



JOIN THE KEELIE STROLLERS
as we bring street theatre
to the Glasgow people!

Actors and musicians are welcome to
join our merry volunteer crew.

No experience necessary.

Email: glasgowkeelie@riseup.net

OCCUPATIONS!

Open Meeting with participants in
Thales (Govan) Rooftop Protest
+ Price Waterhouse 1984 + others
Electron Club at CCA

Thursday 9th Nov 6.30-9pm

Hosted by Spirit of Revolt Archive

POCKET RADICALS #102

Elspeth
King

The Strike of
the Glasgow
Weavers - 1787

CALTON BOOKS

NEW! FROM CALTON BOOKS

**GLASGOW ANARCHIST
COMMUNIST GROUP**

Public Meeting

Launching our pamphlet

Against Nationalism

Discussing why Nationalism isn't
the answer and why it is everywhere
a barrier to real liberation.

Tues 28th November 7-9pm

Red Rosa's 195 London Rd

GLASGOW KEELIE

No.44 Nov. 2023

Keep Glasgow Revolting

Priceless

YE CANNNAE SHOVE YER BUS FARES UP AGAIN!

ST ANDREW'S DAY

anti-racism

+ anti-fascism

MARCH

+ **RALLY**

GLASGOW

SATURDAY 25TH

NOVEMBER

MARCH

GLASGOW
GREEN

MUSTER 10.30am

MOVE OFF 11am

12 noon **RALLY**

TECHNOLOGY &
INNOVATION CENTRE
STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY



WHAT ARE OUR POLITICS?

I WAS LEAFLETING IN GOVAN for Save the Docks campaign public consultation and a young guy from a few metres away asked what it was about.

Before I gave him the leaflet, he said. "I fuckin hate Govan, I used to love it, but not any more. I fucking hate it." There wasn't really any malice in his voice, more like regret and a kind of loss of hope. I chatted to him for a bit but he might have been too far down in the groove that our conversation would have made any difference.

He seemed like the kind of guy with a bit of support would be useful to his community. I have known other activists, people, in Govan with exactly the same attitude. Folk who were once good leaders but worn out by so much disapproval, distrust and repeatedly climbing the same hill of petty slights, and personality politics.

SCANDAL

With too much negativity to endure, too little aspiration to bear and too little agenda to adopt. This is not just a Govan phenomenon, you can find it all over. Why? Well maybe when we can watch our politicians brazen out almost any scandal, lie rob and cheat with impunity, why should we care about politics? Answer. Because it is not our politics.

If our newspapers continue to serve the needs of elites and business. They are not our newspapers. If our street are covered in crap and are

unwalkable for old folk. They are not our streets.

The young guy who hates Govan probably associates his hate to his surroundings as many others do and to the people who live in them, or are forced to live in them.

What he possibly fails to see is that this 'is' our politics. Looking after our community and looking after each other is our politics.

RE-ENERGISING

Sure we can blame the council or the government but that is not enough. It has always been the case that we need to force these institutions to do anything. And another way we could progress is forgetting about Westminster and Holyrood for a bit and start to concentrate on re-energising our local politics.

There was another guy at our eventual meeting, who couldn't stop talking about what he was doing in his street. His excitement was palpable as if he had discovered the lost chord. But it was just about doing what he could, in his neighbourhood, on his street with the people around him.

This is the stuff that makes communities grow and worries those who think that they know our needs better. We start to work on stuff we can actually do something about. And start again to fucking love the people and the place we live in.

THAT IS OUR POLITICS!



ANARCHIST CRITIC

IN SCOTLAND there is a saying "wha's like us". In my opinion not that many in the developed world.

A recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation research reveals that in this oil and whisky country, almost half a million individuals are living in "very deep poverty", an increase of 300,000 since last March. They also found that poverty among working people was growing and 10% of employees were locked into persistent low pay.

Those worst hit by this capitalist created poverty are women and ethnic minorities. Following the capitalist work ethic that work lifts you out of poverty, is another spewing of bullshit, as 60% of children living in poverty have at least one parent working.

Compare this with those parasites at the other end of wealth scale. Anders Holch Povlsen, who is the owner of Danish retailer Bestseller and has a 25 per cent stake in ASOS, he has managed to grasp a personal fortune of £6.5billion, which is up by £500million compared to last year. Not bad for a 49 year old.

Then we have the Easdale brothers, James and Sandy with a £1.363billion fortune based on transport and property acquisitions. Let's not forget the Edinburgh lassie JK Rowling, she

added £30million to her fortune, making her worth £850 million.

Now do you think any of these and other millionaire parasites, work that much harder than factory workers, delivery drivers, warehouse workers, nurses, and those in a host of essential jobs that keep this country going and create that wealth that these parasites plunder?

Think about it, we create all that wealth, why can't we share it among all our people?

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

Thoughts on Starmer's golden confetti.

All that glitters isn't gold,

Often have you heard that told,

Shakespeare said it first, 'tis said
Gold can't be fashioned out of lead.

What once was red is royal blue.

What magic trick has changed his hue?

A golden shower on Starmer's head,

Will not transform a lump of lead.

Remember Muir and John Maclean,

Keir Hardie's name's been ta'en in vain.

Just add a "Sir", a golden word,
But ... you cannot polish up a turd.

- Jim McLean

OPEN FORUM

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

The Glasgow Keelie places great importance on remembering our history. Deportation, destitution, death was often the brutal consequence of raising the issue of extending the Right to Vote all in the early 19th Century. And the force-feeding, imprisonment & other harsh tactics utilised by the Liberal Government just pre WW1 against the Suffragette women. The democracy that the Radical Weavers, Tom Paine, The Chartist advocated, wasn't what passes for Representative Democracy today. They linked economic and political democracy. You can't have free citizens without overturning the economic structure of society, ending exploitation and inequality. On it's own political democracy becomes a tool to legitimise and fashion careers in the interests of the status quo.

WHY VOTE

Anarchist propaganda aimed at questioning what transpires after you trot along to the Polling Station every 5 years or so, is useful, depending on how it is expressed. Abstentionism can have consequences especially among younger voters, much less likely to vote Tory. It is a fleeting, not an ethical choice for most. The vast majority of the workers who have taken industrial action and revitalised Trade Unions in the past year, will probably vote, and many of them will pin few hopes on Labour making a huge difference.

For sure, the class war will continue.

• This article does not reflect an editorial or collective Keelie opinion

THE VOTING CONUNDRUM

THE RUTHERGLEN BY-ELECTION resulted in a win for Labour. Dissatisfaction not only with the Toerags at Westminster, extended to the Scottish Government. In true opportunist style, Labour profited, and is on course to increase their paltry total of MPs at the next General Election. That circus will be held in 6 to 12 months time.

The way the elections for the UK Parliament are structured, voting Labour is the sure way to achieve an end to 13 years of Tory misrule and increased poverty for the many. Yet the newly packaged, socialist-cleansed Labour under Sir Keir Starmer did not enthuse many of those who made it on to the Electoral Roll, and complied with new Voter ID rules. 37% turnout at the by-election, was a poor response to the massive propaganda that Labour in particular deployed.

The disgraced SNP had tarred the SNP for the voters in Cambuslang, Blantyre, and other blighted parts of the constituency. The end of the Sturgeon era, the failure of the Indy-ref 2 campaign, all contributed to SNP voters staying at home. In this area miners in High Blantyre at the start of the 20th century hosted anarchist speakers such as Peter Kropotkin and Emma Goldman. Depoliticisation is the norm today.



• The bombing of Guernica in 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, was commemorated in Picasso's painting. The stark black and white imagery symbolises the phosphorous bombs used in the blanket bombing.

Eighty six years later, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have collected evidence, including video, that Israel uses white phosphorus artillery shells, an illegal weapon of extermination, against the people of Gaza.



• Bus fares in Glasgow are a rip-off! Terrible services make many people's lives a misery. Check the new GET GLASGOW MOVING campaign on Facebook.

THE REMOVAL OF PEAK FARES on Scotland's trains is a progressive move that helps us all in these tough times.

But why has first-class carriages been re-introduced on the Glasgow to Edinburgh line? They were abolished during Covid and should have stayed abolished!

We are reminded of Mahatma Gandhi, who was asked why he always travelled Third Class. He replied 'Because there isn't a Fourth Class.'

HOW THE **WHEATLEY GROUP EMPIRE** WAS HUMBLED BY ORGANISED RESIDENTS (for now)

EARLIER THIS YEAR PROTEST AND DIRECT ACTION by the Wyndford Residents Union, the local Wyndford affiliate of the Scottish Tenants Organisation union, led to Glasgow City Council conceding that it would have to offer a "Screening Opinion".

Featuring evidence that the Wheatley Group Scotland's biggest landlord - tried to hide, which showed that homes would be at risk of serious damage, children in danger of death, and the water table at risk of permanent poisoning, the Council nevertheless treated this as a box ticking exercise.

Not to be deterred, or have their community bombed, the WRU took their case to the environmental rights centre for Scotland. Linking up with long term social housing campaigner and retired architect Kate MacIntosh, the union decided to push for a judicial review.

Solicitor Ben Christman informed the Council they had made four errors of law, the compromised authority, which aims to sell of its land and community centre to cash in on luxury homes as part of the development, was arrogant and dismissive.

Yet several weeks ago the Council's legal team facing defeat in the Court of Session conceded that their bum was out the windae.



• A PROTEST AGAINST HOMELESSNESS was held at the City Chambers, organised by the Homeless Project Scotland and the Scottish Tenants Organisation. Body bags were laid on the ground to symbolise the 21 deaths at GCC Temporary Accommodation so far this year.

The Council now faces rerunning the Screening Opinion, and somehow squaring the circle with the obvious point that all the evidence points to the need for an environmental impact assessment, or granting one. This is not just technical legalese - an impact assessment forces Wheatley to have to make a planning application for the demolition.

Previously the Council moved heaven and earth to avoid this, knowing that their great pals at Wheatley are in breach of the City Plan and the Climate Change act. If granted that

makes stopping the demolition a very real possibility.

Nevertheless in an angry tantrum Wheatley decided to push on with demolition works anyway.

They brought their axemen in to fell a number of mature trees, to erect big advertising hoarding, where they planned to put propaganda stating that the weans were in favour of the demolition.

Following a vigil for the fallen trees and press attention Wheatley kept that plan on the keevee. They were double dunted

when local weans took up a protest against the tree felling and a former First Minister started to look into it.

However they really got their kale through the reek when the WRU's solicitor threatened an interim interdict and they had to spit and gie, conceding that they had no legal route to demolition.

Throughout this long campaign the Wyndford Residents Union has shown it is willing to use every tactic available to it, pursuing both direct action and community occupation, information sharing, protest, commissioning expert reports to destroy the Wheatley Group's arguments, as well as using the law the authorities have largely ignored.

The battle continues, but owing to that tactical flexibility, the authorities for the first time have been forced to seriously contemplate keeping the flats up.

Victories like this matter because they show that organised people can take on the corporate and Council juggernaut and give them a bloody nose.

