



• The Keelie Rickshaw on tour, supporting Paisley Strike Solidarity on their demo. Strike Solidarity groups also exist in Glasgow North, South, East and West. Check them out on social media.

ALISTAIR HULETT MEMORIAL TRUST PRESENTS...

A JOHN MACLEAN CENTENARY STRIKE SOLIDARITY NIGHT

FEATURING
THE WAKES
 JUNKMAN'S CHOIR
 BECCI WALLACE
 THE MCCLUSKEY BROS

SAT 11 FEB POLLOKSHAW BURGH HALLS



Keelie

'A disreputable inhabitant of a town or city, especially from Glasgow'
Oxford Dictionary

We aim to be a voice for the dissident, the downtrodden, the troublemaker, the enraged, the anarchist, and we welcome the participation of all true lovers of liberty

Got a story? Get in touch!
 Email: glasgowkeelie@riseup.net
 Web: <https://glasgowkeelie.org/>
CHECK GLASGOW KEELIE ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND YOUTUBE

Just a Wee

GLASGOW KEELIE

No.38 Feb. 2023

Keep Glasgow Revolting

Priceless

THE ONLY THING RISING SHOULD BE THE PEOPLE!



Mural at Strathclyde Distillery, opposite Glasgow Green. I Rise, We Rise: UNIONISE!

WIN FOR FUEL POVERTY CAMPAIGNERS

ENERGY SECRETARY Grant Shapps was recently forced to crackdown on energy companies, ordering them to stop forcing customers onto prepayment meters (PPMs). Ofgem has also announced a legal investigation.

Pressure ramped up on the government by several avenues including a string of scandals uncovered by I-news, parliamentary debates demanding the practice be banned and Citizens Advice revealing unprecedented numbers of prepayment customers being disconnected.

DEMAND BAN

As pressure built, Fuel Poverty Action took to the streets, leading a mobilisation along with allies like the National Pensioners Convention and Disabled People against the Cuts. Demanding a ban on forced PPMs, four days of protest included vigils and demonstrations in multiple towns and cities along with an interruption of First Minister's Questions at Holyrood.

Westminster's position shifted each day, but its strongest intervention followed nationwide 'warm-up' protests on Saturday 21st January. Warm-Ups have been used throughout Fuel Poverty Action's history, entering buildings and public spaces on the basis of being unable



to keep warm at home. This time round locations included the Scottish Parliament, Museum of Liverpool, an EDF call centre, a Barclays Bank and Liberty of London.

The victory shows the power of collective action but FPA is pushing the government to go further by banning forced PPMs and removing unsafe meters from homes. The group is also demanding Energy For All; which the Campaign Coordinator, Stuart Bretherton, describes as, 'a free amount of energy to cover everyone's basic necessities, paid for by higher tariffs on luxury household energy use, windfall taxes and ending fossil fuel subsidies.'

• **Follow Fuel Poverty Action on Facebook**



ANARCHIST CRITIC

TO DAY AROUND THE WORLD there are glaringly obvious, brutally glaringly obvious, examples of why we should never allow religious groups to hold power.

In Afghanistan we have the Taliban who enforce savage punishment on all and sundry from removing a persons hand to forbidding women to be educated. In Iran we have the Mullahs who preside of a regime that can accept young women being beaten to death for not covering their hair in the Mullah's desired fashion and kills and executes those who dare to oppose this insanity of religious dogma.

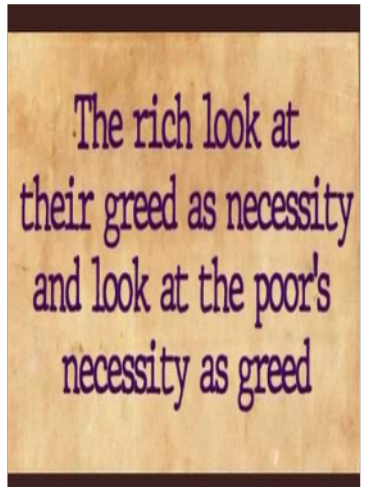
Then there is Israel, with this insane belief that about 2,000 years or so ago, God gave them all the land that was Palestine and they have that god given right to take it all back no matter how much suffering or how many deaths this takes.

In this country, the UK, the state still pays homage to the religious dictators that hold sway over millions of ordinary people trying to channel the public's thoughts along the strict dictate of their chosen God. All religions claim to be followers of a loving God of peace, but all religions have blood soak history they all have killed and will again, they'll kill those who dare to oppose

them. The world is soaked in blood from religious wars, and it still divides the people of the world. Freedom, peace and justice cannot coexist with religion.

The UK state hands 26 seats in the House of Lords to bishops of the Church of England. These planted members can and do vote on legislation, make interventions, but also they lead prayers at the beginning of each day's sessions. This puts UK on a par with the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the only two states on the planet that give clerics of the established religion automatic seats in the legislatures, where they can vote and shape legislation.

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



Open Forum

Both the Western and Chinese calendars have commenced anew.

As somebody with not that many years left on this planet, I could rabbit on about the failures of the World Leaders to fully appreciate the gravity of the situation facing continued human and other live creatures, with erratic weather patterns heralding devastation, the impact on the polar ice caps, oceans and habitat.

So many are caught up with short-term fixes that just make matters worse. Many Corporations pay lip service to the 'green economy', some as pure Greenwashing to paper over their subservience to 'market forces'.

Now with the likely release of Leopard Tanks and other war machinery from NATO Allies sanctioned by Germany, the War being foisted on Ukraine will escalate. The only means of stopping this catastrophe, which Putin was partly responsible for, is his ousting by the Russian Elite. For the time being bi-lateral trade with China, Iran, India etc. is staving off collapse.

Next year, it is likely but not inevitable that over a dozen years of Tory rule will end, but with Starmer and his Cabinet adopting Blairite policies, any challenge to the huge wealth & power gap will be an illusion. There can be no political democracy/equality without economic democracy/equality !

A point the SNP should consider as they press on with IndyRef 2, as if that in itself is a panacea, and we will all be having "pie in the sky" when

independent.

2022 was a year of militant Trade Unionism and this will continue into 2023 as inflation outstrips wages, especially in the Public Sector. To what extent if there is a Labour or Labour led coalition Government will this militancy continue? Beer and Sandwiches at no.10 might have been the past carrot for union Bosses, but are the leaders of Unite, RMT etc going to swallow that.

One thing is clear: we need to carry on, and encourage our fellows, to refuse and resist, to organise without over reliance in Leaders. The alternative is to be complicit in our own downfall.

GET INVOLVED!

Anarchist Critic

radicalglasgowblog.blogspot.com

City Strolls

citystrolls.com

Clydeside Industrial Workers of the World

Facebook Twitter or clydeside@iww.org.uk

Friends of the Peoples Palace, Winter Gardens and Glasgow Green

Facebook or friendsofppwgwg.org.uk

Glasgow Anarchist Communist Group

Facebook Twitter or

glasgow@anarchistcommunism.org

Glasgow Autonomous Space

Facebook Instagram or

glasgowautonomous.weebly.com

Glasgow No Evictions Campaign

Facebook Twitter or

no-evictions.wixsite.com/glasgow

Living Rent

Facebook Twitter or livingrent.org

Radical Radio Scotland

Youtube Spotify

Red and Black Song Club

Facebook

Spirit of Revolt archive

Facebook or spiritofrevolt.info



WHEATLEY HOMES want to demolish 600 properties in Maryhill... and replace them with a mere 300.

Wyndford Residents Union instead wants the Housing Association to modernise the high flats, rather than demolish them.

A spokesman said 'We don't want to see the community gentrified. We want the right for social housing for working people and their families'.

• Check Wyndford Residents Union on Facebook.



• FOR THREE LONG YEARS Campaigners in Ruchill have been out in all weathers determined to get their Community Centre open again.

Now they have been promised re-opening, they are still out every Saturday to hold the Council to their word.

IN IT TO WIN IT

THE TORIES are pushing through a bill that is greasing its slippery way through Parliament, setting minimum service levels for rail, ambulance and fire services. This bill will also give the Government the power to impose similar requirements in education, health and nuclear, if it deems that strikes are 'putting lives at risk'.

Coming off the back of the Trade Union Act 2016 which made unions borderline illegal this new iteration of the bosses attacks on workers will mean that union members in these industries who refuse to work, via a legal strike ballot, can be sacked. Employers will also be given free reign to take unions to court to get an injunction to stop strike action. If that wasn't laughable enough, employers will also be allowed to seek damages from any union that refuses to submit to the new rules.

Government sources confirmed that union members who were told by their employers to work under the minimum service requirement but refused to do so could lose their jobs.

"Don't worry too much," some in the labour movement inevitably say. "The Tories are polling abysmally and will be voted out next election. We just need to vote Labour." They say we should sit tight, vote and wait for everything to be repealed once the Tories leave office.

Except, the alternative to the Tories doesn't look particularly promising at the moment. with Keir Starmer's Labour party



• Pickets at All Saints Secondary keep warm by dancing The Sloss

repeatedly and pointedly refusing to support the workers of the same labour movement from which his party takes its name, who are striking. They may have promised to repeal any legislation if they take office but their score sheet of keeping promises and pledges doesn't look encouraging. After all, Tony Blair's Labour government refused to roll back any of Thatcher's legal assaults on workers from the 70s and 80s, so why should we think BlairBot 2.0 will do the same for us this time?

The Tories themselves are well aware of the risks of following such an extreme strategy when it comes to industrial unrest.

A government impact assessment published last year says as much, with the transport department declaring that such a move could actually cause more disruption. It argues that unions could respond to the legislation by organising

more frequent, more localised strikes, and using more action short of a strike, like working to rule: both potentially much more damaging to employers over the long term than a few individual strikes here and there.

Far from smothering the flames of industrial unrest, introducing minimum service levels will likely fan them, not to mention radicalise and further incense workers who are increasingly beginning to recognise the power that they hold over the services that they provide society.

The law can be a dangerous, fickle friend to have when it comes to labour organising and we should pay close attention to what the response of the leadership of the TUC and STUC unions is to this legislation. Anything less than outright refusal to follow the new restrictions on their part is a betrayal of the working class at a time when we are in desperate need of a militant, well-organised labour movement

to, at the bare minimum, defend the few rights that we have as workers. Specifically, the right to withdraw our labour.

For syndicalists, like us, this affair shows us that whilst the state may give us the occasional legal right or concession to keep us quiet, it is more than happy to snatch them away at the first sign of those rights becoming an inconvenience to it. The right to strike may be recognised in the UN Convention on Human Rights and in UK legislation but it doesn't mean that it will be respected.

Talk to any worker who has been sacked from a job through a disciplinary process and you will soon learn about how employers can use every trick in the book to legally fire you, even if you've done nothing wrong. Yes, it can be a weapon, but it can be easily turned against you.

We call on all organised unions run by the workers to reject this law outright and to refuse heeding its anti-worker legislation. We call on all unions to continue to build grassroots worker-led unions in their workplaces and to give the workers decisions over their job conditions.

We call on all workers to organise with their co-workers and fight against their bosses and all of their allies. It is imperative that we act in collective strength, not cowering in the face of individualising terror that the law can bring to our doorsteps.

• Check **CLYDESIDE IWW** on Twitter