

**JOIN THE  
CAMPAIGNS AGAINST  
THE COST OF LIVING  
CRISIS**



📧📱📺 @PTTPGLASGOW

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**ENOUGH IS  
ENOUGH!**



## 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

Got a story? Get in touch!

Email: [glasgowkeelie@riseup.net](mailto:glasgowkeelie@riseup.net)

Web: <https://glasgowkeelie.org/>

**CHECK GLASGOW KEELIE ON  
FACEBOOK, TWITTER and  
YOUTUBE**



Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 7PM  
Renfield Centre  
260 Bath Street  
G2 4JP

Join Mick Lynch, RMT General  
Secretary and speakers from  
across the trade union  
movement as they discuss  
the campaign to defend  
rail jobs, pay, and conditions

Just a wee

# GLASGOW KEELIE

No.33 August 2022

Keep Glasgow Revolting

Priceless

# THE HEAT IS ON!



• PHOTO: WYNDFORD RESIDENTS UNION

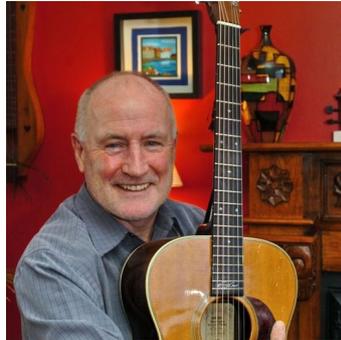
# RESISTANCE BUILDS AGAINST POWER COMPANY GREED

# A word on Brendan McLaughlin

Brendan's Scotia Bar was a meeting place for folk from 1988 onwards, where the schemes and devious manoeuvres of Workers City took place, the kind of politicking Brendan thrived on: strolling about Glasgow X in two-man teams with a pail of water and wallpaper paste, a brush and a pile of posters, keeping an eye out for the polis. You haud the poster, I'll splatter the wall.

He and wife Maureen ran the cafe for the Self Determination Event in Govan, the one Noam Chomsky attended. One night in 1993 a troupe of dancers and musicians from South Africa performed in his other pub, the Clutha, in Zulu costume, performing a traditional Zulu dance. That was the year *before* Nelson Mandela and the ANC took control.

Laughter and struggle, taking on the authorities: campaigns on Glasgow Green, the Poll Tax, in solidarity with Elspeth King, Clydeside Action on Asbestos, the Kurdish struggle, the Palestinian



Brendan McLaughlin 1950-2022

struggle; the RMT, EIS, Leyland Daf workers, the firebrigade union, on board with the Keelie. In April 1994 the Scotia Bar ran a bus to Southall, Middlesex; for the launch of Kelman's novel *How Late It Was, How Late* as a benefit night for the Stephen Lawrence Family Campaign. The dead boy's parents attended and father Neville stayed in touch with Glasgow activists during the 1990s. Brendan wrote a song for him, in memory of his son. A Glasgow publican? Yeah, some guy right enough. RIP Brendan McLaughlin.



## ANARCHIST CRITIC

IT IS DIFFICULT to take your mind off the so called "cost of living crisis" because of the amount of suffering and hardship that will hit millions of ordinary people in this country and across the world. However, on examination you realise that it is not a "cost of living crisis", it is in fact an "exploitation crisis".

For example, the wholesale price of gas is 37% **cheaper** than it was at its peak in March, but retail prices are 53% **more expensive** than they were in March. Meanwhile British Gas, during the same period, posted an increase of 411% in profits during that period. BP have just announced the highest profits in the company's history, approximately £7 billion. This little earner could mean that the BP CEO Bernard Looney will be in line for an obscene remuneration of £11.7 million. Though in this case we are the real "loonies" for accepting this daily plundering of our lives.

Now hand on heart and say this is a cost of living crisis and we are all in it together. When will we wake up to the fact that we are being shafted day and daily by a group of billionaires, aided and abetted by

the corporate world's minders, the state. They are two sides of the same coin, inseparable, licking each others backsides.

**A trade off!!**

Of course it is not a local problem, it is a world wide plundering and pillage of the ordinary people. For example EXXON's profits are stated to be \$2,245.62 every second of every day. Where do you think all that money goes?

- Follow the **Anarchist Critic** at <https://radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com/>

### GET INVOLVED!

Anarchist Critic

[radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com](https://radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com/)

City Strolls

[citystrolls.com](http://citystrolls.com)

Clydeside Industrial Workers of the World

Facebook Twitter or [clydeside@www.org.uk](mailto:clydeside@www.org.uk)

Friends of the Peoples Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green

Facebook or [friendsofppwggg.org.uk](http://friendsofppwggg.org.uk)

Glasgow Anarchist Communist Group

Facebook Twitter or

[glasgow@anarchistcommunism.org](mailto:glasgow@anarchistcommunism.org)

Glasgow Autonomous Space

Facebook Instagram or

[glasgowautonomous.weebly.com](http://glasgowautonomous.weebly.com)

Glasgow No Evictions Campaign

Facebook Twitter or

[no-evictions.wixsite.com/glasgow](http://no-evictions.wixsite.com/glasgow)

Living Rent

Facebook Twitter or [livingrent.org](http://livingrent.org)

Radical Radio Scotland

Youtube Spotify

Red and Black Song Club

Facebook

Spirit of Revolt archive

Facebook or [spiritofrevolt.info](http://spiritofrevolt.info)

## Good Old Days

210 years ago on 11th May, John Bellingham, a disgruntled businessman from Liverpool, shot dead the Tory Prime Minister Spencer Perceval. There have been many unpopular Prime Ministers but Perceval is the only one to have been assassinated in the UK. Perceval's last words, after being shot at close range in the House of Commons Lobby was: "I am murdered". News of the death led to widespread rejoicing in many areas, whose poverty had been intensified under Governments including Perceval's.

Needless to say things did not improve even after the exile of Napoleon and the defeat of France, or the end of the 1812 conflict with the new Republic, the USA. The spread of industrialisation was accompanied by deskilling and conflicts with the radical Weavers and other trades which sometimes led, especially in England to "luddite" actions against mechanisation and Factories. Peterloo followed in 1819 in Manchester, and the 1820 "insurrection" in the west of Scotland.

The vast majority of the population, those who create the wealth through labour, had no vote or Trade Union rights. **The death of Perceval proved, however, that you can't abolish a social relationship of Power, Domination & Exploitation by getting rid of 'one bad egg'.** They only get replaced by another loyal servant of the system.



**For a Fossil Fuel free Future Well, we did it!**

**Welcomed with real kindness by the people of Torry, Aberdeen, Climate Camp was home to over 200 people from Scotland and across the world who lived, learned and took action together in five days of North Sea sunshine.**

We demanded protection for the beautiful St. Fittick's Park, Torry's last green space, as we marched from the Park to the City before occupying Aberdeen Harbour, where Old Torry was demolished to make way for the oil industry. We said never again!

We protested in the centre of Aberdeen to hear testimony of the many asylum seekers who are detained in miserable conditions by the UK Government. There is no climate justice without migrant justice!

We demanded a community-led just transition from fossil fuels, but we also built that future ourselves: solar-powered, people-powered, 100% compostable, right in the heart of the oil capital of Europe.

**A cooperative and caring community of action that we made together.**

• Check Twitter: Climate Camp Scotland



**THERE WAS SOMETHING more compulsive at work in Ruchill at the Save Ruchill Community Centre Saturday gathering.**

The campaign organised a "Cost of living protest", that included representation from trade unions (GMB, CWU, SSTA, RMT), Glasgow Against Closures, Peoples Assembly, Power to the People, Get Glasgow Moving and Wyndford tenants. The Keelie was also present to record the event.

**What was great about the event was it wasn't just all about protest. There was much discussion about vision, about where we should be, about the historical context of how we got to this stage in the first place. And importantly the solidarity that needs to come into play if we are to rebuild our agency to challenge the multi pronged attack on our communities from all angles.**

From zero hour contracts, expensive rents, hollowing out of services, asset stripping and a whole plethora of financial worries that helps to keep ordinary people isolated, overwhelmed and out of action in building a collective resistance against what can only be described as, financial parasites.

But there is something happening in

Ruchill, and we are seeing it building in other parts of the city. There is a rising of the spirits, a confidence coming out of communities that is saying enough "is" enough and it is coming directly from community members and should be an inspiration to us all. There is a positive urgency for action and it is coming from the core of the community and if it catches on and is supported it might just create the Tsunami of surging solidarity that will be needed to unblock the sewer of right wing political farce, in all of its forms, that is preventing the transformation of the new and sustainable ideas that are being discussed, from happening.

**Solidarity is sometimes just a matter of turning up. If we want to see change happening we need to support local community efforts in making it happen. Like Save Ruchill Community Centre and the many active campaigns across the city.**

• Check <https://www.facebook.com/ruchillcommunity> for more info

### Keelie Quip

**Household Energy Bills Forecast to Hit £5,000 a Year**

(God help the wean that puts the Big Light on)

# TURN UP THE VOLUME!

**OUR RIGHT TO PROTEST**, hold meetings and demonstrate with other people is protected by the Human Rights Act, Article 11.

Westminster Government's new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (applies mainly England and Wales) dilutes this right.

Police now have powers to arrest us for a **'disruptive protest'** and creating noise or nuisance can get up to 10 years. The 'Policing Act' criminalises Romani families and demands intrusive monitoring of young persons by frontline workers such as GPs, nurses, teachers, and social and youth workers, turning workers into informants. Developing a deeper Police State in advance of the crushing austerity we will face this winter endangers the rights and safety of us all.

Last week on TV, I saw Scottish Police making a grab on a Loud Speaker Amp from cheery supporters of the Rail Workers Strike in Glasgow. Could it be noise? or trespass? I'm not sure – the Act is not applied fully in Scotland but campaigners say it is an attack on freedom of speech and the fundamental right to protest. In 1909 and 1911 in a time of great austerity, Vancouver Industrial Workers of the World were restricted by law to one street corner and free speech fights broke out leading to imprisonment. But why do people fight hard to protect Free Speech? Organising any protest campaign relies on word spreading and so Freedom of Speech – spoken or in print, is fundamental to us and is therefore silenced by the State.



• Anti Poll Tax campaigners stopping Sheriff Officers. Foxbar, Paisley June 1990. We can build another movement to challenge the Cost of Living Crisis.

**But our Freedom of Speech was attacked by our own City Councillors 100 years ago. The current Council's generosity to TRNSMT, permits them to take the Glasgow Green and make as much noise and profits out of our stuff as they like! But it was a different story in 1916. The Councillors issued a repressive bye-law:**

No person shall, in any of the parks, sing, preach, lecture, or take part in any service, discussion, meeting, or demonstration, or hold an exhibition or public show, for any

purpose whatsoever, or play any musical instrument, except with the written authority of the Corporation, or the Superintendent, and then only on such places as may be from time to time set aside by the Corporation or Superintendent, by Notice, for such purpose".

**Transgressing this bye-law turned Free Speech into a direct action. As John Maclean advises, "of course they can make anything into a crime".**

Glasgow Evening News quoted Reverend Lee, "It is lamentable that the citizens of Glasgow should treat so lightly the passing away of the freedom of Glasgow Green..."

March, 1927. Keelies fought it with huge demonstrations, letters to the press, imprisonment, platform speaking continued with intentional arrest or fines, appeals in House of Commons, a Free Speech Committee and a Council of Action/United front, activists including Anarchists, Republican Socialists and all shades of the Left had to fight the law for over 16 years. Glasgow Green was considered a special case from other parks because of its historical associations and the Anarchist Guy Aldred fought the court case in respect of the right of unlicensed liberty of speech on Glasgow Green, "as secured by long tradition, and respected by the Common Law of Scotland..."

**Thousands demonstrated and many were imprisoned, fined and arrested. It took activists like Aldred and Maclean, McGovern, McShane and countless others until summer 1932 -90 years ago- to gain back some of those rights.**

**Keelies say... TURN UP THE VOLUME!**

• Read more... <https://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/john-couzin-the-fight-for-freedom-of-speech-on-glasgow-green-1916-1932>

[http://strugglepedia.co.uk/index.php?title=Fight\\_for\\_Freedom\\_of\\_Speech\\_on\\_the\\_Green](http://strugglepedia.co.uk/index.php?title=Fight_for_Freedom_of_Speech_on_the_Green)

[http://www.workerscity.org/workers\\_city](http://www.workerscity.org/workers_city)