



From the mid-1990s until 2012 Glasgow had a life size statue of the notorious Jimmy Savile. It stood in the foyer of Scotstoun Leisure Centre, and after some wag nabbed his wooden cigar, most visitors remained oblivious to who the figure was.

Unbelievably, as the scandal surrounding Savile began to finally surface, Councillors in George Square suggested moving the statue to the People's Palace. Eventually, the decision was made to destroy it.

**Where were Pritti Patel and the Statue Defenders when Jimmy needed them?**

**It has been said that the Houses of Parliament is an anagram of Shameful Operations.**

One of the many MPs fitting that description was Cyril Smith. Smith was a Labour Councillor who resigned from the party because they would not increase Council tenants' rents, then

became a Liberal, even though he campaigned for Capital punishment.

A long-time associate of Jimmy Savile, Smith was investigated by the underground newspaper Rochdale Alternative Press who brought to light his prolific sex offences against children. Public authorities, including the police and intelligence services have been implicated in covering up Smith's crimes. In 2015, it emerged that he had been arrested in the early 1980s in relation to these offences, but a high-level cover-up reportedly led to his being released within hours, the evidence destroyed and the investigating officers prevented from discussing the matter under the Official Secrets Act.

**So far, so Line of Duty storyline.**

But one element often missed in the Cyril Smith saga is asbestos. Turner and Newall, once the world's biggest asbestos manufacturer, was based in Smith's constituency. He forewarned them that EU regulations on asbestos were due to be debated in Parliament, and delivered a speech written for him by the Company. "the public at large are not at risk from asbestos". In 2008, Smith said that 4,000 asbestos-related deaths a year in the UK was "relatively low". It later emerged he owned 1,300 shares in T&N.

As one witness in an investigation into Smith stated: all roads lead to Westminster.

• Source: Wikipedia

# GLASGOW KEELIE

May 2021

**MAYDAY SPECIAL**

Priceless

## WORKERS! DON'T GET INFECTED BY THE VIRUS OF CAPITALISM!



### OUR LIVES ARE WORTH MORE THAN THEIR ECONOMY!

**UNIONISE, ORGANISE & FIGHT!**

## JOIN THE IWW!



# The Herald

**Anarchists intent on violence could descend on Glasgow during Cop26**



**Parish magazine for Glasgow's gentry/bourgeoisie, the Herald, recently ran a scare story on anarchists coming to Glasgow.**

But anarchists have been here for over 150 years, since a French anarchist fleeing the repression of the Paris Commune settled in Crown Street in the Gorbals, in 1871.

Since then, anarchists have played a positive role in every campaign for justice in the city, from early union struggles, through conscientious objections in World War One, to today's

campaigns for mutual aid and tenants rights. In each case they contributed all their energies, with no wish to dominate or control the movement.

Lewis Grassic Gibbon (James Leslie Mitchell) writer of the great Scottish novel *Sunset Song*\* was active in an anarchist group during his time in Glasgow..

The Herald, by contrast, has from its beginning always represented the interests of the capitalist class. A year after the Peterloo massacre by the Manchester Yeomanry, Samuel Hunter, editor of the Herald, led the Glasgow Sharpshooters, a sharply dressed militia of rich young men. Pointing his sword in the direction of Cathkin Braes he boasted that he 'was confident that if any reasonable ragamuffins approach the city, you will give them a warm reception.'

In November 2021 we will warmly welcome each and every protestor for climate justice to the city.

**• The classic 1971 BBC adaption of *Sunset Song* is available on Youtube. Highly recommended!**



## INTERNATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

**Keelies remembered the deaths of workers in unsafe workplaces, during the afternoon on 28th April, 2021 at the drying green on Glasgow Green.**

This was the site of the Templeton Mill Disaster, 1889, when high winds collapsed the building on over 140 women and children weavers. They made carpets for Titanic and Cunard ships as well as Royal Coronations with Company assets of £26 million in today's money. Despite huge wealth, many of their workers died on the job in fire or crushing incidents. In 1889, the rescuers included the women themselves who organised frantic search parties for sisters, daughters and mothers. Regarded as a cover up the Inquest blamed 'confused responsibilities' between the Architect and the Engineer.

Keelies hung workers' aprons to

commemorate the 29 women and girls who died at Templetons and other Clydesiders including, Stockline ICL Tech Plastics staff, Graftons Shopworkers, Antares Trawler folk, Asbestos victims and NHS COVID 19 workers, and individuals like Graham Meldrum who went to work and never came home again.

**United Nations estimates that six thousand people are killed daily at work - three times MORE people than in WARS, drug and alcohol abuse combined. [United Nations]**

Keelies say most die because their employer put profit and production ahead of safety at work. We should remember them and honour them, and take this as a reason to alter the economic system that sets these priorities. WORKERS LIVES are worth much more than an economic system of profit for the few.

# STAYING ALIVE

Barrowlands dancin opened in 1934 and by the time it was thumpin out 'Jailhouse Rock' in the 1950's, Scotland had deviated from the rest of Europe in mortality rates.

By 1980 it was worse of all here in Clydeside. Partly, it's Health and Safety with over 230 workplace fatalities in the past twenty years. If you work in construction or in agriculture you probably already know you are at higher risk of dying on the job. Gone are the Unionised works, such as engineering shops or miners, with a hundred of years' experience of worker power. Instead, an increase in the less unionised oil industry or self-employed construction work.

**Research shows that 97% of fatalities were in non-union workplaces.**

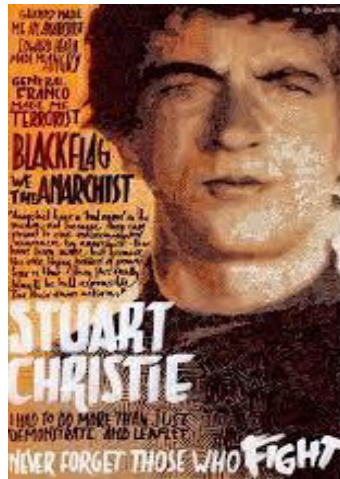
Here workers are at the mercy of their boss' authoritarianism. Work feels even harsher with precarious or longer hours, anti-social shifts, speedy completion, isolation, sub-contracts, placing the worker under greater pressure yet unable to collectivise to challenge unsafe practice.

Glasgow's generations of workers, also matured in conditions of

serious deprivation, desperation, grabbing what work can be found

. But employer negligence leads to death. Clydeside workers' endurance of falls, fractures, burns, electrocution, explosions, drowning, asphyxiation, loss of consciousness and death should lead to corporate manslaughter charges. The balance of the boss' authority changes when a Union is introduced building power on the shop floor.

**An injury to one is an injury to all.**



• Stuart Christie, Roc Blackblock, SWG3



## EVICION RESISTANCE IN GOVANHILL

**MORE THAN 80 Govanhill residents turned out on the 15<sup>th</sup> April to oppose the illegal eviction of Marta and her young family. Marta received a letter from her landlord Amina Hussain on 22nd March demanding they leave the property within a month.**

Hussain thought that Marta stood alone and could easily be thrown out of her home. Hussain thought wrong.

Over 100 of Marta's neighbours have now volunteered to be part of an eviction resistance network which will act fast to block any illegal eviction attempt. Living Rent Govanhill members have worked tirelessly to rally the community to the aid of this family. This socially distanced demonstration proved to be an astounding display of solidarity and organised strength.

If you're based in Govanhill and interested in joining this eviction resistance network, text your name and number to 07808645947. There is strength in numbers and Living Rent's Govanhill branch is out to show rogue landlords that they can't treat tenants in such an appalling manner.

**Govanhill will resist.**

[www.livingrent.org/join](http://www.livingrent.org/join)



# GLASGOW STRIFE?

A mix of local anger, nostalgia and campaigning has arisen following the publication of Glasgow Life's list of venues not scheduled to re-open.

No longer able to use Covid as an excuse and having suffered a huge drop in visitor & user revenue the well-heeled bosses (see GK February & November 2020) have drawn up a hit-list of venues they deem surplus to requirements.

In Whiteinch the community has reacted to the news of the Library not re-opening with a read-in outside. Other facilities such as Barlia Football Centre in Castlemilk & the Couper Institute Library & Hall, have also prompted local opposition. The Glasgow Times in the run up to the Holyrood Election have highlighted the issue as have facebook groups.

When you examine the list.. It is clear in the sports facilities listed that many are closed,



run down or in some cases long disappeared. But they occupy land which in some cases could be sold off to raise funds. Public Golf Courses, and some small parks for example and some semi derelict sports fields offer great opportunities!

Some facilities on the list have already been off-loaded. Petershill sports pitches to the Partick Thistle Trust & the pitches on Edmiston Drive to Rangers FC. Expect some private companies to 'cherry-pick' from the list.

The Hockey Centre & stadia in Glasgow Green was part of the Commonwealth Games legacy. Is there an agenda there for that part of The Green?

## OCCUPY?

There is a long history, even before the Council created the 'arms length' body Glasgow Life of venue closures. Cast your mind back to the end of Strathclyde Region and the loss of funds for Glasgow. Community centres were closed, in some cases occupied in protest, and then offered nominal deals to take over the running but then left on their own to raise funds to keep going.

What became the Kinning Park Complex was one of the few to survive. In North Pollok, when funding was withdrawn, and local efforts floundered, local youths torched the building, a fate of many community facilities.

Is Glasgow unique in facing such a raft of closures? More research from around Scotland is needed.

Expect the campaign to focus on the communities that shout the loudest and become a bidding war to save those that are the best organised to resist. Also for museums designed to attract tourists to be mothballed, in the hope of more visitors in 2022.

