

Year Zero

Around 14 months ago few of us had any idea how much the Covid-19 pandemic would overturn much of our existence. What was normal became retro, what became the norm, restrictive.

Predictably, given the Australian experience, winter ushered a new wave, made worse by the insanity of celebrating Xmas. Politicians courting short-term popularity, and their own personal gain, in the case of Matt Hancock and his thieving chums, have characterised the UK Government response. Governments, with few exceptions, like New Zealand, blessed by their geography, did not act to curb travel or enact Lockdown, before catastrophic delays.

Most of us, myself included, were in denial for the first month. The pain only eased by glorious spring weather and the discovery of park-life. Traffic dropped and air purity improved. For those still in wage labour, the joys of homeworking, and conferencing, and the loss of the collective but the gain of no travel & less stress. Then there was Furlough, a word like many that has come to the fore. Relief for workers but also for millionaires, companies, that milked Sunak's system.

Essential

Meanwhile the key workers slaved to keep us alive, or cared for, and essential services maintained. And fat lot they have been rewarded. Many have lost their lives, nurses, taxi and bus drivers, postal workers or affected by Long Covid. Clap for Carers was one Big propaganda Con, offering pseudo participation. Remember though when Boris, the great handshaker got affected, how few clapped for that pillock! And how slow was mask wearing officially sanctioned!

Talking of, all the great deniers, conspiracy theorists, and false champions of Liberty, many of whom have died like the President of Tanzania, various trump loyalists. But many who didn't deserve their last year on the planet to be like this too, separated from loved one's too.

As the experience of the vaccine development proved in Finland, the system had to suit the agenda of pharmaceutical giants. That affected the roll out. Vaccine nationalism, and every country for itself, led to Israel and Britain 'ahead of the game' as the EU stuttered. The Russian & Chinese vaccines became adopted even within some east European countries.

Well-being

Dilemmas exist for left radicals. Our instinct would be to question Science, and especially Government decrees. It is easier in Scotland to be less skeptical, but that doesn't mean that scrutiny should be discarded. There are some in social media who would have us shielding as a permanent way of life. In the opposite corner, the denial brigade, mask and vaccine refuseniks that undermine the potential efficacy of the vaccine. In the west of Scotland, you might call that the orange strain!

Our mental and physical well-being has largely suffered, we have been forced to adapt or fall to pieces. We long for the return of sociability, but even with vaccine roll out it will be gradual, use of masks & other precautions still advisory. The economic kick back for many will be redundancy or rehiring on worse terms. **Yet the billionaires have thrived as they do with any crisis. Our opposition & revolt is long overdue!**

GLASGOW KEELIE

April 2021

Priceless

**International Workers
Memorial Day: 28th April**

**NITSHILL MINE, 1851: 61 DEAD
BLANTYRE MINE, 1877: 207 DEAD
TEMPLETON, 1892: 29 DEAD
AUCHENGEICH 1959: 47 DEAD
CHEAPSIDE ST., 1960: 19 DEAD
JAMES WATT ST., 1968: 22 DEAD
PIPER ALPHA OILRIG, 1988: 167 DEAD
STOCKLINE, MARYHILL, 2004: 9 DEAD
**ASBESTOS: COUNTING
COVID: COUNTING****

**REMEMBER
THE DEAD:
FIGHT LIKE HELL
FOR THE LIVING!**

- Human rights
- Housing rights
- Dignity and respect

SOLD OUT

www.asylumlandlords.co.uk

April marks the anniversary of the Home Office's instruction to housing subcontractors (Mears, Serco, G4S and more) to use 'hotels' as accommodation for people seeking asylum in the UK.

Furthering the British Governments hostile environment policy, it has pushed people into the desolate grip of precarious living and kept vulnerable people isolated.

Reports of the conditions in these sites highlights a standard of living well below that of basic human dignity. For several people the conditions have proved fatal.

SOLIDARITY CALL OUT

WILLIAM AITKEN, a Scot working in Barcelona, has been in jail without charge since February 17, following protests in support of rapper Pablo Hasel.

Please send messages of support to:

William Aiken, Brains 1 (Modul 5), AC 1000 08760, Martorell, Catalonia

As one person commented to The Keelie "During a global pandemic, Mears has forcibly removed people from their homes, provided abominable conditions in hotels and breached Covid-19 health and hygiene rules."

The re-purposing of military barracks described as "filthy" and "impoverished" as accommodation, overshadowed by the conditions of a pandemic, shows an intention to develop the hostile environment and worsen living conditions for people escaping war, torture and death seeking a dignified life in the UK.

Glasgow No Evictions, alongside groups across the UK including Sheffield and Newcastle will be commemorating this disgusting anniversary with a week of actions to raise awareness of the ongoing and inhumane practices of the Home Office.

The week starting April 1st will include the launch of a new website presenting the real hotel scheme and the hateful people behind it, a live vigil and more.

Visit asylumlandlords.co.uk



GRAHAM MELDRUM Remembered by Karen Thomson

After Graham was killed at work in 2005, I found myself in the belly of the beast whilst still trying to steer my traumatised children to safety and watch his parents come to terms with the loss of their youngest son.

I was bombarded with letters and meetings with corporate suits and their apologists who went out their way to inform me I asked too many questions, doublespeak for "I didn't fit the helpless widow" narrative.

Their justice system was (is) a brick wall with no guarantees of a fatal accident inquiry and with delays of 6 years the norm... so I called on the only community I could trust, and the Graham Meldrum Memorial Campaign was born.

Our aims were simple...

That "they would know Graham's name"

A fatal accident inquiry and to raise awareness amongst workers about the dangers they faced.

None of us believed that justice was possible, the system is not ours...

We achieved our aims with love and anarchist courage on our side.

We picketed and disrupted courts

We visited the allied bakers site many many times plastering their windows and doors with pictures of Graham

We wrote letters



We blockade forced the hand of the legal system.

We disrupted a trade union sponsored soiree as companies awarded each other trophies for not killing too many workers. court appearance the bosses walked a gauntlet of us reminding them of Graham and their guilt.

For Graham we did many things.

For Graham we sat through 6 weeks of a harrowing fatal accident inquiry and discovered he was killed for repairs that would've cost less than a £100. The global company, his killers are worth billions.

With my friends, family and comrades beside me I put up the fight of my life and then I was able to grieve the loss of my lover and acknowledge that the world had lost a principled man for profit.

<https://www.casemine.com/judgement/uk/5a8ff85160d03e7f57e321>

<https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/12461615.worker-found-driver-trapped-in-tail-lift/>

<http://www.hazardscampaign.org.uk/fack/about/grahammeldrum2.pdf>

#NoMoreCamps

Working towards the humane treatment of asylum seekers on Europe's borders



The living conditions and access to fundamental human rights of over 15,000 asylum seekers forced to live in the Greek Aegean islands camps are to further deteriorate as Greece and the EU plan to construct permanent closed camps on the islands. These new camps threaten to exacerbate the immense human suffering on the islands as asylum seekers will be detained in prison-like conditions. They will be surrounded by military type fences, guarded, patrolled and under constant surveillance.

To condemn these camps, Europe Must Act, driven by volunteers on the ground and across Europe, organized a #NoMoreCamps event on the 18th of March. The action drew public attention to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Greece via social media, press, reports from grassroot organisations in the field, webinars and more. Instead of camps, the campaign advocates for safe and legal routes for refugees and asylum seekers to enter Europe and the UK, and more humane and dignified reception conditions that support people to integrate into society.

European society must come together to resist the building of these camps, to protect the rights of those currently in

camps currently in use in the UK (e.g. [Penally](#)), people who have already risked their lives fleeing war and persecution must now experience legal limbo in indefinite confinement. Reports from these camps show the asylum seekers are suffering high stress levels, PTSD, and depression in conditions void of humanity or dignity.

Now more than ever, public condemnation of these camps is crucial. Europe Must Act invites you to learn more about the current developments on the Aegean Islands visit: www.europemustact.org and join the local campaign for the humane, dignified and legal reception of refugees in Europe:

facebook.com/glasgowmustact

Link to the action day:

facebook.com/glasgowmustact/discussion

Video:

facebook.com/watch/europemustact

"KILL THE BILL" IS GATHERING MOMENTUM IN ENGLAND & WALES with opposition to the Police & Criminal Evidence Bill. In Bristol, as they did with Black Lives Matter and toppling the oppressive presence of Edward Colston's statue, they have sprung into action.

On the 21st of March 5,000 gathered in College Green, accompanied by the Ambling Band. After a couple of speakers used the Colston plinth as a platform, there was a buoyant celebration of protest, through the city centre. In social media: Leo said the **"the right to protest is fundamental"**, and Harry: **"we mustn't let the Government get away with using it as an opportunity to crack down on civil liberties, right to protest and freedom of speech"**.

By 5pm around half the demo were encamped outside Bristol's Bridewell Police Station. Some did a sit-down protest, others lined up against the riot police chanting **"Who's streets? Our streets"**. As it got dark the numbers fell, but the demonstrators took the offensive smashing police windows with skateboards, and torching & graffiti-ing police vans. Despite media reports no police were hospitalised overnight. It carried on till 4.30am. 7 were arrested.

In the week following, three more protests all dealt with brutally by the Bristol police, including on the 23rd by Roma & Travellers. By the 27th protests spread to Manchester, Bradford, Sheffield, Nottingham and smaller towns: Abingdon, Falmouth & Bath.

The Labour Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees has lambasted the protestors as "politically illiterate and strategically inept", although some City Labour MPs have questioned Police violence, at odds with the Mayor's description of "sensitive" Policing!

It is quite likely that, as with the USA, and Portland, Oregon, that Bristol will be

portrayed as an epicentre of disorder that justifies the new police powers. There have been observations that the police did little to prevent the attack on their station, or vehicles at Bridewell, despite using pepper sprays. This gives rise to suspicions that it suited their agenda, to misrepresent that under present powers they were 'powerless'.

Much of the justification for the Bill, is to combat the paralysing of city centres by Extinction Rebellion, the toppling of statues and other militant protests. It could also be used against groups of workers to expose employers, such as with the UVW amongst cleaners & care staff or the IWW with TEFL workers. It promises to be a Scorching Spring of Protest down south.

But what about Scotland you may ask? No such bill covers here. Assuming the SNP are back in power after May's elections, the concerns in the run up to IndyRef 2 won't primarily be with climate activists, militant workers and anarchists, but with pro-Unionist mobs, organised on sectarian lines intent on violence & intimidation. Could that lead to legislation that also affects the right to protest?



Looking forward to the Healthy Outdoors? Think again!

COP 26: DOON THE WATTER

It's 25 years since a wee 4-year-old boy was burned after touching phosphorous at the beach.

4,500 phosphorus devices from the Beaufort's Dyke, UK armaments dump in the Irish Sea contaminated nice beaches in Islay, Jura, Arran, Argyll and North Ayrshire.

Getting away to a wee caravan near a lovely beach in Bonnie Scotland is just the business! But where? Well, let's see if we can narrow it down a bit! What about...

The STUNNING West Coast...

Helensburgh, Gare Loch? - But didn't Faslane leak liquid radioactive effluent for many years? They plan (2020) a new radioactive waste disposal unit there, now that we host the entire 11 UK nuclear submarines fleet of 4 TRIDENTS plus Astute/Ambush/Artful/Audacious featuring Cruise Missiles and Spearfish torpedoes. More letter 'A' boats Anson, Agamemnon and Agincourt - coming soon! What? None called ARMAGEDDON!

Coulport, Loch Long - But that's where the nukes are stored and the MoD outsourced the disposal of 'wastes' to private plc (ABL) including gaseous radioactive waste into the atmosphere, authorised between SEPA and MoD.

Millport, Largs and Fairlie - But not without your potassium iodate pills -

FREE if you live within 2.4km of the aging and cracking Hunterston A + B Nuclear Power plants- in case it leaks! EDF wants to cut those tablets to 1 km! I'm no expert, but I thought radiation has no boundary?

Machrihanish, Kintyre - But there's MoD radium radioactive waste

Kirkcudbright - But there's Depleted Uranium radioactive waste from firing shells dumped in the Solway.

Ayrshire - Beaches had WW2 armaments from the dump Beaufort's Dyke deep sea trench that contains more than 1million tonnes of unexploded munitions, chemical weapons and radioactive waste.

Let's go EAST...

Angus, Moray, Arbroath all have buried radium 226 - gamma irradiation kept under review by SEPA.

Tain - beware! MoD LIVE firing times

Aberdeen - Scotoil cleaning facility is authorised to dispose of radionuclides of natural origin.

Fife - Dalgetty Bay beach / Isle of May area: radium contamination from decommissioned MoD gear.



• Here Be Monsters: Faslane

Rosyth is authorised liquid radioactive effluent dispersion into the River Forth - I blame cleaning those Trident hulls!

Culross - air contamination from gas flaring and black clouds at INEOS plant Grangemouth.

Does a bus go to the NORTH COAST?

But not stunning **Cape Wrath** too! Check the bombing schedule first. Since 2005 it's been LIVE bombed by 'Joint Warrior' military exercises, sea, land, submarine and air, Europe's largest training. But it's OK on Sundays!

Oh, and not the beaches around **Dounreay** -there's leaked radiation Don't forget that Vulcan Reactor for nuke submarines being defueled and still being decommissioned.

What about the ISLANDS?

Benbecula - suspected radium but Isle of **Guinard**- this lethal anthrax biohazard

was washed down with formaldehyde and sea water in the 1990's, so it's safe now, if you fancy that.

The UK welcomes international COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference to Glasgow hosted just 30 miles from the UK's biggest nuclear dump. MoD training for WAR has caused much of this beach destruction in Scotland. WAR causes vast devastation, extensive amounts of greenhouse gases, human impact climate change and pollution. WAR's Scorched Earth methods use herbicides, chemical and nuclear warfare which devastate the environment and ecosystems.

Let's treat delegates with VIP Waverley Tours and throw in free potassium iodate pills?

People have learnt to be suspicious.

Hame'll dae me!