

LOLLIPOP LOUTS

Ever wandered through your local town centre late at night? Not a pretty sight is it, with all the gangs of drunks and louts wandering around unpoliced. Now, thanks to this government, we could see 24-hour binge drinking underway, with many towns in Britain becoming third-rate versions of Las Vegas. (Yes, Labour wants gambling and casinos as well – ideal say ministers for “urban regeneration”.)

In North Wales, the constabulary there has hit upon a brilliant idea for tackling anti-social behaviour at closing time. Police officers have been instructed to hand out lollipops to the louts, in an effort to calm them down and “be nice to them”. The next thing you know, the Flying Squad will be handing out Quality Street to bank robbers. Meanwhile, new guidelines are being discussed in Her Majesty's prisons – sorry, ‘National Offender Management Centres’! Apparently, in an effort to make the poor old prisoners feel respected, warders are to refer to them as “sir”. The victims of crime must be delighted.

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL UNHAPPY ABOUT CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

NEW LABOUR's demand that new British citizens swear an oath of allegiance to the Queen whilst the National Anthem is played have run into some criticism from Birmingham Council and other local authority chiefs.

A spokesman suggested that instead of the National Anthem, the more ‘inclusive’ *Fanfare for the Common Man* should be performed. (The fact that this *Fanfare* is actually an American piece does not seem to have concerned our municipal masters!) Meanwhile, in Scotland, Glasgow's Socialist commissars oppose ALL references to the monarchy and Union Jack. Given the politically-correct nature of Labour in local government, one wonders if New Labour's ceremonies for ‘new citizens’ will be able to take place at all!

LABOUR'S INTERNATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE?

Thanks to New Labour's endorsement of EU enlargement, 70 million citizens of former Eastern bloc Communist countries can – in theory – come to Britain for work, social benefits and NHS services. Is the Government concerned? According to Cabinet minister Dr. John Reid, we should not be “too worried” by “exaggerated” figures. During the David Frost programme on Sunday 7th March 2004, Dr. Reid admitted that “some” of the new arrivals from Eastern Europe would be entitled to health services. Yet he conceded (how noble of him!) that we should not be providing an “international health service”, and that state healthcare was something to which the “*British taxpayer*” had contributed. The truth is, however, that the British Government has as much chance of controlling the influx of people into this country as Wombourne Parish Council! By throwing ourselves into the European Union; by allowing Britain to become one country out of 25, our influence and ability to control our own affairs has almost ceased to exist. Thanks Dr. Reid – let's hope that *you* don't have to wait too long for NHS treatment in Mr. Blair's “newly enlarged Europe”.

LABOUR'S COUP D'ETAT

Not content with abolishing key British institutions, such as the House of Lords and the Lord Chancellor's office, New Labour's Marxist vandals have been busily working away to remove the prefix “HM” from the Prison Service, and even the coastguards. (Do you remember HM Coastguards? These days, apparently, it's the much more democratic “Coastguard Agency”!) Blair, don't forget, wants us to ditch the pound sterling (with its portrait of the monarch and images of distinguished British figures) in favour of the stateless Euro – and a quango committee working behind the scenes

(where else) is recommending that knighthoods, OBEs and CBEs are abolished. The Prime Minister wishes us to be more ‘modern’ and definitely more ‘European’. Welcome to the People's Republic of Euroslavia, leader – President Blair.

HEAVEN HELP US...

Last year Richard Brunstrom, Chief Constable of North Wales, was in the news. Was it because of his force's successes in reducing the crime rate to zero? Had his officers rounded up hundreds of exploited and illegal “asylum-seekers”? Had they arrested a vicious drugs gang, perhaps, or cracked down on anti-social behaviour – the pestilence which makes so many lives a misery, particularly on Labour's much-vaunted “community estates”? No. According to reports in *The Times*, the Chief Constable felt that heroin should not be an illegal substance, and that if individuals wished to “abuse” their bodies with the drug it was their individual choice.

Call us old-fashioned, but we in the Freedom Party thought that the police were there to protect us all from the menace of drugs – from the destruction and pain they cause to families, not to mention the crime and disintegration they create in the wider society. Councillor Sharron Edwards of the Freedom Party was one of the first to condemn the Chief Constable's remarks, along with the local Plaid Cymru MP and representatives of anti-drugs groups. Meanwhile, North Wales police are redoubling their efforts to catch speeding motorists. The area has one of the highest concentrations of speed cameras in the country. In the words of *Sun* columnist Richard Littlejohn, “you couldn't make it up”.

HOWARD – THE ‘EUROSCEPTIC’...

As British trawlermen, farmers and self-reliant small businessmen continue to drown under a tidal wave of EU regulations, thank goodness that ‘Eurosceptics’ such as Michael Howard are around. The ‘Opposition’ leader was quick to set out his stall on the issue – in Berlin of all places! “I am determined that Britain shall remain a positive and influential member of the European Union,” said the Tory leader on the 12th February 2004. Tory supporters should not forget that Michael Howard's old boss, John Major, was the man who signed the Maastricht Treaty – the document which put us on the road to a single EU state.

GREEN BRITAIN

THE FREEDOM PARTY COLUMN FOR RURAL ENGLAND

Town and country

I have not yet heard a cuckoo, but expect to any day now – or maybe I shall even see one, its large hawk-like shape sliding from the willows into the flowering hawthorn, to become a large-grey child-killer and parasite to some unlucky warbler or pipit. While this stuff may sound pretty but irrelevant to those of you who live in towns, the countryside has all kinds of invisible effects on even the most urbanised area, and it is consequently important to keep it in good shape. Of course, the countryside supplies food to the city, but it also helps to define towns, acts as a sanctuary for wildlife (despite intensive farming) and keeps alive ancestral memories of the slower, quieter Britain that persisted well into living memory – and that can still be found today, in fugitive pockets.

It is possible to be too romantic about this topic, but it is important for a country that at least some of its residents retain a close connection to the land, and to the underlying natural realities that underlie and dwarf the brightly-lit but tinny life of the cities. There are fields beneath the most impressive of buildings, and long after our towns have gone, there may some day be fields there again.

Like lambs to the slaughter...

At this time of year, too, the first lambs sound their high ‘Maaaaah’, as they run unsteadily between the chewing ewes, and alternately suckle and play gleefully in the freshly green fields. I like watching the lambs, although I am also perfectly happy to eat them, with or without mint sauce (did you know that sheep up to two years old can still be called “lamb”? Whatever happened to good old mutton?).

In the wake of stringent hygiene regulations from Whitehall, and pressure from Brussels, many small slaughterhouses and animal markets have closed, and sheep and cattle can often face very long drives indeed, some of them even going to the continent – a disgraceful trade, which should be halted forthwith. The lambs in my area are lucky – there is a livestock market 11 miles away, and a slaughterhouse 20 miles away. Others are not so fortunate. It's all in the interests of hygiene and health – but while we need hygiene laws, such long journeys are stressful for the livestock and also mean that when a disease does take hold, it can be transported all over the country in short order.

And these laws – along with this government's professed concern for animals – often seem to be conveniently overlooked when it comes to halal slaughter, which often takes place in horrendously unhygienic circumstances. Halal killing is a political hot potato that this government is determined to avoid handling. And it's not just the government. Where are the RSPCA when you need them? Or PETA? Or the animal libbers? It's far easier to ban fox-hunting (which affects only a few thousand foxes a year), than to ban halal slaughter, which affects hundreds of thousands of lambs and sheep. But then there are more votes in one minority group than the other.

Derek Turner

CLOSING TIME FOR ST. GEORGE

Freedom News editor attacks curb on pub celebration

The following letter was sent by the Freedom Party to *The Daily Telegraph*. It was prompted by the scandalous decision of Norwich magistrates to prevent a pub from enjoying extended opening hours on St. George's Day.

Sir: That Norwich magistrates do not regard St. George's Day as a “special occasion” and refuse to grant extended opening hours for a pub's patriotic celebration, is but another example of the rather sinister attempt by modern officialdom to flush England down the memory hole.

How often do we hear of local authorities flying Euro-flags instead of St. George's flags; of libraries, taxi-drivers and workplaces being told that they have to take down the red and white flag of England, lest they “offend ethnic minorities” – a statement usually made on the ethnic minorities' behalf by zealous, politically-correct, white, middle-class liberals. It is astonishing that the land of Shakespeare (whose birthday falls on St. George's Day) is now almost regarded as a pariah state – an outdated, royalist, post-imperial, Anglo-Saxon embarrassment in this brave new age of European Union and Euro-regions, ‘diversity’. Many schoolchildren no longer have any general, let alone detailed, sense of English history; and it is said that a quarter of those questioned in a recent test could not name the year in which the Battle of Britain was fought.

It is surely time for Kipling's still-loyal “uncounted folk” to speak up on behalf of England; once the most notable and illustrious of nations – but now a place where even small celebrations in pubs on St. George's Day are effectively banned.

Yours faithfully, Stuart Millson

GREENBELT CAMPAIGNERS FACE FUTURE COUNTRYSIDE THREAT

THE FREEDOM PARTY regards the current erosion of the British countryside as one of the most serious threats to our quality of life. Over-population, in-migration and large-scale immigration is posing a very real danger to our suburbs, greenbelt and rural landscapes. The Home Counties and the South East continue to bear the brunt of development. Here is an update from the county of Surrey.

The delayed Inspector's Report on Surrey County Council's draft Structure Plan, in response to last year's Examination in Public, was published at the end of March. It prompted a rapid initial statement from the Surrey branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), the leading group defending the county's greenbelt and countryside.

CPRE in Surrey, said: “Many of the objections to the draft Plan that we raised at the three-week Examination appear to have been accepted by the Inspector, but in our view he has not gone far enough. We agree with the Inspector's view that a policy of greenfield land release is unnecessary, and are pleased that he rejects the proposal for a new community of 2,000 houses on Green Belt land at Worplesdon near Guildford.

But we are concerned by his refusal to rule out possible future development on a similar scale on green fields between Burpham and West Clandon beyond the town perimeter. This erosion of the countryside to the north-east of Guildford is not necessary when so much mixed development at town centre sites is at last about to begin.”

The other danger to the Surrey countryside is the elimination of the county designation “Area of Great Landscape Value” (AGLV). “The loss of AGLV would be a disastrous blow to Surrey,” said a spokesman. “The Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty depends on the continuing existence of its AGLV ‘buffer zone’ which covers most of the land you can see from the North Downs and many of the other most visited beauty spots in the county. We will oppose this erosion of countryside protection and continue to campaign for AGLV land to be considered a Conservation Area equivalent in importance to the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural beauty itself.”

FREEDOM WEBSITE IS A HIT!



The Freedom Party's website - packed with everything from local FP news, to national political commentary and debate - is recording a growing number of visitors. It is now registering over 150 “hits” per day, a remarkable total. The website has a striking and attractive formula, with our symbol of Britannia appearing as soon as the site appears on the screen. With our newspaper, members' news bulletins, community and national leaflets, and the website, the Freedom Party is reaching thousands of new people every month. The message of national sovereignty, freedom and identity will be heard, despite what Messrs. Blair, Howard and Kennedy say!

Visit our website: www.freedompartyuk.net