

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 werenae 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 bein telt 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

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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!**
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