

CALLS to nationalise the water sector intensified yesterday after it emerged that serious pollution incidents in Eng-

land jumped by 60 per cent last year. The Environment Agency reported 75 major incidents that fell under categories one and two, which can severely harm the environment and human

health. Serious incidents doubled from 14 to 33 at crisis-hit Thames Water, the watchdog found.

Southern Water was responsible for 15 of the incidents and Yorkshire Water for 13.

Pollution incidents across all catego ries had increased by 29 per cent, with 2,801 recorded last year.

Thames Water recorded the most incidents again at 523, followed by Anglian Water (482) and United Utilities (376).

The rise was attributed to underinvestment in new infrastructure, poor asset maintenance and reduced resilience due to the impacts of climate change

the figures "are the latest indicator of a water sector in total chaos.

"The roots of this chaos extend all the way back to when Thatcher privatised water in the 1980s - effectively flogging the family silver for a quick buck.

"Since then, private shareholders have stuffed their pockets with gold, amassing £80 billion in payouts.

"They've killed our rivers and let the infrastructure crumble, while bill-payers pick up the tab. "Recent research shows that the cost

of public ownership could be close to zero. This solution could also save the public £3-5bn a year, making publicly owned water a source of income for the Treasury.

GMB national officer Gary Carter noted that water companies have "been handed record funding through rocketing customer bills," warning: "If they don't deliver then regulators need to come down hard and fine them.'

Annual water bills jumped by an average of £123 this year, the largest hike since the industry was privatised.

The latest pollution figures sparked

uproar from environmental groups. River Action CEO James Wallace called them a "national disgrace."

"Years of Environment Agency budget cuts and weak enforcement have allowed polluters to act with impunity.

To make matters worse, the department responsible for environmental protection took the biggest real-terms funding cut in the recent spending review.

Chief executive of Surfers against Sewage Giles Bristow said: "Government and regulators should feel embarrassed by the complete disdain these profiteering polluters have for their sewage reduction targets - they are laughing in our face.

"Breaking the greedy grip of profit, which has strangled the sector for 35 years, is the only chance to end the sewage scandal and clean up our coastlines, rivers and lakes.

"This government must now drop the fantasy that the current privatised water industry can somehow be patched up."

Environment Secretary Steve Reed

called the figures disgraceful and a "stark reminder" of how underinvestment and weak regulation have led to sewage polluting England's waterways.

"In just one year, this new government has banned unfair bonuses for polluting water bosses, brought in jail sentences for pollution, and secured £104 billion to upgrade crumbling sewage pipes - one of the biggest infrastructure investments in history."

A Thames Water spokesperson said that "last year was a very challenging year for pollution performance.

"Issues with our sewer networks caused a high volume of serious incidents, with blockages being the primary cause."

The firm however lauded itself for self-reporting issues, saying that it demonstrates "our commitment to the highest standards of transparency."

Next week, the Water Commission will publish its final report on rebuilding the water system, although min-isters have blocked the commission from considering public ownership as a potential solution to the crisis.

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GAZA DEMO Arrests likely in protest crackdown

DOZENS expected to be held as Met uses Palestine Action ban to clamp down on right to demonstrate. Turn to page 2

news



Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

by Berny Torre

SUSPENDING Diane Abbott on the same day a far-right mob attacked police and antiracists reveals Labour's "rank hypocrisy," Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) said yesterday.

group The campaign slammed the party for censuring Britain's first black woman MP and leading anti-racist while its leader, Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, stoked anti-immigrant sentiment with a speech implying Britain was becoming "an island of strangers."

Anti-racists were surrounded by masked far-right thugs on Thursday night after staging a counter demonstration to an anti-immigration protest outside a hotel in Epping, Essex.

Riot police swarmed the streets after police vans were vandalised and officers assaulted by groups of men trying to reach the hotel.

SUTR co-convener Sabby Dhalu said: "On the same evening as a violent racist riot targeting asylum-seekers erupted outside the Bell Hotel in Epping Forest, Labour decided to suspend Diane Abbott, Britain's first black woman MP and a leading anti-racist. The government has lost its bearings on racism."

Fellow co-convener Weyman Bennett said: "Politicians from Reform UK and Keir Starmer's

'island of strangers' speech are giving confidence to the far right and creating a tinder box racist atmosphere in Britain.

"Anti-racists stopped the farright riots last summer and are now warning of a repeat of that racist violence.'

SUTR said that more than 400 far-right protesters gathered outside the Bell Hotel before attacking its peaceful rally to chants of "send them back" and 'refugee scum off our streets.'

Local Reform UK councillor James Regan, from Ongar Town Council, as well as known fascists from Blood and Honour, Combat 18 and the BNP were among the demonstrators while Britain First flags and T-shirts were also seen, SUTR said.

This followed another violent demonstration on Sunday, where anti-racists were attacked and two security guards at the hotel were seriously assaulted.

Police investigators as treat ing them as racially aggravated and have arrested a man on suspicion of affrav.

Sir Keir suspended the whip from Ms Abbott after she told BBC Radio 4: "I just think that it's silly to try and claim racism which is about skin colour is the same as other types of racism." Labour was contacted for comment.

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Star comment: p16





BEING HEARD: People listen to speeches at the press launch for London Trans+ Pride yesterday at The Mandrake Hotel, London



FAR-RIGHT VIOLENCE: The Bell Hotel in Epping. The latest riot took place hours after an asylum-seeker appeared in court charged with three counts of sexual assault. Hadush Gerberslasie Kebatu, 38, from Ethiopia, who denies the offences, faces trial next month at Chelmsford magistrates' court.

SCOTLAND **Swinney set** to 'heat up' pressure for referendum

JOHN SWINNEY has pledged to 'turn the heat up" on the UK government to allow a second referendum as part of his latest strategy to achieve independence.

Writing in the National newspaper yesterday, the Scottish First Minister pledged to increase support for Scotland leaving the UK.

He stressed the importance of supporters of independence backing the SNP at next year's Holyrood election.

Since the first vote in 2014, successive UK governments have repeatedly turned down calls for a second referendum. But Mr Swinney has now

pledged to mobilise support around the calling of another vote as part of a three-point plan. He wrote: "I will be saying to

those who voted Yes in 2014, and who have become independence supporters in the years since, that what they believed in then is just as valid today.

'They saw that Britain was fundamentally broken, that Westminster couldn't deliver. "And now it is time to do something about it."

PALESTINE ACTION Brize Norton four to wait 18 months in jail for hearing

by Berny Torre

FOUR young people charged in connection with last month's Palestine Action protest at RAF Brize Norton were told yesterday they will be imprisoned for more than 18 months before facing trial.

Amy Gardiner-Gibson, 29, Jony Cink, 24, Daniel Jeronymides-Norie, 36 and Lewis Chiaramello, 22, appeared at the Old Bailey accused of plotting to damage two Voyager aircraft on June 20.

They are charged with conspiracy to enter a prohibited place "knowingly for a purpose prejudicial to the safety or interests of the United Kingdom" and conspiracy to commit criminal damage.

About £7 million worth of damage is alleged to have been caused to the aircraft at the Oxfordshire airbase on June 20 in an incident suggested to have a "terrorist connection," prosecutor Jonathan Polnay KC said.

On the day they were charged, MPs backed the government's move to ban the direct action group Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation.

Mr Polnay added that a provisional trial fixture of six to eight weeks had been identified from January 18 2027, accepting that it was "obviously a considerable distance away" and the length of the trial would depend on whether the defendants accepted being involved in the "physical

acts undoubtedly taken. Senior judge Ms Justice Cheema-Grubb said that the 2027 trial date meant an "inordinately long time" for the defendants to wait in custody,

adding: "The sooner the real issues in this case are identified the better for everyone, particularly in fixing the trial date.'

She is to review the date at a plea hearing on January 16 next year.

Gardiner-Gibson, Jony Cink, both of no fixed address, Jeronvmides-Norie, of Barnet, north London, and Chiaramello, of Brent, north London, were remanded into custody.

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18 MONTHS WITHOUT CONVICTION: Court artist drawing of (left to right) Jony Cink, Amy Gardiner-Gibson, Lewie Chiaramello and Daniel Jeronymides-Norie at a hearing earlier this month



news

HEALTH

Pandemic

PPE thieves

jailed for 10

months each

ADOCTOR and her husband who made almost £8,000 out of "sheer greed" selling PPE

stolen from the NHS during

the early months of the Covid-19 pandemic were jailed for 10

Attiya and Omer Sheikh

admitted resetting a quantity of

personal protective equipment

(PPE) which was the property

of NHS Scotland between May

30 and October 7 2020 when they appeared at Paisley Sheriff

It had been "dishonestly appropriated" by persons unknown to the prosecutor,

The couple were jailed when

they returned to the court for

sentencing yesterday, with the term reduced from 12 months

because of their early guilty pleas.

Sukhwinder Gill said the hus-

band and wife both knew they

were in possession of PPE that

had been stolen from the NHS.

ine a more egregious breach

of trust, not only in respect of

your colleagues but of society."

She said: "It is hard to imag-

Sentencing the pair, Sheriff

court documents state.

months each yesterday.

Court in May.

Afghan leak could be used to harm UK, warns ISC chief

by Our News Desk

DATA divulged as part of the Afghan leak could be used by "states who want to do us harm," the chairman of Parliament's intelligence and security committee said yesterday.

Speaking to BBC Radio Scotland, Lord Beamish lamented that no-one "saw fit" to tell the committee about the leak and the subsequent superinjunction which blocked it being reported.

The details of more than 100 Britons, including those working as spies and in special forces, were included in the massive data breach that resulted in thousands of Afghans being secretly relocated to Britain.

Defence sources have said information relating to personnel was included in the spreadsheet after they had endorsed the applications of Afghans who requested to be brought to the country. Lord Beamish told BBC Radio Scotland: "I think there are serious constitutional issues here."

He said the most concerning element of the breach was that "other states who want to do us harm" could use it not just to target individuals, but "as a way of seeing other operations" being carried out by the security services.

Defence Secretary John Healey has also been accused by the Liberal Democrats of misleading Parliament over the leak.

According to Hansard, Mr Healey told the Commons on Tuesday: "To the best of my knowledge and belief, no serving member of our armed forces is put at risk by the data loss."

Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey said: "Today we found out that appears to be false. We need to know if any serving members of the armed forces were impacted. Downing Street said Mr Healey's Commons statement was

"accurate." news@peoples-press.com

ARRESTS LIKELY AGAINST PALESTINE PROTESTERS

REPRESSION: Some activists to back Palestine Action – as police harrass broader Gaza views

by Berny Torre

DOZENS of people are expected to be arrested across the country today for holding cardboard signs stating: "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action."

Police have been using the proscription of the activist group to threaten people for stating that Israel is committing a genocide, warned the organisers of today's Palestine march at midday in central London.

Hundreds of thousands are expected to attend the march, which will be the 28th national demo for Palestine.

The Stop the War Coalition said: "As we and many others predicted, police forces are now using the proscription to clamp down on all activism for Palestinian rights.

"This includes armed police threatening to arrest a woman for holding a Palestinian flag and signs saying 'Free Gaza' and 'Israel is committing a genocide.'



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Protesters hold an 'I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action' sign earlier this month

"We march for an end to the genocide and to the complicity of the British government, public bodies, companies and corporations in supporting it militarily, politically, diplomatically and economically."

The coalition warned that Israeli troops are continuing to fire indiscriminately into crowds seeking aid as attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank intensify.

"We need everyone on the streets to demand an end to the horror and an end to our government's complicity," said a spokesman.

"Instead of attacking and criminalising our movement, the government should be expelling the Israeli ambassador and ceasing all trade with the genocidal state and end all arms sales."

Defend Our Juries campaign group said Kent Police had threatened to arrest a woman, Laura Murton, on terrorism charges simply for holding a sign referring to Israel's genocide with a Palestinian flag on Monday.

A spokesman said that this was "on the basis that that was sufficient to provide grounds for 'suspicion' that she was a supporter of a proscribed group."

He added that members of Defend Our Juries and other campaign groups calling for the de-proscription of Palestine Action will face arrest under counter-terrorism legislation today in London, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol and Truro. Home Secretary Yvette

Cooper ordered that Palestine Action be banned as a terrorist organisation earlier this month after its members entered an RAF base at Brize Norton and spray-painted two military planes red.

The group's co-founder Huda Ammori will seek permission for a full judicial review of the ban at the High Court on

Monday. Kent Police have been contacted for comment.

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Pellacraft sends greetings to all attending the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival

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FESTIVAL • 2025

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SOUTH WEST

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- LIVE MUSIC: ROBB JOHNSON 5pm Friday
- LIVE THEATRE: THE CHIPPING NORTON INCIDENT 6.15pm Friday & 9.45am Sunday

Plus guest speakers, free merch and much more...

f 🛛 🞯 UNITESOUTHWEST

news

Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

Pay row hits cleaning of NHS health centres

OUTSOURCED NHS cleaners walked out again yesterday in a long-running pay row with Mitie.

More than 40 workers employed at NHS health centres across East Lancashire accuse the firm of failing to pay them correctly and overhaul its payroll system.

They say that mistakes in their payslips have been happening for more than a year, even before the company was given the contract by Community Health Partnerships (CHP), a business owned by the Department of Health and Social Care.

The staff are also in dispute because they're still waiting to receive compensation for the company's failure to make the £1,655 NHS recovery bonus, given to other health workers in 2023, said Unison.

Yesterday marked their eighth strike day. Unison North West

Unison North West regional organiser Sam Doherty said that lowpaid cleaners are already suffering "extreme distress and real financial hardship" as a result. A Mitie spokesperson

A Mitie spokesperson said: "We have made every effort to find a resolution where possible, including correcting pay errors and securing a pay uplift for supervisors, so are disappointed that Unison members have decided to take industrial action."

A CHP spokesperson said the firm "continues to work with our contractor Mitie to resolve the dispute with their staff and union representatives."

One thousand workers have





WALKING TALL: Fiddler, a giant puppet from Bridgeman Arts, entertaining the crowds on the first day of the Merchant City Festival in Glasgow yesterday, while (left) Ryan Curry, six, meets another puppet called Poet

HEALTH AND SAFETY UNIONS CALL FOR TEMPERATURE CAP AND WARN OF HEAT STRIKES

BREAKING POINT: Labour movement organisations and climate activists threaten walkouts if workplaces exceed 36°C

by Elizabeth Short

TRADE unionists have demanded that the government set a maximum workplace temperature or face a heat strike by workers.

The warning was issued as union members and climate activists came together to raise the alarm over the looming health and safety crisis, warning that a heat strike will be triggered if temperatures exceed 36°C.

One thousand workers have

already been enacting heat safety inspections this week as part of a TUC-backed campaign, to highlight the dangers of rising temperatures.

Workers also staged a lunchtime walkout at a food manufacturing site in North Yorkshire on Thursday, where temperatures have routinely exceeded 35°C in the last few weeks.

Healthcare staff have set up cool stations outside St Thomas' Hospital in central London to support workers and the public amid a lack of official plans for protection against the heat. And in London yesterday, bus drivers were seen leafleting about how temperatures in their cabs frequently go over the safe limit.

On Monday, the Met Office's annual climate report confirmed that the frequency of hot days are dramatically increasing, noting that the last three years have been Britain's top five warmest on record.

Last September, the TUC unanimously passed a motion brought by the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU) to support a heat strike.

Representatives from the NEU, the CWU, the Society of Radiographers, FBU, UCU and Unite spoke in support of the motion. Extinction Rebellion groups are also backing the

campaign. BFAWU national president Ian Hodson said: "As president of the bakers union I've seen conditions get tougher each

summer for our industry. "We need employers and the government to get on with the job, rather than hanging us out to dry. As heatwaves become more frequent and extreme, the UK government is baking in a national health and safety crisis.

"Without a plan to respond to these heatwaves, I fear more people will get hurt.

"That's why we're saying to employers and the government: set a maximum workplace temperature now or face a heat strike."

The Health and Safety Executive was contacted and invited to comment.

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Outsourcing must end, say rail unions

by Our News Desk

TRANSPORT

UNIONS called for the end to the "injustice of outsourcing" on railways yesterday ahead of the nationalisation of a second train operator by the Labour government.

Rail union RMT and the TUC both welcomed the nationalisation of c2c on Sunday, but stressed that outsourcing needs to be tackled.

RMT general secretary Eddie Dempsey expressed frustration that c2c staff cleaning its trains and stations will still be employed by private company Bidvest Noonan. "The injustice of outsourcing

must end so all railway workers can reap the benefits of public ownership and greedy private contractors can no longer extract obscene profits from the industry," Mr Dempsey insisted. "Our members working for

"Our members working for Bidvest Noonan deserve decent pay and the same terms and conditions as their colleagues, and we will fight tooth and nail to achieve it." TUC general secretary Paul Nowak said: "We need a fully integrated national rail service that works for passengers and the rail workforce.

"That means tackling outsourcing in the sector."

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said that bringing train-operating companies into public ownership is "tackling deep-rooted problems" on Britain's railways.

Customers of a nationalised train company will be able to use their tickets on another publicly owned operator at no extra cost during disruption. South Western Railway became the first operator brought into public ownership by the Labour government in May.

It joined Northern, TransPennine Express, Southeastern and LNER, all nationalised under the Conservative government because of performance failings by the former owners of those franchises.

The next operator to be nationalised will be Greater Anglia on October 12.

news@peoples-press.com



FIGHTING TOOTH AND NAIL: RMT general secretary Eddie Dempsey

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New offence of assaulting

a shopworkers

Respect orders

to stop anti-social behaviou

Cracking down on shop theft

Delivering a

New Deal for

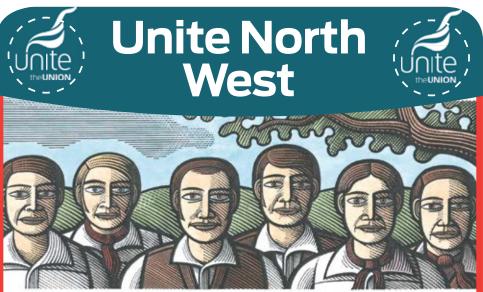
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Usdaw Campaigning for Shopworkers

......

Workers

STANDING H UNIONS FOR OVER 100 YEARS THOMPSONS



Sending greetings to all attending Tolpuddle 2025

Trade union rights from day one for all

George White **Regional Chair** **Ritchie James Regional Secretary**

Solidarity from the **Communist Party to all at Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival!**

FROM PLOUGH, FROM ANVIL, AND FROM LOOM; WE COME, OUR COUNTRY'S RIGHTS TO SAVE, AND SPEAK A TYRANT FACTION'S DOOM: WE RAISE THE WATCH-WORD LIBERTY; WE WILL, WE WILL, WE WILL BE FREE!

LINES FROM THE UNION HYMN "THE GATHERING OF THE UNIONS", CARRIED BY TOLPUDDLE MARTYR GEORGE LOVELESS





■ INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CONDEMNATION GOES UNHEEDED

British collusion with Israeli crimes must end, say NGOs

by Elizabeth Short

NGOs urged the government yesterday to meet its international legal obligations, one year after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory was unlawful.

The ICI's advisory opinion concluded that Israel's seizure of Palestinian territory, including the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, violated international law, and called on the Israeli government to cease settlement activities.

It also implored all states to take necessary steps to avoid complicity in violations of Palestinian rights and to help bring the occupation to an end.

The judgement obliges Britain, as a UN member state, not to aid Israel's occupation, and to ensure that trade and investment dealings do not reinforce it.

A letter to government signed by 16 organisations, including PCS union, Cam-paign Against Arms Trade, and Global Legal Action Network (GLAN), expressed their exasperation after it "failed for a whole year to respond to, let alone implement the advisory opinion."

It goes on to call for the suspension of arms sales, trade and investment with settlements, and the existing UK-Israel Trade Partnership Agreement.

"The UK government's failure to prohibit such commercial activity or even issue upto-date guidance in light of the ICJ advisory opinion puts UK businesses at risk," it warns.

"Any UK business selling goods produced in or generating revenue from the settlements benefits from the underlying criminal conduct that the ICJ identified and could be committing money laundering offences."

also wrote to the government on Thursday, calling on it to publish an official response to the advisory opinion and take concrete steps to uphold its legal obligations.



EXPOSING COMPLICITY: Demonstrators outside a BAE Systems factory in Govan, Glasgow, in May last year

Cuinn said: "The UK's silence

one year on from the ICJ's ruling

"By continuing to arm, trade

"This is a moment for action,

not deliberate delay.'

War on Want senior campaigner Neil Sammonds said: This government must act incredibly fast or will forever be deeply tainted as the government of complicity in illegal occupation, apartheid and genocide."

The government was contacted for comment. elizabethshort@peoples-press.com

WALES Cardiff councillors vote to ditch Gaza war investments

by Elizabeth Short

CARDIFF Council agreed yesterday to move towards divestment from companies that are violating international law through their complicity in Israel's Gaza genocide.

Some 57 councillors voted for a motion proposed by Plaid Cymru, while four opposed it.

The council resolved to 'express in strong terms its view that it does not wish to be associated with companies complicit in the conflict in Gaza and potential war crimes."

It also said it would "write to the Welsh Pension Partnership to make these views clear and for them to consider divesting from these companies."

A petition signed by over 1,200 Cardiff residents calling on the government to divest from Israel's genocide was handed in at the same meeting. According to the Palestine

Solidarity Campaign, the pen-

sion fund invests £117 million in 52 companies that are in breach of international law by facilitating genocide and illegal land settlement.

The council cited data from the Cardiff and Vale Pension Fund suggesting that it holds just under £3m in Israel-based companies.

Cllr Andrea Gibson, who proposed the motion, and Rhys Livesy, seconding, said: "Plaid Cymru's motion to Cardiff City Council today, offers it the opportunity to be the first local authority in Wales to move its pension fund away from investing in companies complicit in war crimes and breaches in international law.

This will hopefully speak to all involved in the pension scheme and express a clear view against contributing to harmful practices against Palestinians in Gaza and is a practical step to advancing ethical public policy in the capital."

elizabethshort@peoples-press.com

INDUSTRIAL Wrexham **bin workers** balloted for strike action

BIN strikes could hit Wrexham after the council extended the working week without consul-tation, Unite said yesterday.

Over 100 staff are being balloted for industrial action as the overtime changes mean they now have to work on Saturdays, losing half a day's pay as a result, a union spokesman added.

They affect street scene operators, who include refuse workers as well as those working on parks, gardens and highways.

Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said: "The way Wrexham Council has attempted to force through these changes to working patterns, without any negotiations, is nothing short of a disgrace.

'Unite will always fight to protect our members' conditions at work and they will have our full support throughout this dispute.'

The affected staff face a below-inflation 3.2 per cent pay rise this year, Unite added.

Council interim chief executive Alwyn Jones said: "We are extremely disappointed to see Unite take this action, especially after the lengthy and prolonged consultation the organisation undertook..



while looking at floral tributes at the entrance to Minehead Middle School yesterday. One

tal with serious injuries after a coach carrying children and staff from the school in Somerset flipped onto its roof and slid down a 20ft bank on the A396 Cutcombe Hill, between Wheddon Cross and Timbercombe, on Thursday.

is not neutrality, it's complicity. More than 100 MPs and peers with, and politically shield Israel, the UK is helping to sustain an illegal occupation that the world's highest court has declared must end.

GLAN director Gearoid O



The South East Region of Unite The Union sends a message of Solidarity to all those attending the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival 2025.



"WE RAISE THE WATCHWORD, LIBERTY. WE WILL, WE WILL, WE WILL BE FREE!"



Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival 2025

The courage of the Tolpuddle Martyrs in 1834 inspires our movement today. GMB stands with all who fight injustice and organise for a better future.

Warren Kenny GMB London Regional Secretary Penny Robinson GMB London Regional President





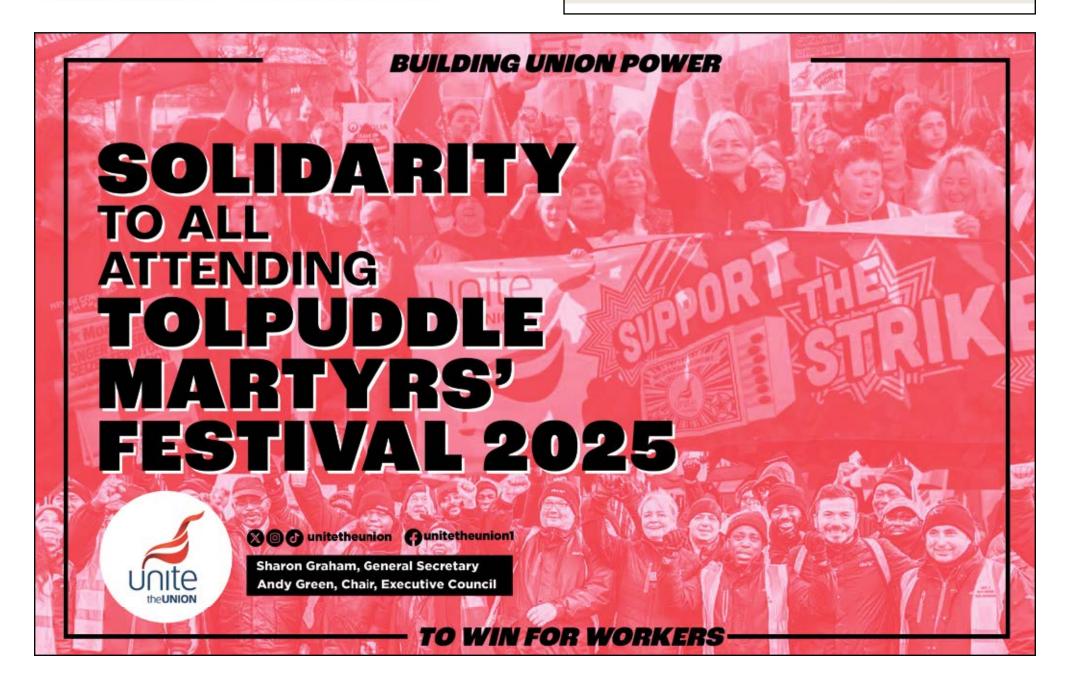
GENERAL FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS

Solidarity to all attending the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival



Sign up to our new education programme





CHURCH STRIKE PROMPTS CLERGY VISIT TO GAZA

STATEMENT: Patriarchs express 'shared pastoral solicitude of the churches of the Holy Land'

by Our Foreign Desk

CHURCH leaders visited Gaza yesterday after Israel struck the strip's only Catholic church on Thursday, an attack that killed three people and wounded ten, including a priest who had developed a close friendship with the late Pope Francis.

The religious delegation to Gaza included two Patriarchs from Jerusalem, Latin Patriarch Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Greek Orthodox Patriarch Theophilos III.

The rare visit aimed to express the "shared pastoral solicitude of the Churches of the Holy Land," a statement said.

Israel has heavily restricted access to Gaza since the start of the war, though church leaders have entered on previous occasions, usually to mark major holidays.

They visited the Holy Family Catholic Church, whose compound was damaged by the shelling.

They were also organising convoys carrying hundreds of



DELEGATION: Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa in the West Bank city of Bethlehem in 2018 Pic: Nasser Nasser/AP

tons of food, medical supplies and other equipment to the territory, which experts say has been pushed to the brink of famine by the Israeli military's wanton destruction, and the evacuation of those wounded in the church strike.

Pope Leo XVI renewed his call for negotiations to bring

breaking price," the Vatican said in a statement. The Vatican said the pope had

also received an update on the condition of Reverend Gabriel Romanelli, the resident priest at the church, who was lightly wounded. The priest had regularly spoken by phone with Pope Francis, who died in April, telling the pontiff about the struggles faced by civilians in Gaza. Israeli strikes on Gaza killed

Israeli strikes on Gaza killed at least 35 people yesterday. One such attack hit a home in the southern city of Khan Younis, killing four members of the same family, according to morgue records at Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies. Footage of the aftermath

of the strike showed people digging through the rubble in search of remains. "They are still under the rub-

ble," said Belal Abu Sahloul, a relative of those killed.

"Until now, we are unable to get them out, even in small

pieces." international@peoples-press.com

Germany deports dozens of Afghans

Morning Star

Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

by Our Foreign Desk

GERMANY deported dozens of Afghan men to their homeland yesterday, the second time it has done so since the Taliban returned to power and despite the regime's dire human rights record.

German authorities said a flight took off yesterday morning carrying 81 Afghans, all whom had had their asylum applications rejected. Chancellor Friedrich

Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the deportation was carried out with the help of Qatar and preceded by weeks of negotiations. He also said there were contacts with Afghanistan, but didn't elaborate.

More than 10 months ago, Germany's previous government deported Afghan nationals to their homeland for the first time since the Taliban returned to power following the US's disastrous retreat from the country in 2021. Then-chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed to step up deportations of asylum-seekers. Mr Merz noted that Berlin doesn't recognise the Taliban government in Kabul.

"The decisive question is how one deals with this regime, and it will remain at technical coordination until further notice," he said at a news conference in Berlin.

The Interior Ministry said the government aims to carry out more deportations to Afghanistan, but didn't specify when that might happen.

Mr Merz made punitive migration policy a central plank of his campaign for Germany's election in February. Arafat Jamal, the UN's

Arafat Jamai, the UN's refugee agency's (UNHCR) representative in Afghanistan said earlier this month that a "non-return advisory" was still in place.

"In other words the conditions on the ground are not yet ready for returns. We urge countries not to forcibly return [people] to Afghanistan." The 95th Anniversary

The 95th Anniversary Appeal.

international@peoples-press.com

ESWATINI 5 deported men put in solitary cells

FIVE people deported by the US to the small southern African nation of Eswatini under the Trump administration's thirdcountry programme are in prison, where they will be held in solitary confinement for an undetermined period of time.

Spokesperson for the Eswatini government Thabile Mdluli declined to identify the facilities where the five men are being held, citing security concerns. She said Eswatini planned to ultimately repatriate all to their home countries with the help of a UN agency

of a UN agency. The men, who the US says were convicted of serious crimes and had entered the country irregularly, are citizens of Vietnam, Jamaica, Cuba, Yemen and Laos. Their convictions included murder and child rape, the US Department of Homeland Security said, describing them as "uniquely barbaric."

an end to the 21-month slaugh-

ter in a phone call with Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Net-

his concern over the dramatic

humanitarian situation for

the population in Gaza, with

children, the elderly and the

sick paying the most heart-

The Pope "expressed again

anyahu yesterday.

Their deportations were announced by the department on Tuesday and mark the continuation of President Donald Trump's plan, stalled by a legal challenge, to send deportees to third countries with which they have no ties.

SECURITY CONCERNS: Matsapha Correctional Complex in Matsapha, near Mbabane, Eswatini Pic: AP



NAWNGHKIO Муапmar's military recaptures rebel town

MYANMAR'S military has recaptured a strategic gateway town from rebel forces after nearly a year, statemedia reported on Thursday.

Nawnghkio, which sits on a major motorway linking central Myanmar to China, had been under the control of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA).

Its recapture by the army

comes after a long period where the military government had been seen as being on the defensive against an array of rebel forces in the civil war that is being fought over much of the country.

Nawnghkio was completely captured by the army at noon on Wednesday after nearly 11 months of operations to retake the town, according to a state-run Myanma Alinn newspaper report on Thursday.

The TNLA said in a statement this week that it had moved its civil administration and service offices in Nawnghkio to safe locations as the military's intensive offensive operations in the past few months made it difficult to carry out work.



TSSA celebrates Tolpuddle Martyrs; pioneers of trade unionism. Their courage inspires our ongoing fight for fairness, dignity, and union rights.



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Solidarity to all trade unionists on the occasion of the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival!

For workers' rights, public services and peace.

southwestcommunists.org.uk Facebook: South West Communists

Liz Payne, Secretary Simon Cormack, Chair

The POA sends fraternal greetings and solidarity to the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival 2025

Mark Fairhurst National Chair Steve Gillan General Secretary



The Professional Trade Union for Prison Correctional, Public and Private Mental Health Trust Services Providers and Immigration Services

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Food, Drink & Agriculture National Industrial Sector

Unite Food, Drink & Agriculture sector salutes the Tolpuddle Martyrs, their heroic sacrifice and the hard-fought victory they achieved for us.

We honour their legacy and continue in their fight to defend trade union rights for farm and food workers everywhere



Paul Travers | National Officer, FDA Matt Gould | FDA EC Delegate Steve Leniec | Chair, Agri Sub Sector Amanda Antoniades | FDA EC Delegate

HUMANITY1 Rescue team saves 40 lives in central Med

BRAZIL

ation."

by Our Foreign Desk

Supreme Court order.

lives in the United States and

is known for his close ties to

US President Donald Trump.

on trial at the Supreme Court

accused of leading an alleged attempt to stage a coup to over-

turn the 2022 election in which

he was defeated by left-wing presi-

"It is a supreme humiliation,"

Mr Bolsonaro told journalists

in Brasilia after putting on

the ankle monitoring. "I never

thought about leaving Brazil, I

dent Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

Mr Bolsonaro is currently

REFUGEE rescuers saved the lives of more than 40 people in the central Mediterranean yesterday, in waters the Maltese government is legally responsible for.

The crew of the activistrun Humanity 1 ship said yesterday that the rescued were "severely weakened and exhausted after [having spent] at least five days at sea.

SOS Humanity, the organisation which operates the ship, said that Malta once again refused to co-ordinate the rescue, despite the refugees' overcrowded fibreglass boat being deep inside Malta's search-andrescue (SAR) zone.

The central Mediterranean is divided up into four SAR zones between Tunisia, Libya, Malta and Italy. Each country's maritime authorities are responsible under international law for co-ordinating rescues in those zones, but the Maltese have refused to do so with any of the NGO rescue groups since 2020.

"The survivors are now on board our rescue ship, Humanity 1, and are being cared for," SOS Humanity said yesterday.

'The Italian authorities assigned Bari as place of safety, almost 500 miles far away.'

BRAZIL'S former President Jair Bolsonaro has been ordered to wear an ankle monitor, authorities said yesterday, in a move he described as "a supreme humili-The development came as federal police conducted searches at his home and his party's headquarters in Brasilia, in compliance with a The order prohibits Mr Bolsonaro to leave the house at night, communicate with foreign ambassadors and diplomats or approach embassies. The former president is also barred from using social media or contacting other individuals under investigation by the Supreme Court, including his son, Eduardo Bolsonaro, a Brazilian politician who currently

Bolsonaro ordered to wear ankle tag

'SUPREME HUMILIATION': Brazil's former president Jair Bolsonaro speaks to the press outside the Secretariat of Penitentiary Administration where he arrived after the Supreme Court ordered him to be fitted with an electronic ankle monitor in Brasilia, Brazil, yesterday Pic: Eraldo Peres/Associated Press

never thought about going to an embassy, but the precautionary measures are because of that.'

On Thursday, Mr Trump wrote to Mr Bolsonaro describing his ally's treatment by the Brazilian legal system as terrible

and unjust. "This trial should end immediately," the US president said, saying that he "strongly voiced" his disapproval through his tariff policy. The Supreme Court's restrictions

on Mr Bolsonaro are part of a second investigation against Eduardo for allegedly working with US authorities to impose sanctions against Brazilian officials.

international@peoples-press.com

Druze and Bedouins exchange fire

by Our Foreign Desk

SYRIA

RENEWED clashes broke out overnight between Druze armed groups and members of Bedouin clans in southern Syria on Thursday night and into yesterday morning.

Government forces were preparing to deploy to the area again yesterday after pulling out under a ceasefire agreement that halted several days of violence earlier this week.

The security forces agreed with some of the Druze factions that they would re-enter the area to impose stability and protect state institutions, according to two Syrian officials who spoke to reporters vesterday on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of people remained displaced by the violence and, according to the Britain-based Syrian Network for Human Rights, at least 321 people have been killed in the sectarian violence since Sunday.

Syrian government forces pulled out of the Druzemajority southern province of Sweida on Thursday after days of clashes with militias linked to the Druze religious minority. Israel launched air strikes on



DEADLY FIGHTING: A dead fighter from the Druze militias lies on the ground, as Syrian government forces, (background) deploy at Mazraa village on the outskirts of the city of Sweida, where clashes erupted between Sunni Bedouin clans and Druze militias, southern Syria, on Monday Pic: Ghaith Alsayed/Associated Press

Syrian forces this week, which it claims were in defence of the Druze minority, before most of the fighting was halted by a truce announced on Wednesday.

Under that agreement, Druze factions and clerics would be left to maintain internal security in Sweida, Syria's interim President Ahmad alSharaa said on Thursday. But clashes once again

flared between the Druze and Bedouin groups in parts of Sweida province overnight and

into yesterday morning. State media reported that Druze militias had carried out revenge attacks against Bedouin communities, lead-

ing to a wave of displacement. The governor of neighbouring Daraa province said in a statement that more than 1,000 families had been displaced to the area from Sweida as a result of "attacks on Bedouin tribes by outlaw groups.'

The UN humanitarian affairs co-ordination office said nearly 2.000 families had been displaced by the fighting as of Thursday.

In Sweida "there are severe disruptions to supply routes, with insecurity and road closures blocking aid deliveries," Adam Abdelmoula, UN resident and humanitarian affairs coordinator in Syria, said yesterday.

The World Health Organisa tion was able to send trauma care supplies to Daraa province, but Sweida remains inaccessible, he said.

"Once conditions allow, we are planning to send a mission to assess needs and provide critical aid, in full co-ordi-nation with authorities," Mr Abdelmoula said.

international@peoples-press.com

in brief

Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

Libyan arrested over war crimes

THE HAGUE: A Libyan man accused by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of crimes against humanity has been arrested in Germany, the court announced yesterday.

Khaled Mohamed Ali El Hishri was allegedly one of the most senior officials at Miriga Prison in Tripoli, where thousands were detained.

EU approves raft of sanctions on Russia

BRUSSELS: The EU approved a new raft of sanctions against Russia yesterday, over its invasion of Ukraine, including a lower oil price cap, a ban on transactions with Nord Stream gas pipelines, and the targeting of more shadow fleet ships.

EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said the measures amount to "one of its strongest sanctions packages against Russia to date" linked to the war, now in its fourth year. It comes as **European countries start** to buy US weapons for Ukraine to help the country better defend itself.

House agrees to media and aid cuts

WASHINGTON: The House gave final approval to US President Donald Trump's request to slash about \$9 billion (£6.6bn) for public broadcasting and foreign aid yesterday.

The vote marked the first time in decades that a US president has successfully submitted such a rescissions request to Congress, and the White House suggested it won't be the last. The House passed the

Bill by a vote of 216-213. It now goes to Mr Trump for his signature.

North Korea bans tourists from beach

PYONGYANG: North Korea is banning the entry of foreign tourists to a recently opened beach resort.

DPR Korea Tour, a website run by North Korea's tourism authorities, said in a notice yesterday that the eastern coastal Wonsan-Kalma tourist complex "is temporarily not receiving foreign tourists."

It gave no further details including why a ban was established or how long it would last.



Labour should listen to us more

As the labour movement meets to remember the Tolpuddle Martyrs, **MICK WHELAN**, general secretary of train drivers' union Aslef, says it's an appropriate moment to remind the Labour government to listen to the trade unions a little more

S THE sun rose in Dorset on Febru-24 1834, ary George Loveless, a Methodist lay preacher and farm labourer, kissed his wife Betsy and their three children goodbye and set off to work. He didn't see them again for three years. Because, as George left his cottage in the village of Tolpuddle, he was served with a warrant for his arrest.

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George was one of six agricultural labourers – the others included his brother James Loveless; James Hammett; James Brine; Thomas Standfield and his son John Standfield – charged by the authorities with making an illegal oath. Their real crime was forming a trade union to protest about their pay of six shillings a week. "My Lord," explained George at his trial, "we were uniting to preserve ourselves, our wives and our children, from utter degradation and starvation." The Tolpuddle Martyrs were

sentenced at Dorchester Assizes to seven years' transportation for having the temerity to stand up for themselves - for standing together – to fight against poverty and austerity and to fight for better terms and conditions of employment. That is what trade unions have been doing for the best part of 200 years. That is why the story of Tolpuddle and its martyrs is at the heart of the history of the trade union movement in Britain. And that is what we are doing here at Tolpuddle this weekend.

Let us not forget that the Labour Party was formed, by the trade unions, and the socialist societies, in 1900 as the Labour Representation Committee at a meeting in Farringdon, central London, just a few hundred yards from where the Aslef head office stands today. My union affiliated three years later, in 1903, and is still affiliated today. The 29 Labour Representation Committee MPs returned to Westminster at the general election of 1906 elected Keir Hardie as leader and adopted the name of the Labour Party.

We remember, too, the landslide victory of Labour in the khaki election of 1945 and the great achievements of that Labour government: the creation of the National Health Service and welfare state and the nationalisation, if not of the means of production, at least of key industries such as coal, iron and steel, gas, electricity, and, of course, Britain's railways.



WORKERS' VOICE: Aslef general secretary Mick Whelan (centre) on the picket line at Waterloo train station

and they have.

the worst Labour government is better than the best Conservative government and, while we were disappointed that the Blair-Brown governments from 1997 to 2010 didn't bring our privatised railways back into public ownership, or scrap the Tories' anti-union laws, those years were still better for Britain than the dark days of Thatcher and Major from 1979 to 1997, and of the Cameron coalition, May, Johnson, Truss, and Sunak from 2010 to 2024.

I have always argued that

And now? Well, it's early days. It's only just over a year since Labour swept back into power and this fledgling government inherited the worst economic inadequacy, the legacy of 14 years of Tory austerity, most of us have ever seen. Some of the hopes, and expectations, of immediate change – promised, of course, by Keir during the election campaign last year – have not, as yet, been fulfilled.

But we (and I don't just mean Aslef, I mean all the trade unions affiliated to the party) have had more engagement with government in the last 12 months than we had in the previous 14 years! The new Labour government's first Bill, last year, was to renationalise the railway. It isn't perfect; it doesn't include the freight companies or the rolling stock companies. But they said they would do it and they did it.

They said they would dump minimum service levels – the ideologically driven Tory law to make strike action by workers in this country ineffective – They also told us that, in the first 100 days, they would bring forward a New Deal for Workers. And they did. We haven't got everything we wanted but this is – and let there be no mistake or misunderstanding about this Employment Rights Bill – the biggest step-change for workers in this country in a generation.

But while this new Labour government has done many good things in the last 12 months, it has, as we all know, made rather too many mistakes. Some of which are, frankly, quite baffling.

While we recognise that we need to grow the economy, and

"

I have always argued that the worst Labour government is better than the best Conservative government not overtax the individual, the idea that we can do it by taking money from the poorest in society – the winter fuel allowance and the personal independence payment – is not the right way to go. Which was made clear to the government – slow as it was to appreciate the depth of feeling on these issues – by the response of trade unions and Labour MPs who said this was not the direction of travel we should be taking.

Over Palestine, we have seen a disproportionate response by Israel to the Hamas attacks and the Labour government appears to be floundering. The Labour Party, and the labour movement, has always been best when it has a moral purpose, and a clarity of vision, and a determination to do the right thing. Which has been markedly absent in its response to the killings, every day, in Gaza and the expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank.

The Labour government would be more sure-footed, and more successful, if it listened a little harder to what the trade unions have to say, and acted a little more decisively on our advice. Today is a good day to remind people that we have, for 200 years, been on the side of the angels – and on the side of history.

Mick Whelan has spent 41 years on the railway, and 41 years as an active trade unionist. He was elected general secretary of Aslef in 2011; became chair of TULO, now Labour Unions, in 2016; and was elected to Labour's NEC in 2017. ECTORAL collective bargaining and restoring the right to take solidarity strike action are the two most important issues facing unions, RMT general secretary Eddie Dempsey believes.

These are the missing ingredients in the Employment Rights Bill that would stop another P&O style fire-andreplace scandal – where the ferry operator sacked nearly 800 staff by video, had them marched off their ships and brought in foreign labour on lower pay and worse conditions back in 2022.

The rogue company's delayed 2023 accounts recently hit headlines, revealing its CEO Peter Hebblethwaite – who admitted before a parliamentary committee that he consciously broke the law with the mass sacking and would do so again – was richly rewarded for his lawbreaking, raking in £683,000. Dempsey then slammed an "astronomical 172 per cent pay award" that was "a slap in the face to seafarers and communities in Dover, Hull and Larne, direct from Dubai" (where P&O's owner DP World is based).

The Labour government plans improvements to seafarers' rights both through the Employment Rights Bill and the Seafarers' Charter. "What's being proposed is that workers who work on vessels in and out of British ports a certain number of times, 120 times is the figure being used at the minute, would be entitled for the first time to collective consultation on redundancy situations.

RMT says the government should go further towards the model used by France, where workers are entitled not just to collective consultation on redundancy but to the broader range of employment rights enjoyed by the domestic workforce.

"We think it should mean collective bargaining agreements, and all the rights domestic workers have which currently seafarers haven't. My understanding is that at the moment the British government sees that as too complicated or difficult – they're probably listening to the shipping industry – but this is absolute nonsense; the French model shows you can use the same framework if you want to deliver the full suite of employment rights to seafarers – which they badly need.

"It wasn't really the right to collective consultation which would have prevented the sackings at P&O. It would have delayed it: but that was the law that was broken by P&O without consequence.

"The way you would defend against that is, first, by bringing in sectoral collective bargaining.

"Give us the ability to negotiate with a sector and restore our ability to take solidarity strike action – if we had those two weapons at our disposal, we would never have another P&O." Sector-wide terms and



conditions would stop P&O driving down pay, while operators in the sector would police each other, knowing solidarity action could shut down the industry if a bad actor tried to attack its workforce.

"There are really important steps taken in the Employment Rights Bill to improve rights at work, but it doesn't go far enough.

"The removal of workers' ability to bargain collectively for their share of the wealth in Britain is one of the core reasons why wages have stagnated over 40 years in real terms.

"People's wages have only risen by about half a per cent over the last 15 or 20 years. There's a reason why if you work for a living you can't afford to buy a house or take a holiday on an average wage, when 40 years ago you could have done.

"And that's because the power of labour relative to the power of big employers and capital has been destroyed through political choices.

"The Bill doesn't repeal all

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the anti-trade union legislation; it repeals and replaces. "I don't think the Labour Party

should have got so embroiled in individual workers' rights. "They need to restore collec-

tive rights to workers and the way to do that is to bring in sectoral collective bargaining. By doing that, you allow us in

"

People's wages have only risen by about half a per cent over the last 15 or 20 years - the experts if you like.

"It's the only thing I want the Labour Party to outsource! Let us deal with workers' rights, let us deal with wages and rogue employers through sectoral collective bargaining and solidarity strike action.

"We will see change and improvement in people's lives – but not just that.

"Britain feels divided. A lot of communities feel chaotic, unsafe. The role of trade unions has always been to bring people together, we're part of the fabric of society, the foundations of community.

"If you want to reintegrate people, rebuild a sense of community and fairness, the first thing you can do is bring in sectoral bargaining, and we'll get back into those areas that have been deindustrialised, where there is high unemployment, underemployment and social problems. We will bring people together and restore dignity to people's lives.

"That's absolutely critical. In the last period political parties have pulled up the roots of our

'Political parties have pulled up the roots of our movement, and they've got to be put back'

Ben Chacko talks to RMT leader **EDDIE DEMPSEY** about how the key to fixing broken Britain lies in collective sectoral bargaining, restoring unions' ability to take solidarity strike action and bringing about the much-vaunted 'wave of insourcing'

movement, and they've got to be put back."

Sectoral bargaining would also end the incentive of employers to outsource, a major problem across the transport industry. As we met at the Durham Miners' Gala, RMT had just published a survey exposing the devastating impact of outsourcing Tyne & Wear Metro cleaners to contractor Churchill.

"The rail industry is absolutely addicted to outsourcing," Dempsey says. "We've got outsourced cleaners right across train operations, metro services, catering and on the infrastructure side.

"We reckon there are at least 44,000 workers outsourced on labour-only supplier contracts. We estimate for a piece of work done by Network Rail, looking at their supply chain in the Southern region, at least nine in 10 of those workers are on zero-hours contracts as well. "Huving a just in time army

"Having a just-in-time army of labour means the industry doesn't have to effectively plan, and the results of that are very costly: we estimate that £350-400 million is going out the door in commercial fees and profits to some of these companies

some of these companies. "If you take the example of London Overground, which is outsourced, about £7m goes in the form of dividends every year; if they took that into public ownership tomorrow that £7m extra would come in the door in the form of income."

The outsourcing model depends on cutting corners and lowering wages to maximise profits while pitching themselves to those commissioning their services as the cheapest option.

It also entrenches racial division. "Our research has shown we're operating apartheid systems in a lot of these outsourced contracts.

"You look at who works directly for one of the railway companies or metro services, and who works for one of the cleaning contractors, and can see the disparity – a 10-20 per cent black and minority ethnic workforce for the companies, closer to 50-60 per cent on the outsourced contracts, and a much greater proportion of women.

"People in the industry give each other awards at investor events celebrating what they do for diversity, but they refuse to consider these outsourced contracts.

"Labour says we're going to have the biggest wave of insourcing in a generation. We haven't seen that yet."

Unless unions put aside sectional differences and concentrate on forcing Labour's hand on sectoral bargaining and solidarity action, Dempsey fears for the movement's future. "We need to pull together

"We need to pull together and make these the core demands. We're still a vital movement in many ways, there are trade unionists acting on behalf of their members in a meaningful way.

"We are an active, fighting, campaigning union ourselves, and we're growing. But most unions are in decline.

"Most of the sectors in which we were based have been destroyed. There was a time when we were 12-and-a-half million members; now we are six million. In 20 years there could be two million of us, or one million, and we become just a monument to things we did in the past." Does he see a role in this rebuilding for the new left party associated with Jeremy Corbyn and Zarah Sultana, currently the talk of much of the left?

"We do need change in politics, we do need to see change in society, and one reason we've seen people drift away from our movement is that Labour, over many years, has drifted away from the working class. In some cases, I think the trade unions are in danger of following in that past."

As for the new party, "we haven't seen it yet. We don't affiliate to any political party, we support people to stand for Parliament when they support us. We have active groups of representatives in our parliamentary groups at Westminster, the Welsh and Scottish parliaments.

"We rely first of all on our industrial organisation and our ability to fight on the ground for our members. We will try to bring maximum political pressure to bear on whoever is in Parliament to make decisions in favour of our class, and our people."



CUT ADRIFT:

HOSE who had hoped that Tolpuddle 2025 would have been the occasion to celebrate the enactment of the

ebrate the enactment of the long-awaited Employment Rights Act 2025 will have to be patient.

The Bill has been delayed in the House of Lords where a campaign is being fought by the Tories to dilute its provisions still further. The proceedings will continue next week, and the Bill is not expected to receive the Royal Assent until September.

But Royal Assent will be only the end of the beginning. Thereafter, the wait will continue. The government has announced that only a few provisions of the Bill will come into force immediately, including the removal of some – but not all – of the restrictions on the right to strike introduced by the Tories in the Trade Union Act 2016, and again in the even more authoritarian Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act 2023.

The great bulk of the Bill, however, is to be phased in piecemeal so that it will not be until 2027 at the earliest that its provisions are fully implemented, with further consultations to take place between now and then.

Under the recently published government "Roadmap," it will be October 2026 before the changes on fire and rehire are brought into force, the Bill's provisions on zerohours contracts, bereavement leave, and day one rights for unfair dismissal delayed even longer until 2027.

The next two years will thus be consumed by further consultations and drafting extensive regulations, a process which will inevitably reveal flashpoints and weaknesses, beginning with the fact that this is a Bill for some but not all workers.

Many of its provisions apply only to employees (including those relating to flexible working, statutory sick pay, fire and rehire, and redundancy consultation), a narrow legal category which excludes large and growing numbers employed in the gig economy and elsewhere.

The Bill thus retains and reinforces the multitier system which, in *A New Deal for Working People*, the Labour Party undertook to reform. A commitment was made there to "create a single status of worker," to ensure that "all workers, regardless of sector, wage or contract type, will be afforded the same basic rights and protections."

This had been promised in order to clamp down on bogus self-employment and prevent unscrupulous employers from using loopholes to put workers in categories where they were denied basic rights. The government promises only consultation on single status – there is nothing in the Bill on the subject.

But with the implementa-



Striking Amazon workers on a GMB union picket line outside the online retailer's site in Coventry in their longrunning dispute over pay and conditions, March 2024. In July 2024 the GMB lost the ballot for union recognition at the Amazon warehouse in Coventry by 49.5 per cent For to 50.5 per cent

Against

The Employment Rights Bill has a very long road ahead

The Bill addresses some exploitation but leaves trade unions heavily regulated, most workers without collective bargaining coverage, and fails to tackle the balance of power that enables constant mutation of bad practice, write **KEITH EWING** and **LORD JOHN HENDY KC**

tion of the new rights, together with the recent increase in employers' National Insurance contributions, it would be naive to think that employers will not continue to use and expand recruitment practices that avoid and undermine workers' rights.

Even where practices of this kind are not adopted, a major obstacle to the Bill's success will be its enforcement: the employment tribunals are already in a state of crisis, with an expanding case-load, and long delays confounding the need for the speedy resolution of disputes.

These problems can be expected to grow as a result of the complexity, lack of clarity, and cost implications of various parts of the Bill. This is particularly true of the proposed day one rights, and the fire-and-rehire restrictions (diluted by the government in the Lords).

In other situations, however, the law will be simply "

It would be naive to think that employers will not continue to use and expand recruitment practices that avoid and undermine workers' rights be unenforced. How many people on a zero-hours contract will dare to challenge their employer for failing to offer a "guaranteed hours" contract – and then wait for months to have their case heard?

Concerns about the Bill apply with equal force to its provisions designed ostensibly to protect trade unions. Forget about the right of trade union access to a workplace for organising purposes: an access order can be granted, but there is no way an employer can be compelled to comply.

And be sceptical too about the provisions to address union busting: if a union fails to get a declaration of recognition, it will still be three years before it can try again; even if it succeeds, an employer is not required to reach an agreement on wages or other terms and conditions.

Amendments in the Bill to the statutory recognition procedure simply patch up what is an irretrievably broken system, which has failed to arrest the extraordinary decline in collective bargaining coverage over the last 40 years or so. Now only one in four workers is covered by a collective agreement, though even that may be an overestimate.



proposing the roll out of sectoral collective bargaining. The need is clear: to expand the coverage of collective agreements; to empower trade unions; and to protect workers and their families.

But sectoral collective bargaining is also about redistributing wealth, raising wages, and eliminating exploitation, to ensure – adapting the words of the ILO – that everyone enjoys a "just share of the fruits of [growth]," about which the Bill has virtually nothing to say.

the ILO leads to another of the Bill's omissions. The restrictions on the right to strike did not begin with the Trade Union Act 2016. Indeed, most of the constraints on trade unions were imposed in the Thatcher and Major years, and have been condemned by the ILO and by other agencies in international law since 1989. International treaties voluntarily entered into should be complied with: the rule of law requires nothing less. As a result, we should be going further with the removal of legal restrictions on the right to strike, including those regulating the purposes for which unions can organise industrial action, as well as what will continue to be complex notice and ballot requirements even after the Bill is implemented. And as we were reminded by

Nevertheless, reference to

And as we were reminded by the ILO after the P&O Ferries scandal, the ban on solidarity action must be removed, so that unions can at least more effectively resist employers who fail to comply with their legal obligations.

At best, the Bill addresses some of the worst forms of exploitation. But it does not address them all, it does not address them adequately, and it will not prevent the constant mutation of bad practice.

In failing seriously to address the balance of power at work and beyond, the Bill nods in the direction of trade union freedom and collective bargaining, yet leaves trade unions heavily regulated and the vast majority of workers without bargaining coverage.

If the Bill is to be welcomed, it should be as the first step in what will be a very long journey.



RITAIN'S system of state-monopoly capitalism, in which the economic power of the monopolies is effectively fused with the political power of the ruling class and its state apparatus, stumbles from one crisis to the next.

Most people do not see things in such ideological terms. Instead they feel the negative effects on their families, themselves, their neighbours, workmates, local communities and society generally.

Although they draw conclusions from what is happening, their understanding, thoughts and aspirations are shaped – at least in part – by the state and monopoly-owned mass media.

But their own experiences and those of others can break through the media smokescreen of distortions, diversions and cover-ups.

Many if not most people know that food, fuel and housing costs continue to escalate – and that someone, somewhere is profiting mightily at their expense.

They know that vital public and social services are deteriorating with little or no prospect of immediate improvement.

They fear for sick and elderly family members and friends - and prefer not to think about growing old themselves.

They know that work is getting harder and more insecure with less satisfaction and reward.

They know, especially after the Iraq war, Covid and the Post Office and blood transfusion scandals, that those in positions of power and authority will lie to evade responsibility for their actions. They've always known that "there's one law for the rich and another for the poor."

They know that Israeli forces are committing genocide in Palestine but most of our top politicians don't want to admit it.

They suspect that Britain's Labour government has no coherent plan to tackle any of these and other real or perceived problems.

They also suspect that Prime Minister Starmer and Chancellor Reeves will be taxing them more in order to fill a real or imagined "black hole" in Britain's public finances.

As a result of all this, many people distrust Labour and Tory politicians as never before. They have no time for the slippery catchphrases, gimmicks, evasions and buck-passing.

Instead they are listening to the self-proclaimed "straighttalkers," the right-wing and racist "voices of the people" who increasingly pollute politics and the mass media.

A smaller number of ex-Labour voters are turning to the Greens, the Lib Dems, Plaid Cymru or the SNP.

The Starmer regime's social and welfare cuts, repressive legislation, militarisation and now further deregulation of the corrupt and over-bearing City of London are driving away Labour Party members in their tens of thousands and working-class supporters in their millions.

A militant united front of the working class is needed to halt right-wing advance

In the run-up to the Communist Party congress in November **ROBERT GRIFFITHS** outlines a few ideas regarding its participation in the elections of May 2026



The corporate capture of Labour by big business is proceeding apace.

True, more than 100 Labour MPs rebelled against the Welfare Bill woken from servile slumber by angry constituents or by their own conscience.

Five more have now been suspended from the Parliamentary Labour Party.

But they have little desire and no strategy for changing the government's fundamental direction, at least not yet.

Some Westminster rebels may join the new party or alliance of the left proposed by Jeremy Corbyn, Zarah Sultana and some of the independent pro-Palestine MPs.

The intention is to provide a left and progressive alternative to Labour and Reform UK at elections, especially those scheduled for the May 2026 and the pre-2030 general election.

Faced with such likely developments, what does the Communist Party have to say?

We will be discussing our electoral policy in the run-up to our 58th Congress in November, when 120-plus elected delegates will take the important decisions.

Traditionally, the CP position has been to call on electors to "vote Labour where no Communist is standing." Before the emergence of many more far-left candidates in the 1980s, the party's slogan to "vote as left as you can"

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Reform UK's bandwagon [will not] be spragged by voting for a Labour leadership whose policies have been feeding this gaggle of millionaire spivs, chancers and the downright misguided amounted to the same thing. Why these slogans? Becaus

Why these slogans? Because the Communist Party's programme recognised Labour's significance as the mass party of the working class and its labour movement; and as a vital arena of struggle for left and progressive policies that could be imposed on a Labour government and implemented under organised mass pressure as a stage in the process of socialist revolution.

Faced with the rise of the National Front and then the BNP in the 1970s and 1980s, the CP urged support for the anti-fascist candidate best placed to keep out the neonazis.

But it was New Labour's break from social democracy in the 1990s that began to change the Communist Party's electoral line.

Gone were Labour's commitments to public ownership and a mixed economy, to economic planning with controls on capital and prices, to the redistribution of wealth.

So Communists opposed the re-election of leading New Labourites, urging a vote for Arthur Scargill against Peter Mandelson in 2001 and, after the Iraq war, for Respect's George Galloway in 2005.

With many Labour-run councils implementing Tory and

Labour cuts and privatisations with little or no resistance, the CP's general call to vote Labour in local elections ceased to oper-

ate.

t the same time, Britain's Communists multiplied our candidates at local, Welsh, Scottish and Westminster levels, while also creating an electoral alliance – Unity for Peace and Socialism – with overseas communist and workers' parties domiciled here.

The CP also played a prominent part in anti-EU electoral coalitions with other left-wing parties and the RMT union.

Understandably, these developments were interrupted when Jeremy Corbyn – with Communist support in the People's Assembly and anti-war mass movements – won the Labour Party leadership in 2015. The CP then stood down in the 2017 and 2019 general elections and called for a Labour vote everywhere.

Now we face a new set of evolving circumstances.

It may be difficult for Communists to call for a generalised Labour vote in the foreseeable future, especially when Starmer's suppression of inner-party democracy, dissent and the left

DECISIVE VOTER REJECTION:

(Left) protesters outside the Utilita Arena in Birmingham, where a Reform UK local election launch rally was taking place, March 28 2025

has made changing his party's direction from within all but impossible.

Only a resurgence of trade union pressure and mass campaigning – combined with the threat of more Parliamentary Labour Party rebellions – has the potential to bring about changes of policy on specific issues such as water renationalisation and Palestine.

Nor will Reform UK's bandwagon be spragged by voting for a Labour leadership whose policies have been feeding this gaggle of millionaire spivs, chancers and the downright misguided.

Certainly, the Communist Party will not back candidates, parties or alliances who fail to call for public ownership of key services and utilities, a wealth tax and the repeal of anti-trade union and anti-democratic laws, but who embrace instead Britain's ruinous nuclear weapons programme, Nato, the war in Ukraine, Israeli genocide, the Cold War against China or rejoining the militarised, probig business EU.

Of course, there will be Labour and candidates of other parties and alliances who deserve popular support in the coming elections. But while a substantial left-wing electoral breakthrough would be welcome, it is neither guaranteed nor a universal panacea.

What is needed, above all, is a militant United Front of working-class and left organisations to expose the capitalist class origins and loyalties of Reform UK and to promote an alternative left-wing programme to the policies of both Nigel Farage and his pound-shop epigones in Starmer's Labour Party.

Communist Party candidates can be relied upon to project such a programme in forthcoming elections without fear or compromise, as part of the struggle for socialist revolution.

Rob Griffiths is general secretary of the Communist Party of Britain.

★Star comment

Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

features

Starmer's punishment of Diane Abbott won't quell the rising resistance

DIANE ABBOTT is not so much guilty of thought crime as the crime of thinking. In her response to question put to her by Radio 4's James Naughtie (and recorded in May before the present ructions in the Parliamentary Labour Party) she simply said: "Clearly, there must be a difference between racism which is about colour and other types of racism because you can see a Traveller or a Jewish person walking down the street, you don't know."

She then went on to remark: "I just think that it's silly to try and claim that racism which is about skin colour is the same as other types of racism. I don't know why people would say that."

Keir Starmer's reimposition of the verbot on Abbott's membership of the Parliamentary Labour Party arrived without anything resembling a rational examination of the manifestly sensible things she said and without any reasoned argument against.

It is, and was intended as such, as an arbitrary act of punishment, designed to isolate her and render toxic a rational discussion of racism.

You might think that Starmer and his praetorian guard would think about the way this might be understood in black communities, particularly as this all occurs alongside a violent racist riot in a neighbouring constituency to hers.

The Epping riot resulting from a fascist-encouraged attack on anti-racist campaigners and was directed at refugees and asylum-seekers. In this we can see how Britain's crisis finds diverse ways to express itself. In this case a media and state-sponsored racist narrative about asylum-seekers has culminated in a riot that was as much directed at the police as anything else.

It makes the argument for a reasoned national conversation about these questions all the more necessary.

Abbott's comments took place in a calm and reflective interview in which Naughtie asked if she would condemn anti-semitic behaviour in the same way she would racist behaviour against someone because of the colour of their skin.

behaviour against someone because of the colour of their skin. Her reply was telling. "Well of course, and I do get a bit weary of people trying to pin the anti-semitic label on me because I've spent a lifetime fighting racism of all kinds and in particular fighting anti-semitism, partly because of the nature of my constituency."

A more sophisticated politician than Starmer, or one better advised, might take the opportunity to allow a measured discussion in which the blindingly obvious fact that racism is a multi-faceted problem that cannot be disentangled from the reality that contemporary British society and reflects our complex colonial history is given.

This entails understanding the particular ways in which racism affects different groups of people.

Incidentally, such an approach is routine in local government, education, the NHS and the Civil Service and is obviously necessary in both policy formulation, planning and resource allocation.

But Starmer sees it as another opportunity to buttress his complicity in the Gaza genocide to strengthen his police regime which has driven hundreds of thousands out of the Labour Party, shed millions of Labour voters and is creating something of a panic in a Parliamentary Labour Party whose members, if they lack the courage to confront him, still retain the capacity to count and thus know they face certain defeat.

But neither purging Abbott nor the punishment meted out to the four MPs arbitrarily selected as an example to other welfare Bill rebels can keep the lid on the resistance which will inevitably arise again if the government keep on its neoliberal, warmongering austerity course.

Today it will be on the streets in a Palestine solidarity march that will inevitable include many challenges to the government's repressive move to make solidarity and protest an act of "terrorism."

Eawman with Anselm Eldergill by the Anselm Eldergill b

ANSELM ELDERGILL examines the legal case behind this weekend's Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival and the lessons for today

ORSET labourers' wages were notoriously low from the 1790s onwards. William Cobbett wrote in Rural Rides that, "The labourers seem miserably poor. Their dwellings are little better than pig-beds, and their looks indicate that their food is not nearly as equal to that of a pig."

In 1833, the wage of agricultural labourers in Tolpuddle stood at seven shillings, with a reduction to six shillings planned. Since rent and a diet of tea, bread, turnip tops and potatoes cost a family 13 shillings a week, the situation was intolerable.

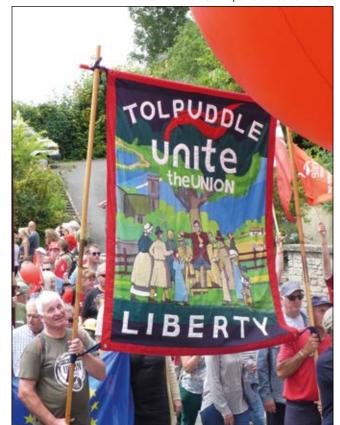
In October, six men – George and James Loveless, James Hammett, James Brine, Thomas and John Standfield – founded the Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers. They sought a wage of not less than 10 shillings and have become known to history and the trade union movement as "The Tolpuddle Martyrs."

George Loveless, who was also a Methodist preacher, was their leader. As was then common, the society's founders and new members swore an oath of loyalty. Trade unions had been lawful since 1825 and the society's aims were peaceful. Rule 23 stated that "the object of this society can never be promoted by any act or acts of violence."

by any act or acts of violence." The formation of a union was viewed as highly dangerous by the upper classes. A major Dorset landowner was James Frampton, Lord of the Manor of Moreton House, Justice of the Peace, Chief Magistrate and High Sheriff of Dorset.

In January 1834, he wrote to the home secretary, Lord Melbourne, complaining about the union. Melbourne suggested prosecuting the men under one of the Mutiny Acts of 1797, which prohibited administering unlawful oaths; "in cases of this description [it] has been frequently resorted to with advantage."

Lord Melbourne is wellknown to history as Queen



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The response was swift. On March 24 1834, 'A Grand Meeting of the Working Classes' was attended by more than 10.000 people Victoria's mentor and for his tempestuous marriage to Lady Caroline Lamb, who had a very public affair with Lord Byron. He is less well-known for his spanking sessions with aristocratic ladies and for whipping orphan girls whom he brought into his household to serve as maids. "A few twigs of a birch applied to the naked skin of a young lady produces with very little effort a very considerable

sensation," he wrote. The Martyrs were arrested on February 24 1834 and escorted to the home of Charles Woolaston, chairman of the Dorset Quarter Sessions and Frampton's stepbrother. George was told that if he gave the magistrates the names of union members, and promised to have nothing more to do with it, he would be allowed to return to his wife and family. He refused.

Loveless and his companions were detained at Dorchester Castle pending trial. On March 15 1834, a grand jury of local magistrates and landowners was sworn in at the Dorchester Assizes to decide if there was enough evidence to indict the men.

The foreman of the jury was the Right Honourable William Ponsonby, MP for Dorset and Lord Melbourne's brother-inlaw. The jury included Frampton, his son Henry and Woolaston.

Unsurprisingly, the grand jury decided to remit the case for trial by a "petty" jury of 12 jurors. Many of these jurors were tenants of the grand jurors. The judge warned them that should they not find the men guilty, they would forfeit the opinion of the grand jury. They took only five minutes to find the men guilty.

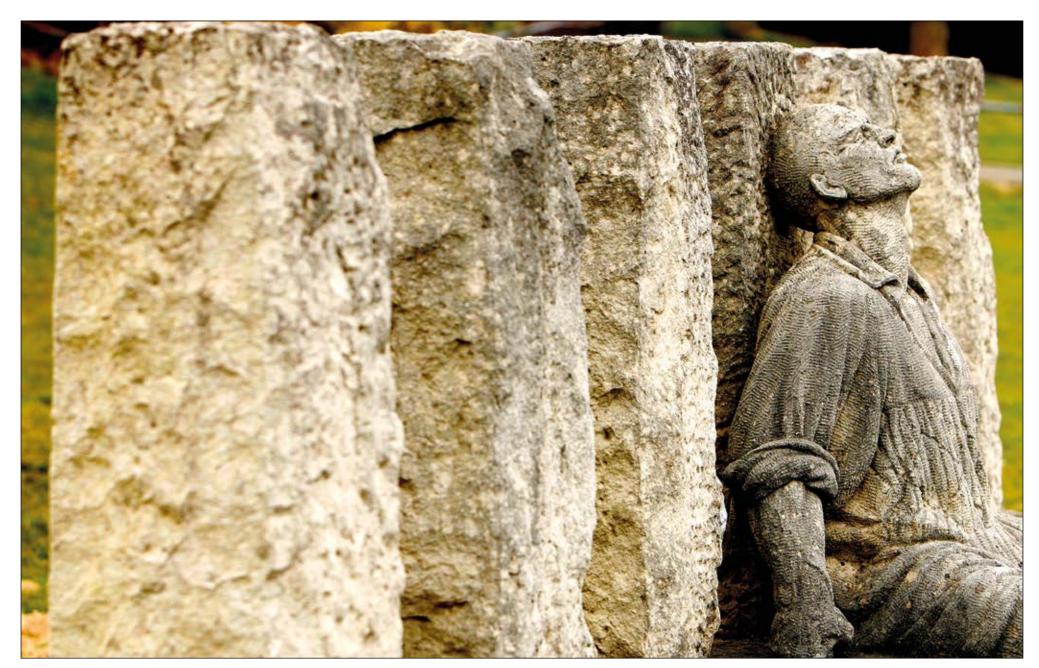
find the men guilty. Each of the defendants received the maximum sentence for swearing a secret oath of seven years' transportation to Australia. The men's wives pleaded for parish relief, in order to feed their children. This was refused by Frampton and Woolaston. The latter shook his fist at Mrs Standfield, telling her, "You shall suffer want; you shall have no mercy because you ought to have known better than to have allowed such meetings ... in your house."

Frampton could not contain his delight. He wrote to Melbourne declaring that, "The conviction and prompt execution of the sentence of transportation has given the greatest satisfaction to all the Higher classes."

The response of the nascent labour movement was swift. On March 24 1834, "A Grand Meeting of the Working Classes" was attended by more than 10,000 people. On April 21, a six-milelong procession of 100,000 protesters gathered in Islington. Twelve trade unionists carried a petition with 800,000 signatures to Parliament and meetings were held across the country to raise money for the families.

The fight continued until March 1836, when a new home secretary, Lord John Russell,

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UNION PIONEER: A statue of George Loveless, leader of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, at the Martyrs Museum in the Dorset village

arranged free pardons and free passage home. The men returned to England but faced widespread hostility from the Dorset gentry. In 1844, the Lovelesses, Standfields and James Brine emigrated to Canada. Only James Hammett continued to live locally. He died in the Dorchester Workhouse in 1891 and is buried in Tolpuddle.

The Martyrs' tale is one characterised by abuse of power and a nauseating sense of entitlement on the part of the aristoc-racy and landed gentry, both in their treatment of the poor and sexual abuse of servants.

They made the law to suit their class and appointed judges and magistrates from their class to apply their laws in their interest. That is not so very different today. The middle and upper classes dominate the Commons, the Lords, the judiciary and our cultural institutions.

They exercise their powers selectively, and mostly in line with their privilege and moulded beliefs. The low-waged and those without a first-class education are viewed with suspicion, often looked down upon and by-and-large excluded.

The Martyrs are celebrated annually. To borrow Debs's words, they opposed a social order in which it was possible for one man who did absolutely nothing to amass a fortune, while millions of men and women who worked all the days of their lives secured barely enough for a wretched existence.

Again, that is not so very different today. The wealthiest 1 per cent own the same portion

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As in the case of the Martyrs, the current Home Secretary has gone for the 'nuclear option' - any words of support for Palestine Action are a terrorist offence

of the nation's wealth as the bottom 50 per cent. Company profits are often generated by semi-destitute workers abroad at Tolpuddle rates of pay. Workers' wages at home are not infrequently so low that they must be topped up by the pub-

lic with housing benefit and universal credit, in order to meet the family's basic needs. These benefits are employer

welfare benefits, not employee benefits, because they enable employers to pay non-subsistence wages and thereby to



NUCLEAR OPTION: Police prepare to make arrests as protesters challenge the ban on Palestine Action as a 'terrorist group,' July 12 2025

increase their profits at the

expense of the public. Sir Stafford Cripps KC, Attlee's chancellor of the Exchequer, was scathing in his article "A Travesty of Justice." His chilling view was that in times of necessity, to preserve the social order, the courts will almost always be ready to strain the interpretation of statutes and to bias justice in favour of the dominant class and against any whom they believe, rightly or wrongly, to be disposed to changes which may have the effect of upsetting the existing order.

That was a very prescient observation. Just as the home secretary and Frampton used the unlawful oath prohibition in the Mutiny Acts to prosecute trade unionists not guilty of any mutiny, so the current Home Secretary is using the Terrorism Act to outlaw and prosecute Palestine Action, who are no more guilty of terrorism properly defined than the Martyrs were mutineers.

Melbourne and Frampton correctly believed that the changes sought by the Martyrs would upset the existing order. Therefore, they used their considerable official powers to protect the vested interests and crush dissent, even though the non-conformists - those who refused to conform to an inhumane system - represented humanity and justice. As in the case of the Martyrs,

the current Home Secretary has gone for the "nuclear option" any words of support for Palestine Action are a terrorist offence - precisely because her moral position is untenable. The evidence is clear. Israel is engaged in multiple acts of terrorism, including assassinations, starvation, illegal expropriation of land and the targeting of civilians. Its leaders have been indicted for war crimes. The government continues to support Israel, to train the IDF and to supply weapons. That comes within the defini-tion of supporting terrorism in section 3 of the Terrorism Act 2000.

In short, it is our government that is supporting terrorism, while Palestine Action is the party that opposes and condemns terrorism. Vandalism is not terrorism. It is difficult to believe that the Home Secretary thinks the suffragettes and American civil rights campaigners in the 1960s were terrorists because their campaigns involved criminal damage.

Anselm Eldergill was a judge in the Court of Protection until 2024. He is a solicitor, an honorary professor of law and an academic associate at Doughty Street Chambers.



Solidarity can shape our future

The courage of striking Unison members across south-west England shows workers are ready to fight for their rights – and win, says Unison South West regional secretary **KERRY BAIGENT**

S WE gather for Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival, we are reminded of the power of solidarity in shaping our future. This year, workers' struggles will be front and centre.

On Sunday, the main stage will host speakers from the ongoing Unison campaigns, including striking phlebotomists from Gloucestershire, a representative from the Dorset SubCo fightback, and migrant healthcare workers demanding urgent reform. Their stories reflect the courage and determination of workers standing up against injustice.

In Gloucestershire, phlebotomists are now more than 110 days into strike action, standing firm against a belligerent employer that refuses to pay them what they are worth. The "Magnificent 37" have shown extraordinary strength and unity. Their action follows in the footsteps of healthcare assistants at Derriford Hospital, who last year won a long overdue rebanding to Band 3 after taking similar action. These victories are proof that when we organise and take action together, we can win.

Meanwhile, in Dorset, Unison members are resisting plans that would see 1,700 NHS staff outsourced into a wholly owned subsidiary company. This move threatens to drive down terms and conditions and risks undermining public service standards. The proposal flies in the face of Labour's pledge to lead the biggest wave of insourcing in a generation. What's at stake is not just one workforce, but the wider principle of protecting public-service jobs from creeping privatisation.

Unison is also campaigning to transform the rights of migrant workers. We are fighting for the introduction of a Certificate of Common Sponsorship to give migrant healthcare workers the freedom to change employers without risking their visa status. At the same time, we are opposing the government's immigration white paper, which would double the qualifying period for indefinite leave to remain. This would lock thousands of workers into years of insecurity and exploitation.

As we reflect on the legacy of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, we draw strength from their defiance and commitment to justice. Their fight is our fight, one for fair pay, secure work, and a future where every worker is treated with dignity.

Let us stand together in solidarity. Because together, we can ensure that every voice is heard, every worker respected, and no struggle ignored. "

In Dorset, Unison members are resisting plans that would see 1,700 NHS staff outsourced into a wholly owned subsidiary company



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Workers are angry – and Labour is foolish to dismiss the warning signs

STEVE PREDDY of Unite South West says his union's recent conference broadcast workers' dissatisfaction at the government's attacks on their class



S TRADE unionists from across our movement descend on Tolpuddle this weekend, we gather at a time of significant global turbulence.

No issue has greater notoriety than the sickening violence in Gaza and the West Bank. Unite sends its solidarity to the Palestinian people. Who are enduring unimaginable privations and constant risk to life and limb. Unite's conference last week totally committed the union to solidarity with Palestine. Condemning all acts of violence. Conference recognised the many thousands of lives lost, and terrible injuries suffered to women, children, and men.

July marks one year since Keir Starmer moved into 10 Downing Street. An anniversary that we may mark, but probably very few workers will celebrate.

Decisions to largely accept the financial straitjacket that previous governments have placed on the economy have resulted in attacks on winter fuel payments and welfare spending. Both proposals were announced in haste and have led to widespread condemnation and then humiliating backtracking.

Workers are mystified that given the financial problems facing by the government there has been no introduction of a wealth tax on the richest in society. Just benefit cuts for working people. These are irresponsible choices, made by a Labour government that needs to find its moral compass. The reality is that all too often welfare payments are subsiding bad employers. The government insists that benefit cuts will help people into work, implying that claimants are workshy. It's just not true. Together with the winter fuel debacle, these political misjudgements have seriously damaged Labour and will come back to haunt them in future elections.

It isn't just nationally where workers are rightly angry with Labour. Look at the situation in Birmingham. Already low-paid refuse workers face losing up to a quarter of their pay (£8,000). Following cuts being imposed by a supposedly Labour council, effectively being run by Tory-imposed commissioners, who have been retained by the Labour government and only answerable to the Deputy Prime Minister Angela Rayner.

After weeks of prevarication and false claims to be engaged in imaginary negotiations, the council is now trying to make the workers redundant which amounts to fire and rehire by any other name. Unite stands full square with the bin workers, regardless of how long the dispute takes.

Labour needs to decide whether it stands on the side of working-class communities, or the wealthiest in society. To give working people fresh hope or leave the political





future of our nation to prevailing winds. In the dark recesses of workers' frustrations, Reform stands to gain from feelings of despair.

This a terrible indictment following just 12 months in office. The signals from Labour are

negative. Starmer's description of us "as an island of strangers" flirts with the narrative of the far right. It plays dangerously into the hands of those seeking to politicise through division.

At our conference over 800 delegates, from workplaces more diverse than in any other union, overwhelmingly voted to review our union's relationship with Labour.

The responding noises from the party have been dismissive and disrespectful. Only arrogant and foolish politicians would ignore such a clear warning bell. The party that supposedly represents working people, families and communities, should not underestimate the anger and frustration of workers and their representatives. Labour needs to appreciate that Unite will always support members against attacks by employers, or politicians – no matter the colour of their rosettes.

Unite South West sends fraternal greetings to all those attending Tolpuddle this weekend. Above all, we send our solidarity to all workers in dispute.

Steve Preddy is regional secretary of Unite's South West region.

Do we learn from the mistakes of history?

HE Tolpuddle Martyrs demonstrated that even a small group of individuals can spark national when they stand

change when they stand together. Their unity in the face of injustice inspired a mass movement that led to their release and long-term reforms.

In the early 1830s, rural workers in England were suffering from severe wage cuts and poor conditions. In Tolpuddle, wages had dropped to just six shillings a week, barely enough to survive.

Learning from the Tolpuddle Martyrs offers valuable insights into the power of solidarity, the importance of legal protections for workers, and the enduring impact of grassroots activism.

Fast forward to 2025, and look at what we are facing after one year of a Labour government coming to power. Labour stood on a manifesto of change and better working conditions through an Employment Rights Bill that I am sure will be debated during this year's Tolpuddle festival. These changes to the lives of working people are a good foundation to start, but it doesn't go far enough to protect workers. We must not settle for crumbs from the table; what we need is a large slice of the cake to ensure that working people have security at work.

It isn't just about security and working conditions that we should be striving for, but

After one year of a Labour government attacking the winter fuel allowance and disabled people, the trade union movement must step up, regardless of who holds power, writes **STEVE GILLAN**



ensuring that the most vulnerable in society are protected as well.

I thought, like many in the trade union movement, that austerity would be a thing of the past. I also thought that an incoming Labour government would give better protections to the poor, the vulnerable and disabled people. I never for one moment believed it

"

In the words of Tony Benn, they can always find money for war. If they can find money for war, then they have enough money for decent conditions and pay at work would be a Labour government attacking the welfare state, winter fuel allowance and endorsing a two-child benefit cap and then withdrawing the whip from various Labour MPs for refusing to bend the knee and sticking up for the most vulnerable in society. That is truly shameful and not in keeping with Labour values.

f working people in Britain want a better, more equal society, then I'm afraid looking to far-right parties is simply not the answer. If parties like Reform are the answer, then I'm not sure

what the question was. Reform feeds a narrative believing there are simple solutions to difficult issues and plays on people's fears that blame immigrants coming to Britain for the waiting lists to see dentists, doctors and getting seen on the NHS or the fact that there is no decent affordable housing. They blame immigrants for the lack of school places, decent jobs and proper wages. The response by this government so far is not to dismantle those arguments but to drift to the right and try to outdo far-right policies.

My grandfather once said that working people were their own worst enemies, and instead of blaming governments and bad bosses, they blamed each other and looked for a scapegoat in society.

The only way that we will build on the successes of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and other struggles throughout history is by learning from our mistakes and focusing on how we can organise to win and leave a better society for the future.

Do not believe for one minute when government officials tell you there is no money. In the words of Tony Benn, they can always find money for war. If they can find money for war, then they have enough money for decent conditions and pay at work and decent jobs, decent housing, and to protect the most vulnerable in society.

The trade union movement must step up to these challenges, irrespective of who is in government and demand a better society for all. It is our duty to make the future better for our children, grandchildren, and those who do not have a voice; otherwise the Tolpuddle Martyrs struggled for nothing.

Steve Gillan is general secretary of the Prison Officers Association.



Pic: Tom Roper/Creative Commons



GREETINGS AND SOLIDARITY TO ALL ATTENDING THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS' FESTIVAL

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Solidarity to all attending the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival 2025

Free, free Palestine!

Marc Wadsworth Chair

Deborah Hobson Secretary

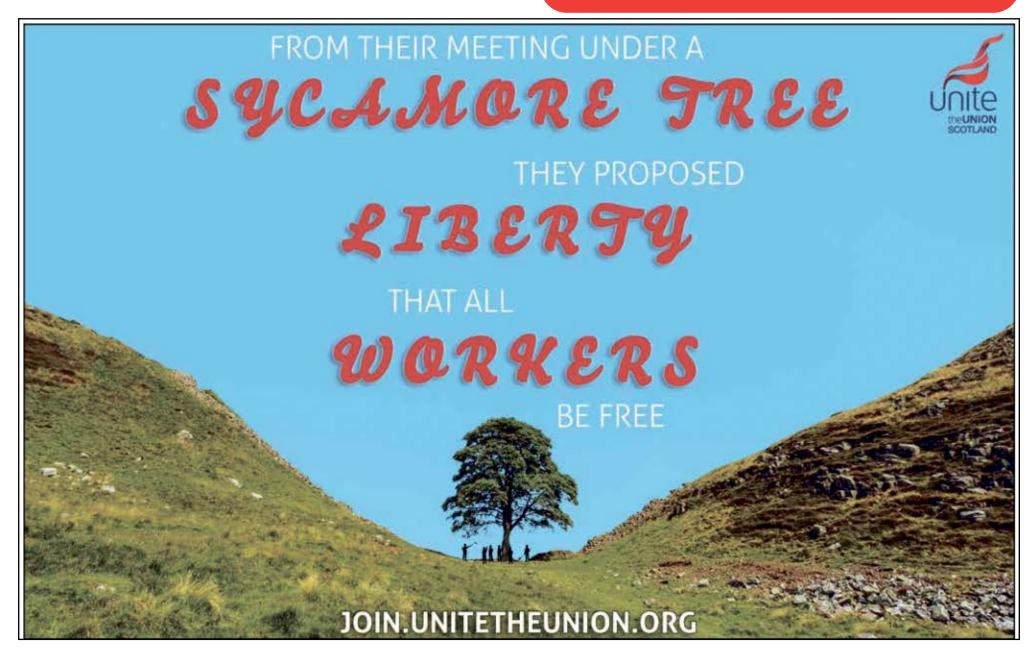
UNITE London & Eastern Region

Greetings and Solidarity to all involved in one of the greatest celebrations of our movement's values!

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival 2025

Steve O'Donnell Regional Secretary Paula Brennan Regional Vice-Chair James Mitchell Regional Chair

Gary Reay Regional Vice-Chair



Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

Summer 1950: When Attlee chose US war over socialism

ETREATING 75 years from the present day takes us back to the summer of 1950, which oneman history industry David Kynaston conjures up for readers with flow and flavour in his Austerity Britain 1945–51.

If his book's title suggests to us that this immediately postwar phase of Britain's history has something in common with more recent living conditions and government policies, other features of the summer 1950 landscape look familiar too - notably an increased distaste on the part of the Clement Attlee-led government for encroaching on the licence of capitalism to do things its own way, and an eagerness for participation in war as Washington's yes-man, coupled with a commitment to sharply raised "defence" (ie war) expenditure.

Journalist Harold Wincott contemplated the Attlee regime harshly enough in the Financial Times on July 11 1950. Defining capitalism as being "in a parlous state," he declared that some Labour ministers "realise the mischief they have done" (ie through nationalising a fifth of Britain's economy, including gas, electricity, public transport and coal mines). "Mischief?"

A general election on February 23 1950 had transformed the parliamentary situation to Conservative advantage. Labour's mild election manifesto had, on the whole, focused on "the horrors of the past" inflicted by Conservative regimes. The Conservative manifesto, by contrast, had denied any intention to "cut the social services," but, standing for "freedom for private enterprise," called for reduced taxation and ending nationalisation.

One voter, responding to a survey by Mass-Observation,

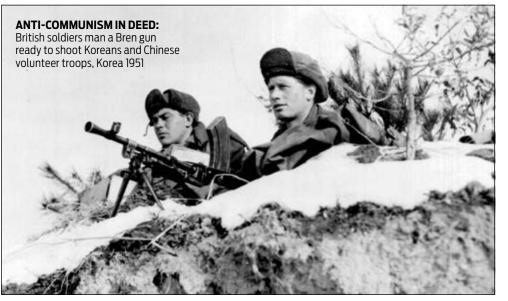
The summer of 1950 saw Labour abandon further nationalisation while escalating its Korean War spending from £2.3m to £4.7m, as the government meekly accepted capitalism's licence and became Washington's yes-man, writes **JOHN ELLISON**

took a no-nonsense view of the contest between Labour and the Tories, while giving the impression of walking off the page of a Jane Austen novel into the mid-20th century: "There isn't a single gentleman in the Labour Party – with the exception of Attlee, and he's too much of a gentleman to manage that crowd."

A radio broadcast (TV versions were for the future) by wartime premier and ongoing Conservative leader Sir Winston Churchill promised that he would, if once more Prime Minister, aim to achieve a better understanding with the USSR, avoiding "the hatreds of the cold war." (Hatreds which he had nourished, despite being "a gentleman," in his spring 1947 "Iron Curtain" Fulton, Missouri speech, when he claimed that although the USSR did not desire war, it had to be faced with Western military strength.)

The election's outcome was a narrow overall majority for Labour, with many of its 1945 election's seats lost, but still ahead with 46.1 per cent of the votes compared with 43.5 per cent for the Tories. Both Communist Party MPs, Willie Gallacher for West Fife and Phil Piratin for Stepney, were now out.

Public ownership of industries had been achieved with payouts to the owners (£164.6 million in the case of coal), compensation which, Ralph



Miliband was to write, "could scarcely have been more generous," freeing them up to own and invest elsewhere. Labour's leaders being mostly something less than socialists, it was not surprising that the government's position was now meek in relation to the issue of future public ownership – and the entitlement of Britain's capitalists.

In late June, a simmering civil war in Korea expanded dramatically. The impression was put out endlessly through Western media that the North had struck all along the border with the South against a surprised enemy. Among omissions from BBC radio and mainstream contemporary newspaper accounts were the nine months of border battles during 1949.

Korea was a country divided arbitrarily into two at the 38th Parallel in August 1945 by US officers as Japan, at the Pacific war's end, ceased to rule the country, which had been its colony for several decades.

Soviet forces in the North were then supporting a revolutionary communist government under Kim II Sung, which gained much community support from land reform at the expense of major landlords, while US forces were backing the landlord regime in the South. The South's dictator, Syngman Rhee (a long-term US resident, flown back to the South in October 1945), was keen to provoke war with the north.

The work of US historian Bruce Cumings offers a full and fair understanding of what went before June 25 1950, and what came later. While US combat forces had exited the South in 1949, financial support continued, and many US advisers, shadowing the South's military, stayed closely involved.

Soviet troops had left the North earlier, though ties between the Kim II Sung government and both the USSR and mainland China stayed close. In the background was the Red Army's full liberation of China by October 1949, and the escape of the conservative Kuomintang leader Chiang Kaishek and his forces to the island of Taiwan.

Cumings explains that the sudden escalation began in the Western Ongjin peninsula, and some hours later spread eastward. He does not rule out the possibility that the Ongjin fighting was initiated by the forces of the South. Civil wars, he comments, "have no single author."

As early as June 26, US intervention to support the Rhee regime was resolved. This was ratified two days later by the West-oriented UN security council, assisted by the absence of the Soviet representative and the presence of the Taiwan ("legitimate China") representative. The government promptly put the British Pacific fleet under US orders, and 55,000 British troops were to be sent, of whom almost 700 were to die.

On July 9, US military commander General MacArthur sent a confidential message home, causing the Joint Chiefs of Staff "to consider whether or not A-bombs should be made available" to him.

> n Britain, minority voices were raised against Western intervention. In mid-July, some Labour MPs on the left, led by Sydney Sil-

verman, put down a Commons motion calling for a withdrawal of US forces, China's admission to the UN security council and UN mediation of the conflict.

Late that month, ex-MP Gallacher's vehement article submitted to the Daily Express*, the News Chronicle and the Daily Herald (the last of these still moderately left-leaning) was refused by all three. His piece had begun: "Why should the British people, with all their great traditions, be drawn into a new world war by Yankified Labour and Tory leaders, on behalf of the big multi-millionaires of America?" (Striking a chord today, at least if "multimillionaires" are replaced by "billionaires.")

In August, the three-year estimate for "defence" expenditure was lifted from £2.3m to £3.6m, a figure to be raised further to £4.7m in January 1951. An overload for Britain's economy (with the pound sterling under long-term threat), and a reminder of today's crudely belligerent military outlay plans.

Within weeks of the escalation, the North's army, pushing southwards, captured Seoul, but soon was pushed back across the 38th Parallel on October 1. It was at this moment that the Chinese government ordered support for the North, causing large Chinese forces to cross the Yalu River.

At November's end, President Truman inferred publicly that the use of nuclear weapons was not ruled out by stating that the field commander could use whatever weapons he thought fit. The threat caused "gentleman" Attlee to fly to Washington to plead for caution.

Privately, he argued, as his biographer John Bew tells us, that it would be disastrous to be caught up in a major war against China, whose government could be recognised (in place of Taiwan) as a way forward (an event deferred until 1971). It was announced that nuclear weapons would not be used without both British and US agreement.

By spring 1951, after a second capture of Seoul by the North's forces, and a subsequent retreat, the front had stabilised around the 38th Parallel, a position unchanged when a ceasefire but no peace settlement was achieved two years later.

The North, meanwhile, was the victim of the most devastating, genocidal bombing campaign imaginable, in which valleys were flooded, napalm was a monstrous new weapon, and from which exceeding two million North Korean civilians are estimated to have died. (This summer, another genocide is being answered by a much broader international campaign than that levelled against the Korean intervention.)



ANTI-COMMUNISM IN WORD: Prime Minister Clement Attlee addresses a West Lewisham Labour Party meeting, arguing that 'Soviet imperialism' made the rearming of Britain necessary, 1951

Unite GPM London Print Branch LE/7031L



Steve Lloyd Joe McPartland



Chair





Wortley Hall sends greetings to all those attending this year's Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival. We remember those brave men from Tolpuddle who met to improve pay and conditions for working people despite the risks.

politicalsecretary@wortleyhall.org.uk



Joseph Arch Remembering the Dorchester Martyrs. Joseph Arch Day will be 6th September. Barford - Warwickshire..

Comradely greetings to all at the Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival.

Gerrard Sables

Southampton

Sunshine and solidarity For all those attending Tolpuddle 2025 Stop supplying Israel with weapons Stop the genocide





Solidarity with all trade unionists today and every day

'If you don't run, they can't chase you.' Michael McGahey

GREETINGS TO THE TOLPUDDLE **MARTYRS' FESTIVAL**



www.rmt.org.uk

General Secretary: Eddie Dempsey

President: George Welch



Greetings and solidarity to everyone at Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival.

Phlebotomists in Gloucestershire have been on strike for over 100 days in a rebanding dispute.

Donate to their strike fund today and help them continue the fight.





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features entertainment



Understanding the world's most common vegetable

MAT COWARD presents a peculiar cabbage that will only do its bodybuilding once the summer dies down

Gardening

HE British name, Chinese cabbage, is a bit too generic and the US name, Napa cabbage, is rather too specific, so perhaps we should go with Wong Bok, which is how it's often listed

in seed catalogues these days. We all know it when we see it, anyway: a stout, tightlypacked, barrel-shaped head of what looks like a cross between lettuce and cabbage, in shades of pale green, white and sometimes yellow. It's used in this country as both lettuce and cabbage, quite apart from its indispensable role in

so many East Asian dishes. The most common reason for failure with what is, admittedly, never the easiest veg to grow, is sowing it in the spring, as you would with a western cabbage. Wong Bok will tend to bolt,



concentrating its energies on seed production rather than building up the bits we like to eat, in the event of hot weather, cold weather, or dry weather. Given that it is, by weight,

one of the world's most com-mon vegetables, it's pretty fussy about its conditions.

To avoid bolting, the seeds are best sown in July and August, when summer has passed its mid-point, so that by the time the plants are in their main growing phase the days will be a little cooler but \gtrless the nights will still be warm. Chinese cabbage will gen-erally tolerate light autumn frost, and doesn't mind growing in partial shade.

Prisoner.

Drama

Sunday

It can be sown in situ, but is more reliable if started in modules for planting out about four to six weeks later.

During a rainy spell, slugs and snails will feast on directsown seedlings. Either way, you're aiming for a final spacing between the plants of around 12 inches (30 cm).

Very heavy or very light soils are no use at all for this crop. If that's all you've got available, you'll be better off planting it in large pots of multi-purpose compost.

In the ground, it needs a rich, deep soil, with good drainage, containing plenty of organic matter, such as garden compost or manure.

(Left) Chinese cabbage and tofu soup; (bottom left) Wong Bok

Pic: NeoBatfreak/Cl

cess with Wong Bok stopping it drying out. It's a fairly fastgrowing vegeta-ble, usually ready for harvest roughly 10 weeks after sowing, so it must have constant moisture to keep it going at that rate.

Its roots are unhelpfully shallow, meaning it can dry out quickly, so the old motto of watering "little and often" applies. The simplest rule to follow is to water frequently enough that the soil around the plant is never dry.

Mulching around the cabbages, to prevent evaporation, will help a lot. I hope I'm not putting you

off this tasty, crunchy, versatile vegetable, but I have to mention that birds, caterpillars and flea beetles can also cause problems. The only answer, if so, is to cover the plants in horticultural fleece or similar.

Wong Bok is ready to harvest when the "barrel" feels solid when squeezed quite firmly with both hands.

Weekly Preview



Sunday

Breaking the Silence: Kate's Story, 10.20pm ITV Former MP Kate Kniveton (pictured) tells of how she suffered 10 years of abuse and was shamed into silence by her ex-husband

Andrew Griffiths, who was then a Tory minister. She meets other professional women who were abused behind closed doors and also sheds light on how perpetrators can manipulate the family court system.

Documentary

Monday

Panorama, 8.30pm, BBC1 With cyberattacks on the increase and hospitals and schools as well as major businesses among the targets, reporter Richard Bilton meets the secret agents trying to stop the hackers who demand huge ransoms.

Hiroshima, 10pm BBC4

This fully dramatised reconstruction of the first US atomic attack on Japan was first broadcast in 2020.

Thursday

Our Lives, 7pm BBC1 A profile of the Welsh village of Portmeirion, which is famous for its whimsical, Italian-inspired architecture and for providing the setting for cult 1960s sci-

with Maurice Oxford ence fiction programme The

before his deployment in the second world war, dur-

ing his time as a prisoner of

war in the Far East and sev-

eral decades later, with each

period revealing different

parts of his love affair with

Unforgivable, 9pm BBC2

Starring Anna Friel and

Anna Maxwell Martin, this

drama follows a Liverpool

family dealing with the af-

termath of an act of sexual

abuse commited by one of

his uncle's wife.

Thursday

its members who, after two years, is about to leave jail.

Film

The Commitments.

Adapted from a novel by Roddy Doyle, this comedy drama directed by Alan Parker shows what happens when unemployed music fanatic Jimmy Rabbitte forms a soul band with a bunch of working-class Dubliners.

Sunday

Panorama, 8.30pm, BBC1 Leonardo DiCaprio stars in Martin Scorsese's blackly comic drama based on the memoirs of Jordan Belford, a hard-partying Wall Street trader whose fraudulent activists made him rich but ultimately landed him in prison.

 \times What to miss

Sunday: Octomum: The World's Most-Hated Woman? 9pm Channel 5 The bizarre story of Natalie Suleman, who thanks to IVF, gave birth to octuplets in a Los Angeles hospital in 2009 when she already had six young children. Is she abusing the system? I don't know, but all those crying babies would drive me up the wall.

Yesterday's sudoku

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

Above all, the key to suc-

Saturday The Narrow Road to the Deep North, 9.15pm BBC1 10pm BBC2 This new Australian drama miniseries follows Dorrigo Evans across three periods:

culture

DRAWING THE LINE

Morning Star Saturday/Sunday

July 19-20 2025



BOOK REVIEW | RELEASE THE SAUSAGES: POEMS FOR KEIR STARMER ED ANDY CROFT | CULTURE MATTERS, £5/FREE DOWNLOAD

ical leader whose

everyone speech-

less, Release the

Sausages! contains

no poems at all, by over 50 poets who

have nothing to

say about a man

who has noth-

leave

speeches

ANDY CROFT rallies poets to the impossible task of speaking truth to a tin-eared politician

Following in the tradition of well-loved poetry anthologies in honour of Nelson Mandela, Lenin, Jeremy Corbyn, Martin Luther King and Che, Release the Sausages! is an anthology of poems celebrating the first twelve months of Starmer's government - from the heroic refusal to scrap the two-child benefit cap, cuts to the Winter Fuel Allowance, disability benefits and overseas aid. to televised deportations, undeclared 'gifts', drilling for oil, appeasing Trump, attacks on the right to protest, airport expansions, increased defence spending, and Gaza, Gaza, Gaza.

The many and spectacular disasters of this government's first twelve months have hardly been a surprise. These people never disappoint you. But if we are governed by a fool, we have to laugh at him. Appropriately then, for a polit-

Anaxagorou, Malika Booker, Amir Darwish, Claudia Daventry, Jonathan Davidson, Imtiaz

Dharker, Steve Ely, W.N. Herbert, Kaycee Hill, Khadijah Ibrahim, Mike Jenkins, Fran Lock, Adam Lowe, Michael Rosen, Martin Rowson, Joelle Taylor and Sarah Wimbush. Almost everyone I approached

ing to say, including Anthony

about the project was keen not to write a poem about Starmer. Alan Morrison said he was: "Gripped by a sudden outpouring of empty page space." Publisher Mike Quille says he wanted to put the joke into print "to help publicise the disappointment, anger and contempt that so many of us in the creative and cultural industries feel towards Keir Starmer's empty, spineless, vision-less leadership of the Labour Party"

"Those who prefer to watch others drown now run the world and want to silence me," says Darlington poet Jo Colley. "I resist being silenced with silence - I have no words for what is happening now, and find the current Orwellian narratives unbearable. Nothing makes sense, so why engage? But alternatives can be constructed in the silence."

Release the Sausages; Poems for Keir Starmer is an empty and spineless book for an empty and spineless politician. The silence of the iambs. Words fail us.

Freedownload from culturematters.org.uk

KARLOVY VARY FILM FESTIVAL 2025

RITA DI SANTO gives a first look at some extraordinary new films that examine outsiders, migrants, belonging and social abuse

BETTER GO MAD IN THE WILD (pictured right) has claimed the top prize at the 59th Karlovy Vary Festival. A documentary by Slovak director Miro Remo follows twins Frantisek and Ondrej Klisik, who live in the Czech village of sumava. known as the Bohemian Forest.

The brothers, eccentric outsiders in their 60s, have never left their home, leading a unique and fascinating life. They struggle with alcohol and face challenges integrating into a country that isn't their homeland. They are descendants of Slovaks from Romania who settled in the sumava region after World War II, in areas vacated by Germans. They have never found secure stable employment.

Their life story, chosen freely, resembles an adult fairy tale. The director's lens serves as both witness and compan-

"

This story exposes and denounces the corrupt mechanisms of a society where immigrants can be used for political or personal gain



ion, creating a pure, truthful, and fearless portrait that is visually rich and deeply magical. The twins possess artistic souls, and their "art of living" is vivid and authentic, prompting provocative reflection.

Best Director went to Lithuanian Vytautas Katkus for **The** Visitor, a poignant tale of identity and belonging, following Danielius, a young father in his mid-30s who embarks on a jour-ney back to his roots in Lithuania. After leaving his family in Norway to sell his parents' flat, Danielius reunites with old friends and unexpectedly finds himself drawn to stay, abandoning his plans to return. As he navigates the familiar yet changing landscape of his childhood home, the weight of material possessions and inherited traditions comes to the forefront.

The film beautifully captures the intricate web of relationships between people, places,

and things, highlighting how the memories and emotions tied to a house can be just as significant as the physical structure itself.

Ultimately, the story reveals that it's the connections and experiences that truly matter, rendering material possessions almost irrelevant in the grand scheme of life. In his feature

film debut, Katkus masterfully captures the nuances of time and space, creating a contemplative atmosphere that highlights the human experience and the bittersweet nature of home. Don't Call Me Mama, (pic-

tured below) the debut feature by Norwegian Nina Knag, won the best actress award for Pia Tjelta, who stars in this story of refugee integration. Tjelta plays Eva, a schoolteacher facing the ultimate test when she begins a forbidden relationship with an asylum seeker. Married to the town's mayor, her relationship is in crisis. Amir, one of her students, seems to be her solution. Handsome, kind, and intelligent, Amir is a refugee from Syria who after nine years in the country still struggles to obtain a residence permit. He is much younger than Eva, who could be his mother.

When he finally receives the permit, his life changes, and he starts a relationship with a girl his own age. Eva, jealous and in crisis, takes drastic revenge, destroying Amir's future to protect herself and





her husband. This story subtly exposes and denounces the corrupt mechanisms of a society where immigrants can be used for political or personal gain. The film crafts a palpable atmosphere of tension, elevated by deeply realized characters navigating a strained and gripping relationship.

Another significant film was Czech director Ondrej Provazmik's Broken Voices, a masterful exploration of the dark underbelly of elite institutions, where prestige and power often shield predators. Loosely based on the notorious "Bambini di Praga", a Czech children's choir scandal, the film follows two sisters navigating the treacherous world of competitive choral music as they prepare for a high-stakes concert tour in the US. The anticipation of performing on the world stage heightens the tension as 13-vear-old Karolina's talent earns her the choirmaster's favour, and the lines between mentorship and manipulation blur.

Provaznik skilfully exposes the intricate dynamics of abuse, highlighting the ways in which charismatic figures can exploit their positions of power. The film's nuanced portrayal of the girls' struggles to confront reality is both poignant and thought-provoking. By probing the culture of personality and prestige that surrounds elite choirs, Broken Voices reveals a hidden world where secrets are kept, and predators are protected. As the concert looms closer, the girls are forced to confront the darkness beneath the surface of their idyllic world. It's an urgent story, exploring the culture of personality and the prestige surrounding elite choirs that tend to protect predators.

Finally, **Divia** by Dmytro Hreshko (pictured above) presents a different perspective on conflict and war. His documentary highlights Russia's unprecedented aggression on Ukrainian soil and its devastating impact on places that silently bear witness: forests turned to ash, fields ravaged by explosions, flooded towns, and rusted military hardware in devastated regions where life has faded. The music and images create a poetic tapestry that prompts viewers to reflect on destruction, bringing nature back to its truth, where there are no borders, no ends.

THEATRE REVIEW **4.48 PSYCHOSIS**

Understanding that choice

GORDON PARSONS acknowledges the authority with which Sarah Kane's theatrical justification for suicide has resonance today

PARADOXICALLY, the only person who could be expected to fully appreciate the impact of what is recognised as Sarah Kane's dramatic suicide note would be someone suffering from the similar mental torture that she "rehearses" in this 70-minute experience. At the same time, as I wrote in my 2008 review of a Polish production in Edinburgh, I hope no-one suffering from the same anguish will involuntarily see this revival of her last stage work before taking her own life in 1999.

It would be wrong to call this a play. Theatre is about artifice and here we have reality. Kane gave no help to directors of future productions. There are no stage directions in her text, nor even a suggestion of how many characters she intended. There is no plotline development in 24 short scenes, changes signalled on the page only by a series of dashes, necessarily indicated by lighting changes, in this 25th anniversary revival of the original production.

"My mind is the subject of these bewildering fragments" is one of the few clues the text allows. The speaker, here given to three voices in James Macdonald's co-production between the Royal Court theatre and the RSC, weaves through a maze of memories, which include love affairs, sexual identity crises, and desperate medical attempts to contend with her despairing depression, all climaxing at that deadly moment in a sleepless night, 4.48 pm.

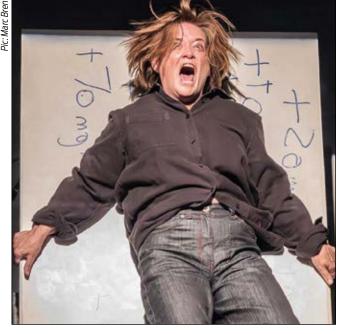
The stark reality is born home by the realisation that the extra theatrical fact of the author's actual death is inevitably central to its powerful message, surely made even more telling today, with society's anxieties over increasing mental illness, than it was a quarter of a century ago.

Sarah Kane's work is essentially a theatre poem, the equivalent of T.S. Eliot's The Wasteland but focusing on the individual, rather than society in general, in its sense of a helplessness, hopelessness, and meaninglessness, which can touch everyone at moments, and especially as we are bombarded by obscene television images of cruelty and destruction.

Sarah Kane was not asking for sympathy or empathy in her choice not to live in this world, but for understanding of that choice.

The director's task is to hold an audience through the visual image that supports the words. Designer Jeremy Herbert's surgical set, a cross between a hospital ward and a prison cell, is enhanced by an angled mirror which at times presents the speakers pinned to the back wall like helpless butterflies on display.

The long silence after



PINNED BUTTERFLY: Jo McInnes in Sarah Kane's 4.48 Psychosis

the actors leave the stage, before returning for audience acknowledgement, marks the momentous impact of a unique

theatre experience.

Runs until August 30. Box Office: 0789 333111, rsc.org.uk

MEET THE CARTOONIST | PAUL TANNER

Strip cartoons used to be the bread and butter of newspapers and they have been around for centuries. The earliest British example, Progress of a Scotman, dates back to 1794 and is said to be taking the mickey out of dodgy slave abolitionist Henry Dundas. Michal Boncza asks our own PAUL TANNER about which bees are in his bonnet

OU might have noticed Paul's cartoon strip in the Saturday edition's letters' pages.

Well, he works in retail and although he has left these shores for the limited promise of bounty across the pond in Canada, distance has not diminished his affection for the Morning Star or the commitment to cheer up our readers with his unique approach to illustrated class struggle.

We emailed him to find out more about the present state of his political mind, his preocupations and such. This is what he told us, verbatim.

Where were you brought up? The north-west: Liverpool and Cheshire.

What prompted you to start drawing cartoons?

The Muse? One of them Gods? Some deliciously Freudian event involving pens?

Have you any formal training? Ha!

Your strip is a hilarious observation with quickwitted commentary on work relations particularly bullying management. Is your aim, apart from ridiculing, to cheer up



fellow workers, encourage resistance?

Yeah, it's Dilbert for plebs. My motivation is purely humanist, and I hope front-line customer service workers feel seen. With an increasingly cannibal public gunning for us as much as our overlords, we need all the camaraderie we can get. The political discussions that stem from these real-life scenarios are naturally left-ofcentre by default.

Strip or single frame cartooning?

For me, strip: I don't always need to find a witty punchline,

which is good, cos working life often has no punchline. It's just a shaggy dog story, with no lesson to learn. Or it's the same lesson, day in day out: work sucks.

Your "selfie" caricature suggest that the bloke giving lip to management might be your good self?

Oh its definitely based on me, or certainly my younger days, actually working hard, while banging my/his head against a quasi-rebellious wall of jaded sarcasm, cos he's too scared to starve for his beliefs.

Never shits or gets off the pot, just sort of the squats there... farting annoyance. I suspect that makes me another brick in the silent majority wall.

Do you think working class and women cartoonists get a fair crack of the whip?

The internet was probably a mistake, and has made most art free, but there's more of it now. People who maybe 50 years ago wouldn't have even tried to express themselves now have a creative outlet, and in this gig economy, can even get the odd sideline commission doing what they love. Hopefully that includes a decent amount the working class, regardless of how they look or who they sleep with.

What does truly piss you off?

Pretty much life in general since the turn of the century. Wage stagnation means money is moving in ever-decreasing circles. We've no choice but to spend what little we have on the same things, over and over. That's bad capitalism.

Between this corporate gangsterism, and greedy governments who misspend, we're having our financial candle burnt at both ends. At this rate, there might not even be a middle class in 30 years.

For now, I ask you: how the f**k is someone earning a stagnated minimum wage contrib-



uting to inflation? You know, besides paying the extortionate rent and grocery bills others set, if they wanna survive?

The strip suggests you draw fast. Is this so? Do you sketch first? When do you know "you got it right"? I swear I'm a perfectionist. I try to recreate the raw energy of how these picture diaries looked when I first doodled them on receipt paper, at the counter, in-between customers. If it looks authentically hasty, I guess I've done my job. Have you noticed the characters' faces and dialogue fonts change all the time? Or that they don't even have names yet? It shouldn't be allowed. It's all rather punk, eh, old chap?

Your style is unique but are there any cartoonists whose work you particularly like?

I'm flattered, but I suspect my influences show. As an old millennial, I dragged my artistic self up on Ren and Stimpy, Beavis and Butthead, Viz magazine ... proper squalid, cheerful 90's nihilism.

I wonder how vulgar you'd let me get – after all, retail ain't pretty, and neither's the truth.



Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025



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through a strictly

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Saturday 19th July, 2:00pm - 3:15pm

TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS FESTIVAL

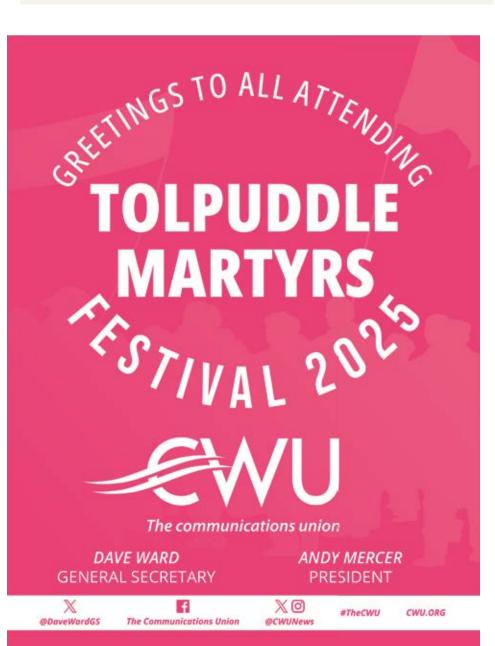
Fringe Marquee (wristband essential)

Speakers:

- Eddie Dempsey General Secretary, RMT
- Prof Keith Ewing Campaign for Trade Union Freedom/ Institute of Employment Rights
- Fran Heathcote General Secretary, Public & Commercial Services Union
- Sarah Woolley General Secretary, Bakers' Food & Allied Workers' Union
- Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
- Chair: Steve Preddy Unite South West Regional Secretary



@ctufevents @IERUK





PALESTINE Starmer has a vile legacy

WHEN the history of the 2020s is written Keir Starmer and his crew, Reeves, Rayner, Cooper, Lammy etc will be viewed as a British government which not only stood by and watched thousands of women, children and innocent men slaughtered and maimed in Gaza but actively enabled it.

In years to come I pray their children, grandchildren or great grandchildren read about this and are embarrassed and ashamed to be related to them.

This is your legacy Starmer – and nothing you can do or say in the future can change this now. Hang your heads in shame. BERNARD BUTTERFIELD Leeds



POLITICS

Gongs and sinecures are a stain on service

READING Steve Arloff's letter (M Star June 28-29), which mentioned Paddy Lillis, I recalled the eulogistic piece in this paper by Berny Torre (May 3) that claimed there were calls for the retiring general secretary of Usdaw to be elevated to the House of Lords.

I do not know if the departing general secretary wishes to be put in the Lords. But I should hazard a guess

But I should hazard a guess that he would like some state honour like so many union leaders before him – even the great Jack Jones accepted a gong. Of course, it's common for former union leaders to sit in the House of Lords and it's worth noting that there is more than the tax free £371 daily allowance for those who seek added pecuniary rewards.

I have known quite well three union leaders who sat in the upper chamber. One became a governor of the BBC within months of entering the Palace of Westminster.

Another who, after representing some of the lowest-paid workers in this country, became the representative for the Cayman Islands in the Lords.

POLITICS

And the third, soon after his elevation, became the trade envoy to an idyllic tropical island.

I do not say that any of the three, nor Mr Lillis for that matter, modified their political positions while leading their trade unions to curry favour with those who could find them a spot in the Lords or operated from dishonourable motives.

But isn't it time for the British people to agitate for the blowing away of even the slightest whiff of the old corruption by calling for the ending of the system of patronage that allows for the placement of the select into the second chamber of the British Parliament? BRYN ROWLANDS



Unity key in putative new party

IT IS great news that we are experiencing the birth pangs of a new party to challenge the drift to the right in this country.

Its birth and maturation will not be easy but with the long political experience of Jeremy Corbyn, combined with the youthful passion and commitment of Zarah Sultana as interim leaders, there is much promise.

As Jeremy constantly reiterates we all desperately need hope, but particularly the younger generation which is facing a dark future unless radical measures are taken to invest in public services and prevent environmental implosion. This new party can promise all that. Lavidly await its manifesto.

I trust it will be one that commits to become a broad church, and to tolerance and justice. It should be made clear to those who join that in it there will be no place for intolerance, discrimination or sectarian aggression.

As long as there is an agreement on the basic understanding that we may have differences, but everyone has the right to be heard and to be respected, collective action will be feasible. The last thing we want is for the new party to become a battleground for identity politics and sectarian in-fighting.

It will also need to encourage the development of new forms of politics and political structures commensurate with the pressing demands of the times. A new political organisation must not become merely another electoral vehicle and vote canvasser. Grassroots organisation and consensual politics need to be encouraged. The announcement has cer-

tainly given me new hope. JOHN GREEN

PALESTINE

Albanese has the correct enemies

FURTHER to Ramzy Baroud's article The Economy Of Genocide Report: A Reckoning Beyond Rhetoric (M Star July 8), what better endorsement than Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu calling for the sacking of its author, Francesca Albanese?

Subsequently, there is now a petition calling the UN High Commission for Refugees to give its full backing to her authority as UN Special Rapporteur on Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

See change.org/p/urgéun-to-support-francescaalbanese for details. Yet I wonder why verified signatures seem to be a long time coming in?

Meanwhile the New York Times (July 8) reports: "Netanyahu releases letter nominating Trump for Nobel Peace Prize [for Trump's] role in his country's establshment of diplomatic relations with some Arab states. "But Mr Trump has sup-

"But Mr Trump has supported Israeli actions that have stained those ties."

What authority have war criminals got in such matters?

ALAN WHEATLEY Hereford

SIMON RENTON explores the Star archives

80 years ago today...

Whitewash of Jersey collaborators

Apparent

ON July 19, 1945, the Daily Worker returned to Jersey, with an article and an editorial.

The Worker complained that the War Office was trying to hide the depths of the collaboration by the authorities on Jersey "whitewash" the assistance given to the Nazi occupiers.

Anyone who has seen the recent two-part documentary on Channel 4, will have seen that the whitewash continues. The War Office in 1945 and Oxford and Cambridge historians in 2025 seem agreed that officials and police only collaborated for the benefit of islanders.

War Office Tries to Whitewash Jersey Collaborators An extraordinary apology for the Channel Isles collaborationists was issued by the Government yesterday.

It was in the form of a Press statement by the Military Affairs division of the War Office on the work of the Civil Affairs unit which landed with the liberating forces.

Collaboration it declared to be "almost impossible to avoid," and the majority of the charges are dismissed as "the froth of gossip."

"the froth of gossip." The local police, tainted with collaboration themselves, are taking part in the investigations, which are confined to cases of treason and treachery – a restriction that will allow nearly every collaborator to go scot free.

Although two months have passed since liberation, the statement does not mention a single charge or arrest. What exactly is "apparent" collaboration? How many Jews and

English residents have to be handed over to the enemy by British authority in an enemyoccupied area before the collaboration can be described as real rather than "apparent?"

How many secret listeners to the BBC have to be denounced to the Gestapo, and how many times does the local newspaper have to praise the Germans, or the local bigwigs have to bow and scrape a welcome to them, before it amounts to a punishable offence in the eyes of the British government?

These thoughts arise from the announcement of the Ministry of Information – obviously elicited by the exposures in this paper – purporting to excuse "some degree of apparent collaboration" with the enemy in the Channel Islands as "impossible to avoid."

What a long distance these Tory "caretakers" seem to have travelled away from the voice that once declared "we shall fight on the beaches ... in the fields ... in the streets."

Simon Renton is a trustee at the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School in London, the leading research and education centre on Marxism and socialist history.

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**



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AWAITING NEW DETAILS

NEW YORK Mandani follows great leaders

ZOLTAN ZIGEDY's article Zohran Mamdani Could a socialist win New York? in the Star on July 4 was both excellent and inspiring. It reminded me of a time from the mid-1930s to the late 1940s when that city had elected representatives who ranged from progressives to communists.

Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, his father an Italian immigrant and his mother Jewish, was without a doubt the most popular and progressive mayor of New York. His protege, the great Vito Marcantonio, again of Italian extraction, became a leading member of the American Labour Party and represented the working people of East Harlem in the House of Representatives for several terms.

He was a firm supporter of black and Puerto Rican liberation and, although not a communist, staunchly defended the Communist Party especially during the evil McCarthyite period.

Then in 1941 Peter Cacchione, a communist, was elected as councilman for Brooklyn, serving until his premature death in 1947. Known to all as Pete, his biography Pete: The story of Peter V Cacchione New York's First Communist Councilman, written by his comrade Simon Gerson is essential reading.

After Pete, Ben Davis was elected as councilman for Manhattan and served two terms.



Davis, a black lawyer, defended young black communist Angelo Herndon on trial for his life in Georgia in 1932.

This trial radicalised Davis who became a life-long communist and would have served a third term as councilman, but was expelled from the city council because he was a communist and was then imprisoned alongside other leading communists during the early 1950s. *Pic: Dmitry Shein/CC* He told his own story in Communist Councilman From Harlem: Autobiographical Notes, written in a federal penitentiary, and the distinguished historian Gerald Horne wrote Black Liberation, Red Scare: Ben Davis and the Communist Party.

These outstanding people are both an inspiration and an example of what can happen. We send Zohran Mamdani best wishes. DAVID HORSLEY

London SW4

Assad regime was despicable

SO LET me get this straight. I wrote a reply to Chris Natural (M Star June 17) pointing out that Chris criticised the Morning Star's television previewer for describing the Bashar al-Assad government as "one of the most brutal regimes in modern history" but failed to actually engage with this description of Assad's government.

John Tilbury then replies criticising my position, referring to a "gross defamation of Assad's Syria" (M Star July 12-13) but, you've guessed it, also refuses to engage with the copious evidence that the Assad government was "one of the most brutal regimes in modern history." Instead, John pivots to arguing that when it comes to "human rights and democracy" Syria has a better record than Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Why can't either John or Chris address the human rights record of the Assad government? How free was the political system under Assad? How free was the press? Were there independent trade unions under Assad? What were conditions like in prison? Were prisoners tortured?

How did the Assad government respond to non-violent oppositional protests? I would have thought all of these issues would be of great interest to readers of the Morning Star. IAN SINCLAIR

London E15

Attlee showed what the left can achieve

IT IS 80 years since Labour won the general election at end of World War II.

Demobilised troops and a war-weary population were demanding a better future.

Workers were determined not to go back to the poverty and poor housing and health they had to endure in the 1930s.

Churchill had misjudged the mood. He said Labour would have to "fall back on some sort of Gestapo."

In the event, however, Labour romped home and Clement Attlee formed what proved to be the most radical reforming Labour government ever.

Key industries were nationalised. Many council homes were built. A comprehensive welfare state was established and the NHS was set up. Labour stayed in power until 1951. Even then, it lost narrowly to the Tories on seats but had more of the popular vote.

Of courses there were



limitations, deficiencies and mistakes. Nationalisation was a top-down affair. State industries were often headed up by the former bosses of private firms. Austerity continued, as

did rationing and there were

public expenditure cuts, in particular in 1947 when Stafford Cripps was chancellor. Britain also joined the Korean war at the behest of the US in 1950 and the Attlee government secretly developed nuclear weapons. Yet even now, 80 years on, the 1945 government is seen as a high water mark for Labour. It showed what a leftof-centre government with a big majority can achieve. ALAN STEWART

REGIME CHANGE Will shock tactics work on Iran?

SOME "analysts" are now advancing a theory that Israel's attack on Iran was actually meant to shock it into regime change given its internal political divisions and that this could still happen. Hmm.

I live in a country where the government was elected by little more than 20 per cent of the adult population and where hundreds of thousands of people regularly take to the streets to protest its policies on a range of issues. Protests which usually go unreported by the mainstream media, especially the state-controlled main broadcaster.

A country where non-regimecompliant journalists are subjected to dawn raids and have their equipment confiscated, where the right to peaceful protest has been curtailed and where protesters are jailed without charge and where lawyers who try to defend them are publicly vilified by politicians and the media.

A country where inequality and economic failure have become endemic and where the police have evolved into an instrument of state repression. I would also like to change from a heredity monarchy into a republic.

To say that I am dissatisfied with the current state of Britain would be a monumental understatement. Nonetheless, it remains my country and if any foreign power launched a sneak attack, assassinating our military leaders and bombing us with depleted uranium munitions, the last thing on my mind will be what political opportunities this might present.

Like every other Briton, I would instinctively unite together to repel the external threat.

I have no personal insight into internal Iranian politics but I am sure they will now be significantly more united than they were before in the face of this Israeli/US aggression. BILL BARNETT

Devizes

HAVE YOUR SAY Write (up to 300 words) to letters@peoples-press.com or 23 Coombe Rd, London CR0 1BD



info | entertainment

YOU'VE RAISED:

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TODAY

Heavy, thundery rain still spreading northwards, reaching Scotland in the afternoon. Showers developing widely through the afternoon. Thicker cloud and rain arriving across the south-west later. Warm and muggy.

CONTACT US

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I TEND to make this dish when

fresh vegetables can't for some

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vegetables, however.

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Vegetable terrine

Remaining unsettled, with further heavy and perhaps thundery showers tomorrow and Monday. A chance of some more persistent rain arriving late on Tuesday. A little less warm, though still feeling humid.

NEXT FEW DAYS

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£10,378 £7,622 NINETEEN contributions totalling £1,993 have taken July's Fighting Fund total to £10,378.

With almost two grand, including the sizable sum of £550, in the postbag, I've lots to report. Last Sunday, the revival of the John Haylett Memorial Walk organised by South Wales Readers and Supporters raised £1012. John was the editor of our paper during some of its

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CROSSWORD 1,600

most difficult periods, so it's appropriate that he is being remembered in this way.

Fighting Fund with Keith Stoddart

WE NEED:

I'm glad the weather was good for the event and hope that there was an opportunity to enjoy a refreshment and salute John's memory, I've stopped the presses as, in addition to the above, a couple of contributions have just arrived. of £30 and £100, to add to the

online....

page/support-us

set by Alamet

morningstaronline.co.uk/

2

3

original total - well done all. Some forget how important the pudding industry is on our island. Thanks go to the comrade who did an "extra shift at the custard mine," resulting in

a £100 donation to the Fund. A comrade in Bradford made a generous offer of books and other bits and bobs to raise money for the paper. He was just about finished parcelling them up when a pal arrived and asked for a look. As a result, the friend has some good books and the Fund has gained £50.

A belated thanks goes to Whitehaven supporter the who sent £25 as "Andrew Murray's MS articles are like gems amongst the dross most of the media push on to us.

Thanks all. You'll find out about the postbag on Monday.

... or by post by phone...

Cheques to PPFF, 23 Coombe (Mon-Fri 9am-4pm) Road, London CR0 1BD

QUIZMASTER with William Sitwell **TODAY'S QUESTIONS**

(020) 8510 0815

Was the late Brian Clarke a painter. printmaker or designer?

In which South American country were the remains of a 3,000-year-old city recently discovered?

True or false: trillium

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

1. Which film of 1975 was based on a novel by Peter Benchley that had been published only the year before? **Jaws** 2. In which English county is flowers have three sepals as well as three petals



the Chipping Sodbury railway tunnel? Gloucestershire, near Bristol 3. A Welsh Springer

(pictured) is a breed of which dog? The spaniel

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DAILY SUDOKU

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(challenging)

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ACROSS DOWN 1. Refrain from supporting Rupert, 2. I force liquid out of top of infeperhaps (7) 5. Perplexity over cover put back on novel (7) 10, 27. Dog exposed drink (8) 11. Places of confinement for newon diamonds? (6) lywed at cathedral city (10) 12. How is Domesday's content intelligence? (6) 13. Mistake said to result in row (8) 14. Shape of confusion on playing Latin (7) field (9)

to family member (9) 23. Callow irate mum gets flustered (8)

24. Particular kind of 14 like this

27. see 10

28. It's said to be light to exploit

that woman (7)

29. Revolutionary entertainment kicks off at Port Vale (7)

16, 17. Exercise for magistrates and sion (13) journalists (5,5) 19. Stone couple virtually returned crossword or its number (6) 26. Our sterile constituents are undecided (10) of heart is uncalled-for (5)

rior opening (7) 3. Propagate black grass (5) 4. Blue man turns white (7)6. On top of the world with a limit 7. Born to take in a bit of work for cleric rising and not fading (9) 8. Invertebrate announcer claims soul rocks when infused with 9. Divers seem callous in confu-15. Evidence that Spooner's spoilt a

temporary dwelling (9) 18. Regret about extra special inclusion (7) 20. Ask for live recital not to feature piano (7) 21. Temptress learning to get

garland (7) 22. Pelt with mineral, causing

commotion (6) 25. To turn naked after a change

Solution on Monday...

Ingredients ■ 450g/1lb mixed chopped or cubed vegetables (carrots, peas, turnips, sweetcorn, whatever you like) fresh or Butter

9 eggs Mixed fresh herbs (parsley,

What to do

Steam or boil the vegetables for five minutes, then remove from the heat.

Drain if you've boiled them, and set them aside to cool. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/

gas mark 6. Take a long loaf or cake tin and line it with cooking parchment (or grease with butter, but cooking parchment is much, much better).

When the vegetables have cooled down, put them in a large mixing bowl.

Beat the eggs, season and add the herbs, then pour this over the veg, mix well, and pour the mixture into the baking tin.

Cook for half an hour, then reduce the heat to 180°C/350°F/ gas mark 4 and cook for a further half-hour.

Test with a knitting needle

the right mixture you need for a recipe like this, and they If you have a great deal of are often more nutritious than patience, you can certainly "fresh" vegetables found in make it from scratch and if supermarkets. This is a cheap, pleasant you include plenty of peas and sweetcorn, your workload dish which will a tasty part of in cutting up your veg will be a summer buffet or picnic.

They can be bought in just

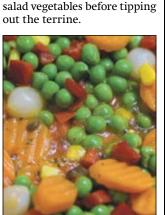
This recipe first appeared in the July 18 2015 edition of the Morning Star.

basil, coriander leaf, tarragon, whatever you like) stems

removed, chopped very small, enough to fill 4 heaped tbsp ■ Salt and freshly ground black pepper

or skewer to ensure it's set.

but remember it will firm up a little as it cools. Leave until tepid before tipping from the pan onto a serving plate. You could cover this with green



what's on



The Red List SATURDAY 19

Northern Pride: Union Brunch

And Pre-March Meet Up 10am in the TUC NEYH office, Unite building, John Dobson Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne Ioin LGBT+ trade unionists from across the labour movement at a brunch hosted by the Unite union, with safe and private changing With safe and private changing facilities, face painting and plenty of fun, before heading off to to Newcastle Civic Centre to join the rest of the march. Find out more and register at tinyurl.com/premarch.

National March for Palestine 12pm from Embankment Tube station. Villiers Street. London WC2 March to demand an end to the genocide and to the British govern-ment's support for it through arms sales and other means. Called by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, Friends of Al-Aqsa, Stop the War Coalition, Muslim Association of Britain, Palestinian Forum in Britain and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND). For coaches, go to tinyurl.com/natmarchpal, tinyurl. com/mancpalcoach or tinyurl.com/ mancfoacoach.

British Media Serves Israel's Genocide in Gaza

Ipm at BBC Quay House, MediaCity UK, Salford

Protest against the mainstream me-dia acting as cheerleaders for Israel's crimes by omitting crucial context from reporting on Palestine and failing to confront Israel's explicit calls for genocide, ethnic cleans-ing and now concentration camps.

Organised by Greater Manchester Friends of Palestine. 19th-20th: Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival All day on both days across the Dorset village of Tolpuddle An annual event commemorating

the six agricultural workers who were transported to Australia in 1834 as a punishment for setting up a trade union, the festival features political talks, live music, DJ sets, comedy, theatre and more. Saturday entry costs £65, £32,50 for those aged 19-30, children £6.50, payable at the gate. Sunday is free. For more information, go to tolpuddlemartyrs.org.uk/festival.

Finishing the Job: Forward To The Employment Rights Bill 2pm in the Fringe Marquee at the Folpuddle Martyrs' Festival With RMT general secretary Eddie Dempsey, Professor Keith Ewing of the Campaign for Trade Union Freedom, Public & Commercial Services Union (PCS) general sec-retary Fran Heathcote, Labour MP Neil Duncan Jordan, bakers' union general secretary Sarah Woolley and Unite South West regional secretary Steve Preddy in the chair. No need to book, but a wristband is essential. Organised by the Campaign for Trade Union Freedom and the Insti-tute of Employment Rights.

Until August 22nd: Women of the World Unite: The United Nations Decade for Women

Sundays at the LSE Library, 10 Portugal Street, London WC2 Marking 50 years since the United Nations declared 1975 to be International Women's Year and held the first international conference on women in Mexico, this exhibition draws on the collections in the Women's Library at LSE to highlight the promises, chal-lenges and critiques of the UN Decade for Women and the wider histories and legacies of transna-tional feminisms that grew from 1975 and still

11am-6pm on Saturdays and

Until September 14th: In

exist today.

Common 10am-4pm on Saturdays, Sundays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Peace Museum, Salts Mill, Victoria Road, Saltaire, near Shipley A new exhibition exploring the histories and legacies of Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp through rarely seen objects.

Just £5 A MONTH gives you the opportunity to win the £501 JACKPOT. Increase your chances of winning by taking out membership in multiples of £5. The club pays out 17 prizes each month, from £25 to £501.



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Wednesday 23

Welfare no Warfare

7pm online

Alex Gordon and others discuss the alternative defence strategy proposed by the CND trade union group.

umentary photographer Chiara Fab bro about the lives in limbo along the Balkan route of migration and the solidarity of Bosnian people still grappling with their own scars.

SUNDAY 20

Stop The Arms Fair Excel Walk-ing Tour 1pm from Royal Victoria DLR

MONDAY 21

Resist the Global Arms Trade:

7pm (food provided from 6.30pm) in Bethnal Green, London — exact registration London For a Free Palestine is joined by Stop The Arms Fair and Workers For a Free Palestine for an open meeting to discuss how to organise

Book event: I Have Brought You a Severed Hand

7pm at Housmans Bookshop, 5 . Caledonian Road. London N1 Syrian-Palestinian writer Ghayath Almadhoun reads from his recently translated collection of love poems in the shape of nightmares, featuring a surreal mix of absurd humour. straight lust and dead seriousness, with help from and in discussion with British radical left poet Lotte LS. Find out more and register at tinvurl.com/brosevhand.

Bath Street, Glasgow Holocaust survivor and Palestine activist Stephen Kapos is joined by Andrew Feinstein, Alex Kenny, Sophie Johnson and Jonathon Shafi to discuss current developments in Palestine, the wider Middle East and Western imperialism and how we should respond. Hosted by the Stop the War Coalition.

WEDNESDAY 23

Film screening: Made in **Ethiopia** 7pm at the Frontline Club, 13 Norfolk Place, London W2 tion of Ethiopia. Followed by a O&A with film-maker, cinematographer and journalist Max Duncan and others. For tickets, priced £15, students £10, members £5, plus booking fee, go to eventbrite. co.uk/e/1422097996389.

Trump, Imperialism and the Middle East: Newcastle Upon Tyne

7pm (doors open for refreshments at 6.15pm) in the Common Room, Neville Hall, Westgate Road. Newcastle Upon Tyne Holocaust survivor and Palestine activist Stephen Kapos is joined by Andrew Murray, Nadine Absy and Parisa Panahi to discuss current developments in Palestine, the

wider Middle East and Western imperialism and how we should respond. Hosted by the Stop the War Coalition.

Book event: Hypochondria 7pm at Five Leaves Bookshop, 14a Long Row, Nottingham Will Rees discuss his free-wheeling

philosophical essay, which combines contemporary cultural critique, literary history and the author's own experience of chronic health anxiety, with Graham Caveney. For more information and tickets. priced £4.50, with book £12.99, go to tinyurl.com/believesick.

Welfare Not Warfare: Time for an Alternative Defence Strategy 7pm o

Former RMT president Alex Gordon, CND general secretary Sophie Bolt, CND vice-chairman Tony Staunton and lose Nivoi of the Autonomous Port Workers Collective in Genoa, Italy, discuss the strategy, proposed by the CND trade union advisory group, which calls for a radical break with successive British governments' failed security and defence policies and offers an alternative vision rooted in common security. Find out more and register at tinyurl.com/time4ads

Until 25th: The Collectors, The Cameraman, The Poets and the Pits

1-4.30pm on each day at the Working Class Movement Library, 51 Crescent, Salford The last week of an exhibition exploring the 1984-85 miners' strike through contemporary artefacts, photographs and poetry.

Until April 10th 2026; Keep The

Flame Burning 1-4.30pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at the Working Class Movement Library, 51 Crescent, Salford An ambitious exhibition, co-produced by working-class volunteers aged 16 to 25, of material from libertarian socialist group Big Flame (1970–1985) held in the library's archives. Find out more at tinyurl. com/flameburning.

THURSDAY 24 Trump, Imperialism and the

Middle East: Manchester 7pm at Friends' Meeting House, 6 Mount Street,

Manchester Holocaust survivor and Palestine activist Stephen Kapos is joined Feinstein. Stop the War

by former ANC MP Andrew CONTACT US convener Lindsey Promote your events! German and Pales tinian activist Ghassan Ghaben to discuss

current developments

in Palestine, the wider Middle East and Western imperialism and how we should respond. Register at outsavvy.com/event/28393. Organised by Greater Manchester Stop the War Coalition.

FRIDAY 25

July 19-26

Surgeons of Gaza: Bearing Witness 7pm at Porchester Leisure Centre, Porchester Road, London W2 Senior medics who have worked in Gaza share their stories of courage, suffering, humanity and hope for the future at this medical fundraiser organised by Islamic Help. For tickets, priced £35, table for 10 £300, go to eventbrite. co.uk/e/1441090212619.

SATURDAY 26

Derbyshire fundraising walk for Cuba Vive Medical Appeal 11.30am from Cromford Canal Visitor Centre, Cromford Hill,

Matlock Join Derbyshire Cuba Solidarity Campaign for a four-mile walk, including a picnic at 2pm, to send medical supplies to 11 million Cu-bans in the face of the 62-year-long illegal US blockade. For more details, call Adrian on 07757 923-873.

Oxford Cuba Solidarity Campaign AGM and garden party

12pm — call 07788 640-999 for details of the venue Celebrate the July 26 Movement - call 07788 640-999 for with Cuban cocktails, a raffle, music and song and food and good company. Bring food to share and a bottle. If it rains, the party will be cancelled.

Join the Red Line for Palestine 2pm at Maes Gwenfrewi,

Abervstwvth March through town to the bandstand to demand an end to Israel's genocide in Gaza and British complicity in the ongoing atrocities. Wear red to form a people's red line. Called by Palestine Solidarity Aberystwyth as part of an all-Wales action, with 60-plus groups and hundreds of people uniting for justice and peace.

Brighton Cuba Solidarity Campaign garden party

2pm — email annhallam61@yahoo. co.uk for details of the venue With Cuban music and local folk music. Bring food to share and a tombola prize.

Scottish Cuba Solidarity Campaign Curry for Cuba fundraiser

2pm — email scottishcuba@ yahoo.co.uk to confirm the restaurant, probably in Kelvin-

bridge, Glasgow Mark the July 26 1953 attack on the attack on the Moncada military facility in Santiago de Cuba, led by a voung Fidel Castro, which galvanised popular support for the Cuban revolution. Likely cost per person is £20-25

Book event: Fascist Yoga – Grifters, Occultists, White Supremacists

(D)

redlist@peoples

-press.com

7pm (doors open 6.45pm) at Housmans Bookshop, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 Stewart Home discusses his

latest book, a dazzling exposé of the violent politics and occultic fascism that underpins much of the history of contemporary voga. For more information and tickets, priced £4, with book £14.99, solidarity £9, go to tinyurl. com/fascistyoga.

TUESDAY 22 Trump. Imperialism and the Middle East: Glasgow 7pm at the Renfield Centre, 260

Three women – a farmer, a worker and a manager – tell their stories amid the Chinese-led industrialisa-

Until September 30th: Scars and Solidarity 9.30am-5pm on Fridays and Saturdays, 9.30am-8pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 10am-5pm on Wednesdays at North Kensington Library, 108 Ladbroke Grove, London W11 and Transnational Feminisms 1975 to Now An exhibition by Lon-9am-7pm Monday to Friday and don-based Italian doc

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with Farringdon

NEWBURY, MARKET RASEN, RIPON, NEWMARKET, HAYDOCK, DONCASTER

Powerful Nation is set for a huge run in 3.05 at Curragh

HE Super Sprint (Newbury, 3.30) is littered with short priced favourites being turned over down through the years, but I suspect that this afternoon's renewal will see hot market leader, HAVANA HURRI-CANE add to his recent Royal

Ascot success in the Listed Windsor Castle Stakes. Settled in rear that day, the son of Havana Gold went into

overdrive from a furlong and a half out and readily dismissed his 22 rivals under Charles Bishop. At the weights, this is if anything an easier assignment and I fancy he will be desperately hard to beat, despite the

WEEKEND TIPS
Farringdon's Doubles
Saturday
POWERFUL NATION
Curragh 3.05 (nap)
CEANNDANA
Market Rasen 3.12
Sunday

FRINGILL DIKE Stratford 3.13 (nap) EDELAK Curragh 4.50

Attlee's Choices Saturday D DAY ARVALENREEVA Market Rasen 2.40

Sunday FINEST VIEW Stratford 3.13 odds of reward only likely to be around the even-money marker, but that I think is the right price. I will also be having a saver at a much bigger price on **LOGI BEAR** (pictured) who was way behind my main selection at the Berkshire track.

However, he weakened some way out which was surely not his true form and possibly the very quick ground may have seen him over race. There is little doubt that the bay colt is a deal better than that run suggests.

There are plenty of cracking betting races on the card, none more so than the fillies' handicap that bookends the card at 5.20 which sees the younger generation take on the older gals. Star Style won on her debut over the course and distance here as a three-year-old, never raced as a juvenile, and on the back of that impressive success she was sent straight to the 1,000 Guineas where she pulled so hard that her race was run by halfway. Not settling has always been her problem and she ran as if she needed the run quite badly here on her comeback, but a mark of 80 may make her the main danger to **ADAAY IN DEVON**.

The top weight was racing in much higher grade last season with her best run coming when she ran fourth of 10 behind Holkham Bay in the Shergar Cup Dash at Ascot off a rating of 104. But following seven successive defeats since then, she now finds herself set to race off a rating of 90 and in much calmer waters to boot. The recent Ffos Las maiden winner, Maybe Not is the other big player in the field getting plenty of weight from her elders.

The opening Listed Steventon Stakes looks a really good renewal this year with last year's Magnet Cup Cup winner, Enfjaar likely to start favourite. Meydaan pulled way too hard in the Wolferton Stakes at Royal Ascot and his chance was then compromised in rear when the pace slackened just before they turned for home and he could be the main danger to **ANCIENT WISDOM** (1.50).

The Godolphin charge has in my book just been a wee bit disappointing this year, but you could excuse two of his three runs for being too free off the front. One of those was of course in the Coronation Cup at Epsom and this represents a much more realistic chance. The three-year-old Rashabar attempts this trip for the first time and I can see Brian Meehan's charge out running his odds against the older horses.

There is a big day of National Hunt racing at Market Rasen with some very nice prizes up for grabs and the Handicap Hurdle at 2.40 looks an above average renewal with Sir Galahad bidding to retain his four race unbeaten record over timber, but in a much more difficult race than the one he won close home at Worcester and off a 5lbs higher mark to boot.

Paul Nicholls could still have a well handicapped young horse in Brave Knight on his hands and providing there isn't too much rain the late running,



Cavern Club is sure to be firing home for The Good Stock Syndicate.

In the end I have sided with **MOON CHIME** under the care of David Killahena. This seven-year-old has won four of his eight starts over hurdles and will arrive here fit from a flat run at Goodwood. A 5lbs higher mark following on from his Hexham win asks a bit more, but I think he could well be up to the task in hand. The following Summer Plate Handicap Chase is the feature race of the day and **CEANNDANA** (3.12) looks as though he has been laid out for this. Following a 249-day break, the bay gelding ran an absolute cracker at Tipperary last time out and although he is rated significantly higher in the UK, any further forecast rain will definitely be in his favour big time.

The Irish Oaks is the big

race of the day, (Curragh, 3.40), Epsom Oaks heroine, **MINNIE HAUK**, looks an absolute shoe in with three stable mates set to make this a rush and real test through the stiff mile and a half here.

a half here. If the dead eight stand their ground in the Group Two Sapphire Stakes (3.05) then I fancy a huge run from Andrew Slattery's **POWERFUL NATION (nap)**.

The three-year-old remains unexposed compared to the majority of his rivals and with plenty of pace to chase through the first three-quarters of the race, he can overhaul his rivals on the uphill finish to the line and record a career best effort.

The feature Bell-Ringer Handicap at Ripon (3.55) has attracted a small, but select field and in receipt of plenty of weight from the top one, The Reverend, I think that **PERCON-TRA** could well be the call here. Tim Easterby's charge did too much too soon in the Cumberland Plate at Carlisle last time out and will hopefully settle much better over this much sharper track off a career low mark of 84.

There are three evening cards on the flat and I have picked out **SUENO** (Newmarket, 4.55), **OPERATION GIMCRACK** (Doncaster, 7.45) and **SECRET MISTRAL** (Haydock, 9.00) as my best bets on each card. The second named of that trio was a really good second on his comeback run at Beverley after a long break and should come forward enough to return to winning form here giving weight away all round.

Arsenal sign Madueke from Chelsea

by Our Sports Desk

ARSENAL completed the transfer of Chelsea forward Noni Madueke (pictured) yesterday, who has become Mikel Arteta's fourth signing of the summer.

The 23-year-old is understood to have signed a five-year deal at Ashburton Grove, taking him through to the summer of 2030.

It is expected that England international Madueke will provide competition to Bukayo Saka and Gabriel Martinelli in Arsenal's wide areas.

Madueke's move across London has been met with severe criticism by Arsenal supporters on social media. A petition against the transfer has attracted more than 5,000 signatures. Addressing the "vulgar" tox-

icity on X, former Manchester United and England captain Rio Ferdinand wrote: "For a young 23-year-old English footballer to be vilified, bullied, embarrassed and totally stripped down at a time when

you're meant to be celebrating a transfer worth £55 million. "To be treated in this manner via a section of the Arsenal

fan base is an utter disgrace. "Just put yourself in his shoes for one minute. Just put yourself in his parents shoes for one minute, and just think of how that feeling must be. I just hope the people that are closest to him are around him and supporting him in the way that he needs right now.

"It's fine for fans to disagree with signings or decisions made at their football club but the way some fans have publicly voiced their opinions and those who have gone a step further in publicly joining a petition for this player not to be signed by their football club is beyond me.

"I just hope Noni Madueke rams all of this negativity back down the throats of these impostors."

Madueke will join up with his new team-mates when they depart for their tour of Singapore and Hong Kong this evening.

sport

Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

in brief

King's Lynn face Leicester in Cup

SPEEDWAY: King's Lynn will face Leicester in the Premiership Knockout Cup final after Nicolai Klindt top-scored with 14+1 points to earn them a 45-45 draw at Ipswich on Thursday night that sealed a 93-87 aggregate semi-final win. Ipswich were also knocked off the top of the league by defending champions Belle Vue, who came from behind to win 48-42 at Oxford in the evening's only Premiership fixture.

Cliftonville lose 3-2 at home to Gibraltar

MEN'S FOOTBALL: Cliftonville's European campaign ended early when the Belfast team went down 3-2 at home to Gibraltar's St Joseph's in Thursday's second leg of their Europa Conference first qualifying round tie. Cymru Premier teams Haverfordwest and Penybont are also out while the League of Ireland's St Patrick's bagged a 3-0 aggregate win over Lithuania's Hegelmann and will meet Estonian outfit Nomme Kalju in the next round.

Lancashire make T20 Blast quarters

MEN'S CRICKET: 42-year-old Jimmy Anderson took 3-25 as Lancashire beat Yorkshire by 21 runs to seal their place in the Twenty20 Blast quarter-finals. Anderson will celebrate his 43rd birthday before the next round. Surrey and Somerset are also through to the last eight and will be joined by Northampton, who qualified without playing after Worcester beat Nottingham. Defending champions Gloucester are out following their fourwicket defeat to Sussex.

Okolie prepares for Lerena showdown

MEN'S BOXING: Hackneyborn Lawrence Okolie will take on South Africa's Kevin Lerena for the WBC silver heavyweight title on the undercard of tonight's world title fight between Oleksandr Uysk and Daniel Dubois. Okolie has suffered only one defeat to former world cruiserweight champion Chris Billam-Smith, in his 21 bout career, while Lerena has lost three times in 34 fights, including a technical KO against Dubois in December 2022.

It is time for players to unionise properly

Footballers are being pushed to breaking point by climate change and endless fixtures. Their unions need to become a more powerful, unified force, writes **JAMES NALTON**

S PLAYERS are being asked to play more and more football in increasingly difficult conditions, it's time that players' union representation became a more prominent part of the game.

Taking the examples from this summer alone, players have been asked to play in extreme weather conditions that will dominate many of these off-season international tournaments for years to come.

Then, for many, there will be just a short break before they are asked to jet off on global pre-season tours with their clubs in similar conditions.

Some clubs now even play post-season matches, as players trudge onto a plane for a game on the other side of the world after a full season of nonstop football in numerous club competitions. There is no real time off work.

Kick-off times are dictated not by when the conditions will be best for the players and fans, but by broadcasters, advertisers, owners, and organisations, in a familiar tale of commercialism being prioritised over worker welfare.

Climate change will not only mean increasingly hot playing conditions, but also weather delays that result in players being asked to work longer hours. Even if players and staff are waiting in a stadium for a storm to subside or for torrential rain to ease, it is still extra work.

Each organisation will say the other is to blame, but the truth is that all these clubs, leagues, confederations, and governing bodies are all trying to corner the football market for their own ends. Whether that is control of TV broadcasting and the money that brings, or the selling of advertising and tickets and creating more fixtures to this end, each wants the money earned from the entertainment these players provide to be theirs and theirs alone.

Player unions have naturally become more prominent on the back of these issues, with organisations such as Fifpro globally and the Professional Footballers Association in the English leagues doing important work to try to push back on behalf of the players. This can and should go further than it does currently. In some ways, these unions can feel separate from the players because player or manager comments and union statements often seem detached from each other.

Statements are put out and attempts are made to tackle the problems, but there is often a lack of collective action and solidarity beyond that.

Prior to the Club World Cup, the players' union in Major League Soccer (MLS) protested against the unfair bonus scheme in place from their last collective bargaining agreement, which didn't take into account a new and unusually lucrative tournament such as the Club World Cup.

Players from Seattle Sounders, one of the MLS teams participating, worked together with the MLS Players Association to give prominence to the issue, getting fans' support and attracting global media coverage. In one of their pre-Club World Cup games, every player wore T-shirts bearing clear messages of protest, and followed up by using their post-match interviews to raise the issue. It was a good example of players, staff, union, and fans raising an issue coherently and in unison. An example to follow.

But even Seattle themselves were not supported by the other MLS teams involved, Los Angeles FC and Inter Miami, at least not visibly.

In the United States, player unions are more prominent and appear more focused on certain issues when they arise. This is partly because MLS and NWSL players are working in leagues that use a salary cap and various roster restrictions. As a result, they need strong representation to make sure they get fair deals from these teams, who will try to offer the lowest wages they can to any player to stay under the salary cap.

Clubs from European leagues and others will always bargain for the lowest wages and bonuses, etc, too, but in toplevel football in the biggest leagues around the world, players do tend to receive a high percentage of the income generated by the clubs.

This is often described as player wages spiralling out of



COOLING OFF: England boss Thomas Tuchel speaks to the players during a drinks break in Barcelona, Spain

control, or player greed, but it's one of the few industries where those doing the work are given a considerable portion of the income.

This still brings problems, not least huge wage disparities within the game and even within individual teams. The amount paid to players can lead to higher ticket prices and more expense for fans, as the owners of some of these teams do everything they can to get their lucrative cut and use player wages and transfer fees as the excuse to try to do so.

The fact that some players earn a good portion of a club's revenue doesn't mean they don't need strong representation, especially with ongoing murmurs of salary caps being introduced in Europe. These high-earning players also make up a small percentage of professional footballers.

Ideally, players and their unions, and supporters and their representatives, would work together. We've already seen growing supporter movements and organisation on the back of ticket price issues, some even taking the form of unions, potentially heading towards a situation where supporters, players, and staff are working together.

Even agents could be part

of this, as surely the job of an agent should be to get the best deals and working conditions for their players. In some cases, though, this is not their aim, and agents will work to move a player on to a club, any club, just to get their cut of a transfer deal or signing-on fee, even when such a move might not be good for the player's career.

But there are good agents out there who could be part of something new that works alongside trade unions or even becomes an integral part of them.

There could be a more cooperative player agency setup, where individual agents form a collective that looks out for player welfare, gives legal advice, career advice, and helps structure contracts when a player is signing a deal.

They could become a form of union representation for footballers at all levels, but would need to be part of a collectivised agency where the agents themselves are paid a wage, rather than the current setup, where, in some cases, money for the agency and agent is prioritised.

There is enough money in the game for these agents themselves to be paid well as they represent these players. Pools of money made from the vast sums involved in the transfer market could also be used to help players who might not be as fortunate as those who make it to the top level.

It could assist them in looking for career alternatives while also offering support post-retirement, especially for those who never reached the levels of pay that set them up for life. It could also go towards offering support in other areas of the game, such as players who are experiencing mental health issues or addictions to gambling, etc.

At the moment, the immediate improvements to player union representation would be more prominence and unity.

Messages need to come not just from union spokespeople or separate comments in postmatch interviews, but from collective, targeted action involving unions, players, and teams. If there is an issue that needs raising, do it together in a focused manner.

High-profile players and teams delivering clear unionbacked messages together in solidarity with all players and supporters would do a lot to raise the profile of these issues and result in them being taken more seriously at a time when it is much needed.



sport



one of the best to ever do it in women's amateur boxing. As with so many athletes of her standing who hail from the global south, Mary Kom's is a

global south, Mary Kom's is a name and legacy that is sadly but largely unknown to the sporting public of the global north. In her case, this is a real pity, as she transcended her sport to become a cultural icon not just in India but across the entire Asian world.

Born into poverty in rural Manipur in northeastern India, Mary was a child of tenant farmers. In this life, every day is a struggle and every tomorrow a worry. An early talent and passion for com-petitive sports manifested in her taking up track and field at school. This was until boxing came knocking in 2000 and its lure became too strong to resist. When she entered the ring, she did against the wishes of her father in India's maledominated rural society. His passion for the sport overcame any and all obstacles in her path, regardless.

Kom fought throughout her amateur career at pinweight, flyweight, and light flyweight. She possessed preternatural hand-speed and reflexes, which gained her the aforementioned bronze medal at the Olympics – the 2012 games in London, to be precise.

A national heroine in India, after winning her sixth and last world amateur title in 2018 the government of Manipur awarded her the honorific title of 'Meethoi Lima' (woman of excellence). A street was also named after her.

After retiring from boxing in 2020, which she did after competing in the Tokyo Olympics, Mary entered politics, where different kinds of bruises await. There she prospered as an advocate for women's participation in sport. A trailblazer for women in India and beyond, this is Mary Kom's greatest achievement both in and out of the ring.

Another female boxer in the global south – 20-year-old Malak Meleh – had dreams of representing her people, the Palestinian people, on the world stage. Just like India's Mary Kom, Malak wanted nothing more than to make her people proud. Her dream of doing so was cruelly and brutally crushed under an Israeli missile, which struck the beachside cafe she and others were in at the time in Gaza on June 30, this year.

Malak Meleh by all accounts was not someone who would approve of being singled out for special mention amid the countless Palestinian victims of Israel's ongoing genocidal slaughter of her people. But her death, the manner of it, is a symbol of the human potential that has and continues to be extinguished in the name



Glory and grief in the Global South

Mary Kom's fists made history in the boxing world. Malak Mesleh's never got the chance. One story ends in glory, the other in grief — but both highlight the defiance of women who dare to fight, writes **JOHN WIGHT**

of ethno-supremacy when it enters its fascist stage.

There is video footage of Malak training with her female compatriots on the beach in Gaza with a bomb-scape of ruined buildings in the background. Said footage stands as a towering testament to the power of the human spirit, and also a withering j'accuse of a world that has sat idly by as the suffering and slaughter of an indigenous people has taken place and been live streamed. Women's hoving in Caza

Women's boxing in Gaza allowed and allows girls such as Malak to believe in the future. It also acts as a mechanism by which to cope with an existence defined by the ravages of structural oppression.

Malak Mesleh was a member of Gaza's Al-Mashtal Boxing Club, the first female-only boxing gym in Palestine. It was equipped with a full-size ring, an array of heavy bags, and its walls were festooned with posters of boxing icons, past and present. At its peak it had 40 members. Forty young women, in other words, who found community, mutuality, and something to believe in under one roof. Al-Mashtal Boxing Club was destroyed by an Israeli air strike in the summer of 2024. The club's devastation did not succeed in devastating the determination of

tating the determination of its members. This is where the beach came in. With the crashing of the waves of the Mediterranean as soundtrack, the women of Al-Mashtal forged even more meaning from their passion for boxing, exerting and pushing themselves even harder in defiance of the injustice of their material reality.

There they are on the sand,

their ring a rope being held up by others, sparring and working out on the pads. In the footage, with the sun in their faces, they are more alive than they have ever been, with their minds focused on the moment to the exclusion of all else. Moments are what life has been reduced to in Gaza – moments of happiness snatched from moments of horror.

Malak Mesleh's slaughter in Gaza by a missile manufactured on the other side of the world at the cost of a million dollars defines our world in so many different ways. She was born into poverty, but became rich in her refusal to allow material disadvantages to circumscribe her belief in what was possible.

Malak Mesleh may be dead but what she represents lives on. In a better world than this one, there would be songs written about this young girl. Maybe there will be. There should be.



sport

WOMEN'S FOOTBALL **PROPER ENGLAND IS BACK' AND HAMPTON'S HEROLOS**Design fires home with ping populity to head Lippace of Euro 2025 comis

Bronze fires home winning penalty to book Lionesses place in Euro 2025 semis

by Our Sports Desk

ENGLAND goalkeeper Hannah Hampton declared "proper England is back" after the defending champions booked their place in the Euro 2025 semifinals with a dramatic 3-2 penalty win over Sweden. Lucy Bronze's winning spot-

Lucy Bronze's winning spotkick – England's seventh of an error-strewn shootout – coupled with Smilla Holmberg's miss, booked the Lionesses a last-four meeting with Italy after they staged a stirring late fightback to snatch a 2-2 draw in 90 minutes.

Bronze and substitute Michelle Agyemang scored in the space of 103 seconds to cancel out Kosovare Asllani's opener and Stina Blackstenius's 25th-minute strike, while Hampton earned player-of-thematch honours for a massive shift which included two saves in the shootout.

"It shows proper England is back," said Hampton, when asked about the Lionesses' commitment to fight with everything they had – even at the expense of her own nose – after clawing their way back into the contest.

"We're going in the right direction. I think you know that everyone would be putting their bodies on the line. Literally you could see that out there.

"We said at half-time, 'we don't want to go home, so it's down to us to turn the game around'."

Much of the build-up to this tournament centred around Chelsea shot-stopper Hampton, who had gradually usurped



popular Euro-winning keeper Mary Earps as Sarina Wiegman's first choice.

Earps announced her shock international retirement before Wiegman's squad announcement, as a result leaving majortournament debutant Hampton with the weight of the nation's expectations on her 24-year-old shoulders.

"It's obviously been a difficult couple of years [for me] within the England environment," said Hampton, "[but] all the girls were ecstatic [tonight]. They've seen all the hard work that I've put in and how difficult it's been, and how they've helped me get to the point that I am now, where I am happy to be wearing an England shirt again." For nearly 80 minutes vic-

For hearly 80 minutes victory seemed out of reach, but the introduction of three 70thminute substitutes – including Agyemang – followed shortly by Chloe Kelly – sparked England to life.

It was Kelly who made an instant impact, her deep cross picking out 33-year-old Bronze – England's oldest and most experienced major tournament player – who cushioned a header past Jennifer Falk to give England hope.

Moments later, 19-year-old substitute Agyemang, the youngest of the group winning just her third cap, scored to force extra-time.

The error-strewn shootout saw Falk make four saves, but Sweden's own misses – including one from their keeper – allowed Bronze to emphatically fire in the one that ultimately counted.

England boss Wiegman agreed it was the most chaotic contest she had ever witnessed, the usually composed Dutchwoman admitting even she was still feeling "hyper" and "very emotional" long after the final whistle.

Wiegman rarely dishes out individual praise, but allowed herself to laud Bronze, who before this contest had reminded England that they were capable of "win[ning] a game in any means possible."

"Lucy Bronze is one of a kind," said Wiegman. "I have never, ever seen this before in my life, and I'm very lucky person that I've worked with so many incredible people, incredible football players, and there are so so many, but what she does, and her mentality.

"That penalty, the goal, but that's not [even] what defines her. It's that resilience, that fight. I think the only way to get her off the pitch is in a wheelchair."

Today's meeting will be the biggest one-day at they athletics event in the world this year, in front of a 60,000-strong crowd at West Ham's stadium.

Morning Star Saturday/Sunday July 19-20 2025

ATHLETICS

to 'put on a

OLYMPIC 100 metres champion Noah Lyles hopes to leave an injuryhit season behind him and

Lyles is hoping

show' for fans

in east London

put on a show at a sold-out London Stadium today. The American will

compete in his first race

from a tendon problem.

yesterday, shook off the

rust with victory in the

He is now preparing to renew his rivalry with

Botswana's Letsile Tebogo over the blue-riband

distance at the Diamond League meeting. "I wouldn't say I'm

been waiting to start my

"Things have been pro-

season, but injury prevented that." he said.

gressing really well. I'm getting faster. Let's put it

to the test against great

competition. You want to be able to compete at the highest level with the

highest people.

nervous. I'm excited more than anything. I've

200m in Monaco last

weekend.

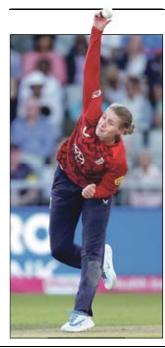
Lyles, who turned 28

over the distance this

year after recovering

"It's definitely my kind of place," added Lyles. "I love a big crowd, especially when they are engaged and they want to see something. And being a showman I want to give them a show.

"It's my first [100m] race and I always want to win. A fast time never hurts. I'd love to run 9.8 seconds. But winning is the most important thing."



Dean sees lighter side of 'Mankad' dismissal, says team-mate

by Our Sports Desk

FACING India at Lord's might bring back some unhappy memories for England allrounder Charlie Dean (pictured), but she has been able to see the lighter side of her controversial 'Mankad' dismissal three years ago, according to team-mate Alice Davidson-Richards yesterday.

The teams meet at the home of cricket today for the first time since a controversial finish in 2022, when India spinner Deepti Sharma pulled out of her action and ran Dean out backing up at the non-striker's end. The rarely used mode of

dismissal, while entirely legal, caused a familiar row about the spirit of cricket and India were booed off after Dean was seen in tears as she left the field.

There were disputes about whether Dean had been warned or not – with Sharma insisting she had before England skipper Heather Knight took to social media to insist otherwise.

But as the sides prepare to meet in the second one-day international, with the hosts needing to win to take the series to a decider, the rancour has been replaced by mirth.

"Did something funny happen a few years ago? Charlie may have mentioned it once or twice," said all-rounder Davidson-Richards.

"It's been mentioned in more of a jokey way. It's something we can laugh at and I think Charlie finds it funny to joke around with it. We're just excited for the team to get going."

Dean was just a year into her international career when she caught in the Mankad maelstrom but has since become an integral part of the side and was spoken of as an outside bet for the captaincy before Nat Sciver-Brunt replaced Knight earlier this year.

In a way, her time at the centre of a controversy may even have accelerated her growth. "I think, as with any other

cricketing experience, it's another game that you're going to learn from," said Davidson-Richards.

"Whether it's that sort of incident or whether it's bowling the last over to close out a game for the team, Charlie has played so many games now and is such a smart cricketer. For her it's just another game of cricket." India opener Pratika Rawal has been censured by the International Cricket Council for making 'avoidable physical contact' with opponents Lauren Filer and Sophie Ecclestone during her side's win at the Rose Bowl.

Rawal was fined 10 per cent of her match fee and punished further with one demerit point but insisted there was nothing malicious in her actions.

"It was not intentional, that shoulder barge thing was not deliberate. I don't think there's a reaction or a fuss out of it," she said.

