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INTERLIB

Journal of the Liberal International British Group



Protesters in Whitehall against the, then threatened Turkish invasion of Rojava. 9th October.

Conference Reports

Lampedusa & the Migration Crisis

Iraq Hong Kong Turkey & the Kurds Moscow.

EVENTS

19th October Peoples' Vote March, London

26th-27th October Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru/Welsh Liberal Democrat Autumn Conference, Brecon Castle Hotel, Brecon.

16th November Scottish Liberal Democrat's Autumn Conference, Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline, Fife.

22nd-24th November 203rd executive committee meeting of LI, Fes,

25th November Lloyd George Society: Joyce Arram Lecture – Alistair Cooke, Lord Lexden. NLC 7.00pm

13th-15th March 2020 Liberal Democrats Spring Conference, York.

26th-29th September 2020 Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference, Brighton.

For bookings & other information please contact the Treasurer below.

NLC= National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE
Underground: Embankment

Liberal International (British Group)
Treasurer: Wendy Kyrle-Pope, 1 Brook Gardens, Barnes, London SW13 0LY

email w.kyrle@virgin.net

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Comments and articles can be sent to Lockhart & Hastings, Intellectual Properties Consultants, 29 St Helen's Crescent, Hastings TN34 2EN, email lockharthastings@btconnect.com

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Lampedusa, the colliding point of the International Migration Crisis?

Suzanne Fletcher

This isn't a talk about the facts and figures, there are very many indeed. In the first half of this year 137,000 crossed the Mediterranean Sea, travelling in terrible conditions, in unsafe boats and dinghies. Many more have tried and failed. In 2013 a boat from Libya to Italy sank near to Lampedusa, and 368 refugees died. In short too many feel compelled to try, too many die in the process.

The majority of those taking the sea route to Europe are refugees in rapidly rising numbers. Most are fleeing from war, conflict, or persecution at home, as well as deteriorating conditions in many refugee hosting countries. The main countries of origin of those arriving in Italy, for instance, are Eritrea, 25%, followed by Nigeria, Somalia, Syria and Gambia.

Where do they want to go? More than 90% want to move elsewhere in the EU, most are not heading for the UK, the most popular places being Germany and Sweden, where they hope for a warmer welcome.



As the arrivals increase, reception capacity and conditions in Europe remain seriously inadequate. There are little or no facilities for people with special needs, including separated and unaccompanied children, making them even more vulnerable to the risk of exploitation. The lack of dignified reception facilities not only creates precarious conditions, but fuels tensions with local communities and contributes to onward movements.

To answer the question of the fringe meeting – is Lampedusa the colliding point on the International Migration Crisis? the answer is definitely not. We, in the UK, all hear about what happens in the Mediterranean in the news, but it is a relatively small part of the global picture. Whilst we obsess about how many are arriving in Europe, but a massive 86% of the world's refugees are hosted in developing countries. A refugee crisis is nothing new, it goes as far back as written history, at least 3,500 years. The 1951 Refugee Convention set a global standard, and there is no reason at all why this should not be upheld today. The lack of legal routes means that there is just no choice for many people and their families but to turn to smugglers. In doing so they are paying out huge amounts of money, but even worse are endangering their, and often their families', lives.

At a fringe meeting¹ held by Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary some years ago, the life jacket situation was described to us. "holding up a fluorescent life jacket that she had picked up on a beach in Lesbos. It was made for a toddler. She then told us it was actually a fake. It would not have acted as a life jacket, but the parents who would have paid money for it did not know that. It was worse when she showed us a tiny life jacket, for a baby. Also fake. What sort of pressure would a family be under to put their children through such a risky journey?" The room went silent. We were shocked, and the image of that tiny, fake, life jacket remains with me.

The controversial – and should they not be controversial? – efforts to save lives have sparked opposition citing the "pull factors". Quite simply, those taking the risk see no other choice, it is a "push factor" not a pull one, as Baroness Sally Hamwee often points out.

To go back to Lampedusa. Whilst so many died, the heroic efforts of the islanders meant that 155 lives of the boat that sank were saved. The Island's carpenter was so moved by the situation of the survivors, and

what they had fled from, he made each one of them a cross from the boat wreckage. Both as a reflection of their salvation from the sea and also as a powerful symbol of their hope for the future.

Another cross was made that is taken around the world as a witness to the uncertainties faced today by those fleeing over the sea. It is to remind us of the power of our acts of love, mercy and hope.

The Pope said “we ourselves need to see, and then enable others to see, that migrants and refugees are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected, and loved.”

UNHCR has a set of proposals, condensed as: Saving lives at sea; Dignified reception conditions; Ensuring greater solidarity within Europe; increasing legal avenues to safety, and collective action in response to the global displacement crisis.



As Liberal Democrats we cannot disagree with this. The root causes of the displacement must be tackled; fences and border controls are not going to stop people moving in a time of crisis. We need there to be a radical reappraisal and bold thinking, along with other countries. A Brexit that could be the beginning of the break-up of the European Union is only going to make the situation worse. The crisis is huge but not impossible, to tackle.

Above all else, as Lord Roger Roberts has just said, we must give HOPE.

Suzanne Fletcher.

This talk was given at the Liberal International British Group fringe meeting at Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference in Bournemouth. Suzanne Fletcher is a LD4SOS Council member.

Lampedusa. Cross from St. Mary's Church

¹<http://libdemfocus.co.uk/ld4sos/archives/623>

Liberal International Condemns Violence Against Protesters in Iraq

As protests continue in Iraq, the death toll is also rising sharply. By most estimates, there have now been 42 people killed as a result of the violence, with hundreds more injured. Liberal International extends its condolences to the families of those who have been killed and injured.

In response to the growing numbers of protesters, hundreds of heavily armed security forces and riot police deployed on the street of Baghdad and other cities across Iraq, blocked all intersections leading to major central squares and shut down social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and WhatsApp; yet protests are spreading across the country in what is some of the worst violence between protesters and security forces that Iraq has seen; opening the gates for a new round of political instability that nobody wants. The use of deadly force against peaceful protesters is categorically unacceptable. We call on the Iraqi government to ensure their security forces abide by UN standards on the use of force and firearms, show maximum restraint and respond in a strictly proportionate manner. We also call on protesters to limit their expressions of discontent to peaceful protest. Escalating security installations, shutting down communication systems, and threatening the public with violence is an intolerable, and clearly ineffective, form of crude intimidation meant to quiet societal discontent.

Instead, we urge the government to engage with the concerns of its citizens and make real steps toward tackling the social injustice, poverty, and corruption that plagues the people of Iraq. When held to account for its actions, parliamentary government is the best form of democratic representation that we have; Liberal International therefore calls for the continued respect for the independence of the Iraqi parliament, free from external interference. While action is needed, it must come from those who have been elected to lead. People do not protest without reason, and in this case, the reasons are obvious to us all. Truth is being spoken to power; we suggest you listen before it is too late.

Trump, Turkey and the Kurds.

Refik Suyabatmaz

Tayyip Erdoğan's great dreams of setting up the Ottoman Empire 2.0 is fast becoming a nightmare. His intention to invade part of Northern Syria which is under control of Yekîneyên Parastina Gel, YPG forces (People's Protection Units, the local Kurdish militia) seems to be crushing under US President Trump's rather strange series of tweets. Despite the high-strung tension and Trump's threats, the Turkish Army



YPG fighters, our most effective ally against ISIS

operation likely to start towards the end second week of October.

Erdoğan's real aim is to ease the domestic problems by having a military victory. Otherwise as the polls suggested his support among voters melting like an ice cube under the sun. In his eyes a military victory is the only solution the make people to forget about the economic problems which they are facing with. Even in the event of military victory would the discontent gone away? Probably not but he is squeezed between hard rock and stone. There is not much space left to use the old moves which did bring success back in time. Recently US and Turkish forces started military cooperation in the Northern

Syria. US was aiming to stop Turkish intentions to invade the area and possibly creating a security zone. At first look this objective sound fair to anybody but US was having second thoughts about Tayyip Erdoğan's real intentions. Crushing the YPG and after a successful invasion to resettle about 3.5 million Syrian's to those areas and changing the whole demographics of the region were his real focus. Obviously, this cunning plan would not work for anybody but Tayyip Erdoğan,

According to Turkish media, operation will start after last US soldier leaves the area. Events took place on Monday and Tuesday morning reshaped the whole scene. First Donald Trump threatened to annihilate the Turkish economy if things happen the way he does not see fit. In the same series of tweets, Trump mentioned that he has done that before (which is very true). Then, minutes after this tweet the Turkish Lira dropped 2.5 percent; it took only minutes for this to happen. Later in the night and towards the morning Lindsey Graham (a very influential Republican senator) declared that if the Turkish operation started he would push to end Turkey's NATO membership and also push for heavy sanctions. This is much more real threat than Trump's strange tweet diplomacy. On top of those early in the Tuesday morning US forces announced that airspace coordination with Turkish air force has ended, some unconfirmed news even stated that US will not allow Turkish Air Force jets flying over the area.

At the beginning everyone on the Turkish side believed that Trump was allowing them to invade; then things took a very sharp turn for Tayyip Erdoğan. Under these conditions the operation would cause more damage and distraction to Turkey than Kurds. Possibility of economic collapse and severing all the ties with western allies would definitely change the whole picture in Turkey. Personally, I do not think Tayyip Erdoğan would take such a risk but on the other hand he would look so incapable and powerless in the eyes of People. Most importantly the exodus from his party would reach maximum high, in the end, we would witness the end of Islamism as a whole in Turkey. This will be a great news for everybody who believes democracy, freedom and clean non corrupt governments.

These series events may accelerate the beginning of a restoration period in Turkey, also back to the parliamentary democracy again.

Refik Suyabatmaz

As predicted, events have overtaken Refik's article. Turkey invaded Rojava on the 9th/10th October.

Hong Kong

Larry Ngan

Hong Kong has been in turbulence since June 2019 over the government amendment on the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance (“Extradition Bill”). Peaceful protests were organised on the weekly basis, yet the Hong Kong government had originally refused to accept the 5 points demands from the protesters, which included the withdrawal of the Extradition Bill, to uphold the terms of the Basic Law (HK’s Constitution), retract the description of the movement as a riot, the setting up an independent commission to investigate the police’s actions and the resignation of the Chief Executive, Ms Carrie Lam. They did finally withdraw the Extradition Bill on 4th September 2019.

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong police used excessive force to disperse the civilian protests, including firing tear gas canisters into crowded and enclosed areas, and firing rubber bullets within close range on multiple occasions.

We the Chinese Liberal Democrats (CLD) were deeply concerned about the development in the autonomous region. Therefore, we submitted an emergency motion over Hong Kong issue for the autumn party conference. Unfortunately, it was not selected for debate. Had the motion been passed, we the Liberal Democrats would have formulated a policy on granting right to abode for the British Overseas (National) holders, and urged the HK Government to abide by “one country, two systems” and guarantee the peoples’ fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Basic Law.

Coincidentally, the Home Affairs Spokesperson Christine Jardine MP submitted another emergency motion which covered the same topic of Hong Kong but covering a wider range of issues related to human rights including:

1. The UK government to offer the people of Hong Kong British Citizenship including right to abode
2. Restating the UK’s moral and legal responsibility to ensure that democracy, the rule of law and human rights are upheld in Hong Kong
3. The UK government to ensure that the UK and our international partners indefinitely suspend all export licenses for crowd control equipment to Hong Kong.

Although the CLD draft motion was not selected, we the CLD still fully supported the short-listed version. We campaigned heavily on the social media in order to persuade more members to cast their vote on the motion for debate. Unfortunately, the other 2 motions, namely Amazon Fires and Standing up for Parliamentary Democracy, received more votes and the Hong Kong motion was not carried forward for debate.

The political situation has deteriorated rapidly since the end of the autumn conference and the human rights of the Hong Kong citizens continue to be under threat. Hundreds of thousands of people continued to march and demonstrate peacefully. However, during clashes with some protestors on 1st October, police fired live rounds and an 18-year-old student was shot in his chest, which fortunately was not fatal. Journalists and politicians were also attacked and arrested. .

CLD will continue to campaign for the UK government to honour the terms of Sino-British Joint Declaration 1984, protect the integrity of One Country Two Systems and the freedom of speech and assembly guaranteed under the Basic Law. We call for a de-escalation of violence and urge the people of Hong Kong to continue with peaceful protests and not to retaliate with further violence. We also urge the Hong Kong police to show restraints.

Larry Ngan

Lib Dem Friends of Palestine at Bournemouth

Andrew Daer

The principals of liberal democracy are under pressure throughout the world, and the British Liberal Democrat Party Conference in September understandably focused on the rise of the populist anti-EU movement in Britain and the dangers of Brexit, but the Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine (LDFP) continued to direct the attention of conference-goers to the unresolved issues in Israel and Palestine.

Husam Zomlot, Palestinian Envoy to Great Britain (and previously to the USA, until Donald Trump revoked his visa last year) was a guest speaker at the conference, and spoke about the increasingly bold erosion of Palestinian rights and flouting of international law by Benjamin Netanyahu's government, encouraged by uncritical support from Trump. He was joined by Chris Gunness, an ex-BBC journalist and for many years a UN spokesman, who witnessed at first hand the deteriorating conditions faced by Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. International law forbids colonisation or annexation of the territory (Gaza and the West Bank) occupied during the 1967 war, and although settlements by Israelis are no longer allowed in Gaza, there has been steady growth in the number and size of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. In Gaza, the entire population has been subjected to collective punishment for the actions of Hamas, for more than ten years. Collective punishment is also illegal under the 1949 Geneva Convention.



*Husam Zomlot, Palestinian Envoy
to the UK*

Also represented at the conference were the Friends of Israel (LDFI). Although the Likud-led Israeli government is widely perceived as a right-wing regime with aims far removed from those found in the international liberal movement, populist politics has led to rising levels of anti-Semitism around the world, and many people with otherwise liberal views regard a strong, independent Israel as a necessary haven for Jews. Those attending an LDFP fringe meeting were reminded that although around 750,000 Palestinians lost their homes during the creation of the new Israeli state in 1948, at the same time similar numbers of Jews were evicted from Arab countries. Many left behind property and belongings which, like the predominantly Muslim Palestinians expelled in the Nakba, they have never got back.

However, although these historic parallels exist, the two sides see the present-day situation very differently. Israel is portrayed in the USA and elsewhere as being surrounded by deadly enemies, and as being forced to take sometimes harsh military actions only in self-defence. The alternative view is the exact opposite; that Israel's militant stance towards Palestinians is the root cause of the antipathy, and that organisations like Hamas arose only as a consequence of provocation by the Israeli government and the Israel Defence Force (the IDF). Probably neither is entirely true, as both the Israeli and the Palestinian leaderships have pursued fluctuating policies over the years. However, when violence has flared up in Gaza in the years since the 1967 occupation, the numbers of dead and injured have always been hugely disproportionate; in the last 10 years more than 3,000 Palestinians have been killed in hostile encounters in Gaza, compared with 43 Israelis (figures from the UN Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs).

Netanyahu has spoken of carrying out full annexation of a large part of the West Bank, but even if, as some suspect, the longer term plan is to incorporate the entire region of old Palestine into Israel, and the possibility of a separate state of Palestine no longer exists, the bitterness between Israel and the Arab world will not go away.

What is clear is that an intermediary acting with goodwill towards both sides will be needed, much as happened in Northern Ireland. In their speeches at the Liberal Democrat conference, Zomlot and Guinness spoke of the historic obligations Britain undertook to fulfil in 1919, when Palestine was made a British mandated territory. The UK was a poor peace broker in the early part of the last century, when it always had one eye on trade routes with the British Empire, but freed from those constraints would be an obvious choice to lead a peace mission. In the meantime, Liberal Democrats at the conference were urged to support Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS), a campaign which seeks to put the same economic pressure on Israel as was applied to South Africa with such good effect.



Chris Guinness

Andrew Daer

The Liberal Democrat Friends of Israel fringe meeting at Bournemouth was on the likely outcome of the Israeli General Election, the next day. Whilst there was little point in writing about speculations after the event, the outcome of the elections has yet to be resolved. Benny Gantz’s Blue & White party gained 33 seats on 25.95% of the vote, Netanyahu’s Likud 32 seats on 25.1%. Both of these parties lost seats in the election. After the equally inconclusive April general election, the Knesset voted to dissolve itself without forming a government, ostensibly to prevent Benny Gantz becoming Prime Minister designate. 61 Seats are needed to scrape a majority so we await the white smoke and Jonathan Davies’ article with growing interest.

Putin hit in Russian election as liberals win their greatest number of seats ever in Moscow city Duma

Despite weeks of violent government crackdowns against opposition protesters on the streets of Moscow, Muscovites came out to vote for a liberal alternative during municipal elections on Sunday, which saw the Russian liberals YABLOKO (LI full member) return to the state duma with its largest ever caucus.



Amid government-sanctioned mass detentions and disqualification of opposition candidates, reflecting Russian president, Vladimir Putin’s, grip on power, the liberals are still on course to win 4 of the 45 available seats in Moscow alone. All four Yabloko candidates to the Moscow City Duma won mandates. New Moscow City Duma sees a Yabloko faction: Sergei Mitrokhin, Yevgeny Bunimovich, Maxim Kruglov and Daria Besedina (the largest Yabloko faction in Moscow ever)

Yabloko chairperson, Emilia Slabunova, noted that Yabloko’s candidates were “precisely those

Sergei Mitrokhin, Yevgeny Bunimovich, Maxim Kruglov & Daria Besedina

deputies whom citizens wanted. [...] In Moscow, St. Petersburg and other regions of the country, our deputies are the people that every city, region and country as a whole needs so much now.”

Prize for Freedom Award to María Corina Machado.

Buenos Aires. 4th October 2019

I travelled to Buenos Aires for the 15th Anniversary of RELIAL representing Liberal International, Liberal Democrats and LIBG, the latter two having jointly proposed the Venezuelan opposition party leader for the Prize for Freedom Award.



Ana María Sosa Machado receiving the Prize for Freedom on behalf of her Mother

There was a ceremony of some 40 minutes. María Corina could not attend as Maduro would not have let her back into the Country. William Townsend set up a livestream and organised all technical aspects.

I made the introductory speech, which was well received, after which Kitty Monterrey, Fellow LI VP, presented the trophy to María Corina's daughter, Ana María Sosa Machado to a long standing ovation. I also presented Sal Brinton's handwritten letter, noting that Sal has maintained contact with Maria Corina

A filmed message was projected from María Corina after which her daughter made a hugely personal and emotional speech, without notes. I watched her Mother observing the whole thing from her home on the iPhone of one of her Party members. Her emotion and pride in her daughter were clear.

The proceedings ended with a speech by Kitty Monterrey attacking "Socialism of

The Twenty-first Century" and its devastating effect on countries such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, Bolivia etc. 15 members of Kitty's Party have been killed by the Sandinistas this year alone.

RELIAL President, Ricardo Gomes, thanked LI for this award to a Latin American heroine and for holding the ceremony during their 15th Anniversary celebrations.

Robert Woodthorpe Browne

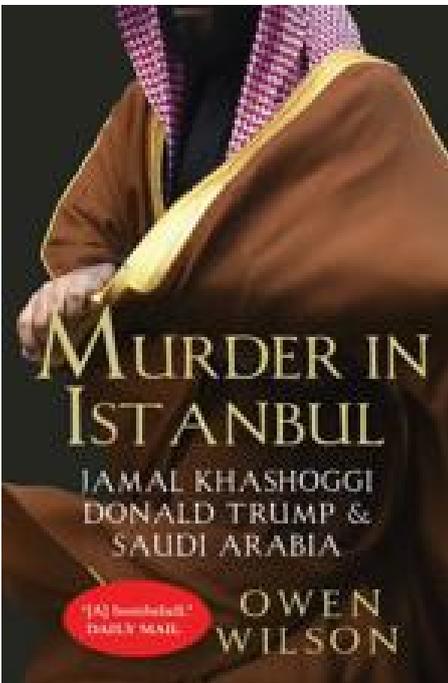
María Corina Machado is a member of the Asamblea Nacional of Venezuela and leader of the party Vente Venezuela (Come Venezuela), which is a member of RELIAL. She sits with the Mesa de la Unidad Democrática, the Democratic Unity Roundtable, in the Asamblea, was a presidential candidate in 2012 and a leading figure in organising protests against the government of Nicolás Maduro, drawing international attention to the plight of the people of Venezuela under Socialism.



reviews

Murder in Istanbul, by Owen Wilson Gibson Square 2019 £9.99

A year ago, on the last Saturday of September in 2018, at a Palestine conference organised by Middle East Monitor, I met the Saudi journalist and former Saudi royal family intimate, Jamal Khashoggi. He seemed a little distracted, which I put down partly to the cold he was trying to fight off and anticipation for his upcoming marriage to a younger Turkish woman. He was due to fly to Istanbul on the Monday, but the day after that he was dead, apparently interrogated, tortured and then murdered inside the Saudi Arabian consulate building, while his fiancée waited outside. Through a series of leaks and a lot of speculation the story of what had happened gradually emerged, though anyone who did not follow things closely over the coming months — including a not inconsiderable number of red herrings — could be forgiven for not knowing all the details.



That makes Owen Wilson's book *Murder in Istanbul* all the more useful, as well as timely. It painstakingly analyses the evidence, as revealed by the Turkish authorities and various media outlets, on both sides of the Atlantic, including the United Nations, as well as background information that makes the affair more understandable, if not forgivable. The author's career as a journalist with the Financial Times and as a writer of books on crime gives him just the right sort of experience and voice for the task. The British sigint agency, GCHQ, had, it appears, picked up traffic suggesting that Jamal Khashoggi (who was by this stage mainly resident in the United States and contributing to the Washington Post, critical of the regime in his home country and calling for media freedom across the Arab world) was at risk of being kidnapped and rendered to Riyadh from Britain; the logical assumption is that the British (perhaps also informing the Americans) made it clear through appropriate channels that that would be totally unacceptable.

Sadly, he was less safe in Istanbul, where he had just purchased an apartment for himself and his future wife, though one of the most intriguing aspects of this book is the discussion of what the Turkish intelligence service MIT (and indeed, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan) really knew and when. There were all sorts of fantastic stories, worthy of a latter-day James Bond novel, regarding alleged recordings of Jamal being dismembered while still alive, supposedly transmitted via his Apple watch to the iPhone he had left with his fiancée. Wilson rightly dismisses the more preposterous reports and theories, but inevitably the conclusion was drawn that the assault on Khashoggi had been sanctioned at the highest level in Riyadh. Indeed, just this week the Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman, accepted ultimate responsibility "because it happened on my watch". So, there will need to be a postscript to the book at some stage to analyse "So, what now?" — though if US President Donald Trump is anything to go by then the desert kingdom with its immense oil-derived wealth is just too rich to fall out with.

Jonathan Fryer

**Critical Times, by Peter Brookes.
Biteback 2019 £20.00 isbn 9781785905209**

A sign of the times, there are no Liberal Democrats in this anthology, which covers the 2017-2019 period. The cartoons remain an incisive record of this turbulent era, which will have you laughing into your dotage. Peter Brookes, The Times' cartoonist, launched Critical Times (his wife came up with the title apparently) at Chris Beetles Gallery, where the work is on display. Peter's books come out bi-annually, this being the fifth.

The evening differed from previous events with caricatures flowing off of the pen whilst Chris Beetles, the gallery owner, questioned Peter about his work. Brookes can be quite vicious with his pen, did the politicians depicted like, or buy his work? A 'member' of George Osbourne's family bought every cartoon that he appeared in for a while, but as they began to cut deeper, eventually declined. Nature Notes aside, my favourite Brookes period was during the Coalition – Westminster Academy, with the hapless Nick Clegg fagging for David Cameron and receiving all of the time-honoured public-school punishments. Clegg had claimed, on the Andrew Marr Show, to love the cartoons (I did) but Brookes had reason to believe otherwise. Ed Miliband actually



went to the length of complaining about his depiction as Wallace, to a variety of Gromit's – Ed Balls being the best remembered. Socialists are often short of a sense of humour.

Perhaps Brookes' greatest triumph was when Pope Benedict XVI said that use of condoms was not the answer to fighting HIV/AIDS, rather they made it worse. Brookes responded with a cartoon of the Pope with a johnnie on his head instead of a mitre. The cartoon drew a heavy mailbag of complaints, and a visit to the then editor of The Times by a Papal Legate who harangued him on the matter for a good twenty minutes, ending with as far as the Church was concerned, the Pope was infallible. The editor replied that as far as The Times was concerned, Peter Brookes was infallible. I recall that Lord Acton had laughed when Pope Pius IX first announced that he was infallible.

The most interesting intervention of the evening came from an elderly lady called Marigold. She had lunched with Boris Johnson's mother, Charlotte Johnson-Wahl, earlier that day, and had shown her Chris Beetles flyer. Was she outraged at the depictions of her son? No, she quite liked most of them, but took exception to the association of Boris with Trump – particularly an image where they were doing a Morecambe & Wise dance routine. 'Boris isn't a bit like Trump' she'd complained. Perhaps not from a mother's point of view, but you add up the similarities – opportunist, womaniser, silly hair (a gift to cartoonists – a dozen or so flicks of the pen were enough for the crowd to identify Boris). Brookes concluded with a caricature of Boris that his mother might like. The others – Trump, Gove, Rees-Mogg, were to be sold for £100.00 in aid of the RNIB, though the mother's Boris remains unsold as I write.

Brexit and Trump have been the mainstay of British cartoonists for the last three years. Dismayed at the loss of his dramatis personae after the 2015 General Election, they were soon replaced, the Maybot, with her kitten heels, Trump, the hair, an ever-growing tie, the white eyelids beneath the sunbed tan, Boris, of course, Gove, with his eyes, Rees-Mogg, archetypal toff, Corbyn, Russian hat with red star and one eye larger than the other. Farage's pint and fag were well established, but now he nearly always features in the Tory hierarchy. The lesser players are more difficult – Amber Rudd starting to gel, but one sees difficulties with, for example Anna Soubry, harangued by Brexiteers of dubious right-wing pedigree on College Green back in January 2019. I can sympathise with from my own faltering attempts to supply cartoons for Liberator from time to time.

Brookes strongest work is frequently in the international area. The anthology opens with Aung San Suu Kyi's failure to make a stand against the Burmese military's attacks on the Rohingya. Robert Mugabe walks off the red carpet leaving a trail of bloodstained footprints. Trump, moving the American embassy to Jerusalem, crushes the dove of peace against the Wailing Wall. ISIS bride Shamima Begum's khimar is drenched in blood.

Peter Brookes cartoons will be on show at Chris Beetles Gallery in Rider Street, London SW1Y 6QB for the next few weeks. The original cartoons can be bought for £1,450.00 (£1,550.00 for Nature Notes). They are selling fast.

Stewart Rayment



CLOVELLY LECTURES

CLOVELLYLECTURES-DEVON – David Goddard :“Smart People have too much Power”- “Democracy in Crisis – Understanding Political disaffection in the West”

12th October 2019 @ 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm



David Goddard

Saturday 12th October 2019

Venue: Visitor Centre, Clovelly, EX39 5TA
Reception, Lecture, Debate: 6pm to 8.20pm
Reception, Lecture, Debate, Dinner: 6pm to 10.30pm
(FOR DINNER – Black Tie, Suits & Bow Ties, Ethnic Dress)

Email: clovellylectures11@gmail.com

Telephone: 01237 431200

CLOVELLYTALKS LONDON – Lord Peter Ricketts: “National Security, Rethinking Britain’s role in the world”

4th November 2019 @ 6:45 pm - 10:45 pm



National Security, Rethinking Britain’s role in the world

Venue: National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE

Date: Monday, 4th November 2019

6.45pm to 10.45pm

Reception, Lecture, Debate, Dinner (Black Tie- Suits with Bow Ties, Ethnic dress)

Members £65 Individuals £85 Corporates £110

STOP THE TURKISH INVASION!

#riseup4rojava

National emergency demonstration. Join us on **Sunday 13th October** at 1pm.
BBC, Portland Gardens to Parliament Sq.

#riseup4rojava

Stop the Turkish state invasion!

On Sunday night Donald Trump gave Turkish president Erdogan the green light to invade north-east Syria. Run by a Kurdish-led administration on the principles of direct democracy, equality for all peoples, ecological justice, a cooperative economy and women's liberation, it is the most peaceful and stable part of Syria. The movement leading the administration is the same movement that defeated ISIS with the assistance of the US-led international coalition. They now guard over 70,000 ISIS fighters, families and supporters, but with the minimal resources available conditions are desperate and the situation is fast becoming unsustainable. If the Turkish invasion happens it will be impossible.

Following the removal of Kurdish mayors from Turkey's Kurdish regions, and expanded invasion of areas under the Kurdistan Regional Government in northern Iraq, the Turkish state is looking to expand its racist anti-Kurdish war deeper into northern Syria. This follows the invasion, occupation and ethnic cleansing of Afrin in north-western Syria in January 2018, and puts at risk not only the peace established by the administration's democratic system, but also the territorial defeat of the ISIS "caliphate". The Turkish state is known to have bought oil and provided logistical support for ISIS, as well as incorporated ISIS militants in the mercenary forces used to occupy Afrin. The Turkish state cannot be trusted to properly guard or resolve this issue, and an occupation would put at risk not only Kurds but all the people of North-East Syria, including Arabs, Armenians, Chechens, Turkmen, Syriac, Assyrian and Khaldean Christians and Yezidi.

So Trump's green light will lead to a resurgence of ISIS, genocidal ethnic cleansing and a new refugee crisis. In the process it will destroy Syria's last hope for a democratic solution beneficial to all its people, as well as one of the most important examples of how to build a truly democratic, ecological and feminist society.

11,000 people gave their lives in the struggle to defeat ISIS, including 10 British citizens, such as Anna Campbell, killed by a Turkish airstrike in Afrin in March last year. We will not ignore their sacrifice, we will #RiseUp4Rojava and stop the war on North-East Syria!

Join us to demonstrate in solidarity with Kurds and all the people of North-East Syria!

Date: Sunday 13th October 2019
Place: BBC Portland Place
Time: 13.00

To keep up to date follow RiseUp4Rojava, Kongra Star Diplomacy, Kurdistan Students Union-UK, and the Kurdistan Solidarity Network on Facebook & Twitter.

STOP THE TURKISH INVASION!

#riseup4rojava