

## The Good Old Days

THEY CAN MAKE A LAW ABOUT ANYTHING!

Even 500 years ago football played on Glasgow Green was a passionate and dangerous pastime. The Bewties Of The Fute-ball' listed "Torn muscles and broken bones, Strife, discord and impoverished homes. Stopping in old age then lameness too...."

The people's game was popular and boisterous. But creating injuries leading to absence from work was not in the employers' interest so they fined their workers, servants and apprentices caught in the act. Still ungovernable, the Scottish King outlawed people from playing the fute-ball by 1457 and being ignored, tried to slap that grin off their faces by legislating twice more, enforcing fines and ordering militaristic archery training instead. Of course, it was in his own interest, Scots with target shooting skills could defend his realm!

But people still dissented and within 40 years Scottish Royals bought a 2s. bag of footballs. Sixty years later the game was watched by Mary Queen of Scots with women recorded as being players from 1628. In 1800's Inveresk fishwives played a standing match every Shrove Tuesday.

Facing up to employers and the king was not enough, the people in Scotland weren't shy at disobeying their Ministers and breaking the Sabbath to get a game in, with the holy on their backs for missing the Kirk. But despite being told by bosses, the State and

breaking God's law on earth, the rebellious game of skill jooked restrictions and evolved 'with a little foul play' lasting 2 hours with 20 players.

By 1868 the first association game between Queens Park and The Thistle was played. The Football Association withdrew all support for women's football in 1921 and after their War work on the front line the SFA banned women in 1949, lifted in 1971. Returning women to domestic roles involved them being barred from all SFA pitches and clubs or using SFA registered referees, forcing women to play abroad or on non SFA parks, we all know how that ban has turned out!

Shipyard solidarity was demonstrated when a worker with lunchtime football injury was dragged to his work site so that he could still get paid for an injury occurring on the job. **They can make a law about anything but solidarity trumps enforcement.**



• YOU can see the world's oldest surviving football from 1540 in Stirling Museum. It was found in 1970 behind panelling in Stirling Castle.

# GLASGOW KEELIE

January 2021

**LOCKDOWN SPECIAL**

Priceless

# WAVE GOODBYE TO BARLINNIE



• Rooftop Protest, 1987

# NO TO £100 MILLION 'SUPER PRISON'

## Protect Our Bus Services

**BUS OPERATORS** across Scotland are cutting services on dozens of “unprofitable” routes, despite public transport operators being handed nearly £40 million in additional subsidies to maintain services during the pandemic.

First Bus, Stagecoach and Xplore are cynically exploiting a loophole in the conditions laid down to maintain the number of miles rather than the existing services. The Keelie thinks that at best, the Scottish Government was asleep at the wheel when drawing these contracts up.

But, just keeping the status quo isn't good enough. We need cooperatively owned bus services, accountable to the communities they serve. Making all public transport free would reduce social isolation; provide mobility to those least able to pay the current exorbitant fares; reduce congestion and pollution as well as helping to tackle climate change.

Luxembourg recently introduced free public transport, Germany is seriously considering it, we need to demand it! Get involved: **Free Our City** campaigns for free public transport; **Get Glasgow Moving** campaigns for a fully-integrated and accessible, publicly-owned and accountable, public transport network for everyone.

**Check Facebook:  
Free Our City  
Get Glasgow Moving**



• Hop on the Battle Bus!

## Scrooge Businesses

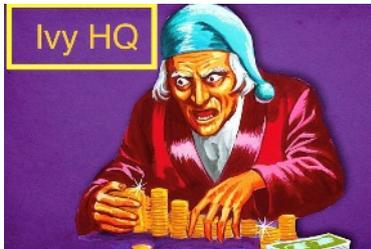
**Eight out of twelve workers singled out for Redundancy by IVY** were actively engaged in a 'collective grievance' over unsafe work practices in the early days of the Covid crisis, brought by Unite Hospitality.

The swanky restaurant chain in Buchanan Street, also implicated for redundancies and making staff homeless in Inverness, failed to take advantage of the Job Retention Scheme which operates till the end of March.

Instead, they embraced the new Brexit philosophy of getting rid of anybody

brave enough to stand up for workers rights.

The Union also reported under paid furlough wages at Ad Lib and Blue Dog in Glasgow



## THE KEELIE REPORT

### The Urge to Self-Destruct is Not a Creative Act

**It is no accident that two-thirds of drug deaths were born in the period 1966 to 1985.**

De-industrialization and a decline in the typical job opportunities for school-leavers without qualifications drove many to seek escape and construct a new harsh self-destructive culture. 1979 witnessed the Tory Government that brought Thatcher and her cronies to power.

The Blair Government acted to accelerate globalisation and market forces. 'Lame Duck' industries were obliterated, some like the Miners through confrontation, but more usually by jobs being exported to countries by Multinationals with lower wage costs and social security. It is also no coincidence that after urban riots in the early to mid-80s, when collective resistance was a possibility that supplies of street heroin increased at affordable prices.

Throughout history, people have been drawn to experience substances and out of body experiences. The Late 60s glamourised recreational drugs like LSD and Marijuana as pathways to



self-exploration & enhanced consciousness. From a communal experience it has become an individualised or subgroup expression of alienation. Males are brought up to act 'tough' not share feelings, and drugs and alcohol are escapes from hurt and confusion.

It is a challenge that those with radical politics are not meeting. This is especially true in housing schemes where anonymity is more difficult with sectarian or drug dealer attacks more likely. There are exceptions, as with the motorway protests in Pollok in the 90s, the Independence referendum five years back, but it can quickly dissipate. A culture of education, resistance and local agitation is largely absent. **Living Rent** is a cause of hope, such as in The Wyndford in Maryhill.

**• JOIN THE DEBATE!  
Email: glasgowkeelie@riseup.net**

# THE KEELIE REPORT

## A lethal mix: Profiting from Alienation

Joe Fitzpatrick, sacked as Public Health Minister by the SNP Government, had a poisoned chalice.

It is doubtful his successor can make much of a difference. A major SNP Government onslaught on the criminal gangs manufacturing street valium could have an impact. But for how long? The same might be said for the drug advocacy industry, what lasting impact can we point to?

92% of Scotland's drug deaths involve users supplementing heroin or methadone with an illicit drug. The active ingredient of street valium, however adulterated, is Etizolam, which is 10 times stronger than Diazepam and most other Benzodiazepine tablets. Nicknamed by the tabloids as the "blue plague" the problem is Scotland wide, not just in parts of Glasgow or Dundee. But already other substances are in the pipeline, like Flualprazolam.

Europe wide, 71% seizures are for Cannabis, with only 10% Cocaine and Heroin 5%, and less for street valium.

That Scotland has a problem that is in a "league of it's own" is undeniable. It might surprise you to find out Sweden is the next worse. But at 81 per million, that is slight compared with 229 here. That meant 1,264 deaths in 2019,



rising 7% from 2018's previous 'high'! 69% are Male but the numbers of women dying are rising. The age bands which are now most at risk because of there are those born between 1976-85, ahead of the 1966-75. You might expect Cities with areas of multiple deprivation in England & Wales to be just as bad but Manchester, with twice the England average has 91 deaths per million.

That is not to deny that the greatest number of deaths come from those in 'disadvantaged' neighbourhoods but that there is a (not so) 'Bonnie Scotland' effect sub-culture which is perpetuated by the gangsters, who historically have their friends amongst the police & legal profession. As the film "Battle of Algiers" showed, and for example the experience of Militant, and later the SSP in North Pollok in the period 1995-2005 showed, the pedlars are an obstacle to political change.



• Living Rent members in Dennistoun turned up "mop handed" on the 20th December to put pressure for communal close cleaning paid for by tenants, to be recommenced.

## Mutual Aid : A Radical Response

"Mutual Aid is the sharing of resources as opposed to the wealthy giving to the needy"

Glasgow Mutual Aid (GMA) was set up in response to the covid pandemic at a time when charities and state organisations were slow to respond. We saw organising democratically, without hierarchy and bypassing the system to deliver a non-judgemental service as both being necessary and to be a radical act. We quickly realised that we needed to respond to non-covid situations as well. However, few of us thought that ten months later we would still be active and be needed more than ever.

Whether it's help with shopping; collecting prescriptions; a friendly regular phone call; picking up medication for pets; arranging food parcels or accompanying someone anxious about travelling to visit their dying mother, our

volunteers have met a variety of challenges both willingly and imaginatively. Many volunteers have also received a service, for example when required to self isolate.

As people's circumstances have changed and furlough has ended for many, our pool of volunteers has dwindled. However, the current resurgence of the virus and the toll that months of restrictions is taking on many people, means that demand is rising again. There are currently opportunities for volunteers across all Glasgow postcodes. Even if it's only a couple of hours a week, you can make a difference to folk in your local community. Get Involved to volunteer or request a service:

Phone Mon-Fri 10-2: 0141 280 7025

Text 07451289389

[support.glasgowmutualaid.co.uk](http://support.glasgowmutualaid.co.uk)

[volunteer.glasgowmutualaid.co.uk](http://volunteer.glasgowmutualaid.co.uk)

# THE BAR-L: BARLINNIE PRISON

**THAT HELLHOLE SCAR** on Glasgow's landscape the depressing looking Barlinnie prison has a history of brutality.

Built in 1882, like all prisons it ended up being grossly overcrowded. Approximately 92% of the cells designed for one person are housing two. This in a situation where we are told crime falling, an anomaly the powers that be don't seem to explain.

It was also a place for the State to carry out its judicial killings, The most recent, 10 from the end of WW2 to 1960. The last hanging being in 1960 of a 19 year old youth, Anthony Miller. With such devastating acts of hanging, you would imagine that the officials would have very accurate records, but nobody is sure of how many bodies are buried at Barlinnie: callous inhumanity reigns.

## Brutal

All with a shred of humanity would be delighted to see this building being demolished and perhaps a monument raised on the site to mark its brutal inhumanity. Well, it is being demolished but we can't get overjoyed at this as it will be replaced with a "super prison", estimated cost varying from £10 million to £100 million. I'll go for the



• PLANS for the new 'Super-Prison' at Provan Gasworks

top estimate. It will be capable of incarcerating between 1,200 and 1,400 individuals. So much for falling crime.

There's not a lot of info on this new state repression institution, except that they say it will be more pleasant in appearance, well from the outside. With modern design I'm quite sure it will be built on the basis of more security and surveillance, so as to reduce costs of guards.

This £100 million edifice to state repression will be sucking that amount of money away from other facilities that are an essential part of our unfair and unequal society.

Some of those likely to suffer are Citizen's Advice Bureaux, Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis, Glasgow Women's Aid, The Lodging House Mission and Drumchapel Money Advice Centre and more.

All this so we can have a nice modern looking dustbin where the state can dump all those it has no desire to help.



It will of course like all state prisons, end up overcrowded, the state loves locking you up.

One reason it will be overcrowded will be that approximately 80% of those in prisons are individuals suffering from mental health problems, substance addiction and learning difficulties, a group that is growing, all of whom should be receiving social services care, not prison.