

# POOR THINGS

In cinemas from 8 January 2024

**AWARD-WINNING FILM BASED ON THE 1992 GLASGOW NOVEL BY ALASDAIR GRAY.**

The Glasgow cityscape has been replaced by that of London. The fictional origin of the story, with the discovery of a manuscript in a derelict solicitor's office in Glasgow City centre, relates to the rescue of the office contents by Glasgow City Archives and the subsequent enforced destruction of them on the orders of the owner, Lord Provost Peter McCann.

Alasdair Gray was not a recognised

member of the 'cultural workforce' in the years when Glasgow celebrated the culture of capitalism. He memorialised the Lord Provost McCann in the character of Archibald McCandless, the doctor who marries Bella Baxter, the woman resurrected using the brain of the foetus she was carrying when she drowned herself at Glasgow Green.

McCann in life championed the disabled and the anti-abortion cause, bringing Mother Teresa from Calcutta for a demonstration on the Green in 1982.

**Enjoy the film. It may seem bizarre, but it's less grotesque than the cultural situation in Glasgow which begat it.**

## CEASEFIRE NOW!

RALLY FOR AN END TO THE SIEGE ON GAZA

COUNTY SQUARE, PAISLEY

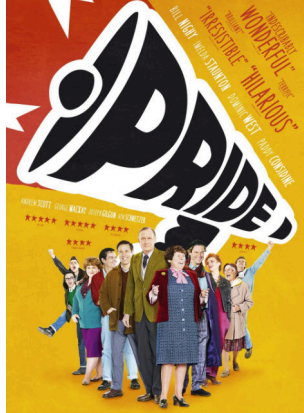
STOP THE GENOCIDE  
FREEDOM FOR PALESTINE

SAT 20TH JAN, 11AM

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- JEWISH ANTI-ZIONIST ACTIVIST
- PALESTINIAN ACADEMIC AND ACTIVIST
- AND MORE...

• GOT A LOCAL ANTI-WAR EVENT IN YOUR AREA? LET US KNOW!  
[glasgowkeelie@riseup.net](mailto:glasgowkeelie@riseup.net)



Miners Strike 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Film introduced by a member of a local strike support group  
Coming to a screen near you soon!

# GLASGOW KEELIE

No.45 Jan 2024

Keep Glasgow Revolting

Priceless

# CEASE FIRE NOW!



Photo: © Billy Knox

## NEWS OF ANTI-WAR ACTION IN THE CITY

# MOBILISING AND ORGANISING

**IT IS ALWAYS INTERESTING looking over the past year when looking forward to the next.**

To plan and reflect on where we need to go next. But last year and this year has one big on-going horror story that supplants all others and is halting people in their tracks. That is the genocide of the Palestinian people by the US-sponsored Zionist project of Israel.

But what also needs to be kept in focus is that amidst the tragedy of Palestine, there is also the courage, determination and historic resistance of ordinary Palestinians against their occupiers. The question is: what learning was needed to build that resistance? And what can ordinary people here, learn from that and from their own history of struggle?

## SOLIDARITY

Maybe one of the best way to help Palestinians and to reach more people, is to understand what the bombs on Gaza set out to destroy. Namely, a deep belief in freedom, of solidarity, of tradition, of mutual aid and camaraderie. It needs to be remembered Arabs, Jews and many others of different religions lived peacefully together before Zionism raised its ugly head.

"It takes a village to raise a child" they say. Something that is well understood in Palestine and in the many villages of the countries under the bombs of the

west's war machine. Children in these places learn about human rights when they are young and carry that knowledge into adulthood.

## MUTUAL AID

While here, we can mobilise millions on to the streets during a conflict, we need to remember that, this is not organising. Mobilisation, is different from organising. You can not create self determined communities through mobilisation alone, we need local organising. We need to look again at our own villages and to help engender in them a deeper belief in freedom, solidarity, tradition, mutual aid and camaraderie. Ideas that are learned by every Palestinian, that gives them the strength to resist.

We, also need that kind of strength today to support them and to build in our own communities resistance to our states violence against Palestinians. As well as to the worsening domestic and economic policies against ourselves that will also be part of the direct consequence of this genocide, along with our Governments neoliberal policies and its compliance to US and Israeli interests of world domination.

**Think globally, act locally. It is time for Internationalism and the resurgence of the community teach-in. Because the neoliberal brute will not be tamed unless we all start to think and learn like Palestinians, in their resistance to domination.**



## ANARCHIST CRITIC

**SOME PEOPLE FOOLISHLY refer to our society as a democracy, when in fact we live under a system of corporatism. A society where the corporate world dictates the shape of the economic distribution of wealth and our political Ballerinas always dance to their tune.**

The Tories, the ballerinas on stage at the moment, spout that they are the party of tax cuts, and this is supposed to make you and I feel good, when in fact it just makes less tax revenue available for the social fabric of our society and the poorest will carry that burden. The latest in tax cuts is inheritance tax, so how much do you think you will save by this "generous" Tory action? Well here is a sample of how those savings work out.

**Rishi Sunak £282m  
Jacob Rees-Mogg £60m  
David Cameron £16m  
Jeremy Hunt £6m  
James Cleverly £3.5m  
96% of people £0**

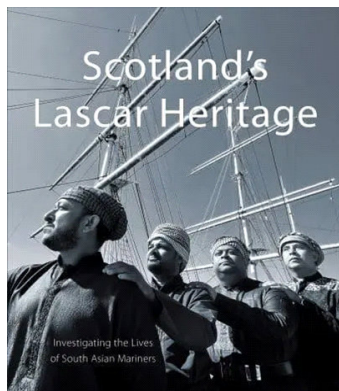
While the system protects the wealth of the very rich and turns a blind eye to tax avoidance, it has decided that it will now snoop on the bank details of the poorest and most vulnerable. Data Protection and Digital Information Bill gives government unhindered access to bank

accounts of 22.4m people. No court order is needed, government does not have to notify anyone. Be afraid, like every afraid. Our liberties are vanishing like an early morning mist.

Our political ballerinas have now dictated that our energy bills will rise by 5% this coming term. Can this be justified when we consider that one energy company, Scottish Power, managed £487 million in profit for year 2022, a considerable jump compared to the previous year. Just another step in the plundering of the poor for corporate profit. The system continues to push more and more people into poverty and the resultant misery and deaths that these actions bring with them.

**When society places hundreds of proletarians in such a position that they inevitably meet a too early and an unnatural death, one which is quite as much a death by violence as that by the sword or bullet; when it deprives thousands of the necessities of life, places them under conditions in which they cannot live – forces them, through the strong arm of the law, to remain in such conditions until that death ensues which is the inevitable consequence – knows that these thousands of victims must perish, and yet permits these conditions to remain, its deed is murder. (Engels)**

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



**SCOTLAND'S LASCAR HERITAGE:**  
Investigating the Lives of South Asian Mariners

Glasgow Museums Publishing in association with the Bangladesh Association of Glasgow, 2023  
90pp, produced by 15 authors, 3 editors, 2 designers and a printer. On sale at Kelvingrove. £5.00

**GLASGOW MUSEUMS AND GLASGOW LIFE** (the ALEO which manages them) rarely stray into the paths of social history publication, so this book is to be warmly welcomed. The research for it was stimulated by the collection of a cast iron plaque inscribed 'Lascars Only' in English and Bangla script, from a former lavatory facility on Stobcross Quay.

'Lascars' or 'coolies' were Asian sailors, and the book looks at their presence in Glasgow in detail. The only disappointment is that there is no mention of Sir William Burrell who made his fortune by commissioning ships to be crewed by lascars only.

With smaller bodies, they were given less space, ate less food and received much lower wages than British sailors. The profits from 'Lascar Heritage' funded the Burrell Collection.

**Buy this book. It might fund a future book on Scotland's Keelie Heritage, if Glasgow Life ever get around to dealing with local history.**

**DISTURBING TO SEE graffiti scrawled in the city centre saying 'Gaza: a 'real' genocide'.**

This nazi holocaust-denial message has no place in our town, and grossly distracts from the horrendous suffering experienced by Palestinians. We urge citizens to promptly scrub it off it wherever it appears.

**The Jewish people are no more to blame for the war crimes of Benjamin Netanyahu than we are for the war crimes of Tony Blair.**

Throughout history, jews have played a proud role in liberation struggles, from the American Civil Rights movement, to the Anti-Apartheid movement in South Africa. Today, anti-zionist jews stand shoulder to shoulder with palestinians in striving for a lasting peace.

In Glasgow in the 1930s, the Jewish Workers Circle had their clubrooms at Gorbals Cross, with twin portraits of Marx and Bakunin prominently displayed. They played a key role in ridding the city of Lord Haw-Haw and his fascist blackshirts, demolishing his platform at Queens Park gates.



**• THE BIG BIKE RIDE FOR PALESTINE had a mass cycle run on Saturday 6th January from Queen's Park to the City Chambers, to join the protest held by the Glasgow Gaza Emergency Committee. Watch out for and join the next one!**

**'STALEMATE. This word began to appear in almost every analytical material of the Western press about the Russian-Ukrainian war.**

Since the retreat of the Russian army from Kherson in November last year, the front line has frozen almost without movement, despite the bloody attempts of each side to achieve a turning point in their favour and gain operational space. After the new Verdun – the winter-spring meat grinder near Bakhmut – came a new Somme, a battle for a dozen villages in the steppes of the Azov Coast, which from October smoothly turned into another Verdun: Bakhmut around Avdeevka.

If it falls, the same will continue on new frontiers a little further. Meanwhile, the

mess of mud and corpses in Krynk, perhaps, is already looking like a new Passendale.

If the current positional balance is not compared to the First World War only by the lazy, its finale is not yet remembered so often. It was disrupted by the workers of the warring countries: The war did not end in 1918 because of the military defeat of one side or another. The generals would have happily spent a few more years killing millions of people to achieve their goals.

**It ended because the populations of Europe took action.'**

**• Read the full account by Assembly, an anarchist group in Ukraine, at [www.anarchistcommunism.org](http://www.anarchistcommunism.org)**



# CEASEFIRE BEGINS AT HOME

**WORKERS FOR A FREE PALESTINE** and other groups staged a blockade at the BAE Systems shipyard in Glasgow on the 7th December.

Protests were held at three entrances to the site in Govan, previously Fairfields shipyard.

The campaign group also blockaded defence factories in Dorset, Brighton and Lancashire.

It urged BAE Systems to end ties with Israel and cease all weapons, defence and supplies trading.

Workers for a Free Palestine said BAE Systems produces components of weapons sold to Israel - including the F35 combat aircraft and the Mk 38 Mod 2 machine gun.

## • Check out:

**Workers for a Free Palestine on twitter**

**Glasgow Gaza Emergency Committee on instagram**

[www.scottishpsc.org.uk](http://www.scottishpsc.org.uk)



Photo:  
© Billy Knox



**THREE PALESTINE ACTION supporters are due to be sentenced this month for halting production at Thales factory in Linthouse Road in June 2022, with a rooftop occupation.**

Thales, one of the world's largest suppliers of military weapon produces military drones, armoured vehicles and missile systems,

The group said it targeted the company partly due to its collaboration with Israeli weapons company Elbit Systems on the Watchkeeper Drone project.

**Check [www.palestineaction.org](http://www.palestineaction.org).**

