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ISSUE #1427 | FROM 14 SEPTEMBER 2020

THE BIG ISSUE

NEW EVERY WEEK | A HAND UP, NOT A HANDOUT

£3

INSIDE

Luke Treadaway and life
after Street Cat Bob

How one song is
inspiring Belarus to rise

The truth about
Freddonomics



The true cost of hygiene in the time of Covid

SPECIAL REPORT

viridian

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One of our organic calendula fields



Some of our award winners



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WE WILL NOT STOP

ROAR
FOR
RORA

Last week saw welcome progress for the Ride Out Recession Alliance's campaign to keep people in their homes, as a freeze was announced on evictions in England and Wales over Christmas and a halt on evictions in areas under local lockdowns.

This is significant progress and shows that Westminster is listening to RORA. But much, much more is needed. New research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation shows that unless a temporary £20 per week increase in Universal Credit is introduced now, the coming "economic storm" will plunge an additional 500,000 people into extreme poverty.

This comes as the Prime Minister doubled down on his determination not to extend the furlough scheme which has protected 9.4 million jobs, despite calls for an extension from business leaders, economists and MPs. When furlough ends in October the Office for Budget Responsibility has estimated that 15 per cent of the jobs it supports could vanish.

Across all sectors in the UK pressure is being piled on the Chancellor ahead of his imminent Comprehensive Spending Review, which will be crucial as the country starts to map out steps towards recovery.

All of this underlines why The Big Issue's Ride Out Recession Alliance must take action now. We want

- To keep people in their homes
- To keep people in employment and help build job creation schemes

Every day the social and economic consequences of the pandemic grow clearer. All RORA members are adapting our approaches to meet these rapidly changing needs.

To keep up to speed with all the latest news and events, and to share your ideas for how we can plan for the future, sign up for our RORA newsletter at bigissue.com/rora



LATEST ON P04-05 >

INSIDE

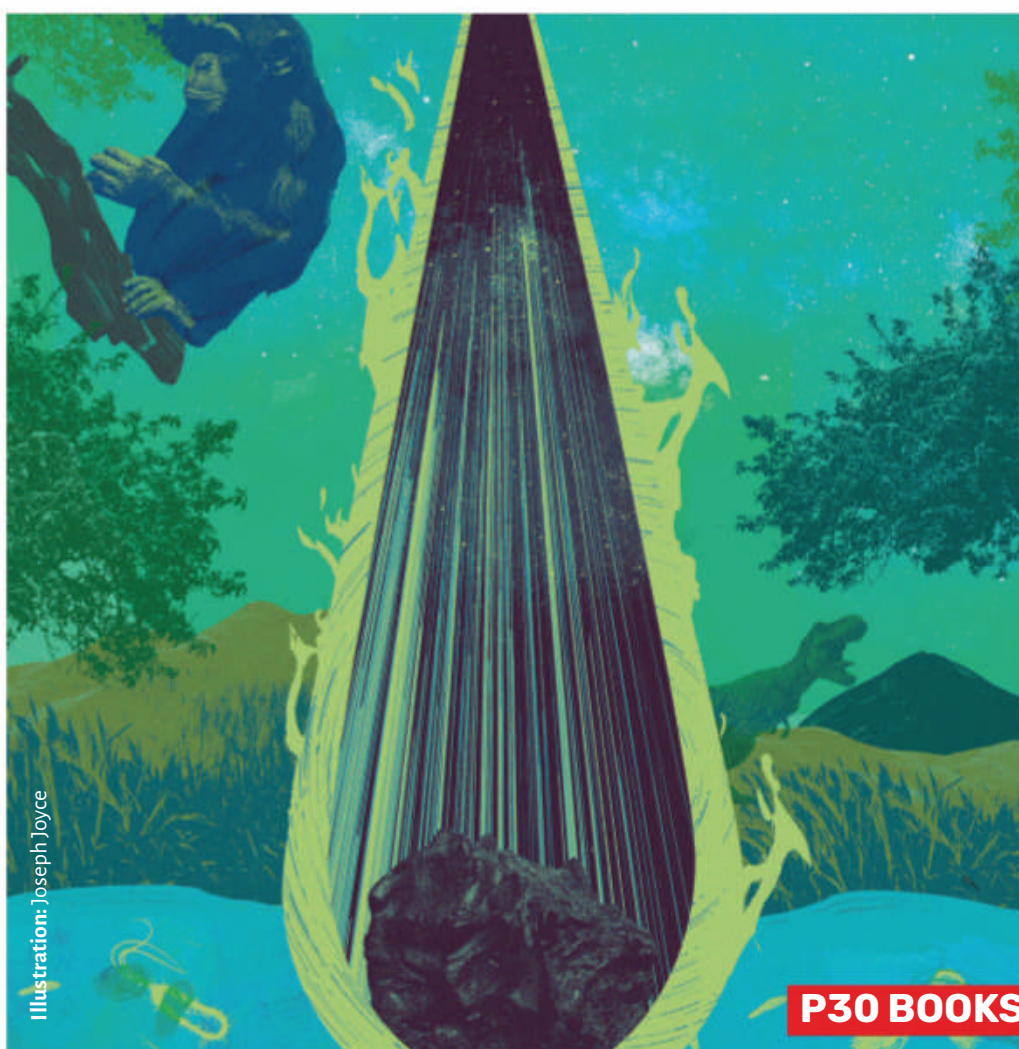


Illustration: Joseph Joyce

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Cornell lost his home in tough times, but now he's building himself back up and is on the hunt for a new job



P46 MY PITCH

If you can't get hold of a copy of the magazine on a regular basis, you can subscribe to receive The Big Issue every week: bigissue.com/subscribe





WHERE SHOULD THE MONEY GO?

The furlough scheme, Eat Out to Help Out and other initiatives were big measures introduced to keep people out of poverty and stop the economy seizing up.

Now there are signs that ministers are listening to the Ride Out Recession Alliance's calls. Last week housing secretary Robert Jenrick confirmed the eviction ban in England and Wales would lift on September 20, but gave details of a "winter truce" that would keep renters in their homes over Christmas and a six-month notice period before tenants can be evicted by landlords. Evictions will also not be enforced by bailiffs in an area where a local lockdown is in place. This means some positive action, but it's not enough. The difficult decisions on where to put their money for the years ahead will be answered in the coming weeks with the Comprehensive Spending Review.

The autumn announcement will allocate resource budgets for each government department from 2021/22 to 2023/24 and capital budgets until 2024/25. It will also determine the devolved administrations' block grants. In other words, the first full spending review since 2015 will have a big say on who will receive funding as the economy recovers from the Covid-fuelled recession. Local councils "urgently need the certainty" that the multi-year review will bring but will be wary of the words of Chancellor Rishi Sunak. He has already sent out warnings, speaking of "tough choices" to be made just as much as ambitions to improve outcomes in public services and turning the country into a "scientific superpower".

Last week former Prime Minister Gordon Brown led the announcement of a UK-wide alliance to tackle the oncoming wave of unemployment. The Big Issue spoke to a few of our Ride Out Recession Alliance partners to find out where the money trickling down from central government can make the most difference in preventing homelessness and protecting jobs.



Shelter: 'Start building social homes now'

Chief executive Polly Neate said: "The chronic shortage of decent, genuinely affordable homes in this country is one that must be fixed."

"The government must roll up its sleeves and build the homes local communities really need, now more than ever in the face of a Covid recession. It should spend the cash it has set aside for housing that much faster and start building social homes now."

Zacchaeus 2000 Trust: 'Local Housing Allowance rates must be raised so people can feed and clothe themselves this winter'

CEO Anela Anwar said: "The only way to end the housing crisis is to build more social housing." And the only way of building them is to invest the funding needed. A government that was serious about ending homelessness would be investing at least three or four times as much in new social housing, especially new council homes.

"Even if that level of funding was forthcoming though, the homes themselves will take years to be built and people need a place now. The DWP must raise Local Housing Allowance rates back to the median of market rents to ensure private tenancies are more affordable and also raise Job Seekers Allowance, Income Support and Employment Support Allowance to the same £95 a week level as UC, so everyone has enough to feed and clothe themselves this winter."

Join our RORA supporters list and go to bigissue.com/rora to get weekly updates on the campaign.

Centrepont: 'Young people must be able to keep more of their Universal Credit'

Youth homelessness charity Centrepont is reporting a rise in young people sleeping rough since the pandemic hit. Head of public affairs Paul Noblet says the Universal Credit rate for under-25s, temporarily increased during the crisis, must not drop back if the government wants to avoid further spikes in youth homelessness.

Kyle*, 23, has been receiving support from Centrepont throughout the Covid-19 crisis. After work dried up in his security job at football stadiums – with shifts already tough to come by – Kyle was left trying to make ends meet with Universal Credit, which he first applied for in 2018. But unexpectedly receiving furlough pay meant his UC payments were drastically cut and he was forced to cut back on essentials. He told The Big Issue what he believes the government should prioritise the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review to support people who share his struggle.

I wasn't doing too well before the pandemic. I'd get a shift once every other week which can be quite stressful when you're struggling. I've never been able to find a job that can give me guaranteed shifts, I've been stuck on zero-hour contracts all my life.

At the start of lockdown I was able to pick up a few shifts through my company's new contract. But there was so much travelling – it was extremely expensive and tiring, a two-hour journey each way with a nine-hour shift in between. After three shifts I realised I couldn't afford to keep on working.

I was furloughed for two months, which meant having to accept that my next Universal Credit payment would be £225 less than normal. It just meant more stress, which is constant anyway. No matter what I try to do to dig myself out of this hole, I end up digging myself deeper and my mental health has suffered.

Having no access to the internet outside of my phone is a big problem I'm facing. Because there are no libraries open near me, I can't access a computer so there's no way for me to upload a CV from the USB drive I keep it on.

I have to cut back on food to make ends meet day to day and my electricity bill is a serious source of worry. I worry about how much I'm using because I'm in the house all the time and have nothing else to do. I know I use more electricity than the company currently has me paying every month so I'm worried about that debt building up, especially heading into the winter months, while I'm still worried about affording food.

It's laughable that people think of young people as always having family support networks to fall back on. I looked after my dad from the age of 12 to 17 before he died and still have no one to rely on but myself. We need affordable housing to be a priority from the government. I know people who have most of their housing paid, but they have to use the rest of their benefits to cover the remainder of their rent. And Universal Credit needs an overhaul. The five-week wait needs to go and the rate for under-25s has to be brought up to match up with what older people get. I'm on a lower benefit but I pay the same prices as them. Everything is going up in cost, why isn't my money? Taking 63p per pound earned through work out of Universal Credit is a policy that absolutely needs to change. They could lower it, maybe to 40 per cent which is a bit more reasonable, or go back to allowing 16 hours of work a week. If not it means we're punished for working.

Centrepont helped me out with a bursary at the start of the pandemic and I'm living in one of their properties. They've helped me out as much as they can. But there just isn't enough money to go around and it is such a struggle to get by.

The Alliance

The organisations that are coming together to make sure we look after those who need support. There's still time to come on board.



Shelter



salt



We need your voices in our Ride Out Recession Alliance

The Big Issue is bringing together companies, charities and organisations to work towards the shared goals of preventing homelessness and protecting jobs in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Unilever, Shelter and Nationwide Foundation are just some of the heavy-hitters backing our campaign. But we need your support too. Tell us YOUR stories and ideas at rora@bigissue.com now. If you tell us the problem, we can help fix it. The time is now. bigissue.com/rora

ROAR FOR RORA

*name changed

the big list.

EASING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

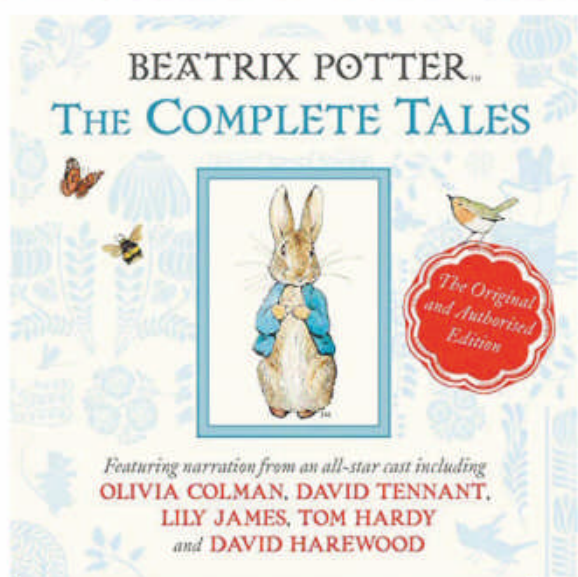


Photo: © IWM (KY 121517)

EXHIBITION

Refugees: Forced to Flee (supported by AHRC and ESRC)

From northern France and Belgium in 1914-1918 to present day Syria, millions of people have fled conflict over the last 100 years, packing up a few possessions to march into the unknown. Made up of photographs, oral histories, documents and objects – many on display for the first time – a new exhibition at the Imperial War Museum explores a century of refugee experiences. As we've seen in recent months, even should they reach a prosperous country like Britain, survival is far from guaranteed. **IWM London, September 24-May 24; iwm.org.uk/events/refugees-forced-to-flee**



AUDIO BOOK

Tom Hardy, Olivia Colman, David Harewood and more narrate Beatrix Potter

If your kids couldn't get enough of the Mad Max actor's various appearances on CBeebies Bedtime Stories, then wait until they hear Tom Hardy reading *The Story of a Fierce Bad Rabbit*. A new all-star audio edition of *Beatrix Potter: The Complete Tales* elsewhere features the lustrous voices of Academy Award Winners, Hollywood heroes, pop legends and friends of The Big Issue – including Olivia Colman, David Tennant, Aisling Bea, David Harewood, Joanna Lumley, and Mandip Gill. **Published September 17**

MUSIC

Discover the winner of the Mercury Prize 2020

After six months of blanket gig and festival cancellations, we could all use a little live music fix. The awarding of Britain's most prestigious music prize the Mercury will be an unconventional affair, with no ceremony – but it will include a live element, featuring performances from among this year's nominees, broadcast on BBC Four on September 24, following the announcement of the winner that same evening on *The One Show*. Jools Holland will then interview the winner for a Jools special on BBC Two on September 25. Dua Lipa (right), Charli XCX, Stormzy and Michael Kiwanuka are all among this year's favourites – but who will win?



BOOK FESTIVALS

Appledore Drive-In and Bloody Scotland Online

Pandemic be damned, Britain's best book festivals carry on undaunted! Albeit with some inventive adjustments to how they're staged. In what may be a first, Devon's Appledore festival becomes a fully drive-in event, with book lovers invited to watch live talks with the likes of Ainsley Harriott, Susan Ronald and Richard Osman from the comfort of their own cars, with audio broadcast over FM radio. Many of the world's best crime writers including Ian Rankin, Yrsa Sigurðardóttir, Val McDermid, Denise Mina and Sheena Kamal, meanwhile, will assemble online from the four corners of the world for a three-day virtual version of the Bloody Scotland Festival, which is free to watch.

Appledore: September 18-22; appledorebookfestival.co.uk, Bloody Scotland: September 18-20; bloodyscotland.com



BINGE

Ratched

Ever wondered about the origin story behind authoritarian asylum nurse Miss Ratched in Ken Kesey's 1962 novel *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and the 1975 movie adaptation? Probably not. But Netflix goes there nonetheless, with a psychological horror series starring Sarah Paulson. At a 1940s psychiatric hospital where a stylish new nurse has just come on staff, and where grim experiments on the human mind are being trialled, witness the making of a movie monster. **September 18; netflix.com**

CROWDFUNDER

Back the project helping homeless people learn to DJ

Already supported by The Big Issue's investment arm Big Issue Invest, Turn the Tables is an Edinburgh social enterprise harnessing the power of music to change lives, by teaching people who have experienced homelessness how to DJ. They've been hosting online support workshops for members during the pandemic but are struggling to stay afloat financially with a loss of live events. So they've launched a crowdfunder to help tide them over. Give generously if you can. **crowdfunder.co.uk/turnthetables**



WATCH

Danny Dyer on Harold Pinter

When he spoke to The Big Issue two years ago, Dyer told us: "Harold Pinter would set me up a camp bed, buy me a six-pack of lager and educate me." The pair became great friends after their first meeting: "I walked into the audition room and Harold is sitting there, a geezer with a beard. I walked up and said, 'Hello, son, how are you doin'?" Now the *EastEnders* legend tells the story of their friendship and explores his legacy in a new documentary. **Sky Arts, September 22, 9pm**

VENDOR EXPERT: FOOD

BIG ISSUE BITES

Vendor and The Big Issue's resident chef **Ian Duff** shares his kitchen secrets



HOW TO BAKE CARROT CAKE



INGREDIENTS

- 250g plain flour
- 2 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp fine sea salt
- 1½ tsp ground cinnamon
- 295ml veg oil
- 200g granulated sugar
- 200g soft brown sugar
- 4 large eggs

- 300g grated carrot (5-6 medium carrots)
- 100g chopped walnuts
- 100g apricot jam

ICING

- 225g soft cream cheese
- 140g icing sugar
- 80ml double cream

METHOD

Heat oven to 180c.

Grease 2x9in round cake tins and flour them so the bottom and sides are finely coated.

Mix flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon and sieve together into a bowl.

In a separate bowl whisk oil and sugar until glossy, then add the egg one at a time whilst still whisking until smooth.

Now add the dry ingredients a spoonful a time, folding in with a spatula or wooden spoon.

Once done fold in the grated carrots and nuts.

Divide mixture into the cake tins, smoothing into the sides. Give a little tap to each tin to expel any air pockets.

Bake in the middle of the oven for 35-40 minutes or until springy to the touch.

Remove and cool in the tins for 15 minutes then turn out onto wire racks and cool completely.

FILLING

Beat cream cheese until it becomes creamy, and loose beat or whisk in the icing sugar slowly until smooth.

Stir in cream and keep chilled until sponge is cold.

I also like to layer, so put apricot jam in the middle and ice the outside of the cake.



Illustrations: Matthew Brazier

■ Ian Duff is a Big Issue vendor in Bath. **duffcooks.com**

VENDOR RETURN



VENDORS: Not all vendors have been able to return to their pitches at once. Health issues mean some are shielding and areas of the country are subject to local lockdowns. We will continue to support vendors who need help until they can sell again.

PPE: Safety is key, we do not want to risk any vendor or customer's health. So we have provided 'Welcome Back Packs' for each vendor that include masks and alcohol hand gel. Vendors will also be given waterproof bags to safely store magazines.



PITCHES: Some pitches may have moved, depending on local safety measures and circumstances. A large number of vendors will now be offering contactless payment, but they will continue to accept cash – there is no indication that handling cash or magazines will transmit the disease, but shoppers are moving towards paying by contactless and we are making sure vendors won't lose out.



OFFICES: Our local offices and outreach teams are working to social distancing health and safety rules, and we have installed clear plastic shields at the counter in all offices to protect vendors and staff. We will be carefully managing all interaction as we support vendors back to work – that means strict queue management outside offices, temperature checks and allowing only one vendor into the office at a time to buy magazines.



SUBSCRIPTIONS AND SHOPS:

The world is not yet back to normal, and we need the support of people continuing their subscriptions and seeking out copies in shops. If a pitch is outside shops that have been stocking the magazine, we will stop selling in those branches. Sales will continue in areas that don't have any local vendors.

Every copy bought, whether via The Big Issue UK app, a shop, subscription or at The Big Issue Shop makes a difference and helps us to continue supporting vendors.



Bar humbug
Alexandra Wilson might desire radical change, but it might be a struggle

Nothing but the truth

Lawyer Alexandra Wilson [Until the law can represent everyone it will fail, August 31] makes some great points but I have never met a lawyer radical enough to agree that English law structure needs real reform. It is based on an arm-wrestle between prosecution and defence lawyers trying to get their result, irrespective of the truth. They are sometimes paid to lie. The system dates from 1,000 years ago and is older than witch ducking!

In the rest of Europe, and partly in Scotland and Jersey, the so-called inquisitorial system just aims to find the truth. No one is suggesting that accused people should not be given help with the law but our system is just establishment-supported rubbish.

Roger Jenking, Oxford

✉ letters@bigissue.com

Watch your language

Staci Roberts when referring to evictions [Letters, August 31] says you cannot live for free and sponge off others. Referring to people being evicted as spongers shows no empathy or understanding of the trauma of finding yourself in such a desperate situation.

I would suggest the vast majority of people facing eviction find themselves working in low-paid, minimum-wage jobs, zero-hour contracts, or have recently been made redundant, and that they are victims of an immoral, overpriced, unregulated private renting system that does not protect tenants from ever-increasing rent rises. If she doesn't face hard times and manages to keep paying her mortgage one day, she might own her home, whereas those in private rented accommodation will only see their landlord prosper.

It's a callous and insulting use of the word and shows disregard and little thought.

Fred Spiller, email

Don't tear the house down

Reading your article on empty homes [We need more than words on empty homes, August 24] I was surprised to see no mention about the issue of VAT on renovation.

Years of campaigning to reduce or remove VAT on renovation of existing buildings and redevelopment of brownfield sites has failed to change this massive disincentive for developers. It is cheaper to knock down buildings and create new ones, despite new build almost always having a bigger carbon footprint. The government proposes to 'build, build, build' our way out of recession and is loosening planning controls to help developers build new homes, incurring unnecessary use of new materials with high-embodied carbon footprint and at the same time threatening much needed green spaces.

A Freedom of Information request to UK local councils revealed that in September 2019

the UK had almost 620,000 empty buildings, of which over 445,000 were residential dwellings, a significantly higher proportion of vacant homes than previous estimates. Shouldn't we be urging the government to prioritise refurbishment over new build and remove the punitive VAT currently levied on refurbishment costs? VAT on new build is zero to five per cent, whilst refurbishment carries 20 per cent VAT. So it is often cheaper to demolish existing stock and build new. It is also worth noting that new build often attracts grant aid unlike most refurbishment.

Pip Woolf, email

View from the skies

I enjoy so much of your publication and being on the Remainder/Anti-Tory side of things usually find your stance supportive and welcome.

But I was puzzled by your choice of picture this week: the Heinkel bomber [Big Picture, August 31]. Why did you choose this reminder of the horrors of war at a time when we should be working towards peace and admiring how well the Germans have looked after their people?

It's hardly ever mentioned just how appalling were German civilian losses in the later part of the war. I know 'they started it' but it usually wasn't 'them' that got killed.

We talk of how many bomber crew were killed, and it was terrible, BUT nearly one million German citizens were killed in the bombing, and it was saturation bombing of all towns – not just Dresden. Those left at the end had to have terrific courage to get their country risen again. My father worked in the CCG [Control Commission Germany] in 1946 and was impressed.

It would be good if it were more often emphasised that though British people suffered badly, so did German people. I think the final count was roughly 975,000 bombing victims – dead. I'm not sure about wounded.

Chris Shepherd, email

Thank you for showing that photo of the Heinkel. I used to play on the bombsites with my mates in north Southwark in post-war times. I still remember my mum telling me about the first weekend in September 1940 when she watched the firefighters at the Elephant & Castle bombings, their helmets gleaming in the sun as they were putting out fires with debris falling on them. Most families in our area had some post-war misfortune or other, including ourselves, but my mum used to say that whenever she felt under the weather she thought of that weekend, the firemen and the bombed out families; "Our troubles are small compared," she said.

Anthony Taylor, email

 **@bigissue**



@KateMcCarthyEvt

What a way to start the day.... @rcbregman namaste What a truly amazing guest editor for @BigIssue Cynicism is out, Hope is in. Reading this made me feel very grateful and warm inside. Loved the front cover too.



@AndyHarrod79

A great cover on this week's @BigIssue, let's all keep the kindness flowing, it is what our relationships, our societies, our shared world needs to #BuildBackBetter. To ensure a sense of home for everyone, as well as a physical home.



@mbpressooffice

The Kristin Hersh interview in the @BigIssue is a good un and the sort of thing that makes print media a bit vital.



@amandaaries1977

Not gonna lie, it feels wrong to get renters into debt (interest free or otherwise) to service mortgage debt for people who have already bought their own homes. Social housing should be a key part of post CV19 society.

EDITOR'S LETTER

Futures at stake



It is the time of critical moments.

As the local lockdowns grow and Westminster and the devolved administrations wrestle new restrictions into being, the idea that we stand on the precipice of catastrophe is dangled again and again.

Those critical moments blister and darken. It can be overwhelming. The shadow of the virus haunts.

Will the live music and theatre industry find a way out? Andrew Lloyd Webber warned of a point of no return last week. It's clear that many of the freelance workers in that industry fell between the cracks of the furlough system and are struggling terribly.

What about grassroots sports? How can small clubs and organisations that rely on fundraising dinners and events to fund themselves carry on? Fixes are not straightforward.

Soon, students will head back to university. For many, this is their first year. What is normally a time of nervous excitement and a sense that the world is opening up is now a series of warnings and finger-pointing and worries.

There is an easy debasement of younger people at present. The reason, we're told, behind a need for new restrictive measures is because these young people are to blame. They're hanging out, they're having parties, they're testing positive and then becoming super-spreading Covid death pods. And now they're going to university and THROWING BRITAIN INTO CRISIS!

I'm astounded that so many people conveniently forget what it was to be young. We can't, on the one hand, slate the young for being over-sensitive, over-caring, polite snowflakes, and then, within a breath blame them for behaving like it's the last days of Rome. And I'm certain those coming up now are not as bad as some of the rest of us were. I think we should cut them a little slack.

One way would be considering the university and third-level situation. Fees of nearly £10,000 per year for some courses are still going to be levied even though some universities are switching to online and blended learning. This seems unfair. Being on campus is part of the appeal. If not, surely it's just an expensive version of a distance-learning course, one that can be found for a fraction of that fee elsewhere.

Accommodation will still have to be paid for, even if some of the courses are delivered digitally. So there will be no respite from that cost, but the experience will be lessened. And perhaps even the time needed to be spent there.

Last year universities revealed few had deep cash reserves. Many in Britain were running with massive deficits. It's clear they need the student fees. But are the students getting a valuable education for that money?

In Scotland, where Scottish students do not pay fees, this question is not relevant.

So what is the answer? As everything within Covid, as always at these critical moments, it will require smart and brave new ways of working, combining both government and the private sector. Is it possible to waive fees for six months? Or for this entire academic year? Perhaps it's the accommodation costs that need looked at? A holiday in the way mortgage payers were offered one at the start of lockdown.

Nothing is normal. And at some point the young people we're scowling at today have to take control. Why burden them further? Why have them feel overwhelmed? Why not allow them some chinks of light after the blinds were pulled over their futures?

I realise this column this week is a series of unresolved questions. The right answer is rarely the easiest.

Paul McNamee is editor of The Big Issue

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Paul.McNamee@bigissue.com

the big picture.



photo: V. Santa Cruz Bicycles



AFTER THE FIRE

As the political heat is turned up in the US election race, with Trump repeatedly going on the attack of Democratic VP candidate Kamala Harris, allegations that as attorney general of California she deliberately kept prisoners incarcerated to use them as an army of firefighters have resurfaced. In the state 2,600 prisoners were trained as firefighters – paid roughly \$2 (£1.54) a day and compared to slave labour by prison reform campaigners, while others argued their input was vital to fire suppression. They accounted for one third of the firefighting force at one point.

But beyond the campaign controversy and beneath the dramatic aerial images of widespread wildfires currently tearing through California, we rarely glimpse the heartbreaking human cost and the devastating consequences of the fires at ground level. An estimated 1,700 homes have been destroyed this year leaving thousands of people in emergency shelters. This picture sums up that catastrophic loss.

This is all that remains of a home in Santa Cruz devastated by the California wildfires. It belonged to an employee of Santa Cruz bike manufacturer, many of whose employees were displaced by the blaze. It prompted the global cycling community (including UK bike legends Danny MacAskill and Steve Peat) to rally in a crowdfunding drive to support them.

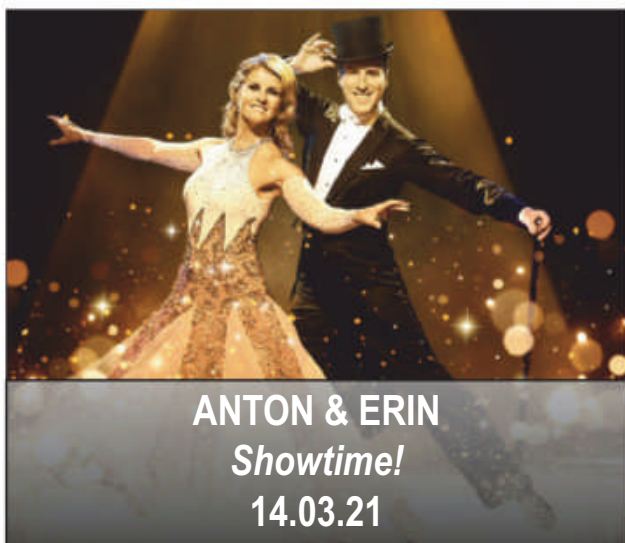
Wildfires are nothing new in California, but this year's are against a backdrop of unprecedented high temperatures. In recent weeks a record two million acres have been destroyed, with 25 major blazes being tackled by more than 14,000 firefighters, and National Guard helicopters airlifting evacuees from their devastating path. In San Francisco, where the street-homeless population is higher than in almost any other US city, smoke and fine ash in the air is making it harder for rough sleepers to breathe.

As temperatures reached record highs last week of 49.4C (over 120F) in Los Angeles, the situation in California mirrors that in Australia in early 2020, where unprecedented high temperatures enflamed wildfires that caused record levels of devastation on the other side of the globe.

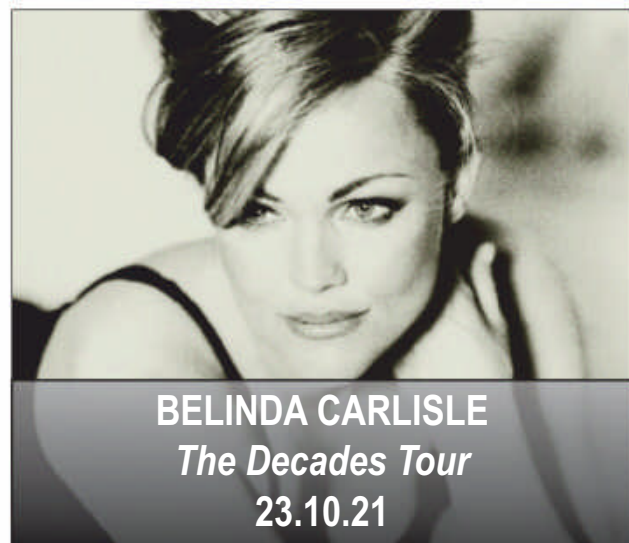
■ **Donate to the Santa Cruz fire relief fund at gf.me/u/yunvtb**



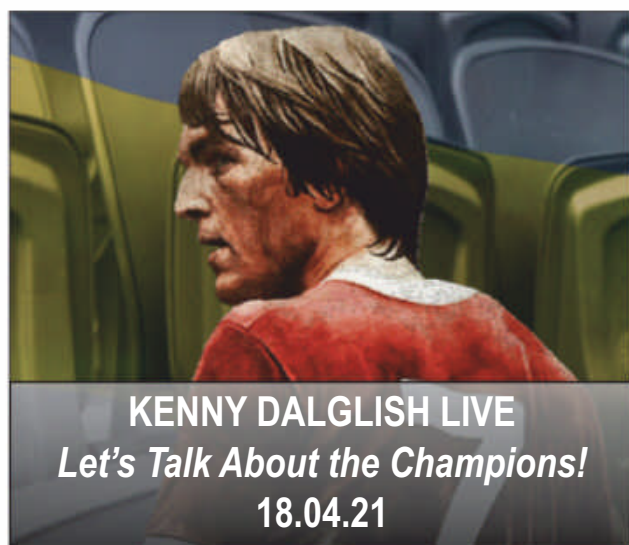
RUFUS WAINWRIGHT
Unfollow the Rules
27.10.21



ANTON & ERIN
Showtime!
14.03.21



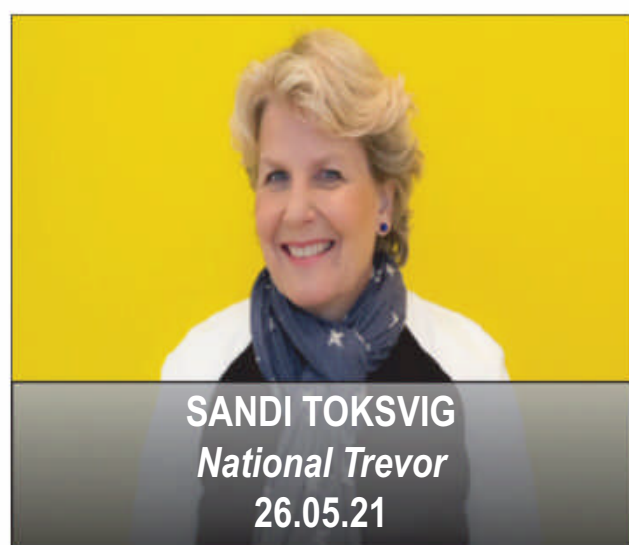
BELINDA CARLISLE
The Decades Tour
23.10.21



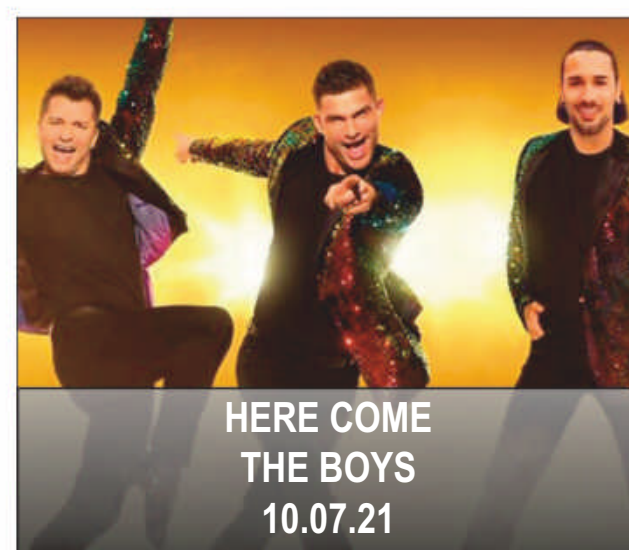
KENNY DALGLISH LIVE
Let's Talk About the Champions!
18.04.21



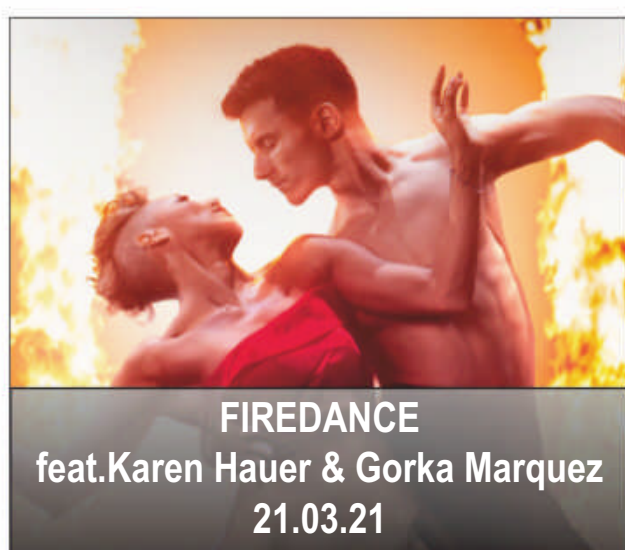
RIVERDANCE
25th Anniversary Tour
04.09.21 - 06.09.21



SANDI TOKSVIG
National Trevor
26.05.21



**HERE COME
THE BOYS**
10.07.21



FIRE DANCE
feat. Karen Hauer & Gorka Marquez
21.03.21



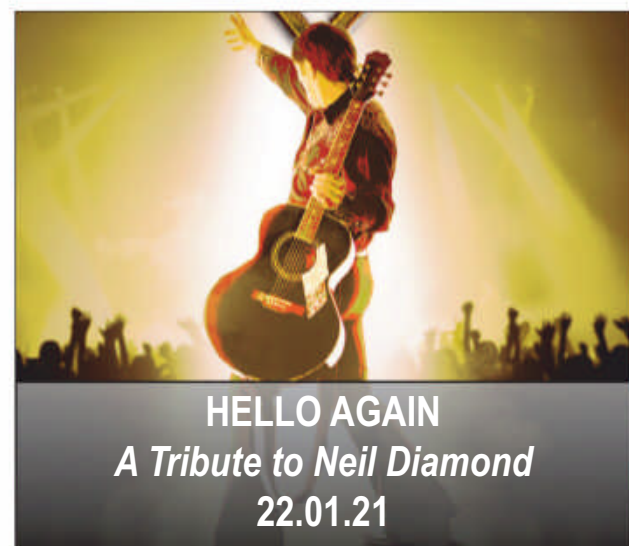
**FASCINATING
AIDA**
24.05.21



DR HOOK
feat. Dennis Locorriere
11.02.22



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Do Freddos show that the minimum wage should be £18 per hour?

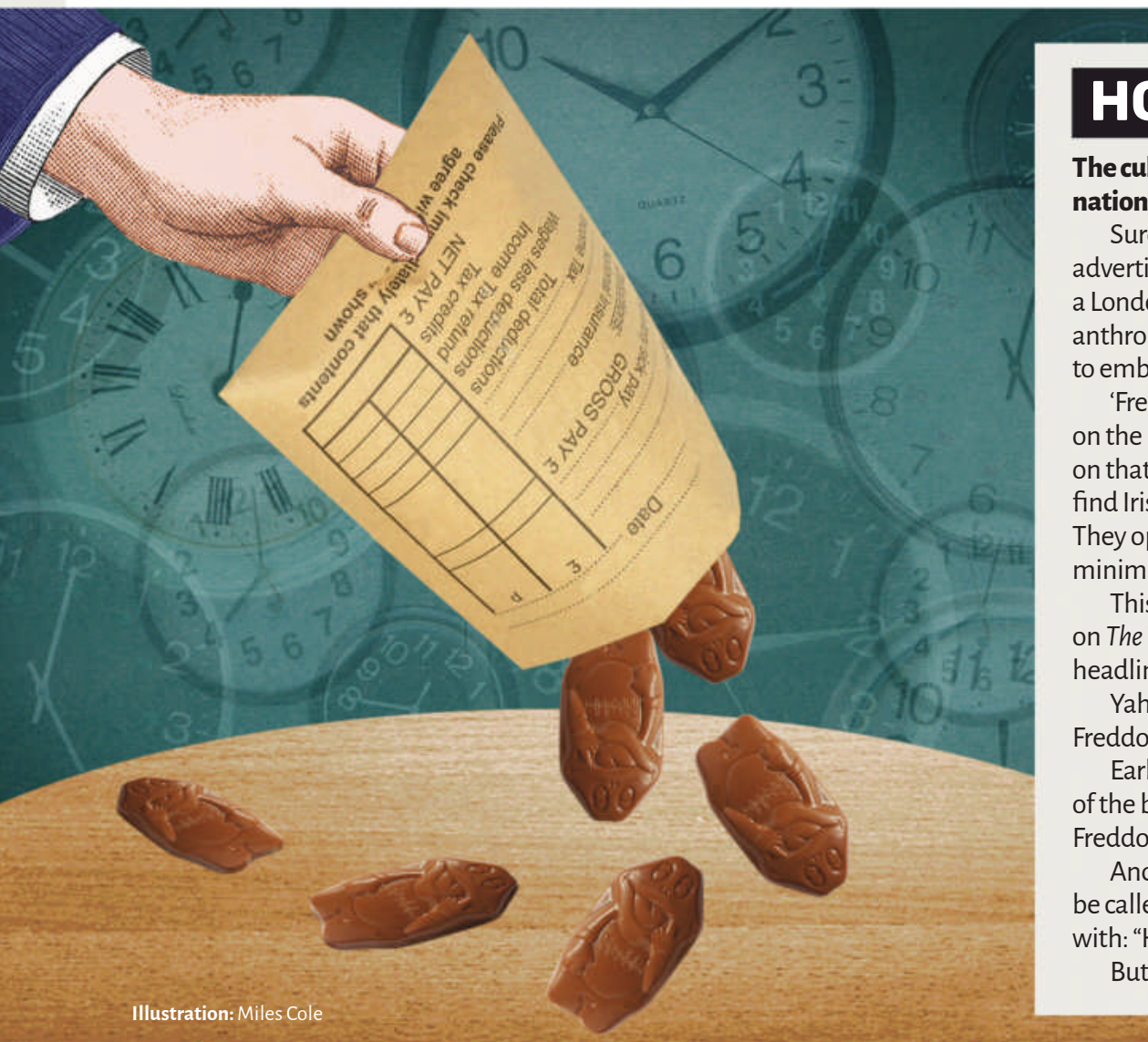


Illustration: Miles Cole

HOW IT WAS TOLD

The cult classic Freddo chocolate bar has a special place in the nation's – and the internet's – heart.

Sure, Snickers might be more likely to be spotted on an advertising hoarding at a World Cup match. And M&Ms might have a London store. But so what? The till-top favourite featuring the anthropomorphic cartoon frog beats them all thanks to the bar's ability to embed itself in Brits' consciousness when it comes to economics.

'Freddonomics' and 'the Freddo Index' were just accepted truths on the playground for any Nineties kids. The internet has now taken on that mantle, and that means as recently as last week you could find Irish website Joe discussing the humble Freddo's money merits. They opted for the headline: "Someone has used Freddos to prove that minimum wage in the UK should be £18 an hour".

This is, of course, nothing new. Freddo financial coverage featured on *The Telegraph* back in 2016 with a bit of extrapolation under the headline: "This is how much a Freddo is set to cost by 2030".

Yahoo! covered the story last year, reporting that "The price of Freddo chocolate bars has risen five times faster than inflation".

Earlier in 2019, pollsters YouGov quizzed Brits on their knowledge of the bar and money, opting for the headline: "How much does a Freddo cost? Britons have lost track".

And the educational value of the Cadbury's chocolate treat cannot be called into question – moneylens.com wrote about that back in May with: "How chocolate helped me understand inflation".

But are Freddos a good financial indicator?

FACTS. CHECKED

Unfortunately, as much as we'd like it to be true, Yahoo!'s story is correct in pointing out Freddonomics' flaws.

The theory that the price of Freddo shows that minimum wage should be £18 per hour is not a new one – it's been knocking around the internet since 2017 despite popping up on the r/TheyDidTheMath subreddit last week.

According to the viral post, in 1999 the minimum wage was £3.60 per hour, while a Freddo allegedly cost five pence, meaning you could buy 72 with that money. Moving forward to when a minimum wage was at £7.50 per hour but a Freddo cost 25 pence, that meant you could only buy 30. In order to get the same amount of Freddos, minimum wage would have to be £18 per hour.

But the maths is dodgy to say the least, according to an investigation by Big Issue Changemakers Full Fact. A Freddo cost 10 pence in 1999, meaning you could have bought 36 of the bars with an hour's pay, not 72. That means that minimum wage should be around £9 per hour instead – not far from the rate paid today.

The truth is that both the price of Freddos and the minimum wage have risen faster than inflation in the last two decades.

Inflation demonstrates the change of prices over time. In the current period of financial uncertainty, the Bank of England has set an inflation rate of one per cent, meaning that if you spend £100 on something this year it will cost £101 next year.

Based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and CPIH (including housing costs) used for official inflation measurements, if a Freddo cost 10 pence in 1999 and the price rose in line with inflation then it would have cost 14 pence in 2017 and 15 pence today.

But these days the chocolate bar costs 25 pence (or 30 pence depending where you live in the country) meaning that Yahoo!, who based their story on the Full Fact investigation, is correct with their suggestion that the price has risen five times faster than inflation.

Minimum wage has also risen much faster than the rate of inflation since first being introduced in April 1999 when it was worth £3.60 per hour for those aged 22 and over. It would be worth £5.15 per hour if it had increased at the rate of inflation. Now the national minimum wage is £8.20 for people aged 20-24, with the national living wage for 25 years old and up priced at £8.72.

So, unfortunately, the Freddo Index is as useful as a chocolate teapot.

WORTH REPEATING

Freddos cost 25 pence in 2020 (or 30 pence depending on where you live)



You could buy 34 Freddos per hour for with the £8.72 national living wage

The price of a Freddo has risen by five times the rate of inflation

Can honey really shift your cold faster than a dose of antibiotics? And does going to the cinema count as a light workout? Read all our Fact/Fictions online at bigissue.com/tag/fact-fiction/

Debt goes out with a BANG

As the recession rages on, there will be no shortage of people who wish they could blow up their debts.

Artists and filmmakers Hilary Powell and Dan Edelstyn did just that last year, buying up £1.2m of the most pernicious payday debt with the intent to destroy it to ease the financial mental health burden for people who were unable to pay it. They spectacularly detonated a Transit van filled with the debts in London's Docklands to write it off in dramatic style.

It's a remarkable tale which is even more timely now the Covid-19 pandemic has plunged the economy into chaos. This week a book and film will be released chronicling how the pair started a bank in Walthamstow and set up a printing press to print bank notes featuring local heroes, including the headteacher of a school and a foodbank boss. The £40,000 they made through selling them was used on the shadowy secondary debt market, where distressed debts are bought and sold by high street banks every day.

The pair hope their film *The Bank Job* will educate people on the power of clubbing together to resist debt

and inspire hope for change in the financial system. Speaking to The Big Issue, Dan said: "I hope the film brings hope and action. It's there to remind someone who finds themselves in debt that we are just normal people and we learned that money is created on a screen, that the Bank of England buys toxic bank debt every day.

"The only way we are going to get that change is by educating people and taking note of what's going on in the first place."

Hilary added: "You're on your own if you're forced into debt, but together if we all refuse to accept this narrative and refuse debt there is more power in that and we can bring change."

***The Bank Job* is out on September 17 (Chelsea Green, £14.99)**





In tents experience
Gary left his flat and started camping after falling behind on his rent

Vendor Gary swaps lockdown flat for tent to help landlord

Selfless Big Issue vendor Gary Phillips left his rented bedsit voluntarily during the Covid-19 pandemic to live in a tent because he was worried about the impact his rent arrears would have on his landlord's finances.

During the lockdown between March and July, The Big Issue supported 1,665 vendors with more than £500,000 in food vouchers, meter top-ups and other help while we were forced to halt street sales to protect vendors.

Due to the generosity of readers and contributors we were able to help Gary by passing on shopping vouchers and cash payments regularly until his return to the streets on July 6 – but this wasn't enough.

The 45-year-old chose to leave the rented property in early July, his home for 14 months, after falling two-and-a-half months behind on rent.

Gary, who sells The Big Issue outside Sainsbury's in Saltburn, North Yorkshire, chose to return to living in a tent for the first time in 15 years. Customers have rallied around in recent weeks by boosting his sales and raised more than £1,500 on GoFundMe to find him a new place to live.

Much-loved vendor Gary said: "I was behind on rent at that time and I couldn't sell the magazine, so it was only fair to my landlord that I left as they have bills to pay too. Some landlords are relying on that money too. It was my choice.

"The Big Issue also helped me with money and vouchers during lockdown. I was very lucky to have that and I wasn't expecting it. I didn't expect them to pay my rent either.

"It was a bit of a shock to end up back in a tent and it has been quite difficult because it has been raining a lot in recent weeks.

"The GoFundMe is amazing. I was expecting £100 or so because I'm a nice person round here and I'm well known in town but £1,500 is just amazing."

The fundraising campaign was the idea of mother and daughter Sue and Corinna Nicol. Sue told The Big Issue: "It shouldn't have to be done but I wanted to help Gary. The response is what we expected because Saltburn is a wonderful place with supportive and thoughtful people."

Young naturalist Dara scoops Wainwright Prize

Big Issue Changemaker and teenage nature enthusiast Dara McNulty has become the youngest winner of a major literary award after scooping the prestigious Wainwright Prize for UK Nature Writing.

A leading light of the conservation and climate movement at 16, the Northern Irish author starred on The Big Issue's cover back in May, explaining how the natural world brought stability and solace to his world during lockdown.

Now Dara's debut book *Diary of a Young Naturalist* has seen him recognised with the Wainwright Prize at a virtual awards ceremony last week. The book is an extraordinary portrayal of his intense connection to the natural world alongside his perspective as an autistic teenager juggling exams, friendships and a life of campaigning.

Responding to the historic win, Dara said: "It is an astounding moment, not just for me, but for young people, young writers, young nature lovers.

"This tells our community that our voices matter, our ideas are worthy, our stories captivating. It is astonishing and tremendous and I'm going to use the prize money to attempt to enhance people's lives.

"When young autistic people are nurtured and accepted, miraculous things can happen. And this is certainly one of them."

Now in its seventh year, The £2,500 Wainwright Prize is awarded annually to the book which most successfully inspires readers to explore the outdoors and to nurture a respect for the natural world. "The judges would like to call for it to be immediately listed on the national curriculum," said Big Issue favourite Julia Bradbury, who led the six-strong judging panel.



Natural choice
Dara's book wowed judges

THE BIG ISSUE



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Big Issue vendors are back selling on the street across the country. They are back in the heart of their communities, back earning a living. But life is not back to normal and some vendors with health needs cannot yet return to work. Since lockdown began we have been able to support vendors thanks to people like you. There are more ways than ever to get a great read and do a good deed by buying The Big Issue - on the street, in shops, via subscriptions or on our new Big Issue app. Your support remains vital for our vendors. Thank you.

See **bigissue.com** for more details

*Vendors buy magazine for £1.50 and sell for £3. The difference is their income

AG SMITH

Why lockdown's missing voices must be heard

People whose experiences are too often overlooked were given a creative voice in a project called Paperchains. Now founder, author **AG Smith**, is ensuring they get their rightful place in the history books



In March 2020, the day after the UK lockdown was announced, I found myself separated from our prison community for the first time in 13 years. I was devastated and I felt for every prisoner who would now be facing long hours of lockdown separated from the routine of prison life as well as from family and friends. I had two options. To simply continue with my 'day job' from the comfort of home and turn a blind eye to this situation – or try to think of something which might, even in a small way, help.

It became clear that when the history books are written of the UK lockdown there will be many voices missing. Prisoners were top of my list, but I also considered the impact that the virus was having on two other communities, our homeless and armed forces.

This thought led me to create Paperchains, a project which would set out with no agenda other than a desire to help. As the thought evolved, I began to discuss it with several people who would be key to setting Paperchains on its way. Erwin James, editor of monthly prisoners' newspaper *Inside Time*, lit the fire in an inspirational phone call and soon Paul McNamee, editor of *The Big Issue*, began to throw on the coal.

David Kendall, the mastermind behind such highly successful prison projects as the Penned Up Festival, became co-founder of Paperchains and we began to brainstorm how it could work. It was vital to both of us that at its heart the project wouldn't be a competition. Paperchains was a chance for people to be creative during this bleak period of time. It would require hours of work and it also needed supporters, prizes and an end goal.

It was at this point when the whole enterprise suddenly seemed impossible. I can remember the enormity of carrying it off hit me and I felt daunted – it was my turn to ask for help.

Over the last 13 years I have had the honour to work with many writers, artists, publishers, producers and organisations on a variety of prison projects. I called them all and explained the ethos behind Paperchains. Every single one recognised the worth of the project immediately and asked what they could do to help.

By the time Paperchains launched nationally in May it had an official logo, a website, an active social media account and an exemplary Paperchains Vanguard, including *Inside Time*, National Prison Radio, The Big Issue, SSAFA, Help for Heroes, BBFC and Transforming Communities Together. Authors including Anthony Horowitz, Martina Cole, Clare Mackintosh, Stephen Kelman, Russ Litten, former *Dragons' Den* investor Piers Linney and Story Machine Productions led the charge, with many more picking up on the project and carrying it towards the finish line.

A quarter of the prisons across the UK took part alongside our homeless and armed forces communities. The very first entry came from Justine at HMP Low Newton and the final piece arrived in July from Simon at HMP Littlehey. A stunning selection of poetry, journals, artwork and stories are now being carefully looked at by authors Horowitz, Kelman, Litten, Ian Thornton, Robert Endeacott, Paperchains artist Alan Birch and executive director of Give A Book, Victoria Gray. Prizes were awarded for contributions in art, poetry and writing, with winners receiving certificates, exclusive Paperchains wristbands and comments from judges including Man Booker-shortlisted author Stephen Kelman.

And the Paperchains story continues: in September and October the same chance to become part of history is being offered to children in pupil referral units, secure children's homes, teenagers living on the streets, cadets and children of veterans and serving armed forces personnel. Submissions can be emailed to paperchains20@outlook.com until October 17.

Paperchains may have been unheard of when it launched, but by the time its first phase ended in July it had been featured across national media and reached many, many people. And, drawing on all contributions to the project, it is now destined to become a published book and a touring production (care of Story Machine Productions), and an event at Hay Festival 2021.

Everyone who has submitted work to Paperchains should be very proud – and I hope all will keep safe and keep creating, because tomorrow doesn't have to be yesterday.

The Covid effect
An HMP Stafford inmate sent this haunting image showing the impact on his state of mind



Author AG Smith works regularly in prisons, and is creator and co-founder of Paperchains, giving a platform to prisoners, homeless people, Armed Forces and NHS workers' lockdown experiences
paperchains.org @Paperchains5



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Go to www.bigissue.com/2020survey

opinion.

JOHN BIRD

Our prosperity's teetering on the brink. We need to act now



Job lot
The British economy's built on services but hard-grafting workers deserve better pay

I went to a small cathedral town to draw the cathedral recently, but couldn't get anywhere near it. The small city was a teeming mass of small cafés, restaurants, visitors, and street drinkers begging. It is in fact a closely knit medieval town and had all of the picturesque alleys and cobbled streets, but filled with countless drinking and eating places.

A few bookshops to break up the monotony. Charity shops abounded. And the cathedral was closed unless you'd managed to get a ticket by booking online.

I did not see much social distancing, although I did my best to keep away from people. Masks worn in shops seemed to be the only sign of the government's commands to stop spreading the virus.

Then I read in the Sunday paper that in fact masks and social isolation are worthless and that we should be moving toward 'herding'; which I'm told simply means we all get the virus and most of us survive because we are healthy.

This is bad news for the poorest among us because as the newspaper also said, Covid-19 is likely to linger longer in areas of greater poverty and become endemic, meaning a part of everyday life.

In the same issue of the paper it also pointed out that our attempts to reduce the damage done by carbon by planting more trees is silly. Fast-growing trees, which are the ones we want, die younger. And then until they disappear completely they emit methane; which is another Earth-warming gas. So you have your experts and they spend much time contradicting and undermining each other – presumably in the interests of getting to the truth.

But one thing I noticed about this small cathedral town: it looks as if it's got all the problems our entire economy's got. A kind of microcosm of all that's wrong with the UK's economic profile.

A complete over-reliance on a service economy was shown in its crowded, many-café'd streets. So there are no people, or very few, who earn enough money from these low-paid jobs to ascend out of the working poor. Even with the living wage you won't be spending much on your kids' education, or on holidays, or on decent food that doesn't push up your salt and sugar intake. Food that encourages the storing of fat on your body because it's cheap and full of poorly processed ingredients.

Standing at one of the crossroads I could look around and see only poverty, but hidden in the dress of prosperity and enjoyment. The prosperity accruing to the owners of dozens of imitation continental cafés or restaurants. Yet the hours worked and the money earned will only deliver a 'just getting by' life.

Briefly, on this sunny Sunday, money was flowing, but it was not the sustainable money that our economy needs to build social justice for all. Skilful jobs for all that pay good money. Education for all that puts you into a category where you could aspire to living beyond poorly paid service jobs.

The streets were unclean. There were groups of people drinking and begging. The systemic removing of people from the streets through the lockdown seemed to have come undone.

I have always believed that leaving people on our streets to wither and die, to crash even further on cheap stimulants, is a modern human rights abuse. It was obvious that sorting out the health of street dwellers was not at the top of any list in this cathedral town.

Prosperity as an appearance: that is what made me feel that this small city was a good model to represent what's wrong with our economy. For all those years we were in Europe, the only thing we seemed to have learned was to imitate their cafés and restaurants; to the advantage only of the owners of these imitation establishments.

But even this flimsy prosperity, greatly encouraged by the 'eating out' initiative, may well dry up if we have – at the end of this month – the beginning of the mass evictions of people who've fallen into pandemic poverty. The vision I witnessed in this small city in the sun may well be a mirage that will not last much longer. If thousands are found to be the victims of evictions, then the streets may well fill up with the new troubled, the newly broken, the newly reduced.

That is why The Big Issue is concentrating on keeping people in their homes and in work. If we can find new jobs in this Covidised economy, then we can keep people in their homes. But in the meanwhile we have to insist to the government that keeping people in their homes by paying their rents or mortgages is a cheaper option than allowing people to slip into homelessness.

The government's legislative agenda has long had on it the Renters' Reform Bill, announced in the Queen's Speech last December. It will enhance renters' security and improve protection for short-term tenants by abolishing 'no-fault' (section 21) evictions, reforming the grounds for repossession and introducing a lifetime deposit. But the ban on evictions, which was extended last month, is due to run out on September 20. So where is the Renters' Reform Bill when we need it most, as we face the risk of mass Covid-related evictions? We keep hearing that it's "being brought forward", but the Bill needs to get its skates on.

Our RORA campaign – the Ride Out Recession Alliance – is fighting to keep people in their homes so that their children do not become broken and depressed and reduced, condemned to never-ending temporary accommodation.

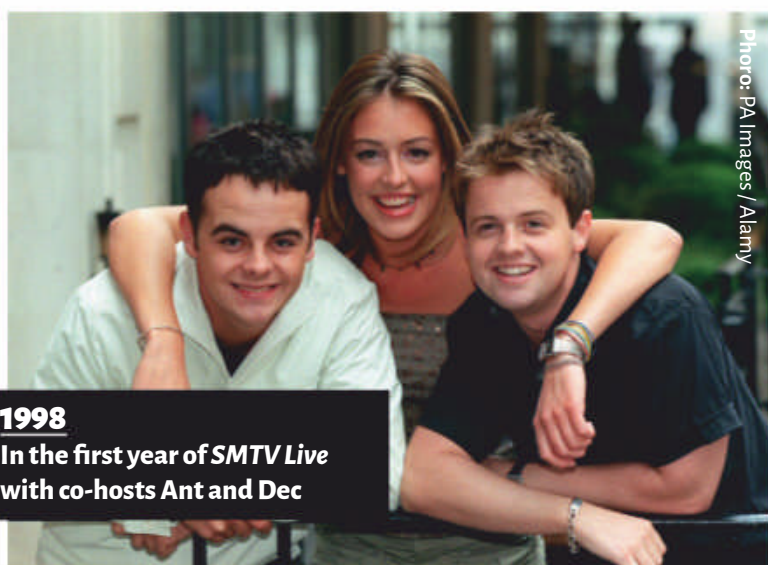
But at some stage we will have to convert our low-wage economy to a high-wage economy. And probably what is most depressing is that working people are often doing a highly skilled job, but getting jack shit for it. That's not anything other than sheer social injustice.

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See pages 4 and 5 for more on RORA**

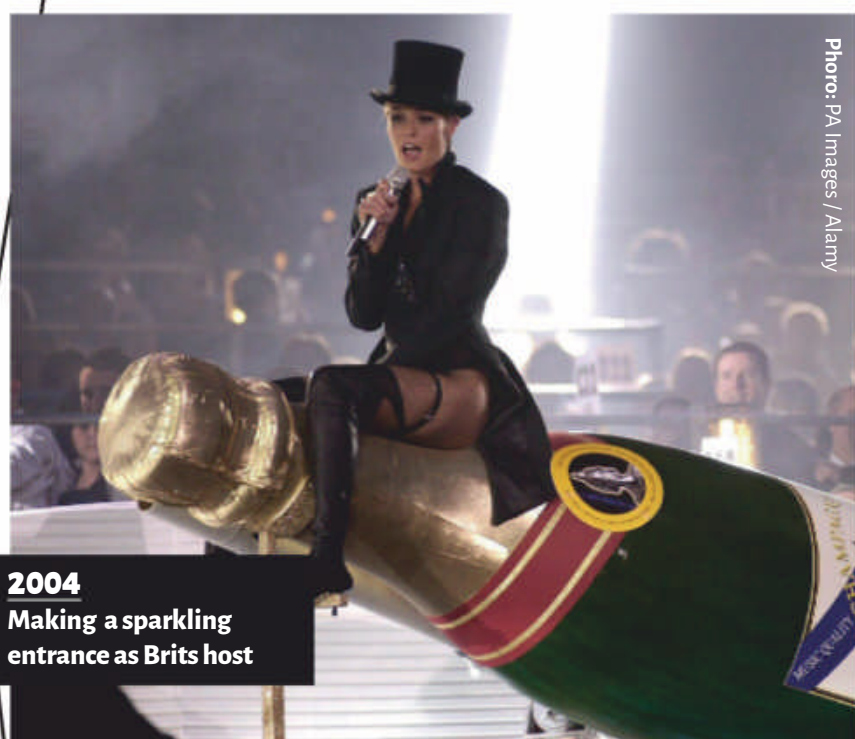
letter to my younger self.

Cat Deeley

Superstar presenter, children's author



1998
In the first year of *SMTV Live* with co-hosts Ant and Dec



2004
Making a sparkling entrance as Brits host



2016
With her husband, Northern Irish comedian Patrick Kielty

When I was 14 I won a model competition. I didn't want to stop school or anything like that but my mum and I went to visit some London agencies to see which one would be the right fit for me for work during school holidays. I actually went to Tokyo for six weeks when I was 16, before my A-levels, which is crazy. If my child asked me if they could go and live in Japan for six weeks, I would literally turn around and go, are you nuts, are you mental? But for whatever reason my mum trusted me and thought I was sensible enough. And I think she thought it would be an adventure that I'd never get the chance to have again.

I think I was fairly sensible and mature as a 16-year-old. But I was also someone who loved adventure. I was always the one that wanted to go on the biggest rollercoaster or swim with great white sharks. I knew quite early on I didn't want to be a model, so then I thought, what am I going to do? When I was a kid I'd wanted to be a *Blue Peter* presenter so I sent a tape to MTV and then I had to go back for loads of auditions. That was definitely the scariest thing I'd ever done, because you kind of offer everything up. It's like, OK, this is what I really want to do. Can I do it or am I no good at it? It's that catalyst moment when you suddenly think, wow, this could change everything, or nothing. And I think that's one of the bravest things you ever do, that first time you try to find out if you're any good.

One thing I always knew for sure is that I love people. I really enjoy talking to people and hearing their stories. I love how everybody's different, but ultimately the same. I love it when human beings face adversity and we find out what they did to overcome it. I love finding a sense of humour, I love all of those things. But I wasn't sure if I could make a career of that and naively, really naively, if MTV hadn't given me a job, I probably never would have tried again. I'd have just thought I couldn't do it. Now I know how much of landing a job is down to casting – do they want my look, do they want an accent, that kind of thing. But because my family weren't in entertainment and I didn't go to stage school and had nobody advising me, I'd have taken that first no as a sign I couldn't do it and now I'd probably be doing something completely different.

People forget, when we started *SMTV* [*Live*, the popular Saturday morning show with Deeley and Ant and Dec] we were rubbish. And nobody watched it at all. It only stayed on air because Nigel Pickard, who was in charge of ITV kids' programmes at the time, said, we've got nothing else to fill the slot with. I know they're rubbish now, but I think they've got something; let's just keep them on, no one's watching anyway. So we had this amazing luxury, where we were all learning together. And because we were surrounded by a brilliant crew it came together. There was a lovely chemistry between myself and Ant and Dec. Also, we all genuinely really liked each other. We worked constantly, closely, together all week, and then after the show was finished, we'd all go upstairs to the bar and spend all afternoon together. I've never worked on another job since where everybody, and I mean everybody, hung out together so much. And I think that showed on screen. I think if you asked anybody who worked on that show they'd say they had the best time.

I think the thing that would surprise the young me about her future is what's happened in America [since 2006 Deeley has presented *So You Think You Can Dance*, and been nominated for five Emmys]. I mean, I never went to America when I was a kid. I never went to Disneyland or anything like that, I'd never even seen it before. And when I did go, I never made a great proclamation; 'I'm going to crack America'. A relationship had just ended and I just fancied a fun adventure. It did feel crazy at times. It's very peculiar to find yourself somewhere you've only ever seen on TV and in films. I remember riding a horse in the hills – the sun was going down and I was galloping along and



1992 THE YEAR CAT TURNS 16

- The Church of England votes to allow women to become priests
- Bill Clinton beats George Bush in the US presidential election
- Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain marries Hole singer Courtney Love

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Photo: Joseph Sinclair

suddenly there was the Hollywood sign, right in front of me. It was just a sensory overload, too much to take in. There's no way my 16-year-old self would believe me if I went back and told her she'll be there one day.

We've thought a lot about bringing up our kids [Deeley has two sons with her husband, comedian Patrick Kielty], I think we're going to flip everything back around again. We'll base here [in London] and I'll go and work in America when I have to. I think the world is so global now – social media, the news, we drink the same coffee, watch the same movies, read the same books... everything is shared now. But I think we all miss friends and family when we're somewhere else. Everything else can be compensated for, except the people. So the kids can go to school here, with family and friends around. And if I need to go back for short periods of time, I can pop back to America.

Initially, when I met Paddy, I wasn't in the kind of place to think about relationships. I was in adventure mode. Listen, you don't know whether you can have kids with someone when you first meet. I think before you become a mum it's really important that you feel fulfilled. But he does definitely make me laugh and he's a brilliant dad. It's funny how the world works. At first you're just having a laugh and then it passes. Then it kind of comes back around and taps you on the shoulder again. And you think, oh! OK...

I've always, always loved kids. I've always felt very comfortable around them. Part of that silliness we had at SMTV, that's innately me. When my niece and nephew were little they'd be the first people to say, she's completely crazy. But I had to wait until I could find a balance between being not just crazy fun and childlike but vaguely responsible as well.

Having to tell them off, teach them manners; it's a big job. So there wasn't a sudden moment when I decided to have kids – to be honest, I didn't know if I would be able to. I knew my mum had trouble having us so you just never know. That was always in the back of my head. You just can't take anything for granted. So I think for a while I thought, it's on the agenda for some time, just not on today's agenda.

If I could go back to any moment and re-live it, it would be when I hosted the Brits in 2004. It was always something I wanted to do because I remembered watching it when I was a kid. The show opened, and I heard The Black Eyed Peas – oh my God, I've got goosebumps now – doing this big medley with Shut Up and I Gotta Feeling, and I was walking around underneath the stage. Then I got on top of this giant bottle of champagne and waited for my cue to rise up onto the stage sitting on it. It was terrifying and so exciting. I just loved the entire thing. I think I changed my outfit about 10 times. At one point, I ran into my tiny dressing room and 50 Cent was in there. I was like, oi you – out! It was so fun. If I could go back in time to my eight-year-old self, sitting in her pyjamas, watching the Brits, and tell her one day you'll host that show... wow.

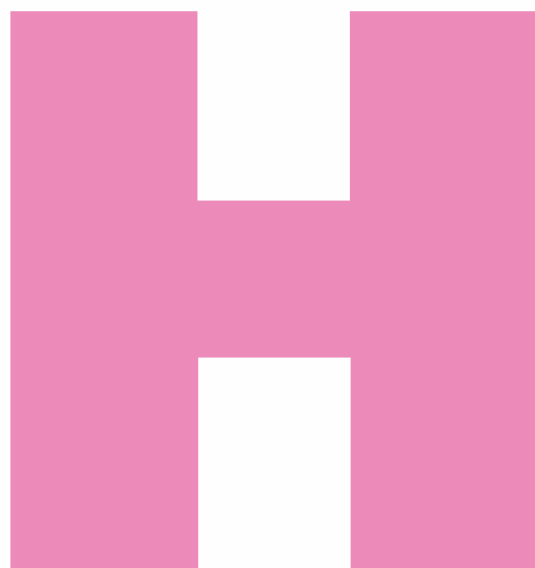
The Joy in You by Cat Deeley, illustrated Rosie Butcher, is out on September 15 (Bantam Dell, £12.99)
Interview: Jane Graham @Janeannie

WHAT DID TOM ELLIS, RICHARD OSMAN AND CAITLIN MORAN TELL THEIR YOUNGER SELVES?
All these and more in our incredible archive
bigissue.com/letter-to-my-younger-self

cover feature.

RAISING THE BAR

Hygiene, poverty and the virus.
Special report by Hannah Westwater



ands. Face. Space. It's the slogan the government hopes will help stem the rising tide of Covid-19 cases. As well as imposing new restrictions to limit the virus's spread, ministers are making an urgent call for Brits to stay on top of thorough hand washing, use of face coverings and social distancing.

But being able to follow the guidance is a privilege for many. The virus doesn't last long in sunlight, scientists say, but it can linger on indoor surfaces for up to 24 hours. It puts those without the cash to afford cleaning products at a serious disadvantage, and makes access to them a more important public health issue than ever – just as the pandemic-driven recession takes the UK economy into its grip. More than three million people have made new Universal Credit claims since the beginning of lockdown and an unprecedented wave of redundancies is expected when the government's job retention scheme ends next month. Families across the nation are having to cut back on essentials as they struggle to make ends meet.

And the first things to go, research by The Trussell Trust showed, tends to be hygiene products. When forced to choose between eating for the day and buying toothpaste, most go without brushing their teeth. With more than 14 million people living in poverty in the UK, products to wash hands or wipe down surfaces are simply out of budget for many, while further entrenching the stigma and shame felt by those living in poverty.

The pandemic is shining a light on widening health inequalities and the urgent need for everyone to have access to cleaning products regardless of income. National Hygiene Week, beginning September 14, marks a crucial point in the nation's fight to suppress the virus.

It was masterminded by grassroots UK network The Hygiene Bank. Founder Lizzy Hall previously told The Big Issue that products like soap were not "life or death". She has since changed her mind.

In summer 2018 the former PR professional and yoga teacher watched Ken Loach's harrowing *I, Daniel Blake*, a film showing the reality for those who fall through the cracks of social security. In one scene, a character is caught shoplifting razors, deodorant and period products, despite having already been to a foodbank. It lit a fire in Hall, who sent a WhatsApp message to a group of family and friends in hometown Sevenoaks asking for donations of "the everyday products we take for granted". Her project quickly picked up momentum and now The Hygiene Bank has over 760 drop-off points across the UK. In just two years the charity has seen around £2.5m of toiletries distributed to 1,115 charities, voluntary groups, schools and local authorities.

Not having access to the things you need to keep yourself clean is "shaming and humiliating," Hall says. "Because it's so tied up with how you present yourself

aesthetically, it so easily leads to social isolation. It impacts your employment opportunities. It has a real fundamental impact on the way we can be, and stay, a part of society."

The pandemic drove demand well beyond anything the charity had seen before. As well as more people falling into financial hardship, those who were self-isolating needed support to get the items they'd normally pick up day to day, and key workers – many of whom were working on the front line, at high risk of picking up the virus – found themselves short on time for shopping and facing empty shelves when they went.

"It all fed into a cycle of poverty that was already difficult to escape," Hall tells The Big Issue. "In some areas, public transport was cut, making people reliant on smaller suppliers for grocery shopping, where prices can be higher. Being at home more meant utility bills went up. Already low-paid workers were hit hardest by job loss. Every financial pressure was tightened at the same moment when people suddenly needed often expensive hygiene products to feel safe."

It took the support of brands to keep up the supply of products for those in need. Nearly two thirds of the stock The Hygiene Bank has distributed since its inception was given out during lockdown, totalling around £1.6m in soaps, deodorants, nappies and period products.

The pandemic's effect on the economy is yet to be fully felt, with one in three firms expected to make redundancies in the coming months. It means National Hygiene Week – planned by the charity before Covid-19 reached British shores – takes on new urgency. They will push their BOGOF message – "two fingers to hygiene poverty, but also encouraging people to buy one, give one," Hall says.



A lotta bottle
The Hygiene Bank has been going for two years but two thirds of its stock has been distributed since lockdown began

The Hygiene Bank has also created educational material for schools and was given the rights to *I, Daniel Blake* for the week, meaning people at home can download the film for free. Patrons including actress Fay Ripley and Sky Sports presenter Hayley McQueen will host fundraising quizzes, while experts from across the UK will hold webinars exploring the impact of hygiene poverty.

It's all systems go, and there's a tricky path ahead as Covid-19, job losses and a failing welfare system crunch down on struggling families. But success for Hall would mean her project ultimately no longer needing to exist. "Until then, we'll play a part in alleviating one of the major stressors for people, in circumstances none of us could have imagined."

■ thehygienebank.com



'HYGIENE SHAMING IS A HUGE OBSTACLE FOR KIDS'

Back to school means back to some semblance of normality for children who have been homeschooled since March. But for many whose families live in poverty, it means a return to bullying and social exclusion because they can't access hygiene products. Now Beauty Banks, a charity set up by PR guru Jo Jones and journalist Sali Hughes to distribute toiletries to people in need across the UK, is campaigning for an end to hygiene shaming among children.

Teaming up with Superdrug and GoFundMe, the Beauty Banks team had raised nearly £16,000 for disadvantaged pupils at the time of writing – and they reckon even more children will be living in hygiene poverty this term as a result of the pandemic. Having heard from 38 per cent of teachers that they were already discreetly providing for kids out of their own pockets, Beauty Banks will support schools in need with deliveries of brand new toiletries and hand out education packs to other schools to help kids understand the issue better. The Big Issue caught up with founder Sali Hughes (right) to learn more.

The Big Issue: Why are you focusing on hygiene poverty in schools?

Sali Hughes: Many children, not meaning to be horrible, might remark on someone's odour or appearance and don't realise the massive hindrance that poses to lots of their peers. As well as feeding into shame, hygiene poverty is a huge obstacle to playing and socialising and all the things kids should be doing. That's why we're specifically looking at children who are teased and bullied at school because of their lack of personal hygiene and access to the products.

How were schools tackling hygiene poverty before now?

What people don't really realise – and what our independent research found – was that teachers already try to fight this. They already identify a need in their kids, discreetly take them to one side and give them toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, sanitary products and so on. Many of the teachers interviewed for our survey do it regularly. What we wanted to do is scale that up – we don't see why teachers should be paying out of their own pockets if we can help them.



Thinking outside the box
Being excluded because of hygiene poverty can be devastating for kids, says Hughes



The campaign has already seen a big response. What's next in your plan to tackle hygiene shaming?

The response has been incredible. Our approach is two-pronged: we want to raise funds so we can give away more product but we also really want people to understand the phenomenon of hygiene shaming in relation to children. The amount of conversation that's happened since we launched the campaign has been really rewarding.

We will directly send schools brand new, unused toiletries that have been donated to us by brands or bought by cash donations we've received. Normally we distribute through foodbanks, homeless shelters, family centres, and we do already supply to some schools but we want to provide to more.

We're also trying to get kids involved in collecting. Lots of schools may not have this need but the kids do need to learn that the problem exists, so we are helping them to collect donations on our behalf and matching them with another school or children's charity nearby to keep their donations local.

Finally we're providing education packs so they can have that dialogue with pupils in class. It's not just about handing out products, it's also about helping children understand that their words have consequences on the mental health of other children.

How has the Covid-19 crisis impacted Beauty Banks?

The need has spiked in most areas of the charity sector while donations have gone down. We've been very fortunate in that we've managed to increase our donations and provided toiletries to around 180 registered charities during the pandemic. That is as well as frontline workers, where we acted as a conduit from



private companies who wanted to donate products to key staff.

It's very hard for people to engage with charity at the moment because they're worried sick about their own lives. They're worried about their children, keeping a roof over their own heads and staying in work. It's really hard, understandably, for people to think about sacrificing what cash they have when everything seems so insecure.

How long will school needs be a focus of what Beauty Banks does?

Any school that wants our help with education packs, or needs us to go and talk there, that will all be happening in the next couple of months. In terms of schools who need donations from us because their kids are in real need, we will endeavour to help them for as long as we possibly can just like we do our existing charities. If they have to go on our permanent recipient list then they will and we'll keep serving them for as long as people donate to us. We will not abandon them when the media flurry around this campaign has gone.

■ gofundme.com/f/endhygieneshaming

SARAH LAMPTEY KNOWS THE VALUE OF A HOT SHOWER FOR PEOPLE ON THE MARGINS

In late 2018, shelter volunteer and radio presenter Sarah Lamptey was dismayed by how hard it was for homeless people to access hygiene facilities. She founded ShowerBox, London's first free mobile showers, based in a specially fitted van that travels between homelessness charities and foodbanks. It's something that makes a huge difference to the mental wellbeing of vulnerable people, she says – and it's work that has proven life-saving during the pandemic

Since Christmas 2018, there's been a blue box, carrying two showers and two changing rooms, on the streets of London. This simple box has cared for hundreds of people in need, providing clean, warm water and a space for self-care.

The development of the ShowerBox project has been gradual, as this was new territory – personally and also for a homeless service in London. It started by servicing homeless shelters, which had their own structures and volunteers. Then, myself and volunteer friends ran the shower trailer alongside the Simon Community's Street Cafe at St Giles-in-the-Fields Church. The mobile nature of the showers combined with the project's lack of formal structure enabled the project to adapt to each scenario, culminating in this ubiquitous Covid one. As a result, ShowerBox has naturally become its own independent service at St Giles-in-the-Fields.

However, with ShowerBox's unofficial status as a charitable project came the challenge of funding. Thus far, aside from a £5,000 grant from the Somers Town Community Association, I've raised funds for ShowerBox on JustGiving alone (incredibly touchingly, the website awarded the project 'Changemaker of the Year' at its award ceremony last year). In order to be eligible for various funding avenues, I recently submitted an application for ShowerBox to become a Community Interest Company. There are only so many times I can enlist friends and family to donate!

The chaos of Covid ladled extra challenges on to the project. Recruiting drivers was tricky prior to the pandemic, let alone when lockdown hit. So I, a relatively new driver, took to the roads and started towing! It's incredible (and sometimes terrifying) what sheer determination will make one do! Financially, we were hit too; this has not been a great year to rely on public donations. Also, the congestion charge was extended to the weekend, adding £60 on top of £50 Ultra Low Emission Zone payments each month. Another hurdle took the form of finding a new base for the trailer and Jeep. A church had let us use its car park, but needed the spaces back to rent them out, having lost money with the church closed. Also, many day centres have reopened with restricted services, so we are now showering between 30 and 35 people each week and have had to extend our hours. Lastly, there was the major obstacle of closed toilets. Again, I was reminded of the degrading options available when there is a lack of facilities.

A final challenge came in the form of the following response from a councillor. He said he has "reservations about the shower concept because [their] strategy is always to divert rough sleepers away from the harmful scenarios which prevail in central London". I replied, inviting him to the service, in the hope that he might be less concerned with strategies and more concerned with the experiences of those in front of him. As an example, one guest arrived during lockdown who hadn't showered since the end of last year. The councillor is yet to reply.

Alongside the obstacles, there have been brilliant boosts. UPark by Tower Bridge has recently let us park there. Greggs have started to donate their unsold food and Ecover are giving us a huge pallet of cleaning products. A great group of volunteers have stepped forward to help each week. We've received hundreds of washbag donations from community group Serving Our Superheroes, Caroline of Tricky Period supports the project each week and then there's the endlessly kind Malcolm, who cleans our towels each week for free. Claire of Ginger Princess gives haircuts once a month and the ensuing beams point to why enabling self-care and hygiene is crucial.

Each week, the shower doors open and there are smiles and remarks of "feeling human again". ShowerBox's strategy, then, is to help as many people as possible feel like that.

■ showerbox.org



Shower power
But Lamptey has faced challenges in lockdown

homeless deaths.

How the street death of The Big Issue's Fabian changed the way Britain counts the people who die without a home

Words: Maeve McClenaghan

There was a moment, sitting in Fabian's funeral, when the true horror of my work hit me.

Months earlier I had set out on a journalistic mission, I wanted to answer what I thought was a simple question: how many people had died while homeless in the UK. One after another I tried all the places I thought might hold that data. The police suggested I ask hospitals, they pointed me to the coroners office, then councils, then central government. No one had the figure because no one counted.

That is where things could have ended. But I was so shocked that no one was keeping a record that I went to my editors at the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. I work with a team that focuses on linking up journalists across the UK – together, I thought, maybe we could pull in our own data, come to our own answer. And so I put the call out to journalists across our network: please let me know if you hear of anyone passing away while experiencing homelessness.

That is how Fabian's name appeared on my computer screen [in 2018]. The Big Issue's reporter Liam Geraghty got in touch to tell me that Fabian, who had sold The Big Issue for years, had died aged just 48. What was more, his funeral was in a few days' time.

At Fabian's funeral I watched as his friends and family told warm, loving stories of the man who had been dubbed "the Belgian Waffle" because of his ability to spin a yarn. Later I spoke at length with his sister Angie, who still lived in Belgium. I interviewed his friends and supporters in Stony Stratford, one of the places he called

home. I visited the allotment he worked on, smelt the flowers he had tended to. I asked the local council about his care, and poured over the coroner's report into his death.

I never met Fabian, but I wish I had. He, like so many others became more than a number, more than just a statistic in my database. Slowly I came to know a little of his life, to understand the lasting impact he has had. Indeed, I was delighted to attend the unveiling of a portrait of Fabian, which residents of Stony Stratford erected in his honour.

I also came to understand the many ways the system we assume is there to help people who fall on hard times failed Fabian and so many others. There are vital lessons to learn from Fabian's death, ruled to be from a ruptured oesophagus as a result of cirrhosis of the liver, as there are from every person who died an early and unnecessary death while homelessness in the UK, one of the richest countries in the world.

As the nation grapples with the economic and social fallout of the pandemic and the lockdown, we need to learn those lessons now, before more people fall into homelessness, before more people die.





Fab times
The vendor became a well-loved character in the town thanks to his vibrant personality

Fabian's story features in Maeve McClenaghan's book recounting her investigation, *No Fixed Abode*. Here we share a short extract from the chapter *The Belgian Waffle*

The years passed and Fabian found a kind of routine. Each week he'd drive or hitch a ride to Northampton to pick up copies of *The Big Issue*, which he'd bring back and sell in Stony Stratford, wooing customers with his charming chat.

Fabian was a storyteller, and he'd become quite the character in the town, where people began to call him the 'Belgian Waffle' because he'd always have a story for them. He'd tell tales so meandering, so whimsical, it became impossible to know where the truth really lay.

For years Fabian moved from one sleeping spot to another, sometimes sleeping in a car he'd been given, other times in the flat of his on-again-off-again partner Sandra.* He enjoyed the nomadic lifestyle; if he moved around enough, no one was able to tell him to quit the drink and the drugs.

And when life got too busy, he had a special place he could go, to escape it all for a while: the allotment. Days would pass with him sitting contentedly under a spindly apple tree, looking out at the thin, long stretch of vegetable garden before him. This was his haven, a quiet place he could come, just a 10-minute walk from the bustle of the town's high street. Here, the noise of the town was a low hum in the distance, punctuated occasionally by the cluck of one of the chickens in a nearby plot.

The allotment was often alive with colour. Towards the bottom of the plot a sea of blue ceanothus flowers speckled the ground, their scent mixing with the waft of mint emanating from a herb patch. The small shed on the allotment was just large enough for him to wriggle inside and curl up on the floor. It did fine as a bedroom in the summer months.

Sometimes friends would drop by, including a woman in her early thirties: Estella. She'd met Fabian after they got chatting when he sold her *The Big Issue*. Now she considered him a friend. Fabian would guide her through the patches of tilled land until they reached his spot. He would proudly point out the raspberries and strawberries to her as they sauntered lazily up the slight camber to the bench under the apple tree.

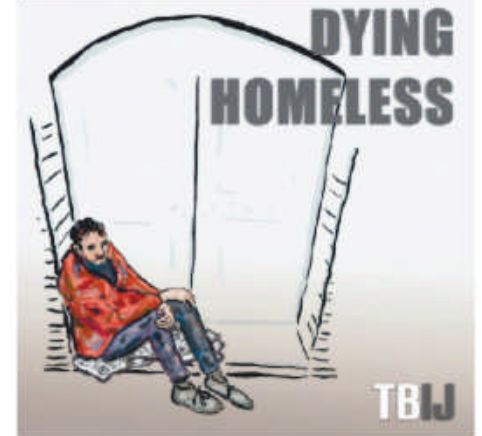
Those summer days stretched long and languidly into evenings, caught up in the flow of Fabian's florid stories. He'd tell Estella tales about the old man who had tended a plot here for over 60 years, or the French couple who were always looking down on him. "The politics – he always told me about the people of Stony," Estella recalls of Fabian's favourite topics. "He always told me all the stories. All the things that were going on."

The only thing out of place in this pastoral scene was the half-drunk can of Special Brew at Fabian's feet. He never really kept track of how much he drank, but there was always a steady supply of super-strong cider or spirits like vodka. (A doctor once told me the number one thing the government could do to tackle homelessness would be a restriction of these super-strong, super-cheap drinks.) Fabian would drink until he was warm. Drink until he could sleep.

Maeve McClenaghan is a journalist with The Bureau of Investigative Journalism. *No Fixed Abode: Life and Death Among the UK's Forgotten Homeless* is out on September 17 (Pan Macmillan, £20) @MaeveMCC

*name has been changed

COUNTING THE DEAD



April 2018

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism's Dying Homeless project release the first-ever UK homeless death figures, reporting that 78 people died in winter 2017.

October 2018

Updated numbers from the Bureau show 449 people have died since winter 2017, while the Office for National Statistics announce plans for official experimental statistics by end of the year.

December 2018

The Bureau now counts 550 deaths in 2018, while the first landmark ONS statistics find 597 people have died in England and Wales in 2017.

March 2019

The Bureau wrap up their 18-month project having counted 796 deaths. The Museum of Homelessness take over the Dying Homeless project and continue to run it to this day.

October 2019

The latest ONS numbers show a 20 per cent rise, counting 726 homeless people dying in 2018.

February 2020

The National Records of Scotland count homeless deaths for the first time, reporting that 195 people died without a home in Scotland in 2018.

July 2020

The ONS has continued counting during the pandemic, finding that 16 people had died due to Covid-19 while homeless, and warning that number is likely to rise.



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News from the Intrepid Wool Grower

Laughter is Really the Best Medicine (Pt2)

Please read 7 September Big Issue Blog for Part 1 of this astonishing story. The story thus far:

My son, as an away student in Paris and his mates, are watching the weekend 'mouvement des gilets jaunes' protests that took place regularly in the city. Standing at an apparently safe distance, the youngsters are joined by a very elderly, frail couple who live in a house close to the protests. Their presence concerned my son as he realised these two were way too elderly to be able to swiftly get to safety should the protests get any closer and turn more violent.

And of course the inevitable happened. There was a roar from the protesters as they scattered and a smoking teargas canister bounced down the road towards my son, his mates and more worryingly the very elderly couple. The youngsters knew it was time to move on - quickly, but what of the elderly couple? My son was about to go up to them and try to persuade them to get back to the safety of their house when the old lady tottered determinedly into the street towards the teargas. She stooped slowly, picked up the smoking teargas canister and then proceeded to totter, with equal determination, back to house. Once there, she opened her front door, chucked the canister into her entrance hall and slammed the front door closed before joining her husband back on the pavement to continue observing the protests.

My son was gobsmacked and his face must have said it all because the old lady looked at him with a completely dead pan, matter of fact look on her face, she said "it deals with the cockroaches."

My son told me this story whilst he was home over lock down. If I had known he had got close to the protest whilst in Paris, I would have been beside myself with worry but long after the event and the way he told the story, I roared with laughter. And suddenly the worry of everything going on the world didn't seem quite so bad. So yes, laughter is the best medicine.

Jessica



CULTURE

BOOKS

Meteorites rock because they're the key to everything
Tim Gregory

FILM

Still excellent after all these years – Bill and Ted are back
Simon Brew

RADIO

I tried to be outraged by 'Marxism' on the BBC... but I couldn't find any
Robin Ince

STREET ART



Stashed

By Andre

"Art is a really important outlet for expressing myself," says new Street Art contributor Andre. "It's a cathartic way of allowing the things out that bubble away inside."

"I was born in Hammersmith to Greek Cypriot parents. As a family we have been deeply affected by mental health, with three of us being diagnosed schizophrenic, myself mildly. The consequences of that have reverberated throughout my life and being healthy, writing poetry and painting have helped me navigate a path through some of those difficulties."

"I studied film and creative writing at Roehampton University, which gave me the opportunity to be inspired by the work of others."

"Alongside being creative, I want to be healthy, so I take care of myself in terms of diet and exercise. I like to run, and I play in a football team, Minds United FC, that supports people who have struggled with their mental wellbeing. I'm not a monk though! I think it's important to give yourself the occasional treat. If you can't be kind to yourself, how can you be kind to other people?"

The work on this page is created by people who are marginalised. Contact street.lights@bigissue.com to see your art here. To see more and buy prints: bigissueshop.com. At least half of the profit goes to the artist.

REVIEW

Jargon busting

The political consequences when we lose the art of plain speaking can be grave.

Stephen Bush appreciates the reminder



One of the more lamentable habits of political journalists is our tendency to invent jargon. This was at its most acute with Brexit – here you have the biggest single change to our trading relationships in half a century, communicated in an ever-growing thicket of buzzwords and neologisms, each more intimidating than the last.

I realised at one point that if I took any time off – say, three days – I would come back to discover that a new Brexit word had been invented or added to the lexicon. Of course, political journalists aren't the only trade to invent silly and impenetrable terms to make it easier to communicate to one another and harder for outsiders to understand – when I worked in the book trade I happily would describe things as “slightly foxed”, or slip into abbreviations that made it easier for us to understand each other quickly but which had to be explained to perplexed outsiders. The difference is, of course, that if you don't understand what “remaindered” or “POD” are referring to, your bookseller can explain and there's no harm done. If you don't understand the jargon being spouted on the TV or radio you can't press the red button to get the journalist in question to explain in plain English.

Something I've found very useful over the years as a way to stop me using too much jargon is sitting in on focus groups, a tool used by everything from political parties to theatres to find out how their audiences feel about their wares. I've gained a lot of use from one organisation in particular, the pollster BritainThinks. One of their founders, Deborah Mattinson, helped to advise New Labour and is the author of two excellent books – *Talking to a Brick Wall*, about her time advising Gordon Brown, and now ***Beyond the Red Wall***, a study of the constituencies that switched from Labour to Conservative in 2019.

Beyond the Red Wall is one of a series of books dealing with the events of 2019, but its great strength lies in its people – the men and women who live in these seats, whose own impressions and testimony form the spine of the book. It's an excellent companion to ***Brexitland***, a brilliant bit of academic research, but written in a way that you or I can understand very easily, by Maria Sobolewska and Robert Ford. The book describes in granular detail the forces and groups that are pulling our politics apart – what type of person votes for Brexit? What kind of person votes for Scottish independence? And what about the group of people who vote for both?

What unites the people and places in these books is that they are, or at least feel, remote. They have been cut off by globalisation, ignored by policymakers and forgotten by public transport. They have also been forgotten by a professional political class that is addicted to jargon: a useful reminder that how we talk is as important as who we talk to.

@stephenkb

***Beyond The Red Wall* by Deborah Mattinson is out on September 15 (Biteback, £16.99)**
***Brexitland* by Maria Sobolewska and Robert Ford is out on October 15 (Cambridge University Press, £15.99)**



AUTHOR FEATURE

Falling rocks

Meteorites tell us where we came from and where we may end up. No wonder they're infinitely fascinating, says **Tim Gregory**

I got the bug for geology as a lad. My mum used to take my sister and me for days out on the Yorkshire coast, and we'd come home (to Dewsbury, West Yorkshire) with shoes full of sand and pockets full of fossils. The new fossils would go on the 'museum shelf' (a bookcase from IKEA) in my bedroom next the rest of my collection: other fossils, bits of minerals, and lumps of stone.

I was not alone in this fascination with geological odds and sods: my mates had rock collections too. Even in today's world where the minds of the young can appear all-consumed by iPads and gaming consoles, rock collections are still commonplace among the younger generation. Even really young kids love nothing more than turning pebbles on the beach or mucking around in sands and soils.

And like most kids I was captivated by space too. I used to read an encyclopaedia that had a drawing of the solar system, with the sun at the centre and the planets circling it like they were running around a giant racetrack. The idea



Illustration: Joseph Joyce

that Earth was just one planet among nine (Pluto was a planet back then) and they were all orbiting a star absolutely blew me away. There are other worlds out there! What were they like? Were there aliens?! Coming face to face with the unknown is perhaps why space is so appealing to young minds: for every answer there are a dozen questions, and questions have a knack of stirring up excitement.

I never lost my interest in geology and space. I studied geology and planetary science at university, and it was during my student days that I landed my dream summer work experience placement: 10 weeks researching meteorites – rocks that fell from outer space – at Nasa’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. There I discovered that the combination of geology and space science is a whole world in itself, and it also has a name: cosmochemistry.

Cosmochemistry concerns itself with ‘shooting stars’ — the rocks that come from outer space and make landfall upon the Earth as meteorites.

More than 40,000 tonnes of

extraterrestrial rock streaks to the Earth’s surface each year, but you’d struggle to find a piece in your local park. Most fall to Earth as motes of dust, and even walnut-sized stones are comparatively rare. There have been fewer than two dozen British meteorites in the past 400 years! And yet, meteorites have captured our imaginations for millennia; the ancient Egyptians used metallic meteorites to make sacred artefacts such as King Tutankhamun’s gold-sheathed dagger, and ancient South American tribes worshipped the sites where they fell. Behind the folklore, science has revealed these extraterrestrial stones to be scientific wonders.

There are just over 60,000 known meteorites. Two thirds of them come from Antarctica; their charred exteriors stand out against the bright ice, making them easy to spot. A fifth come from the Sahara desert for much the same reason (although they stand out against sand rather than snow). To spot one falling is like winning the cosmic lottery; only two per cent of all meteorites were witnessed falling from the sky, and they are often accompanied by a spectacular light show and deafening detonations.

The more I found out about meteorites, the more fascinated I became. Meteorites were the subject of my Master’s, my PhD, and my book: **Meteorite: The Stones From Outer Space That Made Our World.**

Geology often works on timescales of millions of years; cosmochemistry works on timescales a thousand times longer – billions of years. Meteorites are a few hundred thousand years older than planet Earth itself. In fact, at a whopping 4.6 billion years old (that’s 4,600,000,000 years), they are the most ancient object you can hold in your hand. Meteorites define the age of the solar system itself.

Celestial stones also contain clues to the origin of life. A small handful of meteorites are made from more than just rock: they are laced with amino acids, which, as the building blocks of proteins, are nicknamed “the molecules of life”. There is water bound within these meteorites, too, which is compositionally similar to the water that makes up Earth’s oceans. This gives rise to the tantalising possibility that meteorites delivered water and the building blocks of life to Earth 4.6 billion years ago.

Meteorites are more than the keys to our past; they are the keys to our future, because the asteroids from which they come are an existential threat to life on Earth. The dinosaurs discovered this first-hand when a huge asteroid ploughed into the planet at hypersonic speeds, sparking global wildfires and triggering catastrophic climate change which led to their grim extinction. A future asteroid collision with Earth is inevitable. If we are to avoid a fate similar to that of the dinosaurs, we must learn more about these rogue worlds and how we can safely deflect them.

But for now, meteorites are purely objects of fascination and scientific wonder.

Meteorite: The Stones From Outer Space That Made Our World by Tim Gregory is out now (John Murray Press, £16.99). You can contact Tim on his website at tim-gregory.co.uk/contact



Top 5 books about Protestant history in Northern Ireland



John Chambers

01 The Dirty War by Martin Dillon

By its very nature the work of undercover operatives is shrouded in secrecy, and during the Troubles the UK security forces were experts in covert operations designed to take down, recruit and monitor NI paramilitary groups. Some of these operations became public knowledge, but the vast majority remained cloaked in the fog of war. This book lifts the lid and sheds a little light in the darkness.

02 Paddy Mayne: Lt Col Blair ‘Paddy’ Mayne, 1 SAS Regiment by Hamish Ross

A complex and troubled soul, Paddy Mayne’s personal life has long been an enigma. This packed biography goes some way in separating fact from fiction; a captivating account.

03 The Shankill Butchers by Martin Dillon

A horrifying, disturbing account of some of the most brutal sectarian killings during the Troubles and throughout British criminal history. Not for the faint-hearted; truly the stuff of nightmares.

04 Loyalists by Peter Taylor

An unbiased examination of loyalist history and culture told by those who were on the frontline. Politicians, loyalist leaders and killers give first-hand accounts of the madness that stalked the streets of NI for 30 long years of terror.

05 The Faithful Tribe: An Intimate Portrait of the Loyal Institutions by Ruth Dudley Edwards

An insightful and intimate look at the Orange Order. The fact that the author is a female Catholic from Dublin adds a delicious irony to the tale of a tribe dominated by males committed to Protestant ascendancy.

A Belfast Child by John Chambers is out now (John Blake, £8.99)



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Time for one more adventure

Dragging teen slackers Bill and Ted into their middle years was perhaps never meant to happen. But **Simon Brew** is glad it did



Bill & Ted Face The Music In cinemas from September 16

The story so far. We learned in – checks calendar – 1991's sequel *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* that the characters of Ted Theodore Logan and William S 'Bill' Preston would save all of time and humanity.

They'd do it by writing a song, a song that would bring everyone together in dark and difficult times. Much like the ending of the original *Back To The Future*, this meant a plot device that the filmmakers had no intention of returning to and exploring, with the Bill & Ted saga set to comprise just *Bogus Journey* and its forerunner, *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*.

Yet here we are. The talk of a third adventure for Bill & Ted didn't spark until more than a decade after the second movie, and it took a further 15 years to get here. Now, we find Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter slipping into roles that they last played in their twenties, and taking a leap of faith that the audience will still buy them as the loveable apparent-slackers nearly three decades on.

Somehow, it works. This time, the film finds them as parents to teenage girls Theadora and Wilhelmina (aka Billie), played by Samara Weaving and Brigitte Lundy-Paine. Furthermore, they're stuck in a rut. They've not written the prophesised song. Their band has split up. They're both in marriage counselling. Bluntly, we're all doomed.

What follows, then, is a brisk and economic story, as the pair start zipping around in time again, trying to find the song that they're required to write. In tandem with that, their daughters are also quietly on the hunt for history's finest musicians to assist their fathers, while in the future, fresh threats are emerging that could bring down the universe. No pressure.

Inevitably, this sounds like something of a retread of journeys the previous two movies have taken, and there's an underlying feeling of fan service about the project (certain characters return from the previous two movies for instance, even if there's not much narrative requirement for them to do so). No bad thing, of course. But what's particularly charming is that the film is accessible whether it's your first Bill & Ted adventure or you've followed their path to this point. That, countering the often gloomy and dark nature of modern blockbuster cinema, this is deliberately bright, funny, charming and warm. In good part that's down to Reeves and Winter. They may not look quite as youthful as they did last time they played the characters on screen, but the earnest humanity of Bill and Ted still shines through.



The booth of today
A little older but Winter and Reeves still have the old familiar charm

The revelations though are Weaving and Lundy-Paine. Their performances as Theadora and Wilhelmina are so good that it's hard not to want a spin-off movie just following them at some point.

A film inevitably going to be welcomed more by its existing fanbase, *Face The Music* does seem to know that. Considering how bold *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey* was, *Face The Music* feels a bit more of a greatest hits tour. Furthermore, just at the point where the film feels like it's building to a big ending, it sort of stops – really quite suddenly. That said, the joyous end credits soon distract from how abruptly the film concludes.

Still, *Bill & Ted Face The Music* feels like an unlikely victory. Credit to writers Chris Matheson and Ed Solomon, along with *Galaxy Quest* director Dean Parisot, who may not have fashioned the most groundbreaking film of the year, but certainly it's hard to find one to match its sweetness and charm. *Bogus Journey*, for this writer at least, remains the high point by some distance of the trilogy. But on the evidence of *Face the Music*, more adventures are not an unwelcome prospect.

★★★★☆

Simon Brew is the editor and publisher of independent film magazines *Film Stories* and *Film Stories Junior* @simonbrew

Rocks

In cinemas from September 18

Delayed by several months after reviews had been published (the promotional campaign was in full swing and the film was all ready to go), the outstanding *Rocks* finally gets to UK screens on September 18. Bluntly, it's stunning. It's the story of a teenage girl who is bringing up her younger brother alone in London. Far from the downbeat kitchen sink drama it may look like on the surface, this is one of the films of the year.

★★★★★





INTERVIEW

Cats & cocktails

A *Street Cat Named Bob* actor **Luke Treadaway**'s new role takes him far from London's streets. But he tells Adrian Lobb he won't forget his feline friend

“I’m just heartbroken for James. Street Cat Bob had such a special spirit.”

Luke Treadaway is an Olivier Award-winning actor with an interesting and varied career under his belt already. But to many Big Issue readers, the 36-year-old will always be known for one special performance, playing James Bowen in the film adaptation of *A Street Cat Named Bob*.

The actor spent many hours with James and Bob while making the film. The trio became great friends with Bob, who played himself in the film and died earlier this summer, spending hours on Treadaway's shoulder.

“You don't see that kind of close relationship very often – whether it is between two humans or a human and an animal. And beautiful Bob played such a massive part in helping James to move forward positively with his life. It's heartbreaking.

“I called James up straight away when I heard. And I've spoken to him a few times since. James is trying to be positive and remember the amazingly positive part that Bob played in his life. That shows such strength, I think.”

His latest role takes Treadaway a world away from the streets of London. He heads the cast of *The Singapore Grip*, a star-studded new ITV period drama adapted from JG Farrell's acclaimed satire by Oscar-winning screenwriter Christopher Hampton. It has lavish locations and a large, expensively assembled cast – with Treadaway as reluctant hero Matthew Webb, David Morrissey and Jane Horrocks

as charming but ruthless rubber baron Walter Blackett and his wife, Sylvia, plus Charles Dance as Matthew's father and Blackett's business partner.

A two-line exchange between Dance and Morrissey – “He's a bit of an idealist.” “Oh dear, that is bad luck” – shows just how out of step young progressive Matthew is with his father. For Webb junior wants to help workers and encourage the local economy rather than merely getting rich on the proceeds of what was then known as British Malaya's natural resources.

“If what you're interested in mostly is making a profit, then morals and ethics are not positive traits,” says Treadaway, whose previous screen highlights range from *Attack The Block* via *The Hollow Crown* and 2018's big BBC Agatha Christie adaptation *Ordeal By Innocence*.

“There are some ghastly, horrible characters in this that are really fun to watch,” he adds.

The storytelling is big, and blends family



Cool cat
Treadaway with his dear departed pal in the 2016 film *A Street Cat Named Bob*

drama and classic war film. Glamorous cocktail party scenes take us far from our socially distanced lockdown lives, while the Second World War – into which the characters are dramatically drawn – is about to change that part of the world forever, with the Japanese occupation of Singapore imminent.

While the original novel is an acclaimed and stinging satire on the British Empire and the people who led it, the series already faces a backlash for failing to foreground or flesh out its Asian characters – and failing to update the novel's 1970s attitude to women.

Treadaway insists this is not just a piece of Sunday night escapism – and that the satire remains visible beneath the glossy sheen.

"It's a broadsided satire of those people and those viewpoints that is not in any way glorifying or celebrating them," says Treadaway.

"We were causing damage to people and to the country – so there is an underlying sense of karma and comeuppance. It would be almost funny to think that these people are in command if it wasn't so sad and if there weren't so many lives at stake.

"It's a really fascinating moment in history," continues Treadaway.

"And you are seeing it through the eyes of soldiers, you see it through Matthew's eyes because he signs up as a firefighter on the streets of downtown Singapore, but you also see it through the eyes of people who are going nowhere near the front line and are still sitting around sipping gin and tonic on the veranda whilst the bombs are going off. So there is this kaleidoscopic view of events."

For Treadaway, lockdown has meant cancelling a big role on stage in New York. But he does have a film in the can and on its way. And not just any film. *A Gift From Bob*, the sequel to *A Street Cat Named Bob*, will be released, he believes, this Christmas. And once again it features Treadaway as James Bowen alongside Bob as himself.

"Christmas, cats – it's a match made in heaven," says the actor. "Watching it is going to be sad and sweet and wonderful and celebratory and moving all at the same time.

"The support for the first film was amazing. And I know Bob's fans are a global phenomenon – so big love to all the Bobites out there."

**The Singapore Grip airs on Sunday nights on ITV at 9pm
@adey70**

BROADCAST

Tell-tale Marx

Does the BBC really have a communist agenda? **Robin Ince** tried his best to find out



I have been playing a Marxist game of *Where's Wally?* for the last week. **Where is Karl? I was promised he was all over the BBC.** Articles in the press told us that the BBC schedule was laden with a communist manifesto scantily disguised as comedy. Some columnists, such as Allison Pearson, insisted that the BBC also has a "distaste for the indigenous" and has "the reflex sense that anything non-British or, better still, anti-British" is best.

I know it can be tough for a journalist to investigate a big story, but all Allison needed to do was buy a copy of the *Radio Times*. Sadly, this was a foxhole too far. On the day I read her article, I checked the TV schedules – *Escape to the Country*, *Antiques Road Trip*, *Garden Rescue* from the Maoist enclave of Hoveringham, a Vicar showing off his prize-winning ducks in Cornwall on *Farmer's Country Showdown*, Johnny Kingdom spending a year on Exmoor – for a broadcaster hellbent on anti-Britishness it really was heavily disguising its agenda. Mind you, on the three-hour *Top of the Pops* special on BBC Four the next night they did play a song by Bob Marley and The Wailers.

As BBC TV was frankly not pulling its weight when it comes to a "distaste for the indigenous" but seemed to be actively promoting it, I presumed it must all be on the wireless. On that day there was *Burning the Books*, a reading of Richard Ovenden's book by Anthony Head, about the destruction of knowledge.

It was not pro the destruction of knowledge, so I can see how some columnists may see it as some crazed liberal left madness as it warned against the promotion of ignorance. After *The Shipping Forecast*, which I see as reasonable politically impartial, *Prayer for the Day* was anchored to a memory of the opening of the Forth Road Bridge, the Rev Dr Janet Unsworth did not seem to find a way to use this as a segue into calling God to destroy capitalism or even promote multiculturalism, though since 1964 it has been easier for people on either side of the Forth to mix – a step too far?

Farming Today covered pigs during lockdown and *Tweet of the Day* saw Bill Oddie celebrate the Cetti's Warbler. To be fair to Allison Pearson, this warbler is not indigenous and is believed to have first bred in the UK in Kent in 1972. Tatum Swithenbank's *Pause the Plié* was a moving and enlightening documentary about how dance helped her through a difficult childhood and what happened when she had a heartbreaking diagnosis which brought an end to that. She then explores new ways of being able to find satisfying ways of creativity.

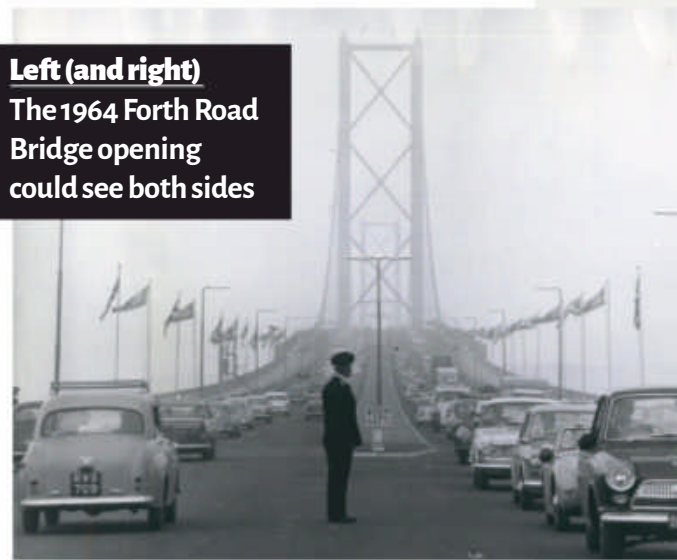
By the way, Swithenbank is an old English name from the North.

I could go on, but you get the general idea.

A myth, easily dispelled by looking at the TV and radio listings printed in the very newspapers where it is being spread, is perpetually promoted by vitriolic typists. There wasn't even a single left-wing panel show to enjoy that day. You had to wait until 6.30pm the next day to hear the *News Quiz*, a programme that mocks the week's news and, as the Conservative party are currently in power, this means that they may well get more mockery. If you are on the right and you think it is unfair to be the victim of a punchline, imagine what it must be like to be a Liberal Democrat? I apologise for the weight of sarcasm in this column, but I have just had a tooth out and the drugs aren't working. With the news agenda being bolstered with what turned out to be a non-story of left-wing panel shows on the BBC, I thought I would write out my anger and my gum pain. I am relieved to tell you the following days *Tweet of the Day* was the woodlark, which I believe is indigenous to Britain.

@robinince

Left (and right)
The 1964 Forth Road Bridge opening could see both sides



Standing up to tyranny... with music

The rising tide of political rage on the streets of Belarus is being soundtracked by a decades-old rock anthem. **Malcolm Jack** finds out why this is the song to energise a popular revolt



A wind of change is blowing through Belarus, the former Soviet state dubbed “Europe’s last dictatorship”. Following another blatantly rigged presidential election, huge protests against authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko have repeatedly filled the streets of Minsk and other towns and cities. Whether sung en masse, blasted from cars or performed by musicians, a more than 30-year-old rock song has become the people’s anthem. A song about transformation which was a huge hit in the Eastern Bloc at the height of Mikhail Gorbachev’s reformist policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika*. A song that’s said to have played its part in the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It’s not the song you’re whistling.

Khochu Peremen by Kino – in English I Want Changes or simply Changes – is the Russian-speaking world’s most famous rock’n’roll protest anthem: a rousing, racing, electrifying post-punk thunderbolt with a chorus of “Our hearts are longing for changes! Our eyes are longing for changes!” According to one expert on Russian rock music, it was a much bigger deal at the time than even Wind of Change by West German band Scorpions, the 14 million-selling power ballad synonymous with the fall of the Berlin Wall and all that followed. “For most Soviets, Peremen was much more important,” states Joanna Stingray, an American music producer, singer and author who was married to Kino’s guitarist Yuri Kasparyan. “This is because it was written by their hero, not somebody from the West. Peremen was certainly overlooked by the world outside of Russia which promoted Wind of Change as the song of the time.”

Changes was written in 1986 by Kino’s half-Korean frontman Viktor Tsoi, a handsome, enigmatic proletariat-poet who when he wasn’t scrawling lyrics was shovelling coal into a boiler furnace. He was propelled to fame when he sang the song in the dramatic final scene of the 1987 Soviet film *Assa* – an official government production featuring hitherto banned Russian rock music. It launched Kino from the Leningrad underground to the USSR’s biggest band. In June 1990 they performed for 62,000 people at Moscow’s



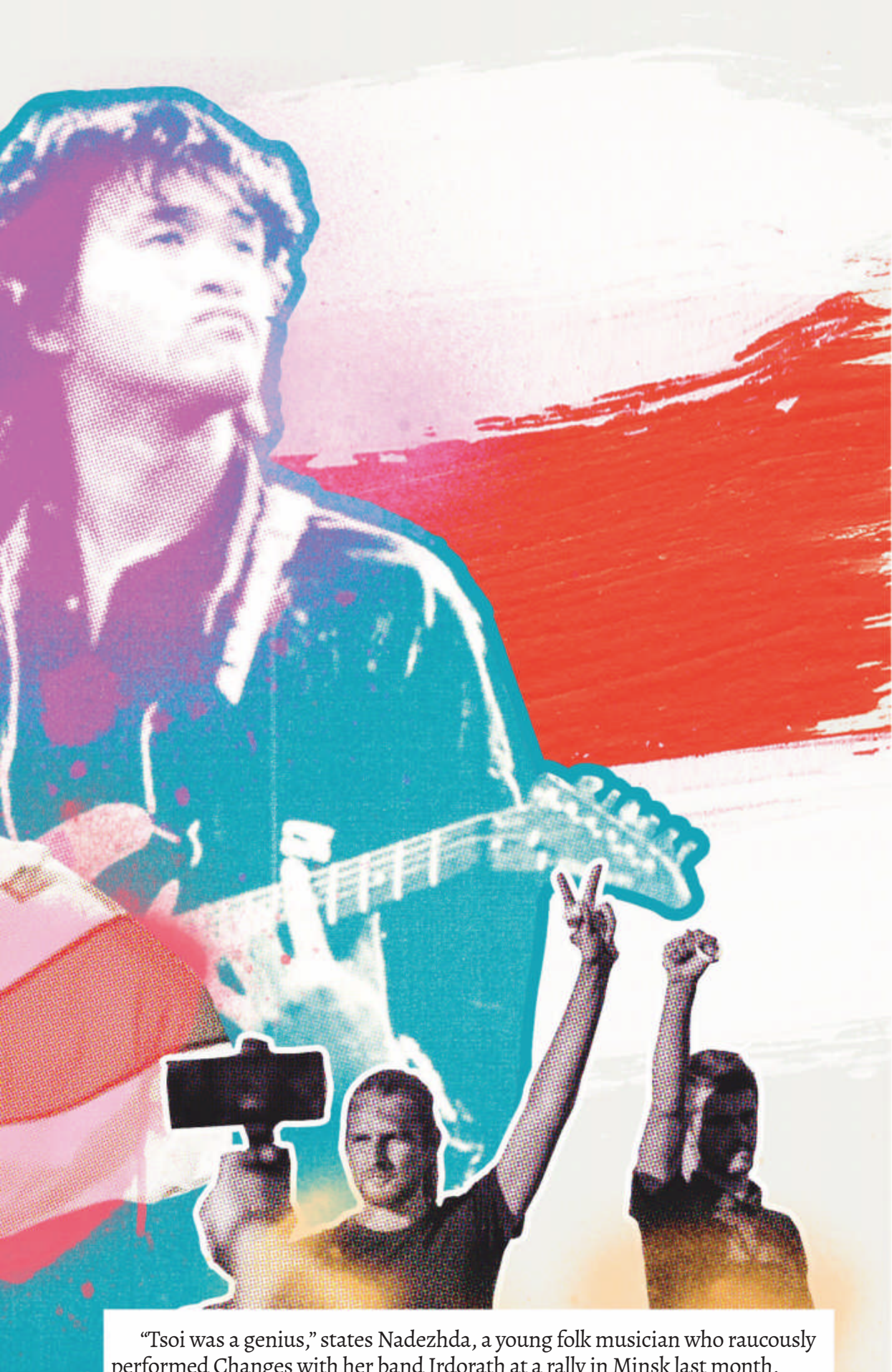
Luzhniki Stadium – a concert that would tragically prove Tsoi’s last. He died in an accident a few weeks later.

Ironically, Tsoi always insisted that Changes was apolitical. “I interviewed Viktor a couple of times and asked him what his lyrics were about,” says Stingray, whose memoir *Red Wave: An American in the Soviet Music Underground* is out this month. “He said they were about each person’s inner struggle. He said all people have a kind of cage inside them that keeps them from doing things or understanding themselves. He did not write about politics, it was about an inner search and inner understanding of oneself.”

Yet in the revolutionary fervour of the time it couldn’t help but take on much broader significance. Even Gorbachev, the last leader of the Soviet Union, acknowledged that Changes helped motivate him to ameliorate the failing federalist communist state from within before it was too late. Thirty-three years on the song’s complex legacy – which has seen it embraced by all kinds of sometimes competing political movements across the former USSR – continues to grow, and teach us how much more we still have to learn about the culture of countries once shrouded behind the Iron Curtain.



‘Our hearts demand changes’
Thirty years after his death,
the Tsoi Wall in Moscow is still
a site of pilgrimage



"Tsoi was a genius," states Nadezhda, a young folk musician who raucously performed *Changes* with her band Irdorath at a rally in Minsk last month, where it has become a beacon of hope for Belarusians risking violence and imprisonment at the hands of security services. "The words of his song have not changed their strength over the years," she says. "And we really need a change. The people want to reverse the situation when torture takes place in a cultured and civilised country with complete impunity."

To march together with her friends through Minsk in a bright red dress, blaring the melody of *Changes* on her bagpipes, was "a very powerful feeling," Nadezhda reflects. "You must understand that everyone who took to the streets was afraid of being arrested, beaten, simply 'disappeared'. But we understood that music really supports people and gives them strength. So we did it. And people answered us with gratitude. It was a very strong sense of solidarity."

On the eve of the presidential election in early August, a pair of state-employed sound engineers, Kirill Galanov and Vladislav Sokolovsky, were arrested at a pro-government rally in Minsk and later imprisoned after going rogue and playing *Changes* over the public address system with their fists in the air. In videos viewed millions of times on social media, the crowd – which contained many supporters of opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya – can be heard clapping and singing along as officials scramble to pull the plug.

"This is just mental," responds Masha Zinevitch angrily, when asked about what happened to Galanov and Sokolovsky. "In this situation these DJ guys are very brave, and we thank them for risking their freedom and expressing their love and support to the people of Belarus. Everybody who was at that event was

very happy to hear that song at a government-held rally. It was incredible. Unfortunately, they had to leave Belarus for now due to the risk of persecution.

"The police here look and act more like an organised crime group," Zinevitch adds. "They cover their faces and don't wear a uniform. They can just grab you from the streets and put you in a van without any explanations. That's very scary."

Zinevitch is the singer with Dlina Volny, a Minsk-based synth-pop band signed to cult American record label Italians Do It Better. They've shown support for the movement in Belarus with the release of their own protest song *Whatever Happens Next* – a brooding, spine-tingling call-to-arms with lyrics such as "Whatever is coming our way, we can fight it back!" Zinevitch speaks of how Tsoi and *Changes* are an inspiration to Dlina Volny, not only politically but also musically. "It's everything we, personally, love about post-punk," she says. "It's dark and moody but energetic and uplifting in its own way at the same time. The perfect protest song."

What happens next in Belarus remains far from certain as Lukashenko continues to cling to power and his backers Russia threaten intervention to prop him up. Yet the people continue to protest, despite the risks. To understand why, it's worth noting that Lukashenko has been in power since 1994, longer than many young Belarusians have been alive. "I was born under the current government and I don't know how to live under another," remarks Ganna Guzik, a finance professional, of a corrupt and brutal regime in her country which she likens to the mafia.

"One thing is clear: people are tired," she adds. "We want freedom. We want changes. Our patience has reached the limit. The Belarusian people are very united now. That is why the song *Changes*, although not a Belarusian national one, has again become a cult song."

If the legacy of Tsoi's *Changes* teaches us anything, Guzik points out, it's that change is possible. "When my parents were young, they listened to these songs," she says, "went to these concerts, participated in demonstrations during the collapse of the USSR – and during the first independent elections."

All of which would probably have confounded Viktor Tsoi had he lived to see it. While driving back from an early-morning fishing trip in Latvia in August 1990, the most un-rock'n'roll of superstars' car collided head-on with a bus, presumably after he had nodded off at the wheel (conspiracy theorists seek the shadowy hand of the KGB in his death, but all evidence suggests it was an accident). A huge outpouring of public grief followed. From the St Petersburg boiler room where he once shovelled coal to Almaty in Kazakhstan, Sevastopol in the Crimea and central

Minsk, shrines across the former Soviet states commemorate Tsoi. Yet nothing embodies his memory like his music.

"It is awesome that 'Peremen' has taken on a life of its own, that people feel this song in their souls," reflects Tsoi's close friend Joanna Stingray. "I believe Viktor would be amused by the path his song has taken. He told me he wanted his lyrics to help people break out and do something they want to do and not be trapped. In that regard, if Peremen energises people in Belarus or anywhere

else to go and stand up and fight for things they want, he would be proud."

'It's dark but also uplifting. The perfect protest song'

Red Wave: An American in the Soviet Music Underground by Joanna Stingray and Madison Stingray is published on September 22 (DoppelHouse Press, £20) @MBJack



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Running towards a brighter future

Alex Eagle on the positives of going at your own pace



Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown has had a significant impact on us all, with reports showing that there have been dramatic increases in loneliness, anxiety, and depression. But one thing that gives me hope is the sight of new runners along my regular run route. I know that if they stick with it, they will have something that gives back more than they put in, which is a rare thing.

The Running Charity delivers running and personal development programmes to young people affected by homelessness. Since our first-ever programme in 2012 we have championed and gathered the evidence of the positive impact exercise can have on the mental wellbeing of our participants.

Now, I'll be honest, running is not a silver bullet to all our mental health challenges. But time and again it has become a major tool that helps our young people understand, process and deal with the challenging situations they face.

We have a few mantras at The Running Charity, and one of them is "control the controllable". And taking steps to improve your health is something most people can do.

But where to start?

Running can be a daunting exercise. When we started The Running Charity, my co-founder was the runner and I was the youth worker. I didn't even like running. It was painful, it aggravated my old football injury, I found it boring and I could not understand how people could run, talk and not look a mess at the same time. I know I am not selling this well right now, but I share this as a convert who understands the struggle of putting one foot in front of the other faster than you normally would.

And trust me, it is so worth it. After five years, I am not the fastest runner, I am not competitive, and I still cannot wear Lycra – but running has given me so much. One of my greatest joys in life is seeing the young people on our programme grow as human beings – becoming more confident, asserting their needs, and feeling in control of their lives. It is awe inspiring.

Running is like a spring clean for the brain. When I have finished a run, I am clear minded, relaxed, and more in control of the day-to-day pressures of life.

During lockdown, we at The Running Charity did not stop; we delivered seven days a week, running mindfulness sessions, providing access to therapy, virtual group runs and workouts, and catch-up Zoom calls.

Our aim was to pull our community of young people together more than ever. Members from our programmes in Leeds, London, Brighton, and Manchester were interacting and exercising together for the first time. In total we supported more than 260 young people, hosted 158 virtual group sessions, 325 key work sessions alongside 141 virtual runs, food parcel deliveries, hang-out sessions and more than 80 hours of counselling and mindfulness support to our most in-need young people.

We found that 93 per cent of young people reported back that the services significantly helped them with their mental health, 100 per cent agreed that it reduced their isolation and 87 per cent said it had helped improve their fitness during lockdown. Most importantly, 100 per cent of our young people felt supported and cared for.

BEST FOOT FORWARD

If you don't feel comfortable running with others or outside of your bubble yet, at The Running Charity we have a few tips for you to go solo running.

01 We are all still dealing with the impact of Covid-19 so keep a safe distance from others, be aware of your surroundings and be prepared for your run to be disrupted by other less conscientious people.

02 Think about safety, especially if you are running at night. Make sure your route is well lit and public, bring a phone and let someone know you are going for a run.

03 Find your 'why'. If you're running alone, sometimes the hardest thing is finding the motivation to get out there when you are tired or have other things to do. But you never regret a run when you have finished.

04 Try not to feel self-conscious as we are all on a personal journey and every runner started where you are at now. If you are out running, regardless of speed you are a runner and you should be proud of the effort you're making.

05 Do not put pressure on yourself to be fast or to run for hours. Running is a personal thing and a good run is whatever you make of it – it could be being faster than last time, or it could be a view you see or a thought you have.

06 Like life, running is a journey filled with ups and downs. There will be times where you want to give up and there will be times you think it's the best thing ever... relax and enjoy the journey.

This is a common thread when I speak with other runners. They know that members of their club, Parkrun or running crew are there for them and support them, and say how connected they feel with other runners, and how they value that sense of collective belonging. Running, plodding or run-walking on your own or with people is amazing! It builds community and has a hugely positive impact on both physical and mental health.

There are currently moves towards the return of more organised running collectives – with Parkrun possibly returning next month. And if it can be done safely that's great.

Alex Eagle is co-founder and CEO of The Running Charity
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Information pack is available from the Synod Clerk: adrian.bulley.urcwales@urc.org.uk
Closing date for applications: Noon on Friday 9th October 2020

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Closing date for applications is Friday 25th September at Noon.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified people who are highly motivated to tackle fuel poverty and improve the warmth and well-being of older people living in cold homes.

Employed by one of our local Care & Repair Agencies in Wales, but working across a designated region, the successful candidate will be part of a pioneering, Wales-wide project to reduce fuel poverty and increase home energy efficiency for older homeowners aged 70+.

HOW TO APPLY

Application packs are available to download from:
www.careandrepair.org.uk/en/about-us/jobs/

There are around 130,000 people in the UK with Multiple Sclerosis (MS); and over 5,500 of them live in Wales. The MS Society's ultimate goal is to find a cure, and rid the world of a condition which can devastate those affected by it.

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT OFFICER
(NORTH EAST WALES)

Location: Home based, Wales
Employment terms: Maternity Cover (6 months)
Hours: 17.5 pw
Salary: £30,010 - £34,577 pa pro-rata

You will need an emotionally intelligent approach to your work, and have experience of providing bespoke information and advice; both 1:1 and through digital workshops.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Location: Wales – home based or MS Cymru Office (Cardiff)
Employment terms: Fixed Term October 2020 – September 30th 2023
Hours: 17.5 pw
Salary: £19,661 - £22,003 pa pro-rata.

This challenging but very satisfying role will see you working with supporting vulnerable people with MS, in the communities of North East Wales.

VOLUNTEER OFFICER

Location: Wales – home based or MS Cymru Office (Cardiff)
Employment terms: Fixed Term October 2020 – September 2022
Hours: 28 pw
Salary: £26,526 - £30,395 pa pro-rata

The Volunteer Officer will work with specialist teams, healthcare professionals and representatives of local third sector and statutory agencies, involved in the area and support of people with MS.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a CV and supporting statement to: jobs@mssociety.org.uk indicating how you meet the criteria as set out in the person specification in the attached job description.

If you would like to discuss the role in confidence first, please contact us via jobs@mssociety.org.uk.

Closing date: 9am Monday 21 st September 2020



Mae tua 130,000 o bobl yn y DU â Sglerosis Ymledol (MS); ac mae dros 5,500 ohonyn nhw'n byw yng Nghymru. Nod eithaf Cymdeithas yr MS yw dod o hyd i iachâd, a chael gwared ar y byd o gyflwr a all ddinistrio'r rhai y mae'n effeithio arnynt.

SWYDDOG GWYBODAETH A CHEFNOGAETH
(GOLEDD DWYRAIN CYMRU)

Lleoliad: Yn y cartref, Cymru
Telerau cyflogaeth: Gorchudd Mamolaeth (6 mis)
Oriau: 17.5 pw
Cyflog: £30,010 - £34,577 pa pro-rata

Bydd angen agwedd emosiynol ddeallus tuag at eich gwaith, a bydd gennych brofiad o ddarparu gwybodaeth a chynghor pwrpasol; 1:1 a thrwy weithdai digidol.

SWYDDOG GWEINYDDOL

Lleoliad: Cymru - swyddfa gartref neu Swyddfa MS Cymru (Caerdydd)
Telerau cyflogaeth: Tymor Penodol Hydref 2020 - Medi 30ain 2023
Oriau: 17.5 pw
Cyflog: £19,661 - £22,003 pa pro-rata.

Mae staff ein prosiect eisoes wedi newid bywydau pobl er gwell; a nawr gallwch ein helpu i gynnal y gwasanaeth hanfodol hwn.

SWYDDOG GWIRFODDOL

Lleoliad: Cymru - swyddfa gartref neu Swyddfa MS Cymru (Caerdydd)
Telerau cyflogaeth: Tymor Penodol Hydref 2020 - Medi 2022
Oriau: 28 pw
Cyflog: £26,526 - £30,395 pa pro-rata

Bydd y Swyddog Gwirfoddoli yn gweithio gyda thimau arbenigol, gweithwyr gofal iechyd proffesiynol a chynrychiolwyr asiantaethau trydydd sector ac statudol lleol, sy'n ymwneud â'r ardal a chefnogaeth pobl ag MS.

SUT I WNEUD CAIS

Cyflwynwch CV a datganiad ategol i swyddi@mssociety.org.uk gan nodi sut rydych chi'n cwrdd â'r meini prawf fel y'u nodir yn y fanyleb person yn y disgrifiad swydd atodedig.

Os hoffech drafod y rôl yn gyfrinachol yn gyntaf, cysylltwch â ni trwy swyddi@mssociety.org.uk.

Dyddiad cau: 9am dydd Llun 21 Medi 2020

FLOATING SUPPORT WORKER

Hours: Full Time | **Contract Type:** Permanent
Town/City: Cardiff | **Salary:** £19,547 per annum



We are looking for an engaging and passionate person to join our amazing team in Cardiff.

Our Cardiff Floating Support team provides housing related support to people who are experiencing housing issues and have additional vulnerabilities. You could be working with these incredible people to support them with how to manage their tenancy and finances, as well as digital inclusion and wellbeing. In addition they may need assistance with education, looking for employment, mental and physical health needs and to help them integrate back into the community.

If you would like the opportunity to make a positive difference to the people we support, then please visit:

www.poblgroup.co.uk/careers/our-jobs/

Closing Date: 16/10/2020

VS VICTIM SUPPORT

Victim Support is looking for a
Victim Focus Business Support Administrator
based in Rumney, Cardiff

Location: County/Borough South Wales | **Full time/Part time:** Full time
Hours per week: 37.5 | **Basic Salary:** £18,135 per annum | **Allowances:** Travel expenses
Contract type: Permanent | **Closing Date:** 29/09/2020 | **Ref No:** 2863

The purpose of this role is to provide support to the South Wales Victim Focus and to help them realise their aim of helping people cope and recover from the effects of crime.

To be successful in the role, you will have experience of delivering a service and working in a statutory, voluntary or community work setting, as well as working with vulnerable service users with diverse and challenging needs in different situations and settings.

To apply visit:

recruitment.victimsupport.org.uk/internal/vacancy/victim-focus-business-support-administrator-424915.html

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Hours: flexible hours (min 30hrs)

Contract: 3-month Fixed term contract

Location: Remote working weekly travel to Swansea Cardiff and Newport

Closing Date: 28th September 2020

Interview dates will be anticipated week commencing 21st September 2020.



Due to growing success Street Football Wales is seeking to recruit a **Development Officer** to deliver our innovative football inclusion programme. The role will involve planning, delivering and evaluating football sessions and events across Swansea, Cardiff and Newport to socially excluded and vulnerable people.

Please submit a brief summary of your experience for this position to:

Scott@streetfootballwales.com

with full contact information.

Salary on application.



Pembrokeshire Care Society

A **Managing Director** required in the heart of Pembrokeshire

With an initial salary of £36,000 there is an excellent benefits package including flexitime, contributory pension and 25 days annual leave.

We offer you the exciting opportunity to lead and shape a well-established not-for-profit organisation in the Housing and Homeless sector.

Pembrokeshire Care Society is based in Haverfordwest, the County Town of beautiful Pembrokeshire. We are a respected professional organisation offering a diverse range of services designed to assist all homeless and at risk of homeless persons. We provide advice, assistance and advocacy to enable clients to secure safe and affordable accommodation.

You will have a background in our Sector at senior level. You will be responsible for preparing policy and strategy for the Trustees, you will lead and develop a team of 24 highly skilled and positive colleagues. With excellent communication and stakeholder management skills, you will bring all contributors together to manage contractual performance within set budgets. Liaising with partner organisations this position offers the opportunity to represent the organisation locally and nationally.

Interviews will be held in our Haverfordwest office

For more information about this opportunity please contact:

www.pembrokeshirecaresociety.co.uk

To Apply please send a covering letter and CV to Paul Lucas,

PCS Trustee at: paul@rklucas.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 25th September 2020

PLATFORM FORM

EMPLOYMENT MENTOR

Location: Cwm Taff | **Salary:** £18,685.00

Contract Type: Fixed Term until 31-Aug-2021 | **Hours:** Full Time

To actively recruit and engage new participants aged 25+, across Cwm Taf (RCT & Merthyr Tydfil), onto the OOWS through direct referral and the development of partnership networks.

PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

Location: Cardiff & The Vale of Glamorgan | **Salary:** £16,777.28 pro rata

Contract Type: Fixed Term until 31-Aug-2021 | **Hours:** Part Time 20

The post holder will assist the team by providing efficient and effective administrative support and office management. To support all general administrative work with regard to HR, H&S and IT.

2X STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OFFICER

1 X CARDIFF & THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN | 1 X RCT & MERTHYR

Salary: £23,647 | **Contract Type:** Fixed Term until 31st Aug-2021

Hours: Full Time

The Stakeholder Engagement Officer is a key member of the OOWPM Service team, identifying potential referral routes and engagement opportunities, identifying employers offering work placements and employment opportunities, which match the skills, experience and aspirations of the OOWPM Service participants, promote the service, offer the opportunity to meet individuals that match the eligibility criteria to access the service, engage and sign up potential participants and coordinate engagement with the OOWPM Service Peer Mentors who will be directly supporting participants.

To apply please visit: www.platform.org/get-involved/join-our-team/

Closing Date for Positions: Monday 05 October 2020



City Hospice
Caring for Cardiff

Cardiff's City Hospice is seeking trustees who will ideally have experience of third sector governance and either retail, marketing, finance or a relevant clinical area although we welcome applications from anyone with a range of skills and backgrounds.

City Hospice is an equal opportunity employer.

To express an interest or to find out more please contact our

Business Support Manager at:

Mollie.Borg@cityhospice.org.uk

ADVOCACY VACANCIES

Are you passionate about promoting empowerment and self-determination?
Can you uphold equal opportunities, equality and diversity?
Do you have experience with supporting people to access their rights?



About Us: Advocacy Support Cymru (ASC) is a registered charity with offices in Cardiff and Swansea. We provide Independent Mental Health and Mental Capacity Advocacy Services across most of South Wales, employing 44 employees.

About you: You will have significant experience working with vulnerable adults and/or children, either within health or social care setting, or indirectly, for example as a carer. You will understand and have experience of working effectively in an intra-agency context with Health and Social Care Professionals.

Previous direct experience in the role would be preferred but training will be provided.

COMMUNITY ADVOCATE VACANCY (SWANSEA BASED)

To provide a Community Advocacy service to people in the area who are receiving services from Community Mental Health Teams, Tier 2 services or above, or who qualify for a fast track assessment under Part 3 of the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010.

The salary band for the role is £22,127 to £24,360 based on a 37 hour week. This role is part time at 30 hours per week, and the actual salary will be pro-rata based on the above.

INDEPENDENT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE (MATERNITY COVER - CARDIFF BASED)

To provide an Independent Mental Health Advocacy Service to Welsh Qualifying Patients in hospitals and registered settings as required by the Mental Health Act 1983 (2007 Amendment) and the Mental Health (Wales) Measure 2010.

The salary band for the role is £23,548 to £27,811 based on a 37 hour week. This role is full time at 37 hours per week for a fixed term to cover Maternity Leave.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR BOTH ROLES

*All successful candidates will require an enhanced DBS check.
You must be able to drive and have access to a car during the working week.*

Closing Date: 5pm 23rd September 2020.

Application packs can be downloaded from our website:

www.ascymru.org.uk/about/vacancies

No Agencies Please.

ADVICELINE ADVISER/ TRAINER**Torfaen**

Salary: £22,462 - £24,799

Hours: Full time 37.5 hours

Context of role: The role will work within the staff adviser team of Citizens Advice Torfaen reporting directly to the Help to Claim Team Leader.

Role purpose: To provide advice to clients through the Citizens Advice Adviceline service (the Citizens Advice generalist service which operates on phone, chat and email); To train and manage volunteers to enable them to provide advice to clients through the Adviceline service.

ADVICELINE ADVISER

Salary: £19,446 pro rata

Hours: Part time (15 hours)

Context of role: The role will work within the staff adviser team of Citizens Advice Torfaen reporting directly to the Adviceline supervisor

Role purpose: To advise clients by telephone, webchat and email, helping them find a way forward, enabling them to find solutions to the problems they face and support them to achieve positive outcomes.

HELP TO CLAIM ADVISER

Salary: £19,446 - £22,462 depending on experience

Hours: Full time (37.5 hours)

Based in Torfaen and Monmouthshire

Context of role: The role will work within the staff adviser team of Citizens Advice Torfaen reporting directly to the Help to Claim team leader.

Role purpose: To provide advice to clients to support them with a Universal Credit claim; including checking eligibility and entitlement, assisting with claims and advising on any issues they have prior to their first payment of Universal Credit.

TO APPLY PLEASE VISIT:

www.sites.google.com/catorfaen.org.uk/work-for-us

Applications for all posts close at 5pm Friday 25th September

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If you would consider joining us, please email: info@atease.org.uk

Further information on website: www.atease.org.uk

**Human Writes**

Human Writes is a long-established organisation founded for the purpose of befriending prisoners on Death Row in the United States through letter-writing. Some US prisons also permit secure e-mail correspondence.

Approximately 2700 prisoners are currently held in harsh, lonely Death Row conditions in the US, often for 20-30 years, while they await their execution dates. Letters from the outside world can be their only contact during these years. In the recent words of a Death Row prisoner in Texas just prior to his execution.

If you would like to know more about joining our organisation or becoming a penfriend, please send an SAE to:
Human Writes, 4 Lacey Grove, Wetherby, West Yorks, LS22 6RL,
e-mail humanwritesuk@yahoo.co.uk
or visit our website at www.humanwrites.org



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Heath Robinson Museum

Charles Keeping
Londoner & Illustrator

EXTENDED UNTIL 29 NOVEMBER

Horses, children and tales of the macabre were his favourite subjects.



Heath Robinson Museum now open:

Thursday – Saturday 11am-4pm

Book tickets online at heathrobinsonmuseum.org



Pinner Memorial Park, West End Lane, Pinner HA5 1AE
The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust. Registered Charity Number 1086567.

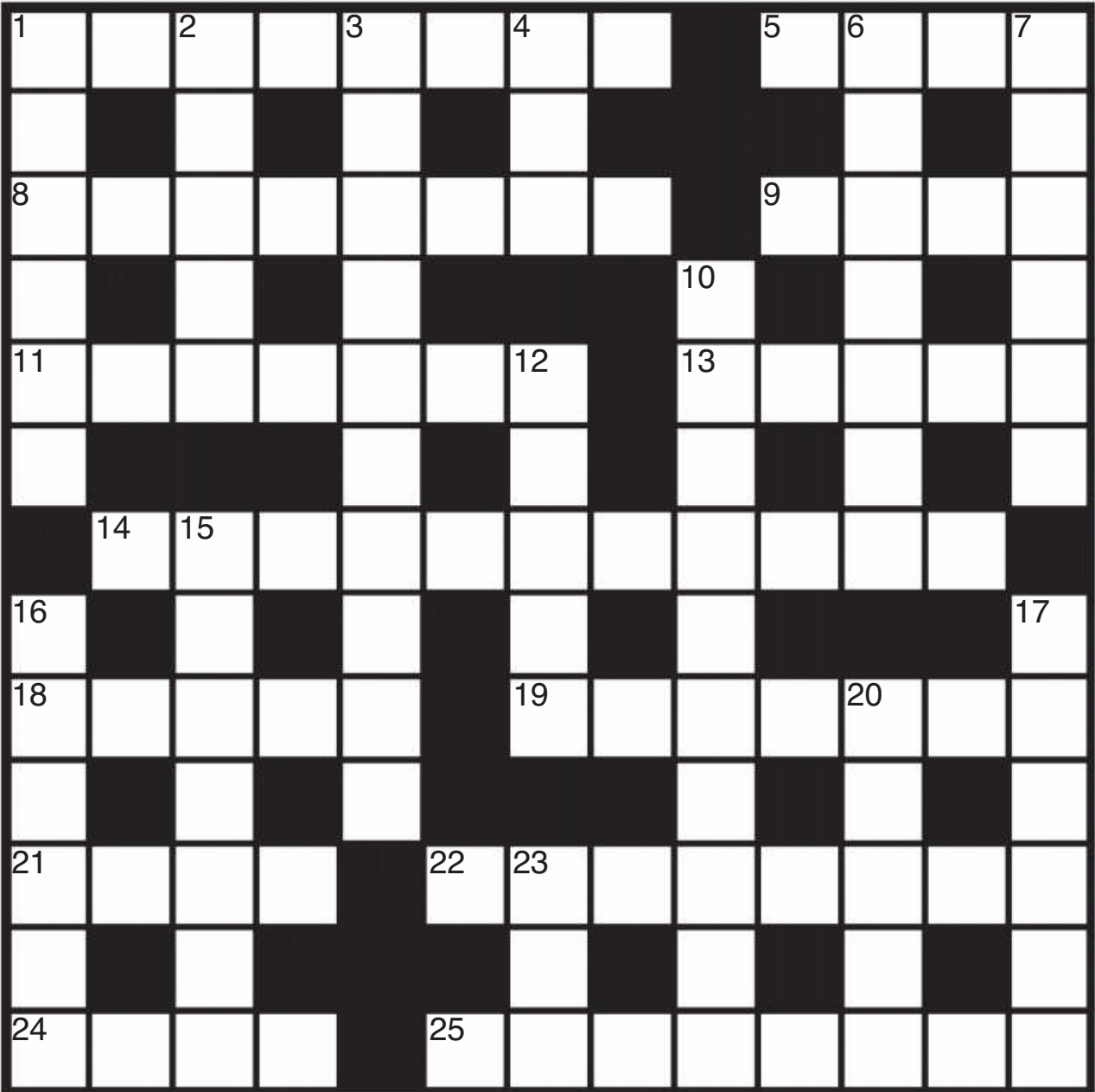
puzzles and quiz.

CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**
- 1. Reginald lamented audibly when the king was late (8)
 - 5. Point taxi at strikebreaker (4)
 - 8. Certain to remove clip inside vestment (8)
 - 9. The said examination (4)
 - 11. Desmond returns holding American coin having a distinctive smell (7)
 - 13. From Middlesex I left for enforced absence (5)
 - 14. Cheat makes brief alteration (5-6)
 - 18. Lift up to an unending indefinite height (5)
 - 19. Medicinal beer? (7)
 - 21. Thus repeatedly mediocre (2-2)
 - 22. It's very small in container and will become less (8)
 - 24. Standard choice of letters (4)
 - 25. Did go round in the sleigh (8)

- Down**
- 1. During the interval is to oppose (6)
 - 2. Reg so upset by prickly shrub (5)
 - 3. It might be eaten on Boxing Day, that's the plain truth (4,6)
 - 4. Physician in Toledo consulted (3)
 - 6. Stopping up is tremendous (7)
 - 7. Missile not in the report (6)
 - 10. Chemical analysis of divorce (10)
 - 12. Very many kept cool and took risks (5)
 - 15. More husky lady's accepting the blades (7)
 - 16. Enoch's mistakenly elected (6)
 - 17. Abandoned without starting, having had a teasing desire (6)
 - 20. Closely question cook (5)
 - 23. We hear you can have ride in this island initially (3)

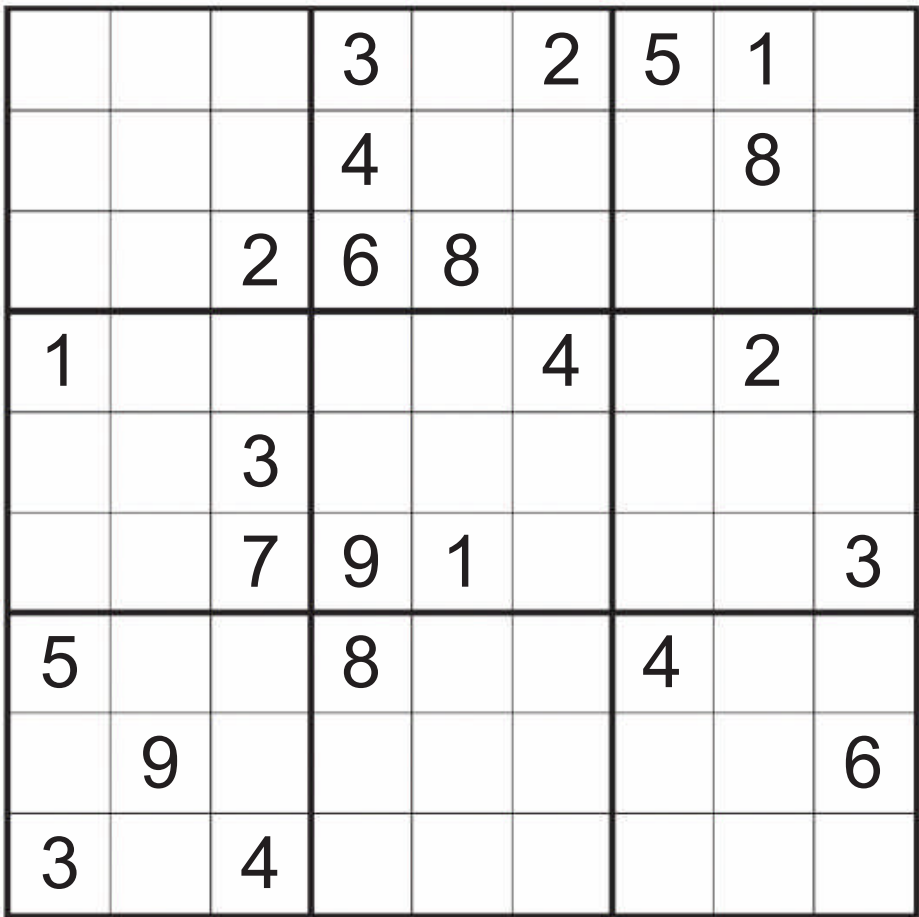


QUICK CLUES

- Across**
- 1. Notes and coins (4,4)
 - 5. Date tree (4)
 - 8. Look like (8)
 - 9. Worry (4)
 - 11. Of languages (7)
 - 13. Room on board (5)
 - 14. Have illusions (11)
 - 18. Bony part of neck (5)
 - 19. Explanatory drawing (7)
 - 21. Home for bees (4)
 - 22. Small measure (8)
 - 24. Walk in water (4)
 - 25. Waxing moon (8)
- Down**
- 1. Harbinger (6)
 - 2. Tree sap (5)
 - 3. Disguise (10)
 - 4. Musical note (3)
 - 6. Tumbler (7)
 - 7. Rebellion (6)
 - 10. Defamatory (10)
 - 12. Fastened shoes (5)
 - 15. Reached destination (7)
 - 16. Shun (6)
 - 17. Charm (6)
 - 20. Ransack (5)
 - 23. Average (3)

SUDOKU

The second-toughest
Sudoku in Britain.



ISSUE 1426 ANSWERS

CRYPTIC: Across—1 Heavy weather; 9 Amplifier; 10 Arc; 11 Fitness; 12 Estop; 13 Idylls; 15 Stop-go; 18 Bigot; 20 Ricotta; 22 Run; 23 Tête-a-tête; 24 Disassociate.

Down—2 Empathy; 3 Voile; 4 Whilst; 5 Airiest; 6 Heart; 7 Reciprocated; 8 Halftimbered; 14 Litotes; 16 Patient; 17 Grotto; 19 Genus; 21 Coati.

QUICK: Across—1 Handkerchief; 9 Oblivious; 10 Pie; 11 Penance; 12 Intro; 13 Elapse; 15 Tropic; 18 Extra; 20 Ravenna; 22 Din; 23 Lightning; 24 Disappearing.

Down—2 Atlanta; 3 Divan; 4 Evoked; 5 Cashier; 6 Input; 7 Free of charge; 8 Comprehended; 14 Scallop; 16 Pension; 17 Prague; 19 Tunis; 21 Voter.

3	1	4	7	5	2	8	6	9
6	5	2	4	9	8	3	7	1
7	8	9	6	1	3	2	4	5
2	9	5	8	3	4	7	1	6
1	4	7	2	6	9	5	8	3
8	3	6	1	7	5	4	9	2
5	2	1	9	8	7	6	3	4
9	7	3	5	4	6	1	2	8
4	6	8	3	2	1	9	5	7

ALAN'S QUIZ CORNER

Wise guy? Let The Big Issue's trivia buff test your brainpower



NEED HELP? Why not get together with other Big Issue readers @BigIssue; @bigissueuk; facebook.com/bigissueuk
Get the answers in next week's mag! Good luck

1. Who is the current UK Foreign Secretary?

2. What was the name of the man who shot and killed John Lennon in 1980?

3. In which US state is the city of Chicago?

4. Which country had been due to host the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest before the coronavirus pandemic struck?

5. Who wrote the 2012 novel *Gone Girl*?

6. Gillian Anderson plays a therapist on which Netflix show?

7. What is the busiest airport in the UK that's not in and around London?

8. Who played Monica Geller in *Friends*?

9. Which British band were originally known as Polarbear?

10. Which planet has the most moons?

11. What does a Geiger Counter measure?

12. What is the name of the pub featured in the UK soap *Emmerdale*?

13. What does the licence plate on the DeLorean say in the Back To The Future film series?

14. What is 13 per cent of 600?

15. What is a group of dolphins called?

16. In 2018/2019, which country produced the biggest crop of apples worldwide?

17. Which company owns Bugatti, Audi and Ducati?

18. Which American designer was born Ralph Lifshitz in 1939?

19. Which iconic US TV show featured the characters Samantha Jones and Miranda Hobbes?

20. How old was Boris Becker when he first won Wimbledon?

ISSUE 1426 ANSWERS:

1. Clouds 2. Avocado 3. Skin 4. Kal-El 5. Liverpool (twice), Blackburn Rovers and Newcastle United 6. Kuala Lumpur 7. 1997 (it had come out in Japan the previous year) 8. Rhode Island 9. 2011 10. Liane Moriarty 11. Justin Timberlake 12. Sarajevo 13. Canis lupus 14. Steve Coogan 15. £200 16. They're all (celebrity) chefs 17. 23 18. The waterspout 19. Four 20. U2

■ Alan Woodhouse is a Big Issue journalist, trivia buff and quizzer @HibernianG42

THE BIG ISSUE

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AWARDS

PPA Scotland consumer magazine
of the year, 2019, 2017

Paul McNamee

PPA Scotland editor of the year 2019,

BSME British editor of the year 2016

Ross Lesley-Bayne

PPA Scotland designer of the year 2019

Jane Graham

PPA Scotland writer of the year 2018

BSME cover of the year 2017



MY PITCH



CORNELL TOMAN, 53

PITCH: WH Smith, Norfolk Street, King's Lynn
10am-4pm Wednesday-Saturday

A few years ago Cornell lost his job and his home and has been trying to build his life back up ever since. The Big Issue and the supportive community around him are helping

I'm ex-Army, I did three tours in Northern Ireland, one tour in Bosnia under the UN and one in Singapore. I spent six years in the army then I got close to an explosion in Northern Ireland in the late '80s and bust my eardrum. It made me totally deaf in one ear and then I got a medical discharge. After that I just ended up getting in a lot of trouble. A lot of drinking, a lot of fighting.

I was sleeping rough in St Martin-in-the-Fields in London when The Big Issue got off the ground. I was one of the first vendors. A bloke told me about it and asked if I wanted to earn some money, so I went there and bought some magazines and by the time I got to the Tube station they were all gone. I'd bought 50 and they were sold in 10 minutes. I thought, this is good actually.

I've sold the magazine on and off since then. I ended up selling it in Maidstone for a while then I moved to Peterborough and got myself settled. I got a job at a decent firm building diesel engines and earning good money. I had a mortgage. Then the bank went bust and I lost everything. I owed £150,000 and they wanted the property back. It just put me in a bit of a spiral, and I went through a bad

patch, getting back on the drink, sleeping rough, sofa surfing. Then I got a tent, then a caravan and now I've got a room in a private rental. I've been trying to lift myself up. I'm working towards getting a full-time job and having a better life. I get work occasionally, I can do anything but it's mainly warehouse operatives. I'm a massive Crystal Palace fan so it would be nice to be able to afford to go to the games again one day.

King's Lynn is very friendly, there's a lot of good people here. Very good people. Through lockdown some of the locals and my regulars got in touch with The Big Issue and asked if they could ring me. They sent me

some money to help me out. It made me feel wanted, part of the community. It's still a bit quiet on my pitch, I used to sell more than 50 magazines a week but these days it's more like 25 or 30. But people have been coming up to me and offering to help – certain people go out of their way. Last year I was in hospital for seven weeks with an infection to my foot caused by diabetes. Two of my customers, Patricia and Graham, looked after my dog Punky while I was in hospital. I could have lost my leg and my dog at the same time and I'd never been more scared in my life, but in the end I only lost two toes and thanks to them I

kept Punky too.

He's 11 and he's a Staffy-Jack Russell cross. I got him when he was two years old, I heard from the RSPCA that there was an ex-Marine who had memory loss and had two other Jack Russells. The RSPCA told him he had to get rid of one of his dogs, and I'd looked after Punky a couple of times so I said I'd take him.

Ex-service people don't get a lot of backing from the government and when you're left by yourself you tend to spiral downwards. In my case I just lost everything, my self-respect, self-confidence. You were told everything that you had to do then suddenly you're in a situation where you have to look after yourself. You're bored and you just end up drinking. You give your loyalty and your life to defend the honour of your country and then when you can't serve any more you're just thrown back on a heap. You're tossed away and forgotten about. I've got some scarring on my face from the explosion, but my mental health is pretty good in spite of everything. There are things that I did and didn't do that I regret but I try not to think about it. The less I talk about it the better for me.

Interview: Sarah Reid
Photos: Gary Evans Photography

THE BIG ISSUE MANIFESTO



A hand up...

Our sellers BUY the magazine for £1.50 and sell it for £3, keeping the difference.

Not a handout...

Vendors earn a legitimate income, and gain valuable social and employability skills. With your support now, we will continue to do so once the crisis has passed.

The right to citizenship...

The Big Issue Foundation, our charitable arm, helps sellers to tackle social and financial exclusion.

Prevention...

Big Issue Invest offers backing and investments to social enterprises, charities and businesses which deliver social value to communities.

Human relevant science **saves lives**

If we want to cure cancer - or COVID-19 - we have to stop studying mice and monkeys and focus on HUMAN biology. State of the art science uses human cells and micro-tissues, organs-on-chips and virtual humans, based on next-generation computing and AI.

**It is time for a fresh approach to medical research.
New tests offer safer, more effective medicines.**

But there is no legal requirement to use them!

The FUTURE

Human on a chip
Human organoids
Human cells and tissues
Virtual humans and AI

The PAST

Animal tests

The best model for humans is human

"The mouse has cost us a new generation of medicines... We keep getting led down the garden path... This isn't just true for TB: It's true for virtually every disease."

**Dr Clifton Barry, Chief of
TB Research, National
Institute of Allergy and
Infectious Diseases,
USA**



The Mouse Trap,
Daniel Engber,
slate.com
16 November 2011

A message from our Patrons

**“What other area of science still relies
on the flawed methods of 50 years ago?
We must move safety testing into the
21st century – for all our sakes”**



Mat Fraser
Actor and
thalidomider



Caroline
Lucas MP
Green Party



Dr James
Le Fanu
Doctor and
writer



Carol
Royle
Actress



Sir David
Amess MP
Conservative



Grahame
Morris MP
Labour

Better science for safer medicines

Medicines help many people. But for others their side effects can be worse than the disease itself. Adverse drug reactions cause more than a million hospital admissions in the UK each year and kill more than 10,000 people (Pirmohamed et al, BMJ 2004, 329:15).

While medicines can never be made 100% safe for everybody, new tests based on **human** biology **can** predict many side effects that currently used methods (mainly animal tests) cannot.

Nine out of 10 drugs that appear safe and effective in animal tests prove unsafe or ineffective in human trials (Biotechnology Innovation Organization 2016: Clinical Development Success Rates 2006-2015).

Advances in science and technology could transform our ability to understand disease and develop new medicines. This is the future. But without government support, we remain stuck in the past.



Help us replace unreliable animal tests

- Sign our petition at SaferMedicines.org
- Ask your MP to sign EDM 256: Accelerating human relevant life sciences in the UK
- Please donate below or at www.SaferMedicines.org/donate - all donations, however small, are invaluable and hugely appreciated.

Our Vision



I would like to help Safer Medicines Trust continue this vital work

I enclose ☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £20 £_____ to support your vital work

- ☐ Please tick if you are a UK taxpayer and would like to **gift aid** your donation
- ☐ We can keep costs to a minimum by not sending receipts. Please tick if you **would** like a receipt
- ☐ Please tick if you would like a standing order form, to help us plan ahead with confidence

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

If you wish to receive occasional (biannual) email updates, please write VERY clearly!

Please make cheques payable to 'Safer Medicines Trust' and send to: **Safer Medicines, PO Box 122, Kingsbridge TQ7 9AX**

With no corporate or government funding, we rely completely on your generosity. We don't have expensive overheads: all our office space is donated without charge.

Thank you for your invaluable support – we simply can't do this without you.