

END HOTEL DETENTION

MEARS GROUP are not some kind of charitable organisation - they are private contractors, given public money.

They provide barest minimum crap accommodation and substandard food so they can cream off the profit. Many asylum seekers are survivors of persecution, torture, trafficking or are refugees from war torn countries

They were forcibly moved out of settled homes and stripped of cash at the height of the pandemic and in the middle of the lockdown as it was cheaper for Mears to herd them into empty hotels.

People are unable to social-distance in these crowded dirty hotels, many suffering illness and malnourishment and mental health problems. Having to drink water from the taps in their toilets and endure bed bug bites.

No phones so no way to contact family or support, no money to buy essential toiletries etc and of course not allowed to work. Bad publicity following the tragic incident at the Park Inn, led to minor improvements, but the humiliation of people seeking refuge continues - Mears staff tell them they're not allowed to speak to outside people, discourage them from helping each other, threaten to call the Home Office to influence their asylum claims, accuse them of stealing clothes donated by charities and call the police for this.

Some have now been moved into flats, but new asylum seekers with no outside support have been moved into the same crowded, dirty hotels. Those in flats are pressed to sign a waiver to give up their right to a 7 day notice before being moved elsewhere, as per section 2.12 of their Occupancy Agreement. Many flats dirty and uninhabitable with faulty appliances. Still no access to money, food or Wi-Fi for most.

Hundreds of organisations and individuals from across Scotland are seeking a full independent public inquiry.

UNITING AGAINST THE INHOSPITABLE

AFTER THE SACKING of a worker for supporting Black Lives Matter, West Brewery owner Petra Wetzel dismissed another two for having a "surly attitude".

The workers however, have shown their solidarity with their ex-colleagues by signing up with Unite Hospitality Branch, who have applied for official recognition. What will the autocratic Petra do next? What will the customers do? Boycott until reinstatement or compensation and Union recognition!

Meanwhile in Edinburgh, members of the same Union picketed outside Hilton Hotels.

The worst side of Bar ownership was shown by the shyster who owns the Avalon Bar near the Mitchell Library. Denying any staff Furlough and giving out misleading statements about the bar closing down, then re-opening, hiring staff on reduced pay & conditions. **Boycott Avalon.**

• As Lockdown lifts, many Kelvingrove Park gates are locked 24/7. Kneejerk reaction to sunny day drinkers. Covid19 powers.

Join us in a
COMMEMORATION
for
JAMES PURLEY WILSON
1820 Martyr
200 years to the Hour
of his execution
GLASGOW GREEN
Opposite High Court
3PM SUNDAY 30th
AUGUST
Please observe Social Distance

GLASGOW KEELIE

August 2020

Priceless



REMEMBER the RADICAL WAR

FORGOTTEN HERO

THE MASSACRE OF TRANENT in East Lothian, on the 29th of August 1797. Besieged troops of the Cinque Ports broke out of their billet in a pub in Tranent, and opened fire on the miners and townsfolk. One of those killed, was Jackie Crookston, who had helped mobilise women and children the previous day with her side-drum, to express their opposition. They had lined the streets to express their opposition to militarism and the War with France. Eleven were killed, with Crookston's body not found until eleven days later, in a corn field.

In the terror, women were raped & the town traumatised. Their commander, Viscount Hawkesbury stayed in Haddington, the county town. No blame was attached to him by the ruling class, quite the contrary: renamed as Lord



Liverpool, he was Prime Minister between 1812 and 1827. He was in power for Peterloo and Bonnymuir.

A statue was erected in 1995 to commemorate Crookston and her fellow war-resistors.



THE GREENOCK CUT

FIVE RADICAL PRISONERS were being moved to Greenock for transportation on the Bellerophon in April 1820. The Port Glasgow militia sent to protect the convoy from those sympathetic to the radical cause, panicked and opened fire, eight were killed and others injured, including two leg amputations.

The loss of local folk ranging from James MacGilp aged 8, to 65-year-old John Mac Whinnie angered the Greenock townsfolk who liberated them from their gaol. Only one was recaptured.

• Greenock Memorial: 'Hands of the Fallen'

Good Old Days Scotland's first black sport stars

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL SEASON RESUMES at Premier level without crowds and attracting TV coverage.

Andrew Watson is widely known as the first black player to represent Scotland, as a Full Back, with three caps starting on 12th March 1881, nearly 140 years back. Like fellow black contemporary, Robert Walker he played for Parkgrove before signing for Queens Park. However, Watson was untypical. He was the son of a wealthy sugar planter with his sister Annetta, gaining inheritance on his father's death in 1869. It was unusual to acknowledge black offspring as legitimate heirs. Watson was educated in Wimbledon and became a Marine engineer after studying at Glasgow University. He moved to England in 1882 and played for The Corinthians, and later Bootle, near Liverpool.

The first Rugby player of Black parentage was James Robertson, born in The Gambia. He played for Royal HSFP in Edinburgh before a move to Northumberland in 1879-82. He later helped run Cricket and Tennis clubs close to a medical practice in Hertfordshire.

No racism was associated with either middle class player but when John Walker, of African descent, of Leith Athletic was transferred to Hearts he was referred to as 'Darkie Walker'. In the 1930s Abdul Salim was a Celtic squad player, who played with foot bandages rather than boots. Rangers had Mohammed Latif, who played once for the first team v Hibs.

Gil Heron is, along with Watson, the best known pre 1960s player. The Jamaican played in Detroit & Chicago before his five game (two goal) cameos at Celtic in 1951-2 and Third Lanark at the start of following season (played seven; scored five). As a former sprinter he was called The Black Arrow. He played cricket for Poloc as well. His main claim to fame, apart from his own poetry, is as the absent father of musician & sound-poet, Gil Scott Heron.

West Indian Cricket legend Gordon Greenidge played for Greenock, with a £13,000 salary in 1990-1 and for Scotland. Scottish cricket is much more multi-racial than football or rugby, given the number of players with ancestry to the Indian sub-continent. In 2003, Indian legend Rahul Dravid played for Scotland, including an International v Pakistan at the West of Scotland ground in Partick when he was bowled for 'a duck'.

Paul Wilson, of part Indian descent, hit the heights with Celtic in 1973-5 and was capped in '75. Later, playing for Partick Thistle: a personal recollection was the racist abuse he suffered from visiting Aberdeen fans at Firhill

Unlike many parts of England, Scotland didn't attract West Indian immigration, with their aptitude for football & cricket. Incoming transfers such as Mark Walters at Rangers, Henrik Larson at Celtic and Quintin Jacobs at Thistle, suffered racist abuse from the ignorant and bigoted. More recently, players of African descent, are emerging from football academies in both the men's and women's games.



A Community of Communities - in Rebellion

SINCE THE 1994 REBELLION IN MEXICO, the Zapatista indigenous movement has been creating a living alternative to profit-dominated capitalism: "We have a project for life. In our communities, schools and health clinics flourish. We work the land collectively. We support each other collectively. We are a community, a community of communities."

Last year the Zapatistas announced autonomous municipalities were spreading in the Mexican state of Chiapas, with 11 new "Centres of Autonomous Zapatista Rebellion and Resistance."

Women Zapatistas organise to assert their rights. Last December they hosted the "Second International Gathering of Women Who Struggle". Women from all over the world – including Scotland – planned resistance. On 9 March this year thousands of Zapatista women mobilised throughout Chiapas, raising banners proclaiming "As grass-roots Zapatista women we support the initiative of the national strike against the violence towards the women of Mexico and the world".

Mexican President Lopez Obrador is a self-proclaimed leftist – who pushes neo-liberal policies. His planned mega-project, the "Mayan Train", would destroy jungle, take over indigenous lands, and transport floods of tourists from Cancun into Chiapas. Plans include sweatshop factories beside the stations, to exploit local and migrant labour. The Zapatistas declare they will



physically resist - to the death.

Throughout Mexico, local people risk their lives to resist destructive projects, from corporate wind-farms in Oaxaca to the Gas Pipeline / Integral Project of Morelos. In February the Zapatistas joined the National Indigenous Congress in "Days Of Action In Defence Of Territory And Mother Earth". These February actions also honoured 11 compañeros "murdered for opposing the war the bad government is waging on our lands, hills, and waters in order to consolidate the dispossession which today threatens humanity's existence."

Denouncing the failings of "the bad governments", on 16 March the Zapatistas declared "a red alert" and "the full and immediate closure" of the Zapatista centres, to combat Covid-19. Simultaneously the Zapatistas urged people "to hold high the flag of the struggle for humanity" and "not to lose human contact, but rather to temporarily change our forms of relating"...

• **Edinburgh Chiapas Solidarity Group**
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The 1820 Martyrs

'THE PUBLIC EXECUTION of John Baird and Andrew Hardie, 185 years ago, in Broad Street on 8 September 1820 was one of the bloodiest and most unjust episodes in Stirling's past. A group of radical weavers rose against the government, were captured at Bonnymuir, and imprisoned in Stirling and Edinburgh Castles.

Twenty of them were sentenced to transportation, to Australia. Baird and Hardie were found guilty of High Treason, and given the same sentence as William Wallace in 1305: "drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, and there hung by the neck until you are dead, and afterwards, your head be severed from your body, and your body divided into four quarters to be disposed of as His Majesty may direct." A third man, James Wilson, was similarly executed in Glasgow.

As the Stirling hangman refused to cut off the heads of the accused, a young medical student from Glasgow, Thomas Moore, was hired to do the job. The cloak and axe used by him are in the Stirling Smith collections. Baird and Hardie are regarded as martyrs and founders of our modern democracy and for that reason, the Smith also has a desk and chair from the Scottish Parliament of 1999, where visitors can read up on this very special Stirling story.'

RECENT ISSUES OF THE KEELIE have focused on the urgent topics of the day like the coronavirus epidemic and racism. But this issue highlights instead the bi-centenary of the General Strike and Radical War of 1820.

It was the end of the radical period that began with the French Revolution. When it started, the notorious Henry Dundas was running Scotland as his personal fiefdom, on behalf of William Pitt. It was a government every bit as corrupt as that of Boris Johnson today.

Then as now, they were the oldest ruling class in the world, with all the cunning and deviousness accumulated over centuries.

It is a history that we ignore at our peril.

