me that, where there have been major announcements about difficulties in England and in Wales – we have had to impose lockdown restrictions in Rhondda Cynon Taf – the UK government has not been prepared to meet [us]," Mr Drakeford said.

"There was a very specific request made on Monday for a meeting and there has been nothing."

Wales TUC general secretary Shavanah Taj said that she was disturbed by the news.

She said: "It's equally shocking and disappointing that the UK government refused to meet the Welsh government to discuss the worsening crisis."

"It shows an utter disregard for everyone in Wales, and it's almost what we've come to expect from a Conservative government that has had a



weak grasp of devolution at best, and a deliberate intent to undermine it in some cases."

Unison Wales regional secretary Karen Loughlin also condemned the Tories' stance.

"By refusing a meeting, Boris Johnson's government appear to have left devolved nations to tackle this worsening Covid crisis on their own," she said.

"Our members have fought tirelessly, putting themselves on the front line throughout

this pandemic to keep our vital health and community services running.

"The very least they expect from the UK government is to show the same commitment and provide all the necessary resources and support to the Wales government to protect our communities."

The First Minister also said that when meetings do happen, the conversations are worthwhile, but that Mr Johnson's

government does not organise them regularly.

He added: "It would surely have been simple to organise a weekly meeting in our diaries on the same day so we could share experiences and learning, but that seems to be beyond the capacity of the UK government to put that in place."

Mr Drakeford's brutal assessment is that the Johnson government is struggling to cope with the pressures created by the pandemic.

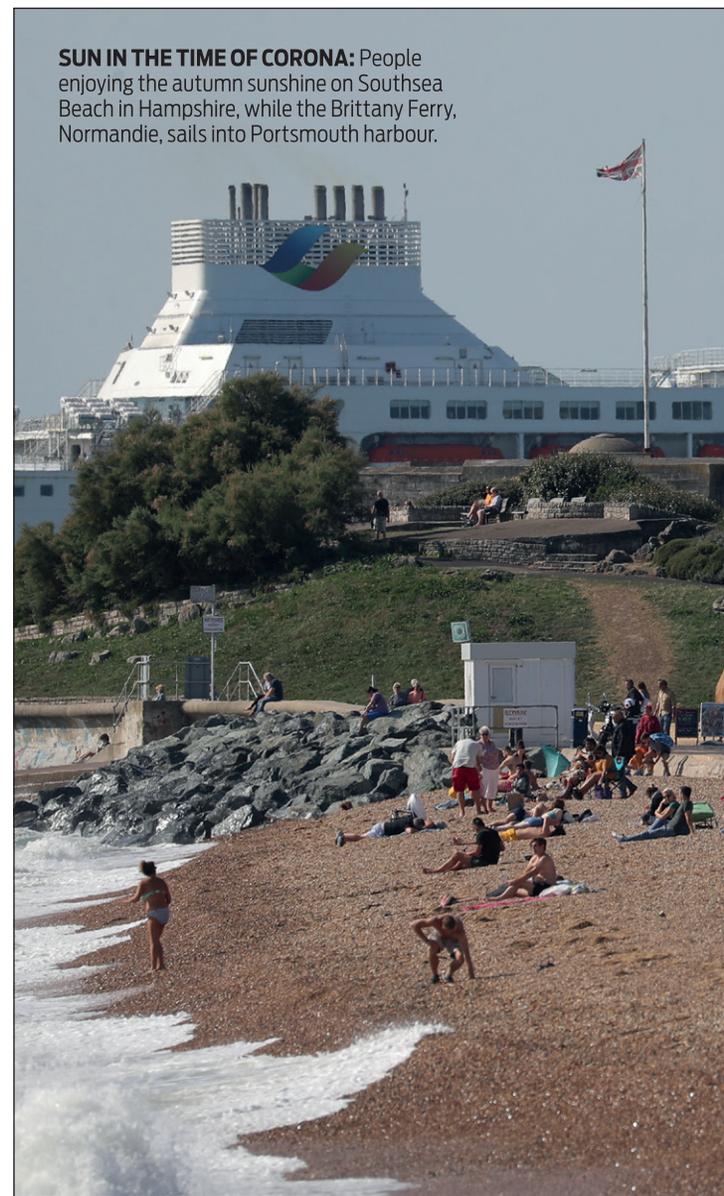
He also condemned some ministers for their apparent ignorance of the devolution settlement.

"In some parts of the UK government, offence has been taken at devolution," the First Minister said.

"I think some ministers are discovering for the first time that devolution exists and when they find that Wales has the authority and capacity to make decisions for ourselves, they just don't like it."

"Some parts of Whitehall, who have almost not needed to know about us and Scotland for the past 21 years, are surprised to find that we are mature parliaments with proven and democratic authorities of our own. They think it is all a terrible mistake."

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SUN IN THE TIME OF CORONA: People enjoying the autumn sunshine on Southsea Beach in Hampshire, while the Brittany Ferry, Normandie, sails into Portsmouth harbour.

■ EDUCATION

More than 80 per cent of schools have missing kids

by Our News Desk

MORE than 80 per cent of schools in England currently have children not in class because they cannot access a Covid-19 test, a survey found yesterday.

A huge majority – 94 per cent – of schools have pupils who have had to stay at home due to suspected or confirmed cases of Covid-19 this term.

And more than three-quarters (78 per cent) have staff who have had to self-isolate, according to the poll by education union NAHT.

Some 87 per cent have children not attending school because they are waiting for test results, while 82 per cent have pupils at home because they cannot access a test to rule out Covid-19.

The findings come after organisations representing heads and governors, including the NAHT, have implored

PM Boris Johnson to "take charge" of tackling the testing delays to ensure schools remain open.

NAHT general secretary Paul Whiteman has warned that children's education is being "needlessly disrupted" by a testing system in chaos.

Fourteen per cent of schools have had confirmed cases of Covid-19 since they began welcoming back students for the autumn term, the poll found.

The survey, of 736 school leaders over 24 hours, found that 60 per cent have staff staying at home because they are waiting for test results, while 45 per cent have staff off work because they cannot access a test.

Mr Whiteman said: "Tests for Covid-19 need to be readily available for everyone so that pupils and staff who get negative results can get back into school quickly."

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Unite SE6246

Sends greetings and solidarity to TU and LP members

Struggling to work safely against the Covid-19 virus

CWU
The communications union

CWU eastern region sends greetings and solidarity to the LESE Regional Council first online meeting and support for all workers & families in the UK during this pandemic

■ PALANTIR

Activists demand an end to deportation tech contracts

CAMPAIGNERS have demanded that the government end contracts with a tech company playing a key role in US President Donald Trump's drive to deport migrants.

Palantir has been hired to oversee Britain's post-Brexit border data, collating information on the transit of goods and customs from December 31.

Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) said yesterday that the company has also been awarded lucrative contracts with the NHS and the Ministry of Defence.

CAAT's Andrew Smith said: "Palantir is a disgraceful company."

"It has played a complicit role in a cruel and brutal

deportation strategy that has split families and targeted vulnerable people.

"The Trump administration's authoritarian policies and rhetoric have caused a great deal of pain while fuelling the worst instincts of racists and extremists."

"The British government is far from innocent when it comes to the punishment of migrant communities."

"Its own role in implementing hostile environment policies led to the Windrush scandal."

"This is all the more reason why it should break with the past by taking a stand and making clear that there will be no more public money for Trump's deportation profiteers"

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WOMEN CONNECTED

Rayner: 'Labour has a mountain to climb to win'

by Lamiat Sabin

LABOUR has a "mountain to climb" to win the next election, deputy leader Angela Rayner said yesterday in the run-up to the start of the party's virtual conference this weekend.

Ms Rayner will open the women's conference, called Women Connected, today before giving the keynote speech at the beginning of the general conference, Labour Connected, tomorrow.

The events are taking place online in place of the normal annual party conference because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Ms Rayner, who is also Labour's chairwoman, insisted that the party is committed to restoring "the British people's trust in Labour as a party of government."

The party lost 59 seats at the 2019 general election, suffering the most painful defeats in its pro-Brexit northern heartlands.

Remainer Sir Keir Starmer, who succeeded Jeremy Corbyn as Labour leader earlier this year, is offering to help Boris

Johnson "get Brexit done" if the Prime Minister drops his plans to override parts of the withdrawal agreement with the European Union that relate to the north of Ireland.

He has urged Mr Johnson to "get on with Brexit and defeat the virus," adding that this should be the government's mantra.

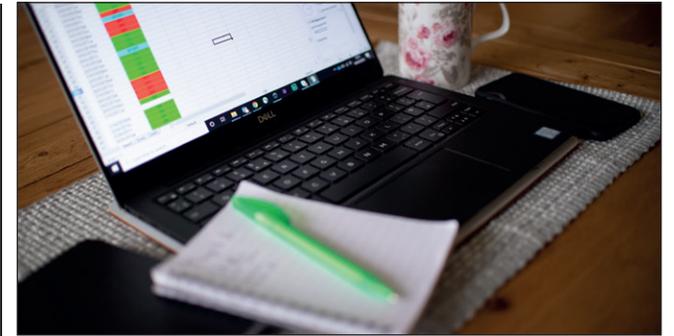
Speaking ahead of the virtual conference, Ms Rayner said: "Over the next four days, the Labour Party will show what we can achieve with a new leadership for our party and for our country."

"At this time of national crisis, we are offering the country the leadership it needs. We will act in the best interests of the British people and in our shared mission to defeat this terrible virus."

"And we will call this failing Conservative government out for its serial incompetence that is holding Britain back."

Shadow chancellor Anneliese Dodds will address the conference on Monday and Sir Keir will deliver the closing speech the following day.

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SELF-EMPLOYMENT

Government urged to provide more support

THE government is being urged to introduce a new round of support for the self-employed to avoid the threat of many going out of business.

The Association of Independent Professionals and the Self-Employed (IPSE) called for an extension to the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme (SEISS) yesterday.

About two million individuals have so far benefited from the scheme, but IPSE warned that without further support, many businesses will fail, while an estimated 1.5 million self-employed have been excluded from it altogether.

IPSE director of policy Andy Chamberlain, said:

"SEISS has been a vital lifeline for those who are eligible and we strongly backed the decision to extend it for a second time in August."

"But now is not the time to withdraw support completely. Self-employed businesses are still reeling from the economic impact of coronavirus and many of them were excluded from SEISS because of its strict eligibility criteria."

"We are calling on government to introduce a new round of support which is focused, flexible and fair to ensure that struggling businesses – many of which missed out the first time – can access the help they need now."

FRONT PAGE

Rallies across Britain say: 'Asylum is not a dirty word'

FROM PAGE ONE: Migrant Voice director Nazek Ramadan condemned the reopening of the centres, where people are required to sign in regularly and risk being detained every time they do.

Ms Ramadan said: "In-person reporting is an unnecessary and gruelling process even in normal times."

"The last few months have given people a welcome respite from the terror of being detained and deported – and that the Home Office are now restarting this, despite rising Covid infections, suggests that looking tough on immigration is more important to them than keeping people safe."

Today's protests come amid searing criticism of the Home Office, following the publication of a report by MPs which concluded that the department has based immigration policies on "prejudice" instead of relying on evidence.

The public accounts committee said that Home Secretary Priti Patel's department was unaware of the damage caused



by policy failures on "both the illegal and legitimate migrant populations."

Migrant-rights groups said they were not surprised by the report's findings.

Bail for Immigration Detainees research and policy coordinator Rudy Schulkind said: "MPs have found that the Home Office risks making decisions based on 'anecdote,

assumption and prejudice'.

"We see evidence of this every day in the way that people in immigration detention are treated."

"Our clients are locked up without a trial at the discretion of Home Office civil servants, with no idea of when or where they will be released to. It is astounding that this department is trusted with

such wide-ranging powers of detention and deportation that it can use with very little scrutiny."

"How many more scathing reports are needed before we see meaningful change in the government's approach to immigration enforcement?"

Find details of the Stand up to Racism protests here.

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■ JULIAN ASSANGE TRIAL

WikiLeaks 'critical' in revealing CIA torture, court hears

by Tim Dawson

WIKILEAKS was critical in establishing the facts of one of the most horrific instances of CIA kidnap and torture, a hearing in London heard yesterday.

Testifying in support of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange at the Old Bailey, Khaled Al-Masri's statement related how he was arrested under mistaken identity and held in secret for months.

In 2003 Al-Masri, a German national, was detained while on holiday in Macedonia, handed to the CIA and subjected to months of grotesque abuse.

In a statement read to the court, Mr Al-Masri explained that documents released by Wikileaks were key to establishing aspects of his story and proving them to the European Court of Human Rights.

They also revealed the US government's ongoing evasion of responsibility, he said.

The US government is seeking the extradition of Mr Assange to face charges of violating the Espionage Act for which, if convicted he could

be sentenced to 175 years in prison.

The court also heard from Mr Assange's solicitor, Jennifer Robinson, who told the court of a meeting she attended between Mr Assange and Republican Congressman Dana Rohrabacher in August 2017 at the Ecuadorian embassy.

She said that President Trump was aware of their meeting and wanted to end speculation about Russia being the source of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) leaks that had damaged Hilary Clinton during the election.

Mr Rohrabacher reportedly said that if Mr Assange named the source of the DNC leak, he could be given a pardon.

Mr Assange declined to disclose his source, Ms Robinson said.

Expert witness Nicky Hager, an investigative journalist, told the court of his experience of working with Mr Assange on the release of the diplomatic cables.

He said Mr Assange was "careful and responsible" about this work.

The hearing continues.

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SPUDTACULAR: Twins Mark and Gemma Stewart, aged 11 from Glasgow, and performer Angie Dight from Mischief La-Bas with some of the potatoes they have grown during lockdown for the Harvest, at a photocall at SWG3 Yardworks, Glasgow, to launch the event

■ DOMESTIC ABUSE

Clare's Law users asked to share experiences

VICTIMS of domestic abuse who have accessed Clare's Law are being asked to share their experiences as part of a research project.

Known officially as the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, the legislation takes its informal name from Clare Wood (pictured), 36, who was murdered by a former partner. The scheme, rolled out in England and Wales in 2014, enables police to disclose normally confidential information about a person's criminal history to someone who is deemed to be at risk of future abuse, so that they can make informed choices about their safety.

The number of disclosures made under Clare's Law nearly doubled in the two years between March 2017 and the same month last year, rising from 3,410 to 6,583, according to researchers at Lancaster University, but little is known about how victims and survivors rated the scheme.

Dr Charlotte Barlow, who is leading the British Academy-funded research project, said: "Victim and survivors' voices are often silenced and, with this research, we want to ensure they have the opportunity for their experiences and perspectives to be heard."



■ ISRAEL

Palestinians' concern over Labour's 'shrinking space'

by Bethany Rielly

A GROUP of prominent British Palestinians have spoken out over "shrinking space" in the Labour Party to discuss their people's struggle.

In an open letter to the party, the group, which includes academics, journalists and lawyers, expressed concern at moves by the Labour leadership to extend the application of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of anti-semitism.

The letter pointed to recent comments by shadow communities secretary Steve Reed urging Labour-led councils who have not signed up to the IHRA definition to do so.

The letter alleges that the leadership has ignored reports

of councils using the definition to "limit the rights of Palestinians."

This was seen in 2018 when Tower Hamlets council in east London refused permission for a Palestinian solidarity bike ride over fears that it could breach anti-semitism guidelines.

British Palestinian Policy Council co-founder Atallah Said, a signatory of the letter, said: "Internationalism and the principle of solidarity with the oppressed is at the heart of the Labour movement.

"These principles should commit Labour to opposing all forms of racism, including the racist laws and policies of the state of Israel that have created a system of apartheid which denies rights to the Palestinian people.

"The Labour leadership must make clear that it will not adopt any procedures or policies that support the silencing of Palestinian voices and derail principled support for their campaign for justice."

Pro-Palestinian campaigners argue that the IHRA definition seeks to silence legitimate criticism of Israel by conflating condemnation of Zionism and Israel's laws and policies with anti-semitism.

Ben Jamal, director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and a member of the British Palestinian Policy Council, said that the definition was being used as a "key tool" to "smear advocates of justice for Palestinians as anti-semitic."

"For Palestinians, the effect is to deny us the right to bring the facts of our dispossession

and ongoing oppression into the public domain," he told the Morning Star.

"For example, the IHRA is being used to suggest that accurately labelling Israel as a state practising apartheid, a view endorsed this week by the TUC, is inherently anti-semitic.

"The Labour Party is now forbidding [constituency parties] to even debate the concerns about the IHRA, despite these concerns having been raised by bodies such as the Institute for Race Relations and leading lawyers and scholars of anti-semitism.

"This is a McCarthyite process that disables the anti-racist struggle, degrades democratic processes and silences Palestinian voices. It must be resisted."

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■ YESTERDAY'S STAR

CORRECTION: McELENY

The Morning Star would like to apologise to our readers and Councillor Chris McEleny. A headline appearing in yesterday's paper stated Mr McEleny had been reported to the

Information Commissioner's Office for a data breach. We would like to clarify that while complaints were made, the SNP confirmed that no breach had taken place.

Pellacraft offers greetings to Labour Conference 2020



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Thank you for supporting us over the years in our efforts to achieve justice for the Shrewsbury pickets. Please continue to do so as the pickets' case goes to the Court of Appeal.

We will never give up.

We look forward to meeting you all in 2021.

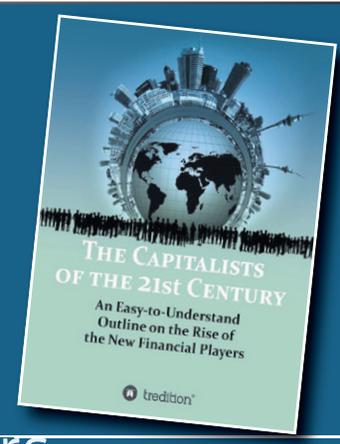
Eileen Turnbull
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Werner Rügemer The Capitalists of the 21st Century

An Easy-to-Understand Outline
on the Rise of the New Financial Players



For the first time, Rügemer presents a typology of the new capitalist players who became dominant since the deregulation of the 1990s and the last financial crisis. Capital organisers like BlackRock, private equity funds like Blackstone and KKR, hedge funds like Bridgepoint and Elliott, venture capital investors and elitist investment banks like Macquarie and Rothschild became much more influential than the traditional banks. These new financial players organise worldwide selling, buying and restructuring of banks, stock exchanges, companies and public enterprises, financing and buying start-ups and having dominance in the digital economy of Facebook, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Apple, Uber, Deliveroo and Airbnb. Influencing governments and international financial institutions, they lower labour incomes and increase private gains — systematically using financial havens. They are an active part of America First, impacting key areas of the coronavirus crisis — public health, economics, politics, media — and now as counselors of the central banks are managing the rescue programs. They act in collaboration with, as Rügemer calls them, the civil private army of the transnational capitalist class: rating and PR agencies, law firms, management consultants, chartered accountants and central banks. Rügemer outlines the relations between the EU and the US and shows the other way of operating an economy, as in the People's Republic of China, and how imported capitalism in the process of socialist transformation — raising labour incomes, health, social prospects, security and technology innovation China is shown with his alternative way of globalisation, which is not accompanied by military expansion. Finally, Rügemer imagines what the future will be if we follow the international law of the UN and protect human, social and labour rights.

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Dr. Werner Rügemer, philosopher, investigative journalist, political activist. Cologne, Germany. www.werner-ruegemer.de

■ CORONAVIRUS

MPs MOOT TIGHTER RULES ACROSS ENGLAND AFTER TESTING FIASCO

TEST AND TRACE: Labour 'not surprised' that restrictions are back on the table following months of chaos

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

TIGHTER restrictions could be imposed across England as a result of the test, trace and isolate system suffering a continued breakdown.

The government is considering a few weeks of stricter rules as a "circuit-break" to slow the surge of coronavirus cases, it was reported yesterday.

The restrictions, to include making hospitality venues close early, could be announced in the next week, according to the BBC.

Shadow health secretary Jonathan Ashworth said that it is "not surprising national restrictions are back on the table" after Labour had warned months ago that the testing system was collapsing.

There were no tests available in any of England's top 10 coronavirus hotspots, it was reported earlier this week.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock has said that the government is "prepared to do what it takes" against Covid-19 after the daily number of new cases reached 3,395 and deaths 21 on Thursday.

The number of people admitted to hospital with coronavirus was doubling about every eight days, according to Imperial College London and Ipsos Mori statistical analysis.

This means there could be

128,000 new cases per day by the end of October if restrictions – such as the nationwide "rule of six" currently banning socialising in groups of more than six people – are not effective.

Yesterday it was announced that tighter rules will be imposed on the North West, Midlands and West Yorkshire from Tuesday. They will ban people from socialising outside their own households or support bubble, indoors or outside and will make restaurants, pubs and entertainment venues close at 10pm

Gateshead Council leader Martin Gannon warned that the North East – which had the same restrictions imposed from yesterday – is "heading towards a catastrophe" if the testing crisis is not fixed.

He claimed that a mobile testing unit provided by a private company is "like a Del Trotter Enterprises van" from comedy show *Only Fools and Horses*, as it arrived at a car park in Gateshead 24 hours late on Sunday.

Mr Gannon said that he wants control of testing to be handed from "multiple private sector companies to local public health."

The government said that new labs were being opened to provide 200,000 tests a day, and that rapid tests giving instant results were being trialled.

■ Care homes in areas subjected to lockdowns may be advised to restrict visits temporarily to one person per resident in all but end-of-life situations, the government has announced.

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CLUELESS: Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government has come under heavy criticism over the way it has handled the test and trace system

■ NATIONALISATION

Rail firms poised to hand back franchises to government

MORE rail franchises could be nationalised when emergency measures introduced after the outbreak of coronavirus expire on Sunday.

The government-controlled Operator of Last Resort (OLR) is reportedly on standby to take over more services if rail firms decide to hand back their contracts.

Emergency Measures Agreements (EMAs) lasting six months were introduced for all of Britain's rail franchises in March to keep trains running despite the collapse in demand caused by the pandemic.

These involve the Department for Transport (DfT) taking on franchise holders' revenue and cost risks, while paying them a fixed fee for operating trains.

This has cost taxpayers at least £3.5 billion.

Officials have been in intense negotiations with train companies over what should happen when the EMAs expire on Sunday.

The DfT is under pressure to reduce the amount that franchise holders are paid.

Labour's shadow transport secretary Jim McMahon told the Commons on Thursday that £100 million has been paid out to shareholders as a result of EMAs, and "that cannot continue."



■ EVICTION BAN TO EXPIRE ON MONDAY

Covid risks with eviction rise

by **Lamiat Sabin**
Parliamentary reporter

THE expiry of the government's eviction ban on Monday will lead to thousands of people losing their home and risks worsening the new wave of coronavirus infections, housing campaigners and public-health experts warned yesterday.

Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick has so far refused to extend the suspension of eviction proceedings, despite the daily total of new Covid-19 cases increasing to between 3,000 and nearly 4,000 this week.

"There couldn't be a worse

time to lift the eviction ban," said campaigner Siddhartha Mehta of health charity Medact.

Michael Deas of the London Renters Union said: "If ministers want to show that public health matters more than the profits of landlords, they should introduce a permanent evictions ban and cancel rent debt."

The ban on landlords starting eviction proceedings in court came into force in April and was extended in June. In August, the government extended the measure for a second time, just a few days short of its scheduled expiry date, but it is now due to lapse on Monday.

In addition, ministers intro-

duced a six-month notice period for new evictions, but tens of thousands of people who received eviction notices before the change and those in "extreme" rent arrears remain at risk of becoming homeless this winter.

The most recent extension followed pressure from political parties and a letter from 16 public-health bodies to Mr Jenrick urging him to maintain the ban.

Signatories included the British Medical Association, the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal Society of Public Health, Medact, Pathway and the London Renters Union.

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LABOUR & THE MEDIA

★ Morning Star

Online Event

WHAT CAN WE DO TO DEMOCRATISE THE MEDIA, BREAK THE BIG BUSINESS STRANGLEHOLD, AND GET OUR MESSAGE ACROSS?

Morning Star editor **Ben Chacko** will be joined by Labour's former deputy director of strategy and communications **Steve Howell**, former shadow cabinet member **Laura Pidcock**, **Claudia Webbe** MP, Unite AGS **Howard Beckett**, Scottish Labour leader **Richard Leonard**. Chaired by **Bob Oram** from the Morning Star Management Committee.

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UNITED STATES

Postal Service 'reforms' blocked

by Our Foreign Desk

A US JUDGE has blocked Postal Service "reforms" promoted by Postmaster-General Louis DeJoy (pictured) that opponents say are designed to assist President Donald Trump and undermine the institution.

Judge Stanley Bastian said the 14 states that have sued the Trump administration and the US Postal Service (USPS) "have demonstrated the defendants are involved in a politically motivated attack on the efficiency of the Postal Service."

Mr DeJoy has provoked a dispute with the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) by imposing new regulations, such as making post vans leave depots on time whether or not they have more mail to load, which cause serious delays.

Opponents have charged that these are planned to disrupt postal voting in November, which Mr Trump has repeatedly claimed to be corrupt and have put sick US citizens at risk by

delaying delivery of prescription medicines.

They also claim that the removal of mail-sorting machines from many depots and of postboxes from town centres is part of a project to cripple the service, though USPS says these measures simply reflect falling volumes of post.

The APWU held a nationwide day of action last month, with events held in every US state calling for emergency Covid relief funding for the service and a permanent reversal of Mr DeJoy's reforms.

"The USPS is an American treasure and the people will not sit idly by while our public Postal Service is under attack," the union said.

The ruling says the service must treat election mail as first-class, halt the removal of sorting machines and restore any that are needed to process election mail.

Mr Bastian said the USPS measures raised "a substantial possibility many voters will be disenfranchised."

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DISPLACED: Migrants use a rubbish bin to move their belongings from the burned Moria refugee camp to a new army-built facility in Kara Tepe on the north-eastern island of Lesbos, Greece. Yesterday police resumed relocating migrants rendered homeless when fires ravaged the country's largest refugee camp amid a local Covid-19 outbreak

GREECE

Refugee camp fails to meet 'dignified living standards'

by Our Foreign Desk

PRESS are still barred from Lesbos's replacement for the Moria refugee camp, which was gutted by fire last week, but an NGO said it had "verified that conditions do not meet the minimum standards of dignified living under Greek and international law."

Refugee Support Aegean said that interviews with refugees and visits outside the temporary facility exposed that it is a "rough tent camp" in which one water tap is provided for the use of the 12,000 intended residents.

The Greek government resumed transfer of refugees to the camp yesterday, saying

it had moved 5,000 people there on Thursday.

Migration Minister Notis Mitarachi said that 135 former residents of Moria had tested positive for Covid-19 and were being held "in special areas where they receive appropriate medical conditions."

The ministry said all refugees on Lesbos must refer to the camp, and no asylum applications would be examined unless they had done so.

Nobody who had not registered at the camp would be allowed to leave the island, it said.

UN Refugee Agency Lesbos office chief Astrid Castelein said that so long as people were being transferred peace-

fully "we believe it is a good move," given that thousands have been sleeping in the open since the Moria blaze, which Greek authorities have blamed on camp residents frustrated at lockdown restrictions.

Six people, all from Afghanistan and two of them minors, have been arrested on suspicion of arson.

"Here on the street it is a risk for security, for public health and it's not dignified," Ms Castelein said.

But Refugee Support Aegean said it was worried that "entry of lawyers and organisations offering humanitarian and other forms of support is forbidden, resulting in persons with illnesses and pregnant women

remaining without medicine."

It also said Greece had not provided basic assistance to the thousands still sleeping rough on the roads, without "access to running water, toilets, food and bottled water or healthcare."

"We witnessed exhausted young mothers unable to breast-feed their babies, diabetic persons running out of medicine, infants without milk and others in those conditions."

The camp is also to have its own dedicated police force of more than 300, Greek media reported.

These are being transferred from elsewhere in Greece and will not answer to Lesbos's local police authorities.

international@peoples-press.com

ORGREAVE
TRUTH AND JUSTICE CAMPAIGN



Greetings, solidarity and thank you to Labour Party branches, constituencies, members, councillors and MPs for the Orgreave manifesto commitment and support for a public inquiry

EVERY WORKER IN A UNION

Kate Flannery - Secretary
Chris Hockney - Chair

 in brief

PM to be sued by Covid-19 survivors

FRANCE: Prime Minister Jean Castex is being sued by Covid-19 survivors and patients' families over government failings in dealing with the virus.

The France Coronavirus Victims' Group complains about the lack of available tests and slams contradictory government advice over issues like wearing masks. It says Mr Castex's drive to reopen the economy is costing lives.

Stolen rare books return after a tale

ROMANIA: "Irreplaceable" books valued at more than £2.5 million, including first editions of works by Galileo and Isaac Newton, have been recovered by police.

The books were swiped by burglars from London in 2017 who cut holes in a warehouse roof and absented in to lift their literary prize.

An international effort by British, Italian and Romanian police found the stash under a house in Neamt.

Beijing collars UN over migrant abuse

CHINA: Beijing has expressed "serious concern" to the UN human-rights council over abuses of immigrants by private security companies in Britain, Australia and the United States.

It said that defending refugees' human rights was made harder by "privatisation of immigration and refugee detention centres and outsourcing to private security companies." It condemned the US in particular for the mass detention of children and for separating children from their families.

Time's up for TikTok

UNITED STATES: Access to dance-app TikTok and messaging app WeChat will end tomorrow [Sun] as the government cracks down on Chinese-owned firms.

It will become illegal to maintain the apps on app stores, meaning that they cannot be downloaded. Devices which already have the apps will be unable to update them.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the ban "proves once again that President Trump will do everything in his power to protect Americans from the threats of the Chinese Communist Party."

WORLD BANK

Pakistan fine for snub to mining firm delayed

A CORPORATE court run by the World Bank has given Pakistan a stay pending a final decision on its punishment for refusing permission to an Australian firm to mine for gold and copper.

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes has imposed an eye-watering \$5.8 billion (£4.5bn) fine on Pakistan, approximately 2 per cent of its GDP, for cancelling the Reko Diq mining lease for Tethyan Copper Corp to sink an open-pit copper and gold mine.

It is the biggest such arbitra-

tion award ever and amounts to almost 30 times what the company invested in Reko Diq.

The Reko Diq region is considered a strategic asset by Pakistan, which argued in court that Tethyan's original contract to explore for mineral resources was corruptly obtained and that the regional Baluchistan government had acted illegally in granting it.

But the tribunal ruled that the lease's legality in Pakistan was not relevant and found in favour of the company. The stay means Pakistan may negotiate a settlement with Tethyan.

BELARUS

Tensions ease at Polish and Lithuanian borders

BELARUSIAN President Alexander Lukashenko said he would put troops on high alert and close the borders with Poland and Lithuania yesterday, but didn't carry out the threat.

Border officials said crossings were open as usual but that inspections and checks were being stepped up, while officials of the Polish and Lithuanian border agencies said cross-border traffic was normal.

Mr Lukashenko had warned of the closures while addressing a women's forum, for Belarus, which drew thousands to the Minsk Arena to discuss women's rights, saying: "I don't want my country to

be at war. Moreover I don't want Belarus and Poland, Lithuania to turn into a theatre of military operations where our issues will not be resolved."

Opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who fled to Lithuania following the August 9 presidential election she claims was rigged in Mr Lukashenko's favour, said the president's talk of border closures showed he lived in an "imaginary world."

Mr Lukashenko has accused Poland and Lithuania of instigating protests against the election result, with Poland hosting television and social media channels hostile to his government.

POLAND

Animal welfare Bill set to collapse coalition

POLAND'S governing coalition looked set to collapse yesterday after junior partner United Poland voted against an animal welfare Bill.

"The coalition at the moment does not exist," Marek Suski of the ruling Law and Justice party declared.

"Our former coalition partners should be packing up their desks."

The party's parliamentary leader Ryszard Terlecki said party leaders would meet for talks on Monday to determine whether new elections were needed, which could happen if the minority administration cannot pass legislation.

The rift occurred over a

welfare Bill proposed by Law and Justice leader and former PM Jaroslaw Kaczynski, which would ban fur farms, restrict use of animals in circuses and limit ritual slaughter practices required by certain religions.

The opposition have attacked the Bill as likely to cost thousands of jobs and United Poland voted against it.

The smaller party is led by Justice Minister Zbigniew Ziobro, who yesterday said the European Union was waging an "attack on democracy" for questioning the independence of Poland's judiciary and criticising the Polish government's declared hostility to gay rights.

BOLIVIA

COUP PRESIDENT WITHDRAWS FROM GENERAL ELECTION

FAILURE: Jeanine Anez drops out of October's vote after poor polling

by Ben Chacko

BOLIVIA'S coup President Jeanine Anez has dropped out of next month's presidential elections after polls showed her scraping just over 5 per cent of the vote.

Ms Anez (pictured), who was appointed by the army after it forced just re-elected president Evo Morales from power last November, said she was withdrawing "to ensure there is a winner who defends democracy" against Mr Morales's Movement for Socialism (MAS), which all polls continue to show in first place.

Polls this week showed that MAS candidate Luis Arce would win in the first round with 38.5 per cent of the vote, less than Mr Morales's 47 per cent first-round win last year, which the opposition refused to accept.

But the showing would avoid a second round run-off because it is more than 10 points ahead of any other candidate, with former president Carlos Mesa in second place on 12.9 per cent.

Fascist paramilitary leader and millionaire Luis Camacho, who organised the violent riots that preceded the army putsch last winter and famously stormed the presidential palace during the coup, tearing down the Pachamama emblem of indigenous Bolivians, is in third place.



Pic: Noticias Al Dia/Wikimedia Commons

Ms Anez did not endorse either, but said the right should unite behind one candidate.

But Mr Morales, who has been banned from standing, said: "Anez and her government are in freefall. On October 18 we will recover democracy and defeat the crisis."

Bolivia's ombudsman published a report on Thursday pointing to "crimes against humanity" committed by Ms Anez's government, which killed scores of mostly indigenous protesters against Mr Morales's overthrow in its first weeks.

It records that police arrested large numbers simply for dem-

onstrating against the coup, details cases in which individual MAS supporters were tortured or killed and describes an "execution" of 20 people in Sacaba and Senkata on the outskirts of La Paz.

These crimes were "systematically committed against the civilian population under the knowledge of, orders and instructions issued by the transitional government."

Mr Morales suggested that in the context of the report Ms Anez's withdrawal from the race could be motivated by her need to "negotiate impunity" for her government's crimes as well as to unite the right.

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Glyn would say fight for state pension at 60.

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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

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Greetings to the 2020 Labour Party Conference

Work for the end of all anti trade union legislation



Alex Kempshall | Branch Secretary
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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.

Monday September 21, 6pm-7.15pm, via Zoom

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/y4wzobjmp>

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



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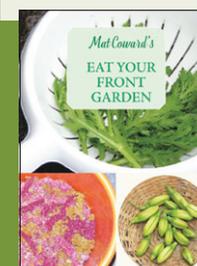


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 The Workers' Stately Home

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Struggle on the Streets

the best photos from the week's protests around the world



ABOVE: A demonstrator wears a carnival mask at a protest in the Ecuadorian capital Quito against government economic policies, rising unemployment and a deal with the International Monetary Fund
LEFT: Protesters in Lagos, Nigeria, condemn government-ordered increases in fuel and electricity prices during a march which police tried to break up, arresting leaders of civil society group the Joint Action Front



ABOVE: Extinction Rebellion campaigners block traffic at Kongens Nytorv Square in Copenhagen as part of a demonstration to press for effective action on climate change



ABOVE: Haitian national police officers demanding better working conditions and the release of jailed colleagues hold a demonstration in Port-au-Prince organised by the Phantom 509 group, which is associated with the police union
LEFT: Jimena Peterson waves a placard outside the Occupational Safety and Health Administration offices in Denver during a protest over conditions at a Colorado meatpacking plant where six staff died of Covid-19 in the spring and hundreds were infected

★ Star comment

Socialism, refugees and Labour's first post-Corbyn 'conference'

AS LABOUR'S virtual replacement for party conference begins this weekend, demonstrators will take action in solidarity with refugees in dozens of places across Britain.

The demos organised by Care4Calais, Stand Up to Racism, Status Now 4 All and other groups take place as Home Secretary Priti Patel vows to deport a thousand refugees by Christmas.

Socialists attending any of the solidarity actions may remember another Labour conference five years ago, when the newly elected party leader's first act was to attend a rally in solidarity with refugees in central London.

This year's event will feel very different. It is not just coronavirus that has put an end to the packed-out carnivals of the left that Labour conferences became over the last five years. It is hard to imagine Keir Starmer rocking up at an anti-racist demo in solidarity.

The manner in which Jeremy Corbyn began his leadership signalled his "new kind of politics" in the most unambiguous way possible. Support for refugees does not go down well with focus groups or policy wonks.

The approach of previous Labour and Tory governments to globalisation was to constantly accommodate the demands of transnational capital with all the associated downsides for jobs, wages, workers' rights and public services, while responding periodically to the resulting anxiety with measures to harass and persecute the poorest economic migrants and refugees.



By contrast Corbyn inspired with the idea that "politics" might be more than a bland contest between professionals to develop a formula that secures electoral success, high office, and, in too many cases, subsequent personal riches of dubious origin.

It could be a means of changing the world. And he made the case that it could be worth standing up for unpopular causes because people's minds can change when you take the time to argue your case. The reasons for the defeat of this "new kind of politics" have been debated in detail ever since last December's devastating election.

The first Labour "conference" post-Corbyn is a good time to assert one key lesson. The Corbyn project did well when it was boldest and most radical. It tended to founder when it gave ground to its enemies.

This seems paradoxical – the political playbook would suggest that compromise was the logical answer to Corbyn's weak support in the parliamentary party and Labour Party machinery. But compromise with forces that were determined, from the outset, that they would not tolerate any threat to the wealth or power of Britain's ruling class was a recipe for defeat.



When Corbynism had the courage of its convictions, as at the refugee demo or, in the 2017 election, when Corbyn pointed to the role played by Britain's foreign policy in feeding conflict and terrorism, it found it had listeners.

But, particularly on foreign policy, it was often too cautious to make these arguments, allowing Labour to remain pro-Nato and pro-nuclear.

These "compromises" did not win over many warmongers – Corbyn's long record as a peace campaigner was forgotten by no-one and the right-wing press used it to fling all kinds of abuse at him. But Labour's official line did prevent his supporters from making arguments that could have won public support for a different kind of policy.

This was not the only or even the main cause of the defeat of the Corbyn project, but it is a useful starting point when the left looks to rebuild.

Many voices already caution that we tried to do too much, that sticking to this or that principle was never going to wash with the public and should be downplayed or dropped. The victims of such "triangulation" are often the most vulnerable people on Earth.

As socialists, we should reject such counsel. A powerful socialist movement was built up by a willingness to confront political orthodoxy and argue that another world is possible. This weekend, we do that by standing in solidarity with refugees.



Diane Abbott

The government has lost control of coronavirus

The Tories have failed on the virus, failed on jobs and now they threaten a partial shutdown that will only damage the economy. But there is an alternative, writes **DIANE ABBOTT MP**

UNLESS this government gets to grips with the spread of the coronavirus and unless it changes course on economic policy, workers across the country are going to face even further huge job losses and pay cuts.

The poorest will be hardest hit, with black and Asian people once again bearing a disproportionate burden.

We do not have to accept this outcome. This week Unite's Len McCluskey wrote to Boris Johnson demanding an extension of the furlough scheme otherwise

there would be "an avalanche of job losses."

Barely before the letter was sent the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) confirmed that threat and was reporting that fully half of its member firms were planning further lay-offs. This is in addition to the hundreds of thousands who have already lost full-time jobs.

The reason why the furlough scheme needs to be extended should be absolutely clear. The government has failed to get a grip on the virus and to suppress it. As a result, the economy continues to struggle and firms are laying off work-

ers, or cutting pay in response. Disgracefully some are also firing and rehiring on worse pay and conditions and there has been an upsurge in the numbers of people on zero-hours contracts too.

This is the government's responsibility. Under current economic conditions many firms judge that they are not viable with their current payrolls, in terms of numbers employed or their wage rates. No doubt there are some completely unscrupulous employers who see the current crisis as an opportunity to take drastic measures that would otherwise be unacceptable.

But it is the government's responsibility to prevent that happening. Instead, by ending the furlough now, long before the virus is brought under control, it is almost inevitable that there will be lay-offs. In other countries they have avoided this cliff edge: France, Germany and Ireland have all extended their schemes.

They recognise that the short-term cost of extension is far outweighed by the long-term costs of mass unemployment, in wasted lives, poverty, lost output and, yes, lost tax revenues to the public sector.

We in the labour movement must also recognise that the economic crisis is engendered by the crisis in public health. The massive wave of job losses and pay cuts would not be happening without the coronavirus. Ending the virus is a public health imperative and an absolute precondition to returning to anything like economic normality.

As this government's catastrophic performance shows, there is in reality no trade-off between protecting people's health and protecting the economy. This country has one of the worst outcomes in terms of death toll and one of the worst outcomes in terms of contraction in GDP and job losses as well.

These two, the spread of the virus and the loss of jobs, are related. The idea that people's health and lives could be put at risk in effort to get back to economic normality is grotesque and it is factually incorrect.

All the businesses and jobs in a host of sectors such as retail, hospitality, accommodation, travel, food, arts and leisure rely on people being relaxed, confident and with at



least some degree of financial wellbeing. They cannot possibly return to normal while a pandemic is raging.

People cannot be forced to go out when they are in fear for their lives, even while the government's ending of the furlough scheme is effectively forcing them back to work.

All of these sectors will continue to be shuttered and haemorrhage jobs while the pandemic is not under control. In turn, this will have an impact back up the service sector supply chain, including food and drink manufacturers and others.

Only by defeating the virus is it possible to return to anything like normality. And it should be clear that the government is very

far from defeating the virus. It is now widely understood that new cases are surging.

The renewed rise in hospitalisations is now also being reported in the media, along with a government call for the hospitals to be emptied in preparation for a much larger increase. Unfortunately, surging hospitalisations almost certainly means a renewed rise in deaths will follow.

I am pleased to say that the Socialist Campaign Group of MPs, Independent Sage, grassroots Labour activists and others have all raised the demand for a zero Covid-19 strategy.

Of course, this does not mean no-one should ever return to work until there is a vaccine. It does mean a serious and sustained lockdown until the virus has dwindled to very small numbers, and an effective test, trace and isolation system to catch the tiny numbers that may then arise.

This approach has been successful in China, New Zealand and Vietnam. There is no reason it cannot be adopted here.

The fear is that, faced with a renewed surge in cases, the government will panic and do a partial national shutdown for a fortnight. This will not defeat the virus. It will damage the economy and it will antagonise people even further when there is no decisive victory over the spread of the virus.

There is an alternative: it is to copy those successful countries and their effective lockdowns. As they show, you can return to normal, prevent deaths and save jobs once you have done that. That is what is required here. Now.

■ Diane Abbott is MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington.

THIS weekend would ordinarily have seen tens of thousands of Labour members heading to Liverpool to our annual conference.

2020 however has been a far from ordinary year. Indeed, as I write this I do so from a north-east that has had fresh restrictions imposed after cases of coronavirus reached worrying levels.

Labour Conference has been replaced with an online version – and many people are left worrying about what might happen next.

The crisis that has been unfolding over the past nine months has exposed huge fissures running through the heart of British society and the brutal nature of attacks on our vital services over many years.

It has shown who the “essential” people really are – essential to the running of our country – and unsurprisingly it isn't those bankers who have continually undermined our nation's finances in the City of London.

Those heroes who have been on the front line of this crisis are those in health and social care, in education, those involved with the distribution of goods and keeping our infrastructure running.

Many of those we clapped for are low paid: the Resolution Foundation has said that half of front-line care workers, around a million people, are paid less than the Real Living Wage. This is a shocking indictment of our society.

The crisis has also shown the austerity rhetoric of the past decade to have been a cruel lie, something many of us have always known.

The slashing of support to ordinary people and the bonfire of public services was never needed. The state does have power to intervene in people's lives to protect them.

After being lobbied by the trade unions and the Labour Party they eventually implemented schemes like furlough and Self Employment Income Support.

While millions of people slipped through the net, many millions more during this pandemic have found themselves reliant on the government to pay their bills.

As of August 16 there were 9.6 million jobs being supported by the government's furlough scheme, many more were supported through the Self Employment Income Support scheme.

The crisis has also shown that flexible working is possible. Millions of people swapped the office for their bedrooms or kitchen tables and businesses kept going.

As children stayed home, many people changed their hours to enable them to care for them. What was previously impossible, suddenly became possible.

Since this worked too well, the government has spent the summer bullying and harassing people back into cramped

Like the war, we can never go back

The coronavirus has seen the state mobilised in support of its people in a way we were told was impossible. Just as the working class refused to go back to poverty after WWII, we must do the same now, writes **IAN LAVERY MP**



DEATH TOLL: A volunteer organises coffins at a mosque in Birmingham, which is operating a temporary morgue during the Covid-19 pandemic

offices. The government has badly failed the people of this country.

A decade of austerity has left the public sector in a precarious position and struggling to cope with the surge in issues that the pandemic has thrown up.

They have been dragged kicking and screaming into adopting even the most meagre of measures designed to protect the financial security of working people.

We now approach the unnecessary guillotine of October 31 where the furlough scheme will be ended unless urgent action is taken.

Estimates suggest millions of people could be made redundant as a result.

The impact of this will be felt more strongly in those communities that have been long held back by the government and have seen their concerns forgotten.

Communities like those I represent are ill prepared for yet more hardship.

Unless urgent action is taken we face mass unemployment in areas already disproportionately reliant on precarious work and state support.

Mining areas like the one I represent lost a generation following the closure of the industry upon which the communities were built.

We have never properly recovered. But the idea that another generation could be lost in the same way is unthinkable.

Sadly, if we do not get to grips with the current situation then we will see it once more. We must start by extending the furlough scheme to buy us some time as has happened in France, Austria and elsewhere.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of a radical Labour government taking power in

Britain after half a decade of destruction.

That conflict saw the entire economy mobilised to protect the country and its people, and at its end, those people who had suffered poverty even before the privation of war, resolved never to go back to the way things were.

The virus calls for a different approach, with unessential parts of the economy demobilised to protect our people. But just as the war exposed the brutal reality of poverty here in one of the richest nations on the planet, we can never go back to what came before.

We must do what we can to support ordinary people throughout this crisis, stop the unnecessary spiral into destitution for so many and resolve to build a fairer, greener, more equitable society on the other side.

■ Ian Lavery is MP for Wansbeck.



This approach has been successful in China, New Zealand and Vietnam. There is no reason it cannot be adopted here

‘Making common cause strengthens Wales’s ability to get economic, social and environmental justice’

In the first of a two-part series, David Nicholson talks to First Minister of Wales **MARK DRAKEFORD** about coronavirus, the threat to the devolution settlement and the incompetence of Boris Johnson’s government

THE First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford, is in a combative and positive mood as we discuss how the only Labour-run government in Britain is dealing with the coronavirus crisis and its economic aftermath, and Labour’s working relationship with the Conservative government in Westminster.

During our last interview on May Day 2020 the First Minister had just written to Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove to try to get the Conservative government to regularise Covid-19 meetings with the devolved governments.

I ask Drakeford how that had progressed and am astonished that not only are the meetings still sporadic, but that the Westminster government had ignored a request from the devolved governments this week to discuss the worsening coronavirus crisis as local lockdown announcements were made for areas of England, Scotland and Wales.

“It is baffling to me that in this week where there have been major announcements about difficulties in England and where in Wales we have had to impose lockdown restrictions in Rhondda Cynon Taf, the UK government has not been prepared to meet,” Drakeford says.

“There was a very specific request made on Monday for a meeting and there has been nothing.”

The First Minister expressed his frustration that when meetings do happen the conversations are worthwhile, but the Westminster government just

does not organise regular meetings.

“It would surely have been simple to organise a weekly meeting in our diaries on the same day each week so we could share experiences and learning, but that seems to be beyond the capacity of the UK government to put in place,” he says.

I ask Drakeford why he thought that simple measure to protect UK citizens was not being taken.



I hear some people take the experience of Covid-19 to strengthen the case for Wales to be on our own. I do not think that is the right lesson to learn from it

His brutal assessment is that Prime Minister Boris Johnson’s government is struggling to cope with the demands the pandemic has placed on it.

He goes further and condemns some ministers for their ignorance about the devolution settlement.

“In some parts of the UK government offence has been taken at devolution. I think some ministers are discovering for the first time that devolution exists and when they find that Wales has the authority and capacity to make decisions for ourselves they just don’t like it.

“Some parts of Whitehall who have almost not needed to

know about us and Scotland for the past 21 years are surprised to find that we are mature parliaments with proven and democratic authorities of our own. They think it is all a terrible mistake.”

The Tory antipathy towards devolved government in Britain and Northern Ireland will not come as a surprise to Star readers, but to hear the reality of its everyday impact on dealing with the medical and economic emergency created by the Covid-19 pandemic is shocking.

In Wales, opinion polls have charted a rising number of voters considering independence for the first time, and I ask the First Minister about the impact on this “indie curiosity” that the Internal Market Bill the Tories are pushing through the Westminster Parliament might have.

The Bill, if enacted as drafted, will take powers away



MEETING REQUESTS: Mark Drakeford (above) is unimpressed with Boris Johnson’s lack of willingness to consider the devolved nations in the virus fightback



from the devolved governments and allow Westminster to fund spending in devolved areas like health, housing, economic development and education, as well as adding state aid to the list of reserved powers for Westminster.

I ask Drakeford how his government would fight this Bill. He explains that, unlike Scotland where the Scottish National Party can counter measures it does not like by threatening independence, and in Northern Ireland its violent past means that UK governments have to step carefully, Wales has little beyond the power of persuasion.

“Despite the lack of a mandate in Wales, they intend to use their parliamentary majority to impose a set of arrangements on everybody else without our consent and involvement. That will simply add to the pressures there are in the UK.

“They could have gone about this in a way that would have helped to bind the UK. They could have got everybody round a table to discuss how Brexit is

achieved and everybody would have had to compromise.

“We would have come out of that with a strengthened UK operating as a voluntary association of four nations agreeing common ways forward that work for us all.

“Instead they have adopted the opposite course which will be fundamentally damaging to those of us who want us to argue for a social-solidarity UK.”

The independence debate is something Drakeford sees as an opportunity to advance a positive view of what devolution can achieve and uses the coronavirus crisis as a good example of this.

“I hear some people take the experience of Covid-19 to strengthen the case for Wales to be on our own. I do not think that is the right lesson to learn from it.

“By acting together on Covid-19 we have been able to deal with the worst impact. Wales by itself would never have been able to mobilise the expenditure of billions of pounds that is supporting the Welsh economy.



When it comes to international co-operation, Cuba shows the way

Only by working together can the world emerge from this crisis, and Cuba's medical expertise and humanitarianism set a gold standard for the world, says **PAULA BARKER MP**

WHILE the world is suffering through the coronavirus pandemic, it has been truly inspirational to watch how the small island of Cuba has used its experience and professionalism to assist other countries in the fight against Covid-19.

The virus affects people regardless of their nationality, and Cuba has shown just how countries that are able can help those who need assistance.

I really hope that such lessons are learnt and that Britain will share any advances in vaccine development and treatments with others across the globe.

Such international co-operation is surely the only way that the world will be able to emerge from this crisis.

Over the past few months Cuba has responded to requests for assistance from 38 countries and has sent 45 medical teams made up of more than 3,700 doctors, nurses and other medical specialists.

They have gone to nations in Central and South America and the Caribbean, but also to Africa: to Togo, South Africa, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Kenya.

The immense gratitude felt by many in these countries is clear: Charles Azilan, the head of co-operation at Togo's foreign ministry said: "As scientific and medical circles groped in the dark, Cuban medicine, strong from past experiences, brought appropriate answers."

Ralph Gonsalves, prime minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, said: "They are lifesavers. In some Caribbean countries, they constitute the backbone of the response to the pandemic."

For the first time relatively wealthier European countries requested help, and Cuban brigades were sent to both Italy and Andorra where they were welcomed with open arms by the grateful local populations.

The British government has also co-operated with Cuba to facilitate medical support for four non-self governing British overseas territories: Anguilla, Turks & Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands and Montserrat.

I really want to congratulate the British government on this initiative which builds upon the co-operation shown with Cuba in the rescuing of the passengers of the Covid-19-stricken



cruise ship the MS Braemar in the early days of the pandemic.

I hope that such co-operation across frontiers will become the norm. At a time when the Trump-led US administration is pushing an "America First" policy which has prevented Cuba and other countries from obtaining life-saving PPE and ventilators, it is essential that countries like our own follow a different path of international co-operation.

The US withdrawal from the World Health Organisation at a time of world health crisis is a very dangerous portent of a catastrophic global response to this and future crises.

Of course Cuba has a long history of international medical co-operation and disaster relief efforts.

I remember the Cuban doctors bravely working in west Africa, battling against the Ebola outbreak there, and in 2005 Cuban medics travelled to Pakistan following the terrible Kashmir earthquake.

They worked in a country that at the time had no diplomatic relations with Cuba.

It also presented the most inhospitable conditions for the Cubans who had to get used to working in the freezing cold and snowy foothills of the Himalayas.

Here, as in many of the brigades, the majority of the medics were women.

There are now growing calls for the Cuban medical brigades to be recognised for their work, and I am pleased to add my name to the call for them to be awarded the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.

In Cuba they have a very well-regarded health system of their own, which was itself modelled on our own NHS.

The domestic response to the crisis has been well-organised and successful.

They have the highest ratio of doctors to population in the world and they have been effective in isolating cases, tracing contacts, screening and applying various treatments, including their own domestically developed antiviral agent, interferon alpha-2b.

Cuba has reported just 4,684 cases and 108 deaths so far: a tenth of the global average per capita.

There is also the hope that Cuba will be able to develop its own vaccine. It is the first country in Latin America to have one currently in the testing phase alongside vaccines around the world.

Cuba has already made clear that should they be successful they would make the vaccine available to countries across the globe, helping those who would otherwise be excluded due to cost to find a viable mass vaccine solution.

All this is a far cry from the

response to the health crisis from Washington, which has continually downplayed the severity of the epidemic to the detriment of its citizens, and has at the same time attacked the Cuban medics and even tried to pressure other countries to end any co-operation.

In the build-up to the November presidential election, US anti-Cuba rhetoric will rise as candidates scurry to try to secure support from the million-strong Cuban-American community in the crucial state of Florida.

Of course this is a continuation of US efforts to force a change of direction in Havana and the biggest threat to Cuba's work is the ongoing blockade of the island.

I hope that Britain will maintain its current position of opposing the blockade each year at the United Nations during the annual vote on the policy.

I am proud to currently be one of the vice-chairs of the all-party parliamentary group on Cuba in Westminster and we will continue to help develop exchanges and co-operation between our two countries.

I hope that Labour members and parliamentarians from across the House will join me in supporting these efforts in further developing co-operation with the people of Cuba.

■ Paula Barker is the Member of Parliament for Liverpool Wavertree.

"Our border is entirely porous with people along it. If we were trying to run Wales independently our ability to deal with the crisis would have been diminished. It is co-operation and collaboration that has been our strength, not separation.

"What we need is a UK government that recognises that the way to strengthen the union is to invent new ways to reach common conclusions and the governments can reliably contact each other. Not by using an 'iron fist' or the Tory majority to bully the rest of us."

Drakeford is keen to make a positive case for the UK and for Wales to draw on the strength of being part of a successful union.

"Working people in Wales have the same class and economic interests as working people in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

"Making common cause strengthens the ability of people in Wales to get economic, social and environmental jus-

tice of the sort we stand for in the Labour Party in Wales."

Surprisingly, when I mention the difficulty of achieving this nirvana given the electoral hegemony the Conservative Party has enjoyed, with brief interludes of Labour government, Drakeford advanced the case for electoral reform.

"We have to grapple with Tory rule. I believe there is a progressive majority to be shaped across the UK.

"The most compelling case is that election after election we have imposed on us a Conservative government elected on a minority of the votes across the UK."

I ask Drakeford if he was suggesting a one-off electoral reform to achieve electoral reform where the parties stood down to give the best chance of defeating the Tory candidate and he quickly says no, but does say a debate has to be had.

"It's a debate we have to grasp because we hope that at the next general election the cards will break in our favour but, of course, they do not."

With thanks to Banksy, Louise Michel is fighting oppression once more



LEA RISENER tells the Star's Ben Cowles about the Louise Michel, a feminist refugee rescue ship named after the famous French anarchist and funded by the world's most elusive street-art star — and how the civil fleet came to its aid when Europe abandoned it

“THE revolt of the tribes was deadly serious,” wrote the French anarchist Louise Michel in her memoir about the doomed 1878 Kanak rebellion against French colonial rule on far way New Caledonia.

The Kanak people, whose south Pacific home France had turned into a penal colony, were seeking the same liberty that Michel and her comrades had sought during the 1871 Paris Commune.

“Let me say only that my red scarf, the red scarf of the Commune that I had hidden from every search, was divided in two pieces one night. Two Kanaks, before going to join the insurgents against the whites, had come to say goodbye to me. They slipped into the ocean.

“The sea was bad and they may never have arrived across the bay, or perhaps they were killed in the fighting. I never saw either of them again and I don't know which of the two deaths took them, but they were brave.”

In 1880, in her seventh year in New Caledonia, the communards were granted amnesty and Michel was finally allowed to return home to Paris, where she received a hero's welcome.

Michel dedicated her extraordinary life fighting for the freedom of the working class, of women, of the poor, of the peoples colonised by European states, and for animals.

Though she would be dismayed to know that, 115 years after her death, we are still fighting the same oppressions, she would surely welcome the refugee-rescue ship that bears

her name and its feminist crew defying fortress Europe in the Mediterranean.

“We came up with a couple of names for the ship,” says Lea Risener, a German member of the Louise Michel's crew.

“One of the other names we had on the table was [US abolitionist] Harriet Tubman. We knew it had to be a woman because we consider ourselves to be feminists.

“But in the end, we chose Louise Michel because she was a perfect encapsulation of what we believe.”

Risener spoke with me over Skype earlier this month while she and the crew were in Spain following the Louise Michel's eventful first mission.

“I've been doing SAR [search-and-rescue] since 2017,” she says when I ask how she ended up saving the lives of people that

“

Between August 2016 and August 2017, the ship's crew saved around 14,000 lives in 16 missions

European governments would seemingly prefer to drown in the Mediterranean.

“I started on the Iuventa. I've worked with Sea Watch a lot, as well as on Moonbird” — the charity's reconnaissance plane.

“I met Pia [Klemp] on the Iuventa and we fell in love with each other immediately. We were in touch all the time and have been friends since.

“Then Pia got an email from Banksy and we started this project.”

Let's back up a little bit. We'll get back to Banksy's involvement.

The Iuventa was one of the first non-governmental organisation (NGO) rescue ships to operate in the central Mediterranean. Between August 2016 and August 2017, the ship's crew saved around 14,000 lives in 16 missions.

The Iuventa and other NGO ships were initially welcomed by the European authorities, until conspiracy theories peddled by the Italian far-right caused then deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini to get the country's secret service involved.

The crew were spied upon, the ship was impounded and 10 members — including Risener's friend Klemp — were accused of co-operating with human traffickers. Three years on, no charges have yet been made but the investigations against the 10 are ongoing.

Meanwhile, the anonymous British street artist and political activist Banksy must have heard about Klemp. He emailed her with an offer to buy a boat so that she and other activists could go back to sea and prevent more people from dying at



ARTISTIC MERIT: Banksy's piece *Girl With Balloon* (right) is painted on the ship's bow (above) in a tribute to the artist's support for their work

Europe's borders. Risener says her first reaction to Klemp's email from Banksy was mainly: "What the fuck?"

"We were certain it was a hoax," she adds. "But at some point it became clear that it was not a joke. I mean, it was absurd. We've seen a lot of crazy stuff in the Med, but that was like, next level.

"But eventually we came together as a group of friends and activists and got started. We bought the Louise and, yeah, the whole story begins."

In the early days of the so-called "refugee crisis" – back in 2015, '16 and '17 – charity rescue ships were much smaller and faster than the huge ships they have to use now.

Back then, they would find refugee boats on their way to European safety from war-torn Libya and act as a kind of first aider, distributing food, water and life jackets while waiting for the European coastguards to come and take the refugees to land.

They would even work with the navy ships that made up the European Union's anti-human-trafficking mission, Operation Sophia, before the bloc decided to pull them from the area last year.

Since then, the NGO vessels have been the only dedicated rescue ships in the central Mediterranean – apart from the EU-funded Libyan Coastguard, whose incompetence has been widely condemned.

"It's a good thing that we have bigger ships now," Risener says, "even though most of them are stuck in European ports most of the time. But it's a good thing that they're there.

"What's been missing recently is a smaller, faster ship. That was something all of us were talking about for quite a while, that would be really good to have.

"Now that the Libyan SAR is quite big, it's possible that distress cases can be ten hours away from the Sea Watch 4, for instance. But it's quite different with the Louise. We can really speed up and make a difference there. Our first mission has proven to be a very good thing."

The Louise Michel co-ordinated its maiden voyage with the launch of German charity Sea Watch's new ship, the Sea Watch 4, in August and assisted it during its rescue operations. "We got to the distress cases



Pic: Creative Commons – Dominic Robinson

a few hours before the Sea Watch 4 could. We handed out life jackets, stabilised the situation and made sure the people were safe until the Sea Watch 4 came."

After those first few operations with Sea Watch, the Louise Michel saved the lives of 89 people on its own. The weather was worsening, so they planned to take the rescued to shore, or at least attempt to – Malta has refused to allow any ships to disembark refugees into its ports since March and Italy has

been subjecting them to protracted stand-offs.

But on August 29, the crew was alerted by Sea Watch's reconnaissance plane Moonbird to 130 people on a rubber boat in distress within Malta's SAR zone.

"It was such a fucked-up situation," says Risener.

"They had been on the water for three fucking days.

"Some of the women were completely burnt. They had these chemical burns all over their bodies. There were chil-

dren on board. The youngest was about eight months old and was completely dehydrated. He couldn't open his eyes any more.

"There was a dead person on the boat and we later learnt that three more people had died on the journey.

"We were very aware that the Louise was at her limit. We knew we could bring 89 people plus 10 crew to a safe port but we knew if we took an additional 130 people on board, this would not be possible.

"We sent out two mayday relays on behalf of the boat. But we were left completely on our own.

"We ended up with two life rafts attached to our boat, plus the deflating rubber boat that had a dead body on.

"We got everyone safely through the night, which was possible because we set up the ship in a very good way and we had all the means we needed. But it was really shit. I have seen a lot in SAR, but that was shit.

"It was not a situation we had ever envisioned when we were talking about our operational objectives in the beginning. Well, we did. But I didn't expect it to happen."

By this point the world's media began to report what was happening. The Sea Watch 4, ten hours away, changed course and began heading towards the Louise Michel, as did the two other NGO ships, the Astral and the Mare Jonio.

I ask Risener how it felt being within a European SAR zone but completely ignored by the authorities.

"It made me really, really angry.

"I'm an anarchist, so it's not that I have a huge trust in or belief in authorities in general. I know that we are living in a world that is far from the utopia I envision.

"But as long as it is like this, I expect the authorities to at least do what they're supposed to do. And this is not leaving a 30-metre yacht with two life rafts and a dead person alone for more than 24 hours."

The Italian coastguard did eventually arrive. They took 49 of the most vulnerable people as well as the body – and then left the rest alone again.

But then the Sea Watch 4 arrived. Already carrying over 200 people, the Sea Watch crew brought all of the Louise Michel's rescued on board their ship.

"I don't know what would have happened without Sea Watch. I really don't have words for how grateful I am for them."

Soon afterwards, the Louise Michel headed back to its home port in Spain to refuel and change crew. Risener says she cannot tell me when they will be going back to the central Mediterranean. But they will be going.

Risener sees the Louise Michel's mission as part of a global fight against fascism.

"Europe's, well not only Europe's but all western border policies are fucking fascist," she says before adding, "or let's say at least racist. Maybe fascist is a bit too strong for all of them, but at least very, very racist and people don't even recognise that.

"There are a lot of politicians in Germany who post a lot of Black Lives Matters logos on their social-media profiles and then vote the next day for a law that makes deportations easier or which makes entry into the European Union harder. And that's fucking racist.

"While we and Sea Watch rescued around 400 people, around the same amount were pushed back to Libya.

"It's down to fucking luck if you get rescued or not. And we cannot rescue everyone. We are quite a way from that. But that's the reality we are in.

"But what we can do is show how racist this is.

"What happened to us in the Malta SAR would not have happened if the people we found were white. If there was a sailing yacht sending a distress call from the central Med to Malta, there would probably be five patrol boats and four helicopters trying to find these people and rescue them.

"But as these people were black. And I think we have to call it like it is."

■ Ben Cowles is the Morning Star web editor.



We got to the distress cases a few hours before the Sea Watch 4 could. We handed out life jackets, stabilised the situation and made sure the people were safe until the Sea Watch 4 came



Pic: Louise Michel

The left must oppose the US cold war on China and not sit on the fence

US imperialist aggression towards China is a life-and-death issue. It threatens the rise of poverty, racism and war, warns **FIONA EDWARDS**

THE US ruling class is ramping up its belligerence towards China. This new cold war threatens not just China but all of humanity. It is vital that the Western left grasps the enormous stakes involved in ensuring the total defeat of US's new cold war and discards any temptation to take a neutral position on this massive life-and-death issue.

US imperialism is desperate to contain the rise of China, retard the country's economic development and maintain the US's domination of world affairs.

The Covid-19 pandemic is greatly accelerating the relative economic decline of the US vis-a-vis China, and attacks on China are accelerating in step.

Should the US succeed in its cold war, the policies of an unconstrained US imperialism on pandemics, climate change, poverty, racism and war threaten to dominate the globe.

Central to the US's cold-war effort is to attempt to paint China as the enemy on all these major questions for humanity.

The opposite is the case and to suggest that the US and China represent twin evils and adopt the slogan "neither Washington nor Beijing" is not only factually untrue, but provides support for Washington's cold war.

The US lies being told about China are on the scale of Iraq's WMD or the Gulf of Tonkin incident. It is crucial to look at the reality of the contrasting approaches of US and China on the major issues facing humanity.

The US's catastrophic response to the pandemic

As the global pandemic continues to rage, it is vital to recognise that it is the US policy on coronavirus that is the greatest threat to human life, not China.

Donald Trump has allowed Covid-19 to rip through society because of the US ruling class's insistence that profits must be protected at the expense of human lives. The results of this policy have been nothing short of catastrophic.

At the time of writing, over 194,000 people have been killed in the US.

In China there have been fewer than 5,000 deaths. Driven by the goal of saving lives, China has adopted extremely effective public-health measures including strict quaran-



tines, social distancing, an efficient test-and-trace system, temperature checking, masks and the use of adequate personal protective equipment.

China has effectively defeated the virus.

Taking into account population size, the coronavirus pandemic has been around 183 times more deadly in the US than in China. The Chinese authorities put public health first. The US prioritised profits.

The US leads the world towards climate catastrophe

As the global temperature rise edges towards the critical point of 1.5°C, it's clear that the US approach to climate change is leading humanity towards catastrophe.

Trump has spent the past four years blocking progress internationally on climate change starting by withdrawing the US from the UN Paris Climate Change Agreement – the only country in the world to do so.

The US has now become the world's number-one producer and exporter of oil and gas.

Yet the US ruling class is determined to obscure this reality by blaming China for climate change in an attempt to disorientate the environmental movement in the West.

Historically, the US is responsible for 25 per cent of all production-based carbon emissions ever released.

This is almost twice as much as China's cumulative emissions which stand at 12.7 per cent. The US currently emits twice as much carbon per person (16.5 tonnes) than China (seven tonnes).

China has dedicated massive state resources to building up green industries, driven by a commitment to sustainable development and building an "ecological civilisation."

As the International Renewable Energy Agency points out, China is the world's largest producer, exporter and installer of solar panels, wind turbines, batteries and electric vehicles.

China's huge state investments are making renewable energy an affordable alternative to fossil fuels globally.

US hypocrisy on human rights

The claims of the US government, echoed by the mainstream Western media, that the US is the "land of the free" and an international beacon of human rights, while China is the land of human rights abuses are both hypocritical and completely absurd.

This is while unarmed black

people are gunned down daily by cops and Black Lives Matter protesters are brutalised by various militarised state forces in the US.

CBS reported last week that US cops have killed 288 people since George Floyd was murdered three months ago, and once again black and other people of colour are disproportionately victims.

The US-led "war on terror" over the past 20 years has led to brutal invasions, occupations and bombings of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and Syria which have killed and displaced millions of people in the Middle East. China has done none of these.

Meanwhile at home the decades-long "war on drugs," in reality a thinly veiled war on African-Americans, has made the US the home of the world's largest prison population in the world, with over 2.3 million people incarcerated in 2020.

African-Americans are imprisoned at more than five times the rate of whites.

In per capita terms the US imprisons five times as many people as China does. In 2018 the US imprisoned 655 people per 100,000, whilst China imprisoned 118 people per 100,000.

Despite its own verifiable and widely understood violations of human rights, the US is leading an international campaign

against China on this issue.

At its centre are fabrications over China's treatment of Uighur Muslims. Trump's administration claims that "millions" of Uighur Muslims are been detained in "concentration camps," with absolutely no evidence, and even that there is "genocide."

The facts are that the Uighur population in Xinjiang has more than doubled in the past 40 years from 5.5 million to over 11 million and there are 24,000 mosques in the province.

Any serious discussion about human rights in China should proceed from the following facts: in 1949 life expectancy in China was 36 years following a century of imperialist domination.

Today its 76 years. Over the past 40 years China has lifted over 860 million people out of poverty.

While the rise of Western imperialist countries such as the US and Britain took place as a result of colonialism, slavery, racism and imperialism, China's rise has been achieved peacefully and without dominating other countries.

But China's peaceful rise is being met with US aggression. The US currently has over 800 foreign military bases, 400 of which are encircling China.

China has only one foreign

military base, in Djibouti. The US is increasing its military budget to \$740 billion in 2021.

In 2019, the US spent more money on the military than the next nine biggest spenders combined.

US warships are roaming China's coastline. Britain intends to send its aircraft carrier to the region.

China is offering the world a different model of international relations, based on respecting other countries' right to determine their own affairs and "win-win" co-operation – with the offer of mutually beneficial trade and investment.

The foreign policy doctrine of China, to build multilateral co-operation towards a "shared future for humankind" contrasts very sharply with Donald Trump's "America First" doctrine that all humanity must be subordinated to the interests of the US ruling class.

The left in the US and the rest of the West must reject the US government's claim that our enemy is China and instead understand that the enemy is at home.

■ The No Cold War campaign is organising an online International Peace Forum on September 26 to discuss how to oppose the US-led new cold war. For details and to register go to nocoldwar.org.

The opportunity of crisis has devastated our fourth estate

CRISIS will always create the conditions for change, simply because for there to be a crisis the status quo must be in a significant state of disruption.

50,000 jobs never returned to Wall Street after the financial crisis of 2008-12 because of structural changes in working methods – in that case accelerated automation.

Covid-19 is another crisis, but because of its universal ability to disrupt it is generating conditions impacting all sectors of economic activity.

Some trends of change were there before Covid, but the lockdown and social distancing have accelerated their rate of progress. Working from home, online shopping and video conferencing have probably been the big three changes affecting the most people in both our professional and personal lives, with an overnight transition from being office-based, to holding face-to-face meetings, as well as how we consume.

Remote working has changed assumptions that many activities necessitated onsite conditions.

Whole structures of work activity and managerial control have been swept aside that are either no longer needed or can be technologically substituted.

In the media this has been very noticeable and has impacted both the content and commercial aspects.

Products have been closed as advertising has crashed – magazines, free newspapers and catalogues have all had their casualties. Compared to digital advertising the value of printed advertising is substantial and without it, or even in a much diminished form, the media will suffer.

Free newspapers were originally launched to capture printed advertising that was in danger of being lost when paid-for circulations shrank. As economic activity is restored, whether they are relaunched will be an indicator of whether publishers believe consumers of news have been lost permanently to the internet.

Exhibitions and conferences both generate editorial content but exist primarily as significant sources of revenue, often publishers of printed products have shut down in Britain and noticeably media owners are developing platforms to be permanent alternatives.

The interdependence of such activities with other parts of the economy, such as hospitality and travel, in turn reduces ad spend which is critical for printed media.

The effects of the corona-

Unite GPM&IT sector officer **LOUISA BULL** considers the impact on jobs – and the role of media – of accelerated changes to employment brought on by the pandemic



CHANGING TIMES: Canary Wharf has stayed relatively empty this summer

virus on ITV is obvious in one sense as investment in original content falls, but it also means the current attack upon a licence fee financing of the BBC cannot just switch over to advertising.

The popularity of the BBC website during COVID has allowed it to expand its coverage, but if it had been dependent upon advertising before the lockdown where would

we be going for our news and cultural sources?

The rival GB news channel being set up from the headquarters of Rupert Murdoch is said to be Fox News-like in style and content. With that on the horizon and the ever-expanding social media sphere with its lack of regulation, a tech savvy government (and some are) would love this outcome.

Encouraged by the Chancellor's recent announcement of his intention to ditch the Digital Service Tax these tech giants are currently required to pay, it leaves them with a competitive edge that our regional news providers cannot beat.

Even Reach, the fifth-largest online provider after the big four, has only this year launched a strategy to monetise their online users, until now an invisible customer base.

At the start of the crisis newspaper companies rushed to offer free or subsidised home delivery, but it has not worked to stem ever-declining circulations.

Online news and TV have become the key sources of information for British citizens, yet editorial redundancies have continued and increased across the whole pantheon of media.

People with deep pockets are moving rapidly to fill the gaps left by the retrenchment of the publishing establishment.

So much of our media has become trite and superficial. The celebrity world which fills more space that almost anything bar sports has been exposed for what it always was.

Who cares that some luvvie is finding it tough going being restricted to their homes when we all are and most of us do not live in mansions – or even in many cases reasonably comfortable accommodation?

Regardless of the impotent actions of the government we are re-entering a world of mass unemployment, increased economic insecurity and less consumer choice. Even before Covid it was suggested younger generations were going to be worse off – now there can be little doubt.

And all of this is without mentioning the impact of automation, artificial intelligence and machine learning on an industry fixated on cutting costs anywhere it can. From a media perspective quality, employment and choice are all going to be victims of this virus too.

TV Weekly Preview

with Ann Douglas



Wednesday
Grayson Perry's Big American Road Trip 10pm Channel 4

Perry is interesting in his approach to even the most overdone of topics, so his (pre-Covid) US trip is likely to provoke thought.

Tonight's first episode, simply titled *The South*, was filmed before George Floyd and acts as a strange sort of time capsule as he focuses on the question of race. His chats to affluent black people about their experiences thus has an eerie impact.

Film

Sunday
Dr Zhivago 3pm BBC2

Propaganda for the West it may ultimately be, but the grand sweep of this love story set in revolutionary Russia is undeniably well made.

It's worth watching for the cinematography and romance alone, which absolutely overshadows its source material as a tragedy of revolutionary disillusionment (much to the chagrin of reviewers in the 1960s).

Friday
John Wick 10pm Channel 5

The original stylised gunslinging that launched a franchise, along with yet another chapter in Keanu Reeves' career as Hollywood's most bankable action star. Laughable plot, outstanding choreography.

Documentary

Sunday
Louis Theroux: Life on the Edge 9pm BBC2

Like Grayson Perry, Theroux's work hinges on his offbeat, disarming approach to complex and often extreme topics. In this third episode he reflects on some of his most famous work in the US prison system.

Tuesday
Britain's Biggest Dig, 9pm BBC2

While in the countryside HS2 staff are busily bulldozing woods and farmland to make way for the controversial line, in London and Birmingham it's human activity which is being dug up. And with bulldozers come archaeologists, who are turning up some fascinating things – and people.

Culture

Thursday
Inside Culture with Mary Beard 7.30pm BBC 2

Beard is back and she's on the road to Stonehenge this week, with Turner Prize winner Jeremy Deller in tow. The special angle is of course Covid, as she and her guests tease out what's done well – and what hasn't, in lockdown culture.

Drama

Sunday
Us 9pm BBC1

First episode of this relationship breakdown drama, featuring Douglas (Tom Holland) attempting to prevent the collapse of his marriage to Connie (Saskia Reeves).

What to miss

Sunday: Gypsy Eviction: The Battle for Dale Farm, 9pm Channel 5

DIRECTOR Ben Bhatia's previous effort on traveller culture was Gypsy Brides US, a nasty gawp-fest aimed at titillating racists. So don't expect a humanising process here on the ninth anniversary of this shameful episode in British history.

Yesterday's sudoku

7	2	5	4	8	6	3	1	9
8	6	3	2	9	1	4	7	5
9	1	4	5	3	7	8	2	6
1	9	2	8	4	3	5	6	7
6	3	8	7	5	9	1	4	2
4	5	7	6	1	2	9	3	8
2	4	1	9	7	8	6	5	3
5	7	9	3	6	4	2	8	1
3	8	6	1	2	5	7	9	4

ATTILA THE STOCKBROKER | DIARY



Keeping things together — there are millions of caring, optimistic and open-minded people doing precisely that in these grim times

WHEN you've written a column for years about your life as a travelling radical poet and musician, and the gigs and the travelling come to an end because of a devastating virus, you're in a bit of a dilemma.

There really is only so much you can say about sitting in your office, broadcasting to the world via Facebook Live, YouTube or Zoom. It isn't as print-worthy as, say, facing down the far right in a devastated town in East Germany or standing in for Donny Osmond at the Marquee in Soho.

My 40th anniversary European tour was reduced to one big online gig on September 8 and thanks to the many pages, including the Morning Star one,

which co-hosted it I reached an audience of thousands.

One of the ironic things about lockdown is that, having learned the basic technology, I'm actually getting in front of more people than I did at my live gigs round the country. But it most certainly isn't the same.

So what do I do? Well, I shall obviously continue to write about the music and words I make and see around me floating in the ether but I am exploding with rage about what

is happening in this country in so many ways I can't always link my feelings to the world of the arts. So sometimes I'm not going to try, starting now.

An American tech firm called Palantir, notorious for its role in assisting Trump's drive to expel "illegal immigrants" from the US and headed by a "libertarian" Trump supporter, has been given a government contract to oversee Britain's post-Brexit border and customs data.

It looks as though the govern-

ment will break international law, thus ensuring a no-deal Brexit and then attempt to turn our cosmopolitan nation into a pinched-faced, inward-looking episode of *Till Death Us Do Part* without the satire, with snatch squads pouncing on people who don't know the words to *Land of Hope and Glory* as a logjam of lorries full of festering produce crawling with — home-grown, British — maggots stretches all the way from Dover to the M25, quite possibly in the middle of a pandemic.

They won't succeed in doing so. Because there are millions of caring, optimistic, open-minded people in this country

who will keep things together. So many are doing it right now.

So kind are the majority of these people that when the very individuals who voted for this pointless "let's shoot ourselves in the foot" exercise start turning up at the food banks and the homeless shelters, they won't be told: "We told you so — piss off," they will be treated just the same as everyone else.

And the people organising the food banks and the self-help groups won't be "middle-class do-gooders."

As now, they will be from the same background, the same community and often in the same situation themselves. They're different only in the sense that they are full of humanity and have the capacity to form opinions different to those of unelected press billionaire owners and the dark-money sponsored purveyors of

divisive social media memes.

There are very difficult times ahead. Solidarity and humanity is all — and not arguing with each other about who is the most left wing, it doesn't matter at the moment.

To finish: in this world of no live gigs and no meaningful live football matches — no spectators, no point really — I have been helping a bunch of lovely people rescue our local village club from oblivion and campaign to get back into our ground, left to rot by local politics.

Grassroots football is indeed the future of the game and the first match for Southwick 1882 FC is 3pm today — or Saturday, if you're reading this online. Top pitch, Southwick Rec, by the bowls club.

From Southwick, to the world!

Take care, folks.



THEATRE ONLINE | DEATH OF A HUNTER

FINBOROUGH THEATRE

BRAVURA PERFORMANCE:
Edmund Dehn

Heartfelt homage to Hemingway

The last hours of the writer before his suicide are memorably captured in *Death of a Hunter*, says **JOHN GREEN**

ENFANT terrible of German theatre Rolf Hochhuth wrote *Death of a Hunter* in 1976, and the Finborough has now made its production of this one-man play available online, in tribute to the playwright who died in May this year.

Superbly directed by Anthony Shrubbsall, it boasts a bravura performance by Edmund Dehn, a dead ringer for Hemingway.

The action takes place in the writing room of Hemingway's Idaho home on a set that is minimal but authentic — an animal pelt mantels the writer's chair, angler's nets are stacked in a large vase on the floor, an unused typewriter and a tape recorder sit on his desk and a telephone and standing lamp complete the stage picture.

The recorder is used to play back short excerpts from Hem-

ingway's writing, interrupting and echoing the actor's voice and testifying to his robust prose style.

We experience Hemingway's final hours as he attempts to draw up a balance sheet of his life. No longer able to write and his muse having deserted him, he rails impotently against his physical decline.

Dehn is riveting as he brings out Hemingway's searing anger, frustration and pent-up energy. There are allusions to his bravery in the first world war, his infatuation with big-game hunting, fishing and bullfighting, and it's impossible not to empathise with this larger-than-life man now facing a pathetic demise. "All my life I have tried to suppress the fear inside me," he declares plaintively.

He is tortured by the fact that his own father also committed

suicide and interrogates some of his own attitudes such as his portrayal of war as "a joy" and his masculine egoism.

The political context of his life is only sketchily mentioned — at one stage, he picks up the phone and shouts at the FBI man he presumes is eavesdropping on his life and he also complains of CIA harassment.

But we are given no context for this — his seminal experience during the Spanish civil war is not alluded to at all and his love affair with Cuba mentioned almost as an aside.

Nevertheless, this is a powerful play about coming to terms with declining powers and death — as Hemingway tellingly bewails: "You can't play poker with God."

■ Free to download until October 7, finboroughtheatre.co.uk



FICTION | THE DAPPLED FLAP WARBLER

A book to enchant and educate children

THIS delightful book by Alan John Carter carries the message of how powerful people can be overcome by the collective strength of opposition and, with *Extinction Rebellion* recently taking action against the Murdoch press, its publication has come at a very apposite time.

Written in rhyming couplets, *The Dappled Flap War-*

bler's narrative includes two baddies called Mudrock and Bloor, who bear an instantly recognisable and uncanny similarity to real-life villains.

The *Dappled Flap Warblers* love playing music and have amazing antennae on their heads and the story tells of how they use their skills to defeat the mercenaries sent by Mudrock to prevent

them from tuning into his TV channels for free.

Wonderfully illustrated by Carter's daughter Emma Carter Bayfield, the book is notionally for children but contains references which will definitely interest and appeal to adults too.

JEAN ROBERTS

■ Available for £9 at flapwarbler.com



ARCHITECTURE | ZAHA HADID: COMPLETE WORKS 1979 - TODAY

PHILIP JODIDIO | TASCHEN, £50

Designer of the impossible

A new book pays due tribute to the extraordinary work of the great architect Zaha Hadid, says **SIAN LEWIS**

SUPERLATIVES abound when discussing Zaha Hadid, probably the most successful female architect to date, and Zaha Hadid: Complete Works 1979-Today, the updated monograph by regular Taschen contributor Philip Jodidio, provokes a similar response.

At 672 pages, it is crammed with impressive high-quality images of the architect's work. But to compensate, the text is headache-inducingly small and, at 3.35kg, it's not a book to curl up with in comfort on the sofa.

Hadid was born in 1950 in Baghdad. Her father was a founder member of the leftist National Democratic Party.

Hadid initially studied mathematics, then transferred to architecture at the progressive and experimental Architectural Association in London, where she was introduced to the work of Russian-born abstract painter Kazimir Malevich and this book traces her development from admirer of Malevich's suprematist movement and acclaimed designer of the impossible to the embracing of parametricism as a design ideology and antidote to postmodernism.

She started her London firm in 1980 and taught widely, earning a reputation for radical design.

Despite being widely published, she had no built projects until her forties.

She was the first woman to win the prestigious Pritzker architectural prize in 2004 and this proved a turning point, with Hadid eventually becoming a 21st-century go-to "starchitect" of international elites.

The book initially focuses on early paintings and unbuilt projects including the competition-winning, but ultimately rejected, Cardiff Opera House – potential clients were often scared by spiralling costs and unfamiliar aesthetics.

The surprise here is how beautiful her paintings are and how unlike conventional ideas of architect's drawings and it is easy to see the continued influence of Malevich.

They are often hard to read as images of buildings – it takes time to find any architectural detail in some of these abstracted images full of movement, colour and non-orthogonal forms.

Subsequent chapters cover Hadid's built projects, projects under construction and those at the design stage.

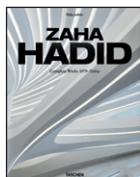
Her first major building was the Vitra Fire Station in 1993, where we see the initial drawings almost entirely abstracted from recognisable built forms. Jodidio admits the drawing is "rendering the final form of the building somewhat difficult to understand."

We are then shown plans and elevations and the sharply angled design begins to make sense as a building.

Jodidio continues with this formula – concept drawings, plans, elevations, a short description, then photos or digital representations of the finished building.

Included are the extraordinary Antwerp port authority building (top right) and the beautiful but controversial Heydar Aliyev Centre in Baku.

We are also introduced to Hadid's more modest projects such as Maggie's Cancer Care



Centre in Fife (bottom).

It's interesting in these chapters to see the increasing influence developments

in computer-aided design and computer engineering had on Hadid's physically and conceptually complex designs, enabling unconventional geometries previously thought unbuildable and the sweeping curves Hadid became famous for.

Like many architects, Hadid had an interest in controlling the space beyond the built environment, and there is a chapter showing her dramatic curvilinear product designs.

A list of complete works in chronological order with thumbnails lies at the back of the book, a useful quick reference.

There is a list of prizes and awards and a staff credit list for featured projects, a nice touch – architecture is about



Galaxy Soho pic: Rob Deutscher/Creative Commons

Pic: REITON/Creative Commons

Pic: Duncan Cumming/Creative Commons

DEFYING CONVENTION: (Top left) Galaxy Soho, Beijing; (above) Port House, Antwerp; (below) Heydar Aliyev Centre, Baku and (bottom) Maggie's Cancer Centre, Fife



teamwork after all.

Despite its already considerable size, the book could have been bigger and braver, with more made of the contradictions and controversies surrounding this influential and groundbreaking architect. It does feel a little like Zaha Hadid: the Diplomatic Edit.

The obstacles that she encountered as an Arab woman working in an industry historically dominated by white men have been glossed over.

Hadid herself said: "I'm a woman, which is a problem to many people; I'm a foreigner, another big problem."

There is no mention of her comments on the Qatar World

Cup migrant worker deaths, unrelated to her al-Wakrah stadium but considered coldly dismissive by some.

Hadid said: "I'm not taking it lightly but I think it's for the government to look to take care of. It's not my duty as an architect to look at it."

Hadid accepted her share of clients keen to spend dubiously acquired wealth, drawn to the status offered by expensive and prestigious buildings.

Commodity trader and property developer Vladislav Doronin was rich enough to have commissioned Hadid's only private dwelling, which has a bedroom atop a 30-metre tower.

It has more than a passing resemblance to a Bond villain lair and it would be no surprise if it suddenly disappeared into the ground at the flick of a switch.

In Azerbaijan, authoritarian President Ilham Aliyev oversaw the design and building of one of Hadid's most recognisable buildings, dedicated to his late father, the brutal dictator Heydar Aliyev (above)

And the Galaxy Soho (top left) building in Beijing has been criticised for the destruction of some of the traditional hutong dwellings that it claimed to be inspired by.

Hadid died unexpectedly in

2016 and her practice, Zaha Hadid Architects, continues, led by her long-time design partner Patrik Schumacher.

Posthumously there has been disquiet in ZHA's studios, with an open letter distancing other practice members from Schumacher's disturbing free-market views on the abolition of social housing, dilution of planning regulations and the like.

It would be good to know more about the materials and techniques that make Hadid's new type of architecture possible.

Glass thermo-forming, black liquid polyurethane, cast concrete with silicone carbide grit are all mentioned in passing.

More recent buildings make reference to sustainability, including the proposal for Forest Green Rovers eco-stadium, (Morning Star, Saturday, January 4 2020), which seems to be ticking all the eco boxes, and there have been awards from the US Green Council.

But there is a feeling that, despite its other innovations, the practice is relatively late to this particular party.

This is a majestic book visually and a useful chronicle of a brilliant and too-short career. You may need to invest in a good pair of glasses and a sturdy coffee table to go with it.

■ PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Join the decades-old campaign for true democracy in the way we vote

IN 1955 the CPGB general election manifesto called for proportional representation.

Some 65 years later the same call is increasingly heard within the Labour Party. This year the party's Connected event (a poor but necessary substitute for a full national conference due to Covid) is full of debates about how to take democratic struggles forward.

In an updated version of "Needs of the Hour," Unlock Democracy is hosting a panel discussion on how to shift sufficient Constituent Labour Parties and trade unions to ensure that the 2021 national conference votes to ditch first past the post and agrees to replace it with a proper system of proportional representation.

Heading the speakers is Clive Lewis MP (pictured), a potential left challenger to Keir Starmer before very long, alongside former leader of the CWU Billy Hayes and Trish Williams of Northern England Labour Left who is

also Secretary of Berwick-on-Tweed CLP.

If readers of the Morning Star have questions send them to questionsunlockdemocracy@gmail.com.

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions the Labour Party has put on, only Labour Party members are able to attend virtually. Even they have to jump through hoops by registering on the website and then getting the link on Friday to attend on Sunday at 2pm.

A recording will be put on Facebook and the Unlock Democracy website so that everyone who wants to can listen to this crucial debate.

Previous betrayals by the Blairites have led to a loss of trust in Labour's commitment to genuine constitutional reforms.

Ditching FPTP would show that Labour really means it this time.

STUART HILL
Newcastle upon Tyne



■ TORY PARTY

Stay oblivious, control the masses, save yourselves

DIDO HARDING was astonished to learn that one of the possible effects of the full reopening of schools, alongside the wider opening of workplaces, pubs, restaurants and recreational activities, was a significant rise in demand for Covid tests.

Normally, such an admission would be a resignation issue. But having heard from this government that driving miles with your family in the car is a means of testing your eyesight, we can't be surprised that such an oversight is no big deal.

Harding also happened to be on the board of the Jockey Club that gave the go-ahead to the Cheltenham Festival at the height of the outbreak and in charge of the NHS test and trace system.

In a previous life she'd been chief executive of TalkTalk, at the time that it suffered a massive data breach resulting in us being warned that her "utter ignorance is a lesson to us all." It's a wonder why the Tories stick by this Tory peer



IGNORANT: Harding claims she didn't think that reopening schools would lead to more requests for tests

and wife of a Tory MP.

Another Tory of high quality, typifying the meritocracy of this government, is Chris Grayling. This week the similarity in appearance was pointed

out on Twitter: "Chris Whitty and his younger brother, Half Whitty" said one post.

Chris Grayling now tops up his £82k MP salary having landed a £100k-a-year side-

line in "advising" ports. Yes, the very same Grayling who awarded a ferry contract to a company with no ferries.

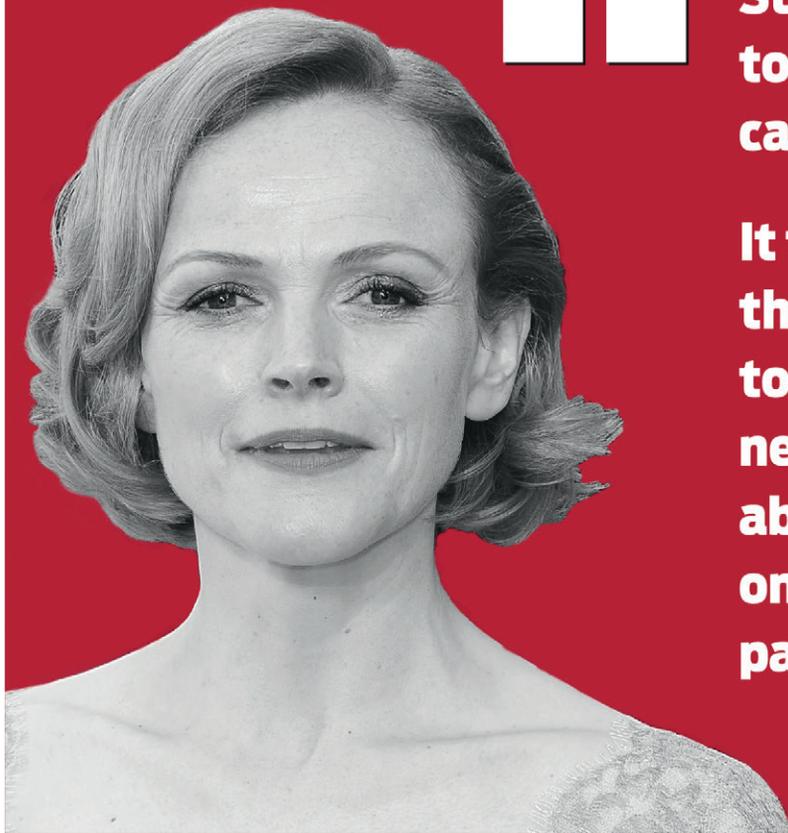
CARL HARPER
Peterborough



I read the Morning Star because I want to read a paper I can trust.

It tells me about the issues I want to read about, the news I want to read about. It touches on issues the other papers don't.

MAXINE PEAKE
MORNING STAR AMBASSADOR



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MIDDLE EAST

Democratic Palestine is a threat to dictators

THE UAE and Bahrain have signed peace treaties with Israel and from what I understand Morocco may be next in line to do as such.

This is not just an abandonment of the Palestinian cause as a result of certain US pressure, it is mere pragmatism as both the Arab sheikhdoms and Tel Aviv fear an increase in Iranian influence in the region, especially the threat of Tehran developing a nuclear weapons programme.

I am certain that even Saudi Arabia will follow suit and recognise Israel at some point in the future, as both nations have had top level military contacts for some years.

Riyadh was alleged to have even given Israel overflight permission of its territory if the IDF/AF went to strike Iranian nuclear targets like it did with Iraq in 1981, so it might be possible.

The last thing the kleptocratic Sheikdoms want or need is a democratic Palestinian state that might give their own peoples such ideas, so recognising Israel and abandoning the Palestinians is a sure way of stopping such a dangerous example from spreading to their kingdoms.

But what next for the embattled peoples of Palestine?

PHIL BRAND

London SW17

HAVE YOUR SAY

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



HEROIC CONTRIBUTION: Members of the International Brigade in the British cookhouse at Albacete raise their fists

INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

Descendants will not get citizenship

YOU report (M Star September 17) that Spain plans to offer citizenship to the descendants of the International Brigaders who fought in the Spanish Civil War.

This was announced by the country's Deputy Prime Minister and leader of Podemos, Pablo Iglesias, and was widely reported in the Spanish media.

However, the draft new Law on Democratic Memory has now been published and it says that citizenship will be offered only to the International Brigaders themselves.

Though a welcome gesture by the socialist-led government, this move is mainly symbolic.

To our knowledge there are no foreign volunteers still alive apart from one 101-year-old who is already a dual French-Spanish national.

The same offer of citizenship was in any case enacted in Spain's 2007 Law on Historical Memory, and taken up at the time by the small number of surviving veterans in Britain.

The new draft Bill has to go through public consultation and then be approved by the Spanish Parliament. We can only hope that there will be support for the original measure flagged up by Pablo Iglesias. Spanish citizenship for the

Brigaders and their families would fulfil the spirit of the historic pledge made on behalf of the Spanish Republic by Dolores Ibarruri (la Pasionaria).

She said that Spain would always be a home for them. At their farewell parade in Barcelona on October 28 1938 she told the volunteers, many of them in tears, that: "We shall not forget you, and, when the olive tree of peace puts forth its leaves again, entwined with the victory laurels of the Republic of Spain, come back."

JIM JUMP

International Brigade Memorial Trust chair

SOCIALISM

GDR's example still relevant

BRYN WATERS (M Star September 15) praises the progress made in the GDR in providing cheap housing, in contrast to capitalist Germany today.

The differences between life in the two systems were shown in many other ways.

Even back in 1976, my impression during a working and leisure visit to the GDR suggested that the standard of living of the average GDR working-class family was at least as high as that of a similar family in Britain.

Any Brit who lived and worked in the GDR can no doubt produce a list of grumbles as long as your arm.

It wasn't "heaven," hence why the GDR called it "real existing socialism."

Indeed, it was probably the best that could be done in Cold War conditions. But on the important issues of life, the contrast with the West was enormous.

East Berlin, the GDR's capital, lacked the bright lights of West Berlin's night life. The food supplies were somewhat limited and on occasions temperamental.

The range of beers was small. Clothes, especially for women, were reminiscent of the 1950s. Accommodation shortages meant young people occasionally had to remain living with parents.

There was a 12-year queue to buy a car. How shocking!

And it lacked the destitute, lying on the pavement or crouching in the shop doorways for shelter. Or Bahnhof Zoo, the main railway station, where the drug dealers and prostitutes competed for space.

Mr Waters refers to the young people breaking up the Berlin Wall. My experience well before 1989 was that the GDR, and apparently other socialist countries, failed hugely to convince especially younger people

of the concrete advantages to working-class people of living in a socialist country.

Sloganeering, in which the GDR excelled, and parading its military power, could not substitute for an honest engagement with "the people" on the realities of the alternatives of socialism or capitalism.

Those alternatives face working people in an increasingly stark fashion, even more so now with the global epidemic.

Despite the intense enmity of the West and weaknesses of political practice the GDR and other socialist countries showed how the organised working class could develop a society for the many.

And the trade union and labour movement show that the forces that can do this in Britain are available and willing to get on with the next steps.

DAVID SAAM-MOURTON
Neulussheim, Germany



LOCKDOWN Poorest at most risk of losing jobs

THOSE on the left arguing for a more cautious approach to getting back to normal should realise that it is the least well-off who have been the most badly affected by the Covid-19 panic.

Such individuals will be more at risk of losing their jobs once furlough ends and are less likely to have the qualifications needed to gain work elsewhere.

TIM MICKLEBURGH
Grimsby

Exploring the Morning Star archives

DAILY WORKER

80 YEARS AGO TODAY...

Cops clampdown on communists

THE Daily Worker's splash on September 19 1940 said: "Police seize ARP posters and leaflets."

The government was putting up a tough fight to impede London citizens in their – so far – successful attempt to get protection in the Tubes at night.

Thousands were by now sheltering in the Tubes. Under the leadership of the Communist Party, "efficient and smooth-working" shelter committees were already set up in some Tubes.

The previous day the government ordered police to raid and search a number of offices and bookshops "suspected" of having copies of a communist leaflet on the subject of the Tube shelters.

The government was very obviously alarmed by the rising anger of the London people, and their determination to get protection in the tubes until and unless the government moved to provide proper bomb-proof shelters elsewhere.

The leaflet helped to give guidance to many Londoners, and was distributed in the tens of thousands to eager people in the Tubes, pointed out the officially admitted casualties which have occurred.

These, it is stated, would not have occurred if bomb-proof shelters had been provided.

It further pointed out that while the children of certain rich persons were safe in the US, others had safe bomb-proof shelters.

The leaflet urged people to use the Tube shelters until such time as others could be provided and so keep down casualty lists.

It also called for the formation of station committees and urged that everyone should co-operate to keep the stations tidy.

The government was also sending police to try to interfere with distribution of relating to the shelter position in London, these were also issued by the Communist Party.

Communists clampdown on cops

THE Daily Worker of September 20 said: "Battle of the Tubes – Communists answer police seizure of leaflets."

The paper said that "the battle for the Tubes continued at its height yesterday" when London communists replied to the police seizure of their leaflets by producing new ones.

It carried the message: "Don't let yourselves be intimidated. Carry on the fight for deep bomb-proof shelters."

Earlier in the day the government had admitted that it could not prevent the people taking over the Tubes at night. In the morning papers was published a statement by the Ministry of Transport urging people "to refrain from using Tube stations as air raid shelters except in cases of urgent necessity."

The statement went on to say: "The whole problem is now being reviewed by the authorities with a view to seeing whether some plan can be evolved for providing a measure of shelter outside rush hours which will not impair the essential use of the Tubes for traffic purposes."

The communist reply

was to the point. Every night, it said, lives were lost because the government will not provide bomb-proof shelters. The health of the people, especially the children, is being ruined.

As an immediate step, it proposed full use of the tubes and all privately controlled shelters, proper equipment for sleep and health, and building of bomb-proof shelters, first in working-class areas."

The Worker's editorial said: "Shelters will not be produced as a result of leading articles in the Daily Mail. What is fashionable today they will drop tomorrow. They led you shelterless into the war and they will leave you shelterless so soon as it suits their book."

Don't trust the capitalist press, trust only your own organised strength."

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 £84

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY

Variable cloud across Scotland, with the odd spots of rain but sunnier spells. Southern Britain breezy and cloudier with perhaps the odd shower in the south-west later. Elsewhere, mainly sunny. Warm generally.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Showers in the south early on Sunday. Otherwise, dry and fine after some early mist and fog clears. Cloudier in parts of the north and north-east. Becoming more unsettled from the north-west on Tuesday.

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Fighting Fund with Keith Stoddart

11 days left



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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS carried over from yesterday include £50 from north Dorset in appreciation of the Morning Star being promoted in the "Labour grassroots." It's not the Andrew Marr Show, but it is progress. A similar sum came from Littleborough with thanks to all producing the paper.

I must also mention a couple of tenners, from Hereford and

Bristol, to tidy up Thursday. With about 11 millions of us back in some form of lockdown, none of the administrations on this island seem to be handling the Covid-19 crisis well. Perhaps they are more concerned with wealthcare than healthcare.

In a last hurrah before the new measures took effect in the Rhondda Cynon Taff area, a trio of Pontypridd CPB mem-

bers met for lunch and sent the fund £30. Thanks, comrades.

From the top of Glastonbury Tor came £10, from the cross in Irvine arrived £5 and from Newcastle on Tyne there was £10 in appreciation of Thursday evening's China webinar.

From their extensive country estate in Surbiton, a supporter sent £100 while expressing regret that they "are unable

to donate any 'shooting days' to the MS but instead offer £100 to help get rid of the Tory upper class." That seems fair enough to me and no cause for sorrow.

A Hampshire reader donated £10 because "I can't imagine life without the Morning Star."

With £327 arriving yesterday, taking September's Fund to £9,884, the paper will still be available to all.

Give by BACS...

Sort code 08-90-33,
account 50505115, name PFFF

online...

morningstaronline.co.uk/
page/support-us

by phone...

9am - 4pm
0778 0220 391

...or by post

Cheques to PFFF, 52 Beachy Rd, Bow, London E3 2NS

Commie Chef

Feta and mint salad

WALNUT oil can be fairly expensive, though it keeps well and you never need much to make a really tasty dressing. If you can't afford it, though, you can get a cheaper, walnut-flavoured oil in some supermarkets - not quite as good, but not bad either.

There are also cheaper ver-

sions of Feta, which is now origin-protected but, in my view, indistinguishable from the same style of salty cheese from other parts of Europe.

This is a simple recipe which requires no cooking and goes great with some good bread and, if you can run to it, chilled white wine.

Ingredients

- 2 lettuce hearts, coarsely chopped
- a handful of fresh mint leaves
- 150g pack of feta or similar cheese, chilled and cut into small cubes
- 55g/2oz walnuts, broken

- into small pieces
- tsp runny honey, maple syrup or agave syrup
- juice of half a lemon
- 2 tbsp walnut (or walnut-flavoured) oil
- salt and freshly ground black pepper (to taste)

What to do

First make the dressing by mixing together the last four ingredients. Shake it well and when you pour it onto the salad, make sure it's well blended.

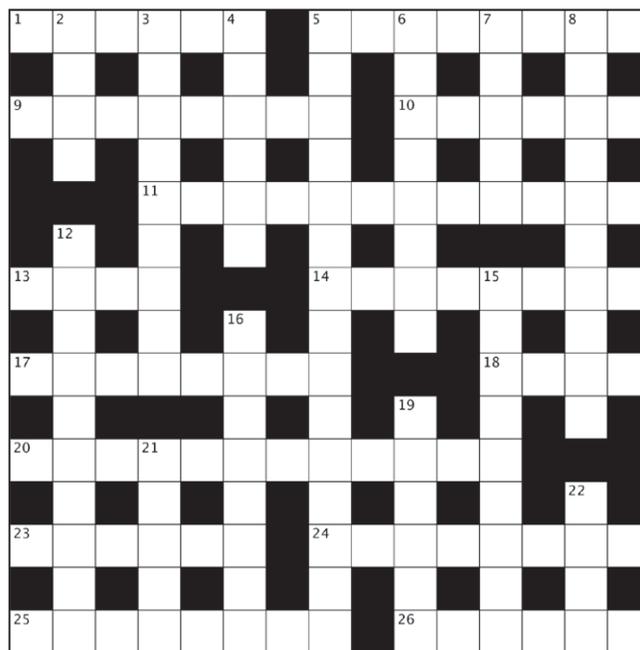
Mix together the lettuce, mint, cheese and nuts and pour the dressing over them just before serving.

I told you it was simple!



Pic: Kham Tran/Creative Commons

CROSSWORD 1,360 set by Alamet



ACROSS

1. Truism 151 by revolutionary (6)
5. Turn nasty due to being changeable (8)
9. Collected danger signal after taking newspaper back to Tyneside (8)
10. On reflection some melody's too repetitive to be like folk music (6)
11. Good enough day to take away half of this plant (12)
13. see 2
14. Fresh as one overboard off the Isle of Wight? (8)
17. Turning away grant I've distributed (8)
- 18, 22. Carp when award for winning at motor racing used (8)
20. Hardline information moving around (12)
23. Knight keeps convenience back for competitors (6)
24. Sealed island to quote the wrong way (8)
25. Lacking protection, turn study back to include fish (8)
26. Rough on listener to have herb without me (6)

DOWN

- 2, 13. Right to go back following page about power game (4-4)
3. Sweetener US carnage generated (4-5)
4. Mistakes by scoundrel are up for being found out (6)
5. Average assembly shut inside dug in (15)
6. Seaweed from Sweden turned artist to talk thus (8)
7. Initiate to choose record first (5)
8. Let's, during disturbance, disappoint (10)
12. Publicity for contest - it's charged for stoppage (10)
15. Portable beam picked up to carry string a long way (5,4)
16. Having flipped one's lid I celebrated (8)
19. Rising pioneer ceded part of order (6)
21. Arrive at stretch of river (5)
22. see 18

Solution on Monday...

QUIZMASTER with William Sitwell

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the Sheffield theatre where the Snooker World Championship is held?
2. Which famous travel company is to be relaunched, but only online?
3. What type of reptile is the olive ridley?



Pic: s1ambo/CC

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. In which English county were the remains of a Roman temple found recently? **Norfolk - at Caistor St Edmund, near Norwich**
2. A Reliant Regal van (pictured) was a feature of which television comedy? **Only Fools and Horses (used by the Trotter brothers)**
3. Maggie is the name of a pet tortoise belonging to which notable politician? **Lindsay Hoyle**

DAILY SUDOKU (medium)

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Solution on Monday...



Racing Guide

with Farrington

Get set for a tough Gold Cup

AYR takes centre stage on the racing circuit this weekend and the Ayr Gold Cup (3.40) itself looks as competitive as ever.

Old Mr Lupton is bound to have his supporters after bouncing back to form with a cracking third in the Great St Wilfrid at Ripon and following that up with a clear-cut success in a valuable handicap at the Curragh.

I hugely respect his chance

along with the likes of Bielsa (needs it to stay on the soft side), the well-handicapped Spanish City and Soldiers Minute. The last named will certainly appreciate going back up to a sixth furlong.

But the value wager for me has to be **Another Batt** for David Barron. This five-year-old has mainly raced over further in his career to date, but dropped to six furlongs for the first time in years he seemed to relish chasing a red-hot pace at Thirsk and won a shade cosily in the end.

A return to seven furlongs was no good to him last time in Ireland, but as long as the draw works in his favour and he does have plenty of pace around him, I expect a massive show under Connor Beasley.

We should get plenty of clues for the best boxes in the line-up when a full field go to post for the Silver Cup at 2.30.

With the top-weights running off marks of 93 this looks like a really good renewal of this event and although he hasn't won over this trip since June 2019, **Arbalet** could well be suited by this six-furlong shoot out from pillar to post. If he is drawn on the "right" side (box No 2) then we could see him power home inside the furlong with his blitz finish.

Elsewhere at the West of Scotland track I have a strong fancy for the old man **Gulf of**



Poets in the finale at 5.25.

The eight-year-old hasn't really been at his best this season, but hasn't quite been getting home over a mile plus and this drop back in trip could well be the answer. Of course, because he has been out of form, the handicapper has relented plenty, dropping him from a high of 99 all the

way down to his current mark of 77 and he looks the each-way solution here.

There is a fair card at Newbury too and the pick of the races is the Group Two Mill Reef Stakes for juveniles at 3.25.

Second in the Gimcrack at York, Devilwala will relish the much stiffer track, but he may well have to settle for second

best again behind **Bahrain Pride**.

This Newmarket-trained raider is two from two in his career to date and was hugely impressive when landing the two-year-old Trophy at Ripon. That run came on quite soft ground, but going by his action and breeding there seems no reason why he shouldn't be as

effective on this quicker terrain.

Dirty Rascal is arguably the best-handicapped entry on the card in the seven furlong handicap at 4.30, but he has shown absolutely nothing in five starts this year and I cannot continue jumping over a cliff with him so the pick could well be **Evening Sun**.

Roger Charlton's charge wasn't suited by the testing ground last time out at Newmarket and this quicker ground, in tandem with a drop to seven furlongs, looks just the ticket for the son of Muhaarar who remains open to a bit more improvement up against mainly exposed seasoned handicappers.

Of the other group races I think that the Dubai International can finally see **Equilateral** return to winning form after a series of disappointing efforts in better races, while I am quite sweet on the claims of **Elarqam** in the Dubai Duty Free at 2.50 where Desert Encounter could be his main danger.

In the big handicap of the day at 3.15, over a mile-and-a-quarter, **Good Birthday** can finally return to winning form following a disappointing season. He is now back down to a mark of 90, which he ran off when third to Headman in the London Gold Cup Handicap over the same course and distance last year.

WEEKEND TIPS

Farrington's Doubles

Saturday

GOODBIRTHDAY

Newbury 2:15 (nap)

EQUILATERAL

Newbury 1:40

Sunday

TERMONATOR

Hamilton 4:10 (nap)

NELLIE FRENCH

Hamilton 2:40

Houseman's Choice

Saturday

ADDEYBB

Ayr 1:55

Sunday

LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Chelmsford 3:00

■ MEN'S FOOTBALL

Can Chelsea close the gap as they welcome the reigning champions?

LAST season was one of contrasting fortunes for these old foes. By Chelsea's high standards, they underachieved.

As they welcome the league champions Liverpool tomorrow, there is high expectation among Chelsea supporters that given their club's lavish spending, this will be the beginning of a fruitful campaign for the west London millionaires.

Liverpool won in this corresponding fixture last season, last September, on their way to sealing their first league title in 30 years. The champions have a relatively good record in this fixture, having lost just the single league match in five seasons at Stamford Bridge.

Manager Jurgen Klopp

expects to see the addition to his ranks of Thiago Alcantara, the talented Bayern Munich midfielder.

He will join Greek full-back Kostas Tsimikas, who signed earlier in the summer.

Klopp, however, relies heavily on the players that delivered so emphatically last time around. With the transfer window open until October 5, Liverpool will be looking to boost their numbers in their title defence.

Things have changed somewhat for Chelsea manager Frank Lampard, who has now at his disposal a squad assembled at great cost. At the beginning of last season, his first in charge, a transfer embargo prevented any signings.

Chelsea's summer spend-

ing spree, upwards of £200 million, is a statement of intent from Roman Abramovich, the owner of the west London club.

He saw his club finish in fourth place, 33 points off Liverpool last season.

We know from the recent past that the Russian is notoriously demanding and, though club favourite Lampard will be given time, a trophy is expected.

Timo Werner impressed in Chelsea's season opening match at Brighton, showing that he is comfortable with the pace of the Premier League. The 24-year-old German striker looked cool and relaxed in the pre-match media duties earlier this week.

One senses he will add real attacking threat as

Chelsea look to mount a title campaign.

Kai Havertz's debut was a low-key one, but there is no disputing the potential of the German youngster. Lampard's other additions miss out to injury.

Former RB Leipzig player Werner was on Klopp's radar. But, with Liverpool uncertain about their own finances, he opted to go with a move to London.

This match could go either way, however.

An uneven performance from Klopp's men in last week's home victory over league newcomers Leeds United will mean Lampard will be optimistic that his players can overcome the Reds when these two clubs match up again.

AMAR AZAM



CHAMPION: Mo Salah



NEW BOY: Kai Havertz



City of Liverpool FC

with James Nalton

CITY of Liverpool FC begin their 2020-21 league campaign today against Marske United, as Craig Robinson's side aim to take their encouraging pre-season performances into competitive games.

It's the first of two home matches in quick succession for the club, who also take on Morpeth Town in the FA Cup on Tuesday evening as football tries in earnest to bring a semblance of normality to abnormal times.

A recent friendly against Market Drayton Town paved the way for the return of fans to COLFC matches, with the maximum permitted 200 supporters in attendance to witness a 3-0 win.

This means the club can move on to stage two of the FA's guidance around the return of spectators to non-League football, with up to 400 fans now allowed in for this weekend's game.

Guidelines remain in place to ensure the safety of all involved on matchday, from players and officials to supporters.

The club have produced and circulated their own clear visual guidance to help people adhere to these guidelines for their own safety.

All 400 tickets are expected to be sold for the game as excitement builds around an impressive-looking squad for the upcoming campaign.

Last season was the club's first in the Northern Premier League Division One North West, coming off the back of their title win and promotion from the North West Counties Football League in 2019.

Though the 2019-20 non-League season was eventually cancelled, the games played in the first half of the season, and into 2020, gave COLFC an idea of what is required in order to be successful at this testing and challenging level of the English football pyramid.

On the back of this, Robinson has assembled a squad for the new season that includes no fewer than seven new signings.

Striker Craig Cairns returned to the club following a spell at Runcorn Town, having been part of the COLFC side which won the NWCFL Premier Division in 2019.

He is joined by Tony Gray, an experienced forward who arrives from Warrington Town and has played at the highest level of non-League, as well as in the Europa League during his time at Welsh side Airbus UK Broughton.

Fullbacks James Yates and Louis Corrigan join from Witton Albion and Runcorn Linnets respectively, while there's another recruit from Robinson's old club Warrington Town in the shape of winger Dominic Reid, who has recovered from an injury picked up prior to the start of last season.

Purps have the talent to kick on in Division One

The club will welcome back fans today and have added plenty of signings to compete at this level

Versatile defender or midfielder Jordan Barrow joins from Flint Town, and the seven new signings are rounded off with midfielder Nathan Burke who arrives from FC United of Manchester after impressing on trial in the game against Market Drayton.

These new faces, plus one returning, join an already promising core of players who have stayed on for the new season.

These include captain and centreback James McCarten, exciting attacking midfielder Jack Hazlehurst, former Liverpool youth goalkeeper Owen Wheeler, midfielders Kevin McEllin and Gerard Kinsella, striker Elliott Nevitt and full-back Stephen Rigby who can play on the left or the right side.

The Purps have already played their first competitive game of the season – a 3-0 win against Glossop North End in the FA Cup preliminary round.

Nevitt opened the scoring and impressed throughout, before goals from Kinsella and Hazlehurst finished the job in the second half.

With two home games in the space of three days in front of fans, it feels as if football is beginning to return to a point where fans can once again enjoy it alongside the players, and there is plenty of excitement and anticipation ahead of this new season for the supporter-owned club.



These new faces, plus one returning, join an already promising core of players who have stayed on for the new season



SPORT ON TV

Saturday

■ **CYCLING:** Tour de France, stage 20 – Eurosport 1 11.55am and ITV4 2pm.
 ■ **DARTS:** World Series of Darts – ITV4 8pm.
 ■ **FOOTBALL:** Premier League, Everton v West Brom – BT Sport 1 11.30am, Leeds v Fulham – BT Sport 1 3pm, Manchester United v Crystal Palace – Sky Sports Premier League 5pm; Bundesliga, Borussia Dortmund v Borussia Monchengladbach – BT Sport 1 5.15pm, Union Berlin v Augsburg – BT Sport/ESPN 2.30pm; Ligue 1, Rennes v Monaco – BT Sport 17.45pm, Arsenal v West Ham – Sky Sports Premier League/Main Event 8pm.
 ■ **GOLF:** US Open, third round – Sky Sports Golf 2pm.
 ■ **HORSE RACING:** Live racing from Ayr – ITV 2.25pm.
 ■ **MOTO:** MotoGP, Grand Prix of Emilia-Romagna free practice – BT Sport 2 8am and 12pm; World Superbikes, Acerbis Catalunya Round free practice – Eurosport 2 1.25pm.
 ■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Challenge Cup, Warrington v St Helens – BBC One 2.30pm, Hull v Wigan – BBC Two 4.30pm.
 ■ **UFC:** Fight Night – BT Sport 11pm.

Sunday

■ **AUTO:** World Rally Championship, Rally Turkey – BT Sport 1 7am.
 ■ **BASEBALL:** MLB, New York Yankees v Boston Red Sox – BT Sport 2 6pm, Oakland Athletics v San Francisco Giants – BT Sport/ESPN 9pm, Chicago Cubs v Minnesota Twins – BT Sport/ESPN 12am (Mon).
 ■ **CRICKET:** IPL, Delhi Capitals v Kings XI Punjab – Sky Sports Cricket 10.30am, Royal Challengers v Kolkata Knight Riders – Sky Sports Cricket 2.30pm.
 ■ **CYCLING:** Tour de France, stage 21 – Eurosport 12.40pm and ITV4 3.45pm.
 ■ **DARTS:** World Series of Darts – ITV4 11.45am and 7.15pm.
 ■ **FOOTBALL:** Premier League, Southampton v Tottenham Hotspur – BT Sport 1 11am, Arsenal v West Ham – Sky Sports Premier League 1pm, Chelsea v Liverpool – Sky Sports Premier League 4pm; Bundesliga, RB Leipzig v Mainz – BT Sport 12.30pm, Wolfsburg v Bayer Leverkusen – BT Sport 1 4.45pm; Ligue 1, Nice v Paris St Germain – BT Sport/ESPN 12pm, Montpellier v Angers – BT Sport/ESPN 2pm, Nantes v St Etienne – BT Sport/ESPN 4pm, Marseille v Lille – BT Sport/ESPN 7.45pm.
 ■ **GOLF:** US Open, final round – Sky Sports Golf 1pm.
 ■ **GRIDIRON:** NFL, Minnesota Vikings v Indianapolis Colts – Sky Sports NFL 5pm, Baltimore Ravens v Houston Texans – Sky Sports NFL 9.15pm, Seattle Seahawks v New England Patriots – Sky Sports NFL 1.20am (Mon).
 ■ **MOTO:** MotoGP, Grand Prix of Emilia-Romagna race – BT Sport 2 12.30pm; World Superbikes, Acerbis Catalunya Round Superpole – Eurosport 2 9.45am, Acerbis Catalunya Round Race Two – Eurosport 2 12.55pm.



■ MEN'S RUGBY UNION

IRFU WARNS OF DARK DAYS AHEAD DUE TO COVID DRAINING FINANCES

by Our Sports Desk

THE existence of professional rugby in Ireland could come “under significant threat” next year if current financial forecasts materialise, the head of Irish rugby has warned.

Irish Rugby Football Union (IRFU) chief executive Philip Browne has revealed net losses for 2020 are expected to exceed €30 million (£27.38m) due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The continued absence of spectators and subsequent loss of match-day revenue remains the key issue for the IRFU.

Browne said the governing

body’s current financial position is not sustainable and will require “significant additional actions” after December if there is no sight of supporters returning at that point.

He reported the union could go from a cash surplus of around £25.4m in June 2020 to borrowings of just over £9m 12 months later.

“The adjective ‘unprecedented’ has been overused over the past six months but our experience to date and history will show that, if anything, the description of the 2019-20 season as being unprecedented is significantly understated,” Browne told the Irish parliament’s Covid-19 committee.



“If these projections were to materialise, the very existence of professional rugby on the island would be under significant threat in 2021.

“Until we can admit spectators in meaningful numbers into our stadia, and return to some level approaching self-sustainability, the whole rugby infrastructure built over the last 150 years is under threat.

“We will, of course, continue to follow guidelines in relation to this, but that support comes at a significant cost to our sport.”

It is anticipated the IRFU will continue to “burn” at least £4.5m a month, primarily on

wages and costs, if the situation does not improve.

The dire financial forecasts come despite a series of cost-cutting measures, including salary reductions of up to 20 per cent and redundancies.

Predicted net losses of more than £27.38m in 2020 exclude 10-year ticket renewal fees due to the IRFU, which amount to in excess of £29m.

The union has been unable to invoice for those sums without supporters attending games.

Ireland’s Six Nations clash with Italy, scheduled for March 7, was among the first mass gatherings to be cancelled.

Test rugby will return to

the country next month when the rearranged fixture will be played behind closed doors in Dublin, before Andy Farrell’s side finish the postponed tournament against France in Paris.

Ireland are then scheduled to compete in a new eight-team Autumn Nations Cup.

Professional rugby returned to the nation last month when Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht resumed the shortened 2019-20 Guinness Pro14 campaign with a series of behind-closed-doors Inter-Provincial games.

Leinster defeated Ulster 27-5 in the final of the competition last weekend.

■ WOMEN'S TENNIS

Left hamstring injury rules Osaka out of French Open

by Our Sports Desk

US OPEN champion Naomi Osaka has pulled out of the French Open because of an injured left hamstring.

Osaka joins defending champion Ash Barty in skipping the French Open, which opens on September 27 in Paris.

In another blow to the clay Grand Slam, tournament organisers announced a further reduction in crowd sizes, because of France’s worsening coronavirus epidemic.

The new limit, decreed by the Paris police department, is 5,000 spectators per day, organisers said in a statement late on Thursday.

They’d previously been planning for 11,500 spectators, split among three sites at Roland Garros.

“It is important for the sporting, social and economic life of the country that a major event like Roland Garros can be put on while respecting health imperatives,” organisers said.

Osaka, who is ranked No 3, hurt the hamstring last month

at the Western & Southern Open, also in New York, and withdrew from that tournament’s final because of it, then wore heavy tape during the US Open.

“Unfortunately I won’t be able to play the French Open this year,” Osaka said on Twitter. “My hamstring is still sore so I won’t have time to prepare for the clay – these two tournaments came too close to each other for me this time.”

Osaka would not have been a favourite on the clay surface. The US Open title was her third major tournament title.





EMPTY STADIUMS

NEIL PERPLEXED BY FANS' RETURN

Preston boss wants stadiums full but questions the timing due to Covid spikes

by Our Sports Desk

PRESTON boss Alex Neil admits he is "quite surprised" that plans for supporters to return to stadiums this weekend are going ahead.

The Lilywhites' Championship clash with Neil's old club Norwich at Carrow Road is among seven English Football League fixtures today set to have up to 1,000 fans in attendance.

The fixtures are being used as pilot events for the reintroduction of supporters to venues – on a socially distanced basis – amid the coronavirus pandemic.

It will be the first time the English men's professional leagues will have paying spectators since March.

Neil was quoted by the Lancashire Post as saying: "I have been one of the advocates of wanting to get fans back in as soon as possible.

"However, things are changing in normal life, there seems to be a bit of a spike again and I'm actually quite surprised they are continuing with introducing fans.

"But we would all like it back to normal as quickly as possible, providing it is safe to do so."

Norwich striker Teemu Pukki told his club's official website: "When we found out about the news that there would be fans, we were all pretty happy about it. I've been missing playing in front of the fans a lot.

"I hope they give us a good cheering from the stands and we will do our best on the pitch."

The other Championship game being used as a test event is Middlesbrough's encounter with Bournemouth at the Riverside Stadium, ahead of which Boro boss Neil Warnock has tested positive for Covid-19.

With the 71-year-old now self-isolating, assistant Kevin Blackwell is set to be in charge in the dugout.

Bournemouth boss Jason Tindall wished Warnock a speedy recovery at his pre-match press conference.

And when asked if there had been concerns within the Cherries camp about making the trip, with tougher coronavirus measures for people in north-east England having been announced, Tindall said: "We've had no players express those concerns to us.

"Both [club] doctors I know have been in regular contact, obviously when the news broke

about Neil, and then with the fans being allowed in the stadium and the surrounding areas with the cases that are going on there, the doctors have been in contact with each other and they don't seem to be too concerned.

"I'm sure when we get to Middlesbrough they've got all the right protocols in place to make sure that it's a safe environment for everyone to be in."

Speaking ahead of Sheffield United's Thursday loss to Burnley, manager Chris Wilder had similar thoughts to Neil.

"I just don't get where we are with it all, I've got to say, I haven't got a clue.

"Am I allowed to see my nan? Am I allowed to see my mum? But then we can have 1,000 people in a ground but we can't have 15,000 and then I can't go and have a pint with my mates unless there's only six of us.

"So I've got to say I'm like the majority of the people in this country – I have not got a clue what's going off, haven't got a clue.

"If anybody can help me ... I'll try and affect that game of football and help with the staff and the boys getting a result but everything else, all that other stuff, I ain't got a clue."



MEN'S FOOTBALL

Clubs discuss curtailment in case of lockdown

by Our Sports Desk

ENGLISH Football League (EFL) clubs will discuss the possibility of amending the league's regulations on curtailment should a second wave of coronavirus disrupt the 2020-21 season.

The 2019-20 League One and Two campaigns were cut short by a vote of the clubs in June due to the pandemic, with promotion and relegation decided by an unweighted points-per-game (PPG) system.

The league and its clubs will now discuss contingencies for the current campaign over the coming weeks, including when a season would be far advanced enough to apply promotion and



relegation, and whether PPG or a different system would be used to calculate final positions.

In a Q&A about fans returning to stadiums, the EFL wrote: "Behind the scenes, the EFL will

continue discussions with all EFL clubs later this month to consider if there is a need for increased regulation to determine what might happen in future in the event of a future outbreak or period of sustained postponement.

"Considerations such as at what point a season can be considered 'valid' or 'complete' and when it is voided will be discussed, as will potential issues of who makes the decision to ultimately curtail and on what basis, ie the application of PPG, will also be factored into these discussions in order to provide further clarity."

The EFL said it was important there was a "unified" approach with the Premier League.

PPG proved controversial in the summer, with Tranmere chairman Mark Palios a particularly vocal opponent.

The idea of these fresh discussions is to give clubs the opportunity to revisit and add to the regulations if they wish to.

Premier League chief executive Richard Masters said last week that no agreement had been reached among its clubs about the point in a season at which curtailment rather than voiding should be applied.

"What the clubs did agree with was a set of principles which would make curtailment an option of last resort – I think that's important," he said.

"Finishing the season is

the No 1 priority. The formula we came up with for playing matches behind closed doors was pretty successful and is now enshrined as one of the things you would have to go through before you reached curtailment.

"But the issue of a cut-off point or a number of matches to be played for a season to be valid was not agreed."

TONIGHT'S FOOTBALL

Premier League

- Everton.....West Brom, 12.30pm
- Leeds United.....Fulham
- Man Utd.....Crystal Palace, 5.30pm
- Arsenal.....West Ham, 8pm
- Southampton.....Tottenham, 12pm*
- Newcastle.....Brighton, 2pm*
- Chelsea.....Liverpool, 4.30pm*
- Leicester.....Burnley, 7pm*

Championship

- Nottingham Forest.....Cardiff, 12.30pm
- Blackburn.....Wycombe
- Brentford.....Huddersfield
- Luton.....Derby
- Middlesbrough.....Bournemouth
- Norwich City.....Preston
- Reading.....Barnsley
- Rotherham.....Millwall
- Sheffield Wednesday.....Watford
- Swansea.....Birmingham
- Stoke.....Bristol City, 2pm*

League One

- Wimbledon.....Plymouth
- Blackpool.....Swindon
- Bristol Rovers.....Ipswich
- Burton.....Accrington Stanley
- Charlton.....Doncaster Rovers
- Hull City.....Crewe
- MK Dons.....Lincoln
- Oxford United.....Sunderland
- Peterborough.....Fleetwood
- Shrewsbury.....Northampton
- Wigan.....Gillingham
- Rochdale.....Portsmouth*

League Two

- Carlisle United.....Southend, 1pm
- Colchester.....Bolton
- Crawley.....Scunthorpe
- Exeter.....Port Vale
- Forest Green Rovers.....Bradford City
- Grimsby Town.....Salford City
- Harrogate Town.....Walsall
- Leyton Orient.....Mansfield
- Morecambe.....Cambridge United
- Newport County.....Barrow
- Stevenage.....Oldham
- Tranmere.....Cheltenham

Women's Prem North

- Derby.....Loughborough, 2pm*
- Huddersfield.....Fyde, 2pm*
- Middlesbrough.....Hull, 2pm*
- Stoke City.....Sheffield FC, 2pm*
- Sunderland.....Burnley, 2pm*
- West Brom.....Nottingham Forest, 2pm*

Women's Prem South

- Gillingham.....Oxford United, 2pm*
- Hounslow.....Crawley, 2pm*
- Keynsham Town.....Plymouth, 2pm*
- MK Dons.....Watford, 2pm*
- Yeovil.....Portsmouth, 2pm*

Scottish Premiership

- Celtic.....Livingston
- Dundee United.....St Mirren
- Kilmarnock.....Hamilton
- St. Johnstone.....Ross County
- Hibernian.....Rangers, 12pm*
- Aberdeen.....Motherwell*

Welsh Prem

- Barry.....Caernarfon, 2.30pm
- Haverfordwest County.....Newtown AFC, 5.45pm
- Bala Town FC.....Cefn Druids, 2.30pm*
- Connah's Quay Nomads.....Penybont, 2.30pm*
- TNS.....Cardiff Met, 2.30pm*

All kick-offs 3pm unless noted
* denotes Sunday game

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