

CALTON WOMEN, EARLY 20th CENTURY

Look at the optimism of the woman second on the left. Then look at her feet.



One for Burns Night

written 227 years ago

Ye hypocrites! are these your pranks?
To murder men and give God thanks!
Desist, for shame!- proceed no further;
God won't accept your thanks for
Murther!

GLASGOW KEELIE

January 2020

Priceless

It's the same the whole world over...



Polis Protecting Privilege

(Department Store in Chile)



Photo: @jerichovisual on instagram

MELTING ice caps, flooded cities, raging wildfires destroying habitats and endangering species. We've heard it all, from some of the worlds most respected, admired figures. So why are our governments still prioritising tax cuts for multinational corporations, and debating - we all know what - to no end?

When your leaders announce - after decades of direct action and sacrifice from activists and indigenous protectors - that our world as we know it is threatened by the climate crisis, you expect them to follow through with meaningful, sustainable action which protects our species as well as the many others who inhabit this Earth with us.

However, this has clearly not been the case, for this reason, Glasgow Youth Climate Strikes bittersweetly nears its one year anniversary. Our generation is facing challenges those before us dismissed as myth, anxiety that comes with not seeing a future for our families. You see, it's easy for those in charge to dismiss the climate crisis as something in a far away dystopia, but

reports, professionals and real people prove over and over again that we're already seeing devastation, caused by countries in the northern hemisphere overexploiting Earth's finite resources.

It's simple, we can't wait for those in charge to become interested in the issues that primarily affect those they're exploiting. Striking is only part of the solution, of course we must take individual action; however, we can't be fooled by the idea that alone we can solve this. We must make leaders of every city, state and country and CEOs unable to sleep at night, unless the system changes.

There's so much to do and learn, and if you're under 25 in Scotland, you can channel hopelessness, anger, or any other emotions into direct action with Scottish Youth Climate Strikes

www.syccs.org.uk/join-us

by Nancy Bajonauth (in personal capacity)

VALENTINE CLIMATE STRIKE
Friday 14th February 11am
Buchanan St Steps

Keelie

'A disreputable inhabitant of a town or city, especially from Glasgow'

Oxford Dictionary

We aim to be a voice for the dissident, the downtrodden, the troublemaker, the enraged, the anarchist, and we welcome the participation of all true lovers of liberty

Email: glasgowkeelie@riseup.net
 Facebook: [glasgow keelie](https://www.facebook.com/glasgowkeelie)

Alasdair Gray, Poet, Writer, Artist and Comrade.

The death of Alasdair Gray on Sunday 29th December 2019 will be a tremendous loss to the People of Glasgow and much further afield. As well as being a generous man, donating to Spirit of Revolt as well as many other groups, he was a man of compassion, insight and a battler, never afraid to speak out in defence of justice and humanity.

GET INVOLVED!

City Strolls - investigate all possibilities at citystrolls.com
Clydeside Industrial Workers of the World - Join the Union for ALL exploited workers in today's gig economy clydeside@iww.org.uk
Couriers Network Scotland - Uber & Deliveroo workers agitate. Contact via twitter, facebook & couriers.scotland@iww.org.uk
Friends of the Peoples Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green

See Facebook or friendsofppwggg.org.uk

Glasgow Autonomous Space - social centre in the southside. glasgowautonomous.weebly.com
Glasgow Class War - contact via Facebook.

Green Anti Capitalist Front Glasgow - contact via Facebook
Living Rent - organises resistance to Landlords and promotes tenants associations. Join for £3 a month, glasgow@livingrent.org

Radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com
 Home of the Anarchist Critic
Red and Black Song Club
 See Facebook

Scottish Peace Network - holds vigils & stalls. Visit scottishpeacenet.org.uk
Spirit of Revolt - Archives of dissent, collecting, cataloguing and digitising insights. 3 Show & Tell public forums a year. <https://spiritofrevolt.info>

Unity Centre Glasgow - agitates against deportations and welcomes refugees. <https://unitycentreglasgow.org>



Birdman of Pollok

Colin Macleod was a modern-day land raider who gave a voice to the people of Pollok in the 90s.

The M77 was being driven through their park, cutting the local community off from their only green space. Instead of Greta Thunberg or Extinction Rebellion, they had Colin Macleod. He started by staying up a tree for 9 days to grab press attention. This grew into a full-blown protest camp and the Pollok Free State was born.

The Free State became a community. It was an escape from the gangs, drugs and poverty of Pollok. Even though the motorway eventually went through, the Pollok Free State had become more than a protest camp. Colin and his fellow activists went on to found GalGael, a trust based in Govan which provides support to people with addictions or mental health problems, offering healing through reconnection with their culture.

Through colleagues, friends and family, we come to know Colin Macleod, a visionary whose work is still a beacon of hope.

- 59 minute film. Available to view on BBC Alba (via I-player) until 24th January

Good Old Days

Brunswick Street

Between Argyle Street and the Old Sheriff Court in Wilson St. is the site of Street Meetings during World War Two.

Anarchist speakers such as Jimmy Raeside, Frank Dorans, Jimmy Dick and the crowd favourite – Eddie Shaw – described in recollection as a “Billy Connolly of his day” - railed against Capitalist exploitation, Militarism and Conscription.

The speakers box was often kicked away those who believed War propaganda, but quickly put back by the Anarchists gathered in support. Industrial meetings were held in support of striking Bus workers in 1941 and in 1943 at Barr & Stroud. Outside shipyards in Scotstoun & Govan the anarchists were received as the leading group not advocating increased exploitation in the name of War.

Anarchists such as Frank Leech, Charlie Baird & James Kennedy were prosecuted for resisting conscription which included assisting Soldiers on the run using Highland Bothys.



Living Rent, Scotland's tenants' union is demonstrating that solidarity and direct action are powerful tools to redress the power imbalance between landlords and tenants .

A noisy demonstration in the foyer at Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) recently helped prevent the eviction of one of the Glasgow branch's members

and forced GHA to accept an affordable repayment plan for the member's rent arrears.

If you are a tenant and believe in the collective power of tenants to come together to fight for their rights, get in touch with Living Rent and join today. Glasgow Branch: 153 Queen Street, Glasgow, G1 www.livingrent.org

Workers from Tartan House, souvenir company, have protested against appalling conditions.

The workers demands include that:

- Doors should be closed in winter and the heating must work correctly to guarantee a minimum temperature of 16°C.
- Toilets and facilities should be fully functional
- Proper pest control be carried out in affected shops
- The requirement to chase the shoplifters should be stopped.
- Holiday pay should be paid in full to those leaving the workplace.

They contacted the Migrant Solidarity Network within IWW Clydeside which led to a picket on 22nd December.

An article online details what the workers, many from Spain have had to endure – but they are not taking it any more! See report in <https://interregnum.live> Contact MSN via westscotland@iww.org.uk



It's the same the whole world over...

A Kurdish lesson in democracy

Fed up with 'the best government money can buy' - with 'democracy' passed off as a cross on a piece of paper every few years that is swung by well-financed lies and a deeply biased corporate media?

This article is about an alternative system that, despite everything that has been thrown against it, is still living and inspiring. You'll have heard of the Kurds of northern Syria as victims of US – and world – betrayal, left exposed to genocidal Turkish attack after defending us all against ISIS. Much less talked about is how those same Kurds have established a system of bottom-up democracy that can give lessons to us all. Not surprising really. The powers that be are terrified of the risk of a good example.

Under this system, people take control of their communities as everything is organised as locally as possible. Only things that can't be organised locally get passed up the chain to wider regional organisations, made up of representatives of those below. Here, politics is not the preserve of an elite; and political activity is not something you do after everything else if you have time, but an integral part of life that gives it purpose. Central tenets are women's rights, multi-ethnic inclusion, and - instead of the destructive pursuit of economic growth - the prioritisation of



the common good. This is a politics for and *by* the people.

This may seem a million miles from Glasgow, but without local people organising, our society would fall apart. Imagine if, instead of being resolutely 'non-political', such groups combined their actions with an understanding of the broader picture, and came together to make real political change.

Because it builds links from the bottom up, the Kurds call their system 'Democratic Confederalism'. It doesn't exactly roll off the tongue, but: what do we want? Democratic Confederalism! When do we want it? Now!

Links: www.sskonline.org.uk,
www.facebook.com/ScottishSolidaritywithKurdistan

Chile in Revolt

The protests in Chile begun less than three months ago, with co-ordinated fare dodging by teenagers in Santiago, to protest a new rise in fares in Chile's capital. It has grown into a much wider protest against the wages, work conditions, cost of living and state of public services.

There has been extensive brutality from the police, including the use of rubber bullets containing metal blinding protestors, as well as widespread sexual abuse. Medics providing care injured protestors have also been attacked by the police. Widespread looting has been used as an excuse by the state for the brutality, but the

brutality has focused on the protestors rather than the looters.

At the root of this state of affairs in Chile is still the legacy of the US-backed coup of General Pinochet. This overthrew the democratically elected socialist government of Salvador Allende in 1973, the resulting dictatorship murdered and tortured thousands of leftists. At the time unionised workers in East Kilbride showed solidarity with the Chilean people by refusing to work on engines bound for Chilean Airforce, grounding many of their planes, something dealt with in the recent documentary *Nae Pasaran*.

While allowing a transition to democracy in the late 80s, the dictatorship drafted a constitution such that the "democratic" state would remain locked into the ideology of free-market neoliberalism. Chile often seems more of a "western" Latin American country to visiting Europeans, but beneath this façade its people have been increasingly struggling to survive amid rising prices and stagnating pay. The façade is now coming apart.

'All the hope left in the world is
in the people of no account'
-Ursula K. Le Guin
'The Finder'