



# Northern *news*

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS  
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
AROUND THE WORLD

OCTOBER 2009

# Editorial Ramblings



My attempt at having a change in format / design wasn't universally popular, so here we are back to the old layout. At least it was a change - albeit short lived.

It seems that winter is here again before it's really disappeared from the last time it was here, as the temperature suddenly plummeted on 3/4 October. Some of my colleagues even reported ice on their car windscreens. It was something of a shock because I was still waiting for summer to arrive! We haven't had what might be remotely described as good weather ever since we've been back in England

- and two so-called summers have now passed. So, we're back into wearing thick winter clothes and hats and gloves and all the dreadful winter garb. Isn't it awful? How I hate it. At least we can keep

warm indoors, although heating costs are astronomical. As usual, my health isn't what I'd like it to be - I can only assume its lack of sunshine that is the main culprit in keeping me so unwell. As I write this it is the 18 October and I went for a walk this morning. Probably less than five miles with a stop for refreshments half-way and I felt completely knocked out on my return home. No energy, no strength - and yet I don't feel ill - just permanently tired and worn-out. Even keeping going through my normal working week at the office is a struggle and yet I don't have a strenuous job - just tapping away at the computer all day. In fact, I took the next Monday off work and we all went to the doctor's as none of us were feeling very bright. Oh for some sunshine and warmth. Not that we're the only one's feeling a bit off. There are so many people that we speak to who are suffering ill health. There must be a huge number of *sick days* being booked (not that I get sick pay - if I'm not there I don't get paid!).

In this month's edition I have included quite a lot of political comment by Melanie Phillips. Sad to say, my claim (previously published in this little magazine) that democracy was being ignored, and therefore had entirely failed, in the UK, has once again made the news. My country is being destroyed by the leaders who are supposed to serve in government in the best interests of the British people. Is it any wonder that so many people are in uproar and voting for the neo-nazi fascist party called the British National Party (BNP)? Is it any wonder why so many people are leaving the country to make a home elsewhere in the world? Although this is a family magazine, I felt these articles would be of interest (and importance) to many readers who aren't aware of how bad things have become in this country. My advise to all British folks living abroad is *Stay away from the UK*. I hope that we will be able to join you one day. If you're already in the UK, get out as soon as you can.

On a lighter note, the most exciting computer program I've used for a very long time has just been released. This is Capture One Pro 5 by Phase One. It's a superb tool for processing your digital images and has features too mind-blowing to describe here. If you're seriously into digital photography, then download the FREE trial version and give it a go. You won't regret it. Of course, after your trial version has expired, it isn't cheap to buy. Neither would you expect it to be given that Phase One make some of the World's most advanced cameras. Never heard of it? Maybe you're not into buying medium format digital cameras that give you over 60 mega-pixel images. But the software used by photographers with these rather special cameras is now available to anyone and is especially valuable for processing your RAW files (check compatibility first). Check the features at their website at URL: <http://www.phaseone.com>. The PRO version is well worth the extra cost over the cheaper versions.



**Photograph above:** A sign of hope. Taken from our garden on 22 October 2009 - there are actually two rainbows.  
**Cover photograph:** Flowers in our garden - amongst the few that survive until a frost hits them.

## *something to think about...*

Washington, DC Metro Station on a cold January morning in 2007. The man with a violin played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time approx. 2 thousand people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. After 3 minutes a middle aged man noticed there was a musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried to meet his schedule.

### **4 minutes later:**

The violinist received his first dollar: a woman threw the money in the hat and, without stopping, continued to walk..

### **6 minutes:**

A young man leaned against the wall to listen to him, then looked at his watch and started to walk again.

### **10 minutes:**

A 3-year old boy stopped but his mother tugged him along hurriedly. The kid stopped to look at the violinist again, but the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk, turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. Every parent, without exception, forced their children to move on quickly.

### **45 minutes:**

The musician played continuously. Only 6 people stopped and listened for a short while. About 20 gave money but continued to walk at their normal pace. The man collected a total of \$32.

### **1 hour:**

He finished playing and silence took over. No one noticed. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this, but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the greatest musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million dollars. Two days before Joshua Bell sold out a theater in Boston where the seats averaged \$100.

This is a true story. Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and people's priorities.

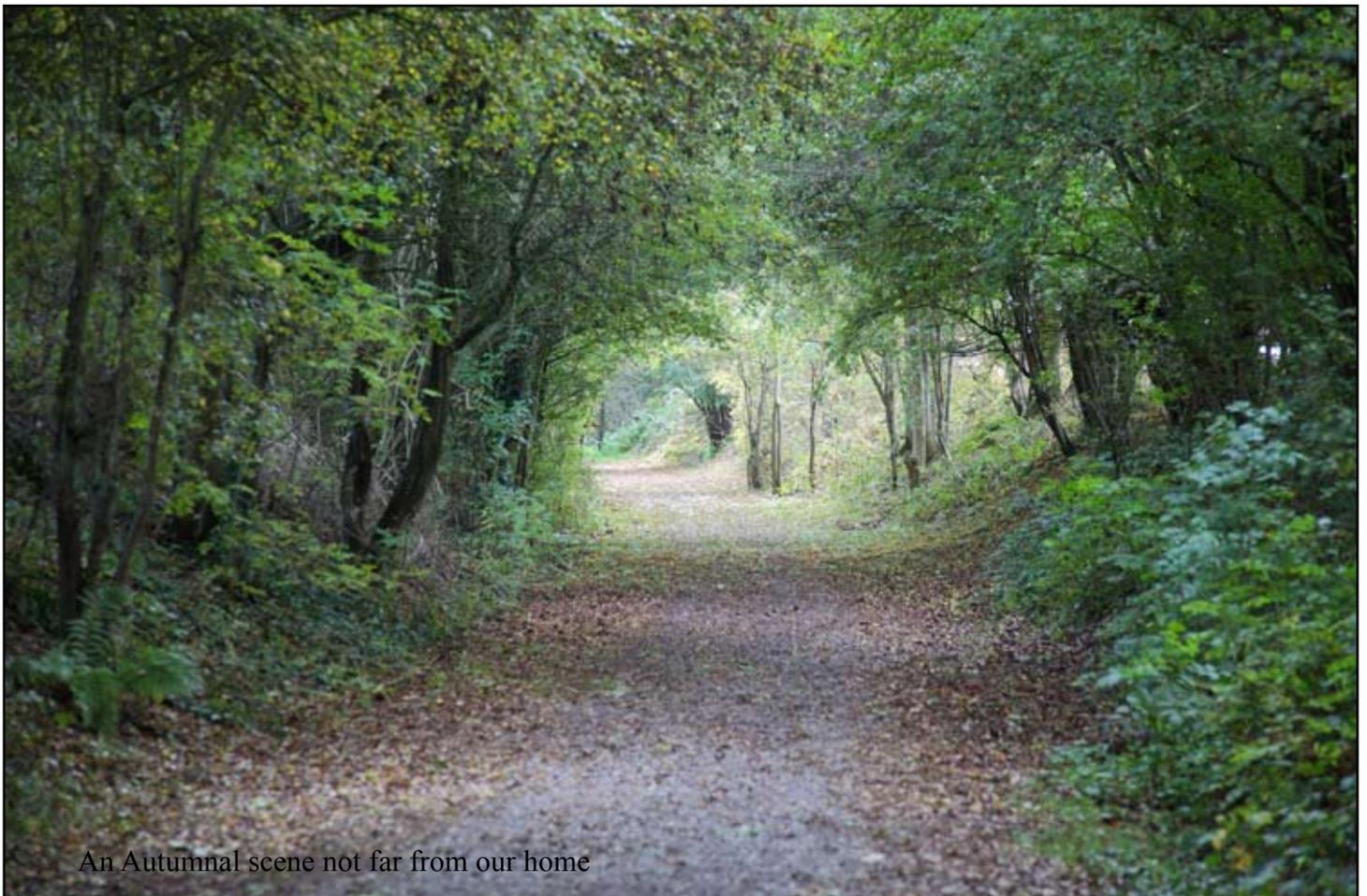
The questions raised: in a common place environment at an inappropriate hour, do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it?

Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

One possible conclusion reached from this experiment could be this: If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world, playing some of the finest music ever written, with one of the most beautiful instruments ever made....

## *How many other things are we missing?*

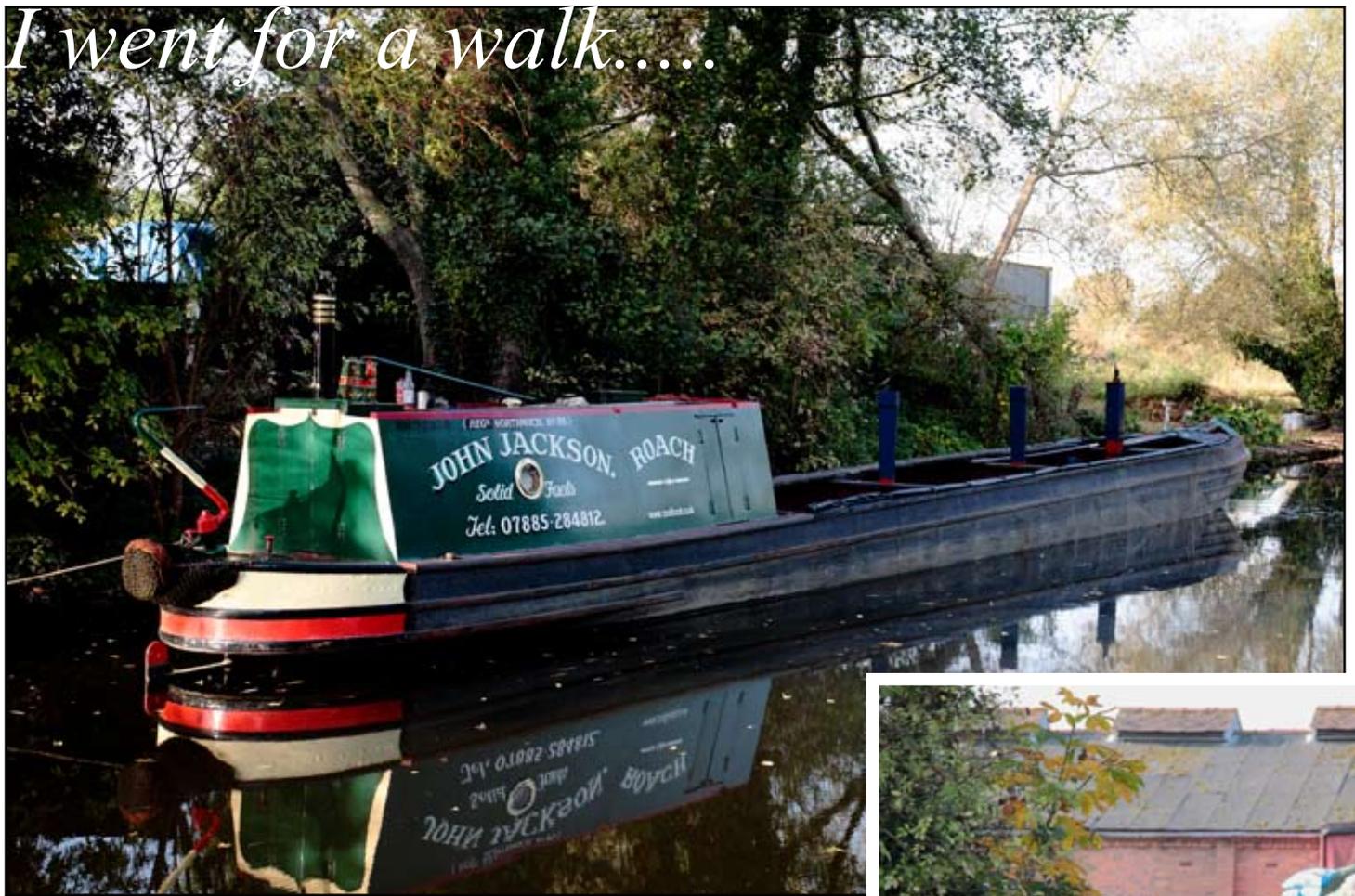
*Thanks to John Martin for sending us this article.*



An Autumnal scene not far from our home

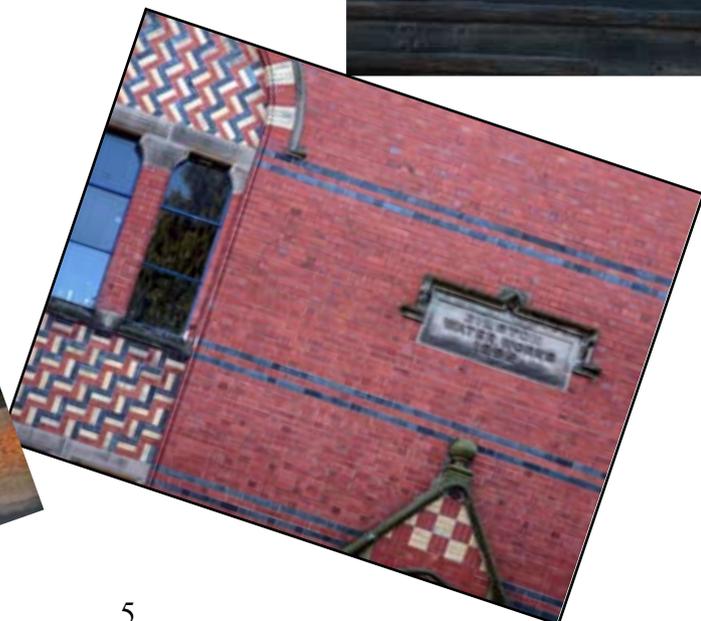


*I went for a walk.....*



along the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal, not very far from our home. What makes this canal barge special is that it is still working in the manner intended when the canals were built in the 18th century. This barge still carries coal around the area and, if you look closely at the photograph (*right*), you'll see a heap of coal in the yard. The photograph on the previous page was taken from the side of this canal.

I returned via part of the *Monarch Way*. Very near this was this amazing water pumping station built in 1895, looking more like a fairy tale castle with its fabulous brickwork - what a pity it is that we don't see craftsmanship like this anymore..



# *Will the Tories' class act make the grade?*

*by Melanie Phillips*

**Daily Mail, 12 October 2009**

The disaster that is Britain's education system is arguably the single most important problem that faces this country.

If people are ignorant of the world around them or unable to think for themselves, they will be incapable of tackling the failing economy, family breakdown or any other issue.

Education is fundamental to a society's capacity to prosper. If the education system founders, a society loses the ability to function properly and its future is bleak indeed.

This, unfortunately, is the alarming position in which Britain finds itself.

In one of the world's most advanced societies, the level of illiteracy among schoolchildren is astonishing.

This year, nearly a quarter of a million children left primary school unable to read, write and add up properly. Two-thirds of working-class boys at the age of 14 have a reading age of seven or below.

More than half the children leaving comprehensives failed to get the basic requirement of five decent GCSE passes. Public examinations have themselves dumbed down. Universities are having to provide remedial courses to make up for the deficiencies in students' knowledge.

Employers despair of school-leavers and even university graduates who lack the basics and can't think for themselves.

For more than two decades, politicians have tried and failed to remedy this grievous state of affairs. The problem was that they failed to analyse it correctly — and in the case of the Labour Government have themselves been a large part of the problem.

Which is why we should applaud the Tories' schools spokesman Michael Gove, whose passionate performance at last week's Tory party conference suggested that at long last here was a politician who does understand not simply that education standards and expectations are shockingly low, but why.

Setting out his now familiar proposal of freeing up school provision, thus opening the way for schools to choose their own examination systems and syllabus, he showed that he also understood and was prepared to tackle many of the warped cultural assumptions that were causing so many schools to fail.

This entails, as he suggested, nothing less than taking on the entire education establishment.

For Gove has understood that the root of the problem lies in a bunch of destructive and positively anti-education ideas which — astoundingly — have become the entrenched orthodoxy in the education world.

Unless the power of this establishment is broken and its ideology defeated, there is no possibility of any meaningful reform.

This is, to put it mildly, a tall order. The point about this education establishment — referred to in the past as 'the secret garden' because it is as enclosed and unaccountable as its ideas are impenetrable — is that it has crushed all opposition precisely because it is so all-encompassing.

Previous attempts to reform the system all failed because even the best-intentioned political initiatives were subverted by the 'experts' who were asked to implement them.

From civil servants to professors of education, these formed an unbreakable cartel which subscribed to precisely the ideologies they were being asked to replace.

The outcome was that every such initiative, including the National Curriculum and the National Literacy Scheme, and every quango such as the National Council for School Leadership, which trains head teachers, was subverted or hijacked by preposterous anti-education ideas.

Gove's proposals have to be set in that all-important context. Freeing up school provision is intended to break the stranglehold of that education establishment, from civil servants in Whitehall to the quango running the National Curriculum to the local authorities controlling school placements.

The idea is that by giving enhanced school choice to parents, teachers will be forced to abandon the ideological junk and teach the basics because that's what parents want. And the competition that produces will force the rest to raise their game, too.

Not only that, Gove intends also to break the power of university-based teacher training courses, which fill prospective teachers' heads with ideological mumbojumbo, by expanding the Teach First scheme, which recruits the highest performing graduates into teaching.

In a further inspired move, he proposes developing a Troops to Teachers programme, to get Army professionals into the classroom, where they can provide discipline and leadership.

And he also intends to restore to teachers the power to expel unruly pupils by abolishing school discipline panels, so that the number of vexatious 'human rights' challenges which have paralysed attempts to maintain order in the schools will be greatly diminished.

So far, so admirable. The great question, though, is whether he can really pull it off. For Gove's radicalism is tempered by certain contradictions in his proposals.

Take, for example, the National Curriculum. While he says 'free' schools will be able to opt out of it, it will remain binding upon those schools which are still run by local authorities. So how does that fit with his 'decentralising' agenda?

He says he intends to use the National Curriculum to enforce the proper chronological teaching of history and literacy schemes that actually work.

But bitter experience has taught us that, in the hands of central government, the curriculum invariably becomes instead a destructive ideological tool.

Gove thinks he can avoid this by abolishing the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency, which runs the curriculum, relying instead only on those experts whom he trusts to get it right.

Good luck to him — but I'll believe it when I see it. More disappointingly, his school choice proposal has a very serious flaw. The new 'freed-up' schools will not be allowed to select for ability.

This is a bad mistake — and not just because it obviously undermines the claim that they will be independent of state control.

While a return to the 11-plus would not be desirable — selection at age 11 was too early and too rigid — some kind of academically selective school provision stands at the heart of making Britain both fairer and more competitive.

This is because selecting by ability is crucial for the promotion of a meritocracy. And achievement by merit is the essence of a fair society.

European countries with successful education systems — Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands — all offer academically selective schools along with a range of others.

This is because they don't suffer from the paralysing

British hang-up about social class and differences in achievement.

But Gove instead chose to emulate the Swedish system, since although this allows school choice it does not permit academic selection.

Yet Sweden, one of the most socialist and state-regulated societies on the planet, can hardly be a Tory role model.

Ruling out academic selection shows that the Tories are driven principally by the fear that their political enemies will say they are returning to their discredited past of caring only about the 'haves', not the 'have-nots'.

Such concern for political positioning is dispiriting. Real free choice would mean a voucher system which could be cashed in at a school whether state-run or independent, comprehensive or selective.

Now, that really would break the grip of the ideologues and lever up standards.

It is, after all, egalitarianism that has driven our education system off the rails.

Tackling this most fundamental challenge properly requires both intellectual clarity and moral courage of a high order.

Michael Gove has shown he has the former in spades. But his party will have to display rather more of the latter if he is to be allowed to become that oxymoron — an education minister who makes the grade.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=687>*

## ***Just how bad things have become in the UK***

*is shown by the letter on the next page - from one of our Members of Parliament!*

**Not only does he not even know what time of day it is, but just look at the English!**

**A true reflection on the state of education in the UK under the Labour government.**

**If the leaders of our *Big Brother is Watching You - Nanny State*, write letters like this - what hope is there for our children?**

*As all the foreigners like my country so much (see page 6), maybe we should get them all in here and then take over their countries! We could play this new game of Asylum - and call it Colonialism!*

***It gets worse! - read from page 13 onwards.***



# Pat McFadden

Member of Parliament for Wolverhampton South East



Alan J Cook  
28 Dudding Road  
Goldthorn Park  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
WV4 5DS

07 October 2009

Dear Alan Cook,

I'm writing to invite you to a coffee afternoon I'm holding for residents in Blakenhall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009.

The coffee morning is a chance to come along and talk to your MP about the issues which matter to you.

I'd also like to tell you about the work I've been doing on behalf of local residents both here in and in Parliament. By holding the event in the heart of the local community, I want to ensure residents have the chance to meet me in your own neighbourhood. I have also invited representatives from the local Police and your local ward councillors.

**The coffee Afternoon will start at 15:00 on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2009 at St. John's Methodist Church, Parkfield Road, Blakenhall WV4 6EE.**

Whether or not you're able to come to the coffee morning, I'd like to know about the issues you feel are important. Please complete and return the enclosed reply card to tell me about the things that matter to you.

If you would like assistance with any problems, you could also get in touch with me by calling **01902 405762**.

Yours sincerely,

**Pat McFadden MP**

Labour MP for Wolverhampton South East

Pat McFadden MP, Crescent House, Broad Street, Bilston WV14 0BZ  
Telephone: 01902 405762 Fax: 01902 402381 Email: [mcfadden@parliament.uk](mailto:mcfadden@parliament.uk)

[www.patmcfadden.com](http://www.patmcfadden.com)

Printed by and on behalf of Pat McFadden MP, Crescent House, Broad Street, Bilston WV14 0BZ.  
Pat McFadden MP may contact you again to keep you up-to-date on his work as your MP. If you do not wish to be contacted please write to:  
Pat McFadden MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

Good Day and welcome to a brand new edition of . . .

'ASYLUM'.

Today's program features another chance to take part in our exciting competition:

HIJACK AN AIRLINER

And win

A COUNCIL HOUSE !

We've already given away hundreds of millions of pounds and thousands of dream homes, courtesy of our sponsor,  
The British Taxpayer.

And don't forget, we're now the fastest growing game on the planet.

Anyone can play, provided they don't already hold a valid British Passport, and you only need one word of English:

'ASYLUM'

Prizes include all-expenses-paid accommodation, cash benefits starting at £180 a week and a chance to earn thousands more begging, mugging, burgling and accosting drivers at traffic lights.

This competition is open to everyone buying a ticket or stowing away on one of our partner airlines, ferry companies or Eurostar.

No application ever refused - reasonable or unreasonable.

All you have to do is destroy all your papers

And remember the magic password:

'ASYLUM'

A few years ago, 140 members of a Taliban family from Afghanistan were flown Goat Class from Kabul to our international gateway at Stansted where local law enforcement officers were on hand to fast-track them to their luxury £200-a-night rooms in the fabulous four star Hilton Hotel. They joined tens of thousands of other lucky winners already staying in hotels all over Britain .....

Our most popular destinations also include the White Cliffs of Dover and the world famous Toddington Services area, in Historic Bedfordshire.

If you still don't understand the rules, don't forget, there's no need to phone a friend or ask the audience . . .

Just apply for legal aid.

Hundreds of lawyers, social workers and counsellors

Are waiting to help - for FREE !

It won't cost you a penny.

And . . .

It could change your life forever.

So play today.

Iraqi terrorists, Afghan dissidents, Albanian gangsters, pro-Pinochet Activists, anti-Pinochet activists, Kosovan drug-smugglers, Tamil tigers, Bogus Bosnians, Rwandan mass murderers, Somali guerrillas...the list is endless

EVERYONE IS WELCOME - INCLUDING

ALL YOUR OWN WIVES AND CHILDREN

COME ON DOWN !

Get along to the airport !

Get along to the lorry park !

Get along to the ferry terminal !

Don't stop in Germany or France !

All European countries will willingly speed you on your way !

Come straight to Britain

And you are:

\*\*\*\* GUARANTEED \*\*\*\*

To be one of tens of thousands of lucky winners

In the easiest game on earth.

Everyone's a winner,

When they play

'ASYLUM'

*Thanks to John Weston for sending us this article.*

# *Himalayan Glaciers Aren't Retreating*

*by Penny Rodriguez*

Published In: Environment & Climate News  
Publication date: 11/01/2009  
Publisher: The Heartland Institute

After an extensive study of glaciers throughout the Himalayas, India's Ministry of Environment and Forests reports most did not retreat during 2009. The ministry further concluded there is no strong evidence the modest retreat of some Himalayan glaciers in recent years was caused by global warming.

In an August 2009 white paper, the ministry reports that even in the case of many glaciers that are retreating, ice in the remaining portion of the glacier is thickening.

## **Weather Variation Drives Glaciers**

Geologists at India's Jammu University report annual variations in precipitation and other weather factors, not global climate change, are the primary cause of growth and retreat of Himalayan glaciers.

"Inter and intra-annual variations in weather parameters have more impact on the glaciers of northwest Himalayas, rather than any impact due to global warming," the Jammu University geologists reported in *Current Science*.

Moreover, the geologists report, many Himalayan glaciers are stable or growing. Among the glaciers that are retreating, a frequent cause is ice calving that occurs without respect to global warming.

## **230 Glaciers Growing**

In another study, accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Annals of Glaciology*, a team of scientists led by John Shroder of the University of Nebraska-Omaha reports 230 glaciers in the Western Himalayas are growing. Glaciers at such famous sites as Mt. Everest and neighboring K2 and Nanga Parbat are among those growing.

"These are the biggest mid-latitude glaciers in the world," said Shroder. "And all of them are either holding still or advancing."

Snowfall increases in the region are contributing to surging river flows in addition to increasing glacier mass. Providing water for much of India and Pakistan, the Indus River has experienced larger water volume in recent years, Shroder reports.

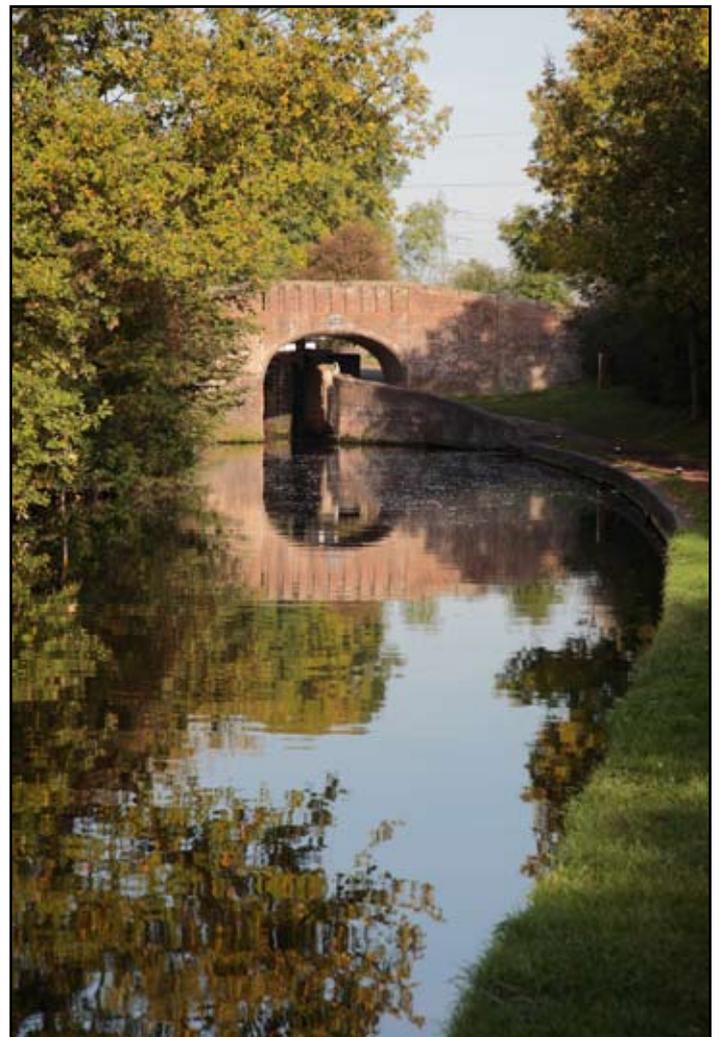
## **Cyclical Variations**

"Himalayan glaciers, like glaciers elsewhere, are going through cyclic growth and decay with no apparent linkage to present warming," said meteorologist Madhav Khandekar.

"The Tibetan Plateau did show a decrease [in glacier mass] during the 1980s, but more recent satellite data do not show such a decrease at present," Khandekar explained.

Penny Rodriguez (rodcoready@juno.com) writes from Parrish, Florida.

*Courtesy of URL: [http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/26163/Himalayan\\_Glaciers\\_Arent\\_Retreating.html](http://www.heartland.org/publications/environment%20climate/article/26163/Himalayan_Glaciers_Arent_Retreating.html)*



# *Vulcan to the Sky*

As you know, I am a keen supporter of XH558, the restored Avro Vulcan that has become the star attraction at air shows around the UK during this summer, appearing in front of many millions of people. You may remember me talking about it!

With the continuing poor economic climate, the Charity that operates the aircraft has just launched an Appeal for public funding which can be seen here: [www.vulcantothesky.org](http://www.vulcantothesky.org)

The project has two aims: Honouring the Past – including those who stood guard during the Cold War years of which the Vulcan is such an enduring symbol, and Inspiring The Future, enthusing the children of today in Aeronautics, Science, Design and Technology.

You only have to visit the Guest Book to see how much this icon of British design & engineering affects people: <http://www.vulcantothesky.org/guestbook.asp>



*Photograph found on the internet*

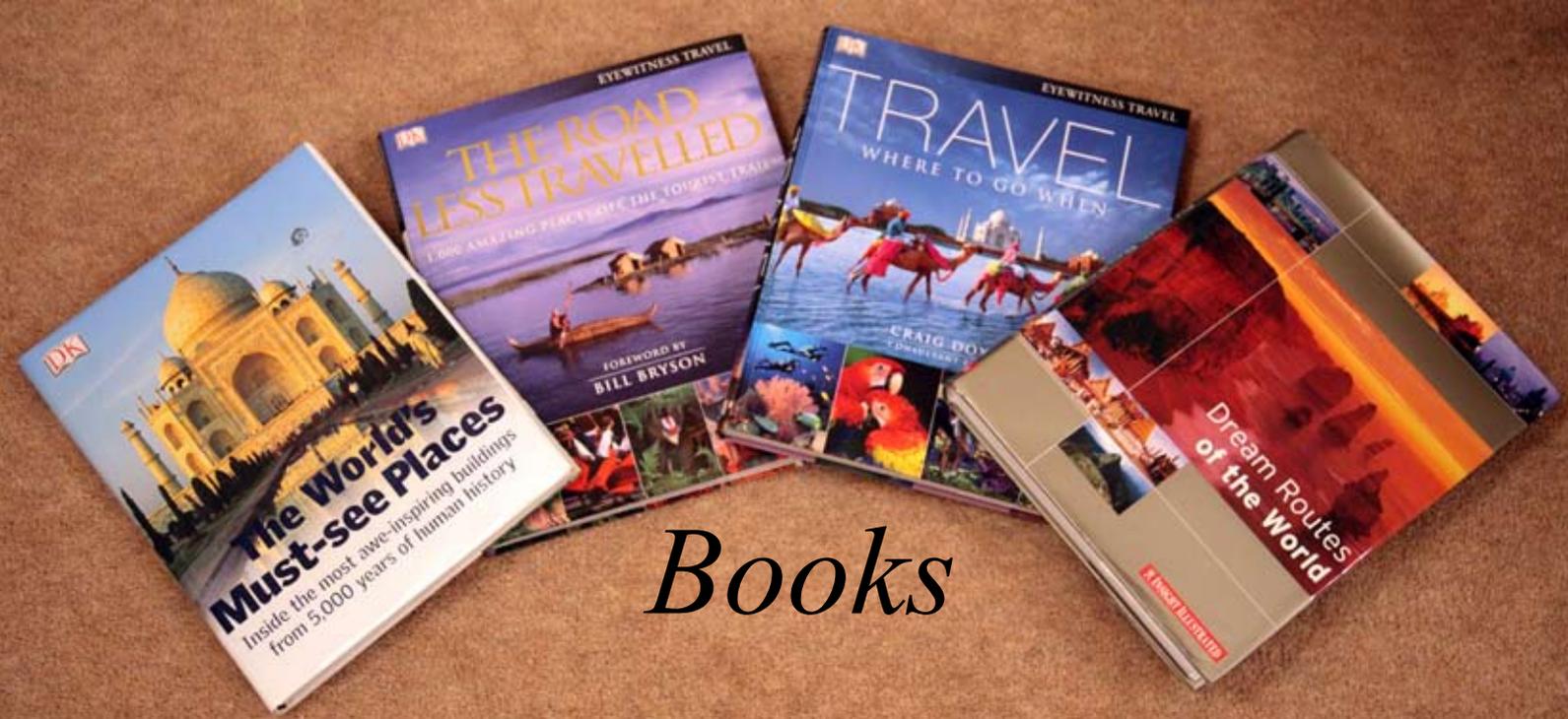
Around 50,000 people donated last year to keep the project going. With your help, we can take our message out to many, many more.

We need to raise £400,000 before Christmas and the same again before Easter. Please do whatever you can to help. A one-off donation of any amount or a small monthly standing order will be hugely appreciated.

If money is tight, then just talking about our project or passing on this email to others in your address book will be of great help!

With many thanks,

*Alan*



# Books

Winter is often considered to be the time for arm-chair travelling, so I thought I'd bring a few of my travel books to your attention by way of a mini-review.

All the books shown here present some stunning photographs and are inspirational in generating ideas of where to go and what you can see. However, there are a few let-downs.....

## ***Dream Routes of the World - Insight Illustrated ISBN 978 981 258 742 8***

Great ideas and lavish photographs. As one would perhaps expect, the maps are somewhat rudimentary, but the greatest let-down is that this is not a practical book, in as much as it doesn't tell you HOW you are going to achieve your journey. For example, Route 13 describes an almost 3000 mile journey from Bukhara in Uzbekistan to Xi'an in China. The book tells you what to see and roughly where to go, but tells you nothing about HOW you're going to get from one end of the route to the other. Do you have to drive your own car to Uzbekistan before starting? Can you rent a vehicle for a one-way journey across various political boundaries (I think not)? This is great book for ideas but is certainly not a stand-alone book of information. You'll need a pile of maps and practical guides by the folks at *Lonely Planet* or *Rough Guides* to back-up this book. Perhaps this is only to be expected when so many routes are covered around the world as each route could really do with a book of their own.

## ***Travel - Where to go When - Dorling Kindersley (DK) Eyewitness Travel - ISBN 978 1 4053 3483 9***

The novel idea of this book is that it is divided into sections each listing and describing the places to go according to the month of the year in which you want to travel. For example, October lists places to visit in the USA, Canada, Australia, France, Italy, Argentina, Hungary, Mexico, China and Mali. Quite a practical book as it does at least provide brief information on getting to your destination and getting around, the weather and a few *Dos and Don'ts*. Unlike the book above, this concentrates on specific areas, rather than covering many miles along a route.

## ***The World's Must-see Places - Dorling Kindersley (DK) Eyewitness Travel - ISBN 1 4053 1109 6***

This is an older book and I'm not sure if it is still in print, although it should be available in many second-hand book shops. It is also even more specific than the book above, listing such places as cathedrals, castles and some of the places listed in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. History is the main topic of this book, and very interesting it is to read some of the background details of the places you want to visit, with key dates listing important events of the past. Although there are many photographs in this book, many places are depicted using (often) cutaway drawings.

## ***The Road Less Travelled - Dorling Kindersley (DK) Eyewitness Travel - ISBN 978 1 4053 4427 2***

The newest book listed here - only recently published. The approach used in this book is to direct people **away** from the usual tourist sites to alternative, similar sites, where you won't be pestered by crowds, pick-pockets, traders and other general nuisances. For example, instead of visiting the Pyramids of Giza the book suggests that you got to see the Pyramids of Meroe in the Sudan. Other alternatives shown are: The Great Pyramid of Cholula, The Pyramids of Saqqara and Dahshur, The Pyramid of Cestius and the Brihadishwara Temple. A really good book with some useful, basic practical information included - and quite a lot of useful links to appropriate websites that provide useful back-up information.

*Little Lad with his ultra-short hair cut!*



# *The clash of uncivilisations*

*by Melanie Phillips*

**The Spectator, 24 October 2009**

The frenzy over the participation of BNP leader Nick Griffin on Question Time this week has been a classic case of failing to identify the real elephant in the room.

By fixating on the ‘far right’ as the supremely evil force in British public life, the mainstream political class has failed to grasp that a half-baked neo-Nazi rabble is not the main issue. There is another more lethal type of fascism on the march in the form of Islamic supremacism.

The Islamists, or jihadis, are intent upon snuffing out individual freedom and imposing a totalitarian regime of submission to religious dogma which erodes and then replaces British and Western values. Now these two types of fascism are doing battle with each other — and with the white working class and lower-middle classes caught between them.

For it is the intense anger of these people with the fact that — as they see it — they are the ignored victims of the jihadis that is driving them into the arms of the BNP.

There are, of course, many factors fuelling BNP support. Most broadly, increasing numbers at the lower end of the social scale feel the mainstream parties are ignoring their most pressing concerns. Most of these anxieties involve British national identity: uncontrolled immigration, multiculturalism, the loss to the EU of Britain’s ability to govern itself.

Most toxic of all, however, is the threat from Islamic supremacism and the concern of the disenfranchised white voters that the political establishment is supinely going along with the progressive Islamisation of Britain.

All around them they see the establishment responding to Islamist bullying with acts of appeasement. Jihadis parade on the streets threatening to behead infidels — but it is white objectors whose collars are felt by the police. The mainstream political parties are all petrified of saying anything about either the steady encroachment of Islam into Britain’s public space or the linked phenomenon of mass immigration.

So the BNP has been handed an extraordinary electoral advantage: it can tell voters that it is the only party prepared unequivocally to denounce such things. The rise of Nick Griffin is intimately related to the unchecked march of Islamism in Britain. The BNP is, in one sense, merely the other side of the jihadi coin.

It is highly relevant that Griffin is an MEP for North West

England — and did not stand in the old National Front power base around London. His party’s new appeal is based on a new power base — the north-west and Yorkshire.

Research by academics at Manchester University reveals that support for the BNP is highest in areas of high Pakistani and Bangladeshi concentration — but significantly, not where there are concentrations of Indians. Strikingly, BNP support actually falls away steeply in Afro-Caribbean areas.

So to try to damn the BNP as racist misses the point by a mile. Not that the accusation is untrue — despite its attempt to rebrand itself, the BNP remains a racist party with strong neo-Nazi overtones.

But it attracts votes talking about religion and culture. Crucially, it is cynically using the Islamisation of Britain as cover for its animus against all Muslims and non-white people.

There are many British Muslims, after all, who are a threat to no one, who want to enjoy the benefits of a secular society and human rights and are themselves potential victims of Islamism and sharia law. But the BNP seeks to elide this distinction. It hates not just Islamism but all Muslims; indeed, it has seized upon the widespread concern over Islamic extremism to morph seamlessly from Paki-bashing into Muslim-bashing.

The fears it exploits are those of ordinary white folk in areas of high Muslim immigration who have watched the transformation of their neighbourhoods from communities of people like themselves into a landscape they no longer recognise.

The voters the BNP are seeking are bewildered and distraught that no one in authority seems to notice or care — and that they are dismissed as ‘racists’ for expressing such concerns.

It is this asymmetry of anger which helps the BNP so much. Those who this week seemed to be risking an aneurysm over Griffin’s TV appearance either dismiss the jihadis as an exaggerated problem — or, on occasion, even march behind their incendiary and hate-driven banners.

There is no Griffin-style outrage over the regular appearances in the media by the fanatics of the Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas supporters or Iranian-backed jihadis, even though they endorse terrorism and the extinction of human rights.

Liberal society cannot see them as a threat because, under the prevailing doctrines of multiculturalism and moral relativism, minorities can never be guilty of prejudice or bad deeds. Only the ‘far right’, it appears, can be racist.

It is not hard to demonstrate that Islamism is a real and present danger not just to democracy, but to groups such as women, gays, Jews, apostates and liberal Muslims. Yet liberals appear to recognise fascism only if it has a white face.

To those at the bottom, who live outside the bubbles of wealth or ideology, the face of intolerance is all too easy to recognise. They can see the churches of Britain being steadily replaced by mosques, can no longer find a local butcher selling pork, or are being regularly intimidated by local youths declaring 'this is a Muslim area'. They are in no doubt that they are watching the takeover of their country and civilisation.

Stories that attract little attention in the press loom large in the concerns of the BNP target voters. The priests in east London being beaten up by Muslim youths who shout racial and religious abuse. The councils that tear up the planning laws to accommodate the expansion of mosques or madrassas. These are the issues all but ignored by mainstream media and politicians.

As a result, the debate is allowed to descend into a clash of extremists. Last March, for example, Islamists demonstrated against a parade in Luton of Royal Anglian Regiment soldiers returning from Afghanistan.

The jihadis were protected by the police, while the only people arrested that day were locals protesting at this provocation. That event led in turn to a demonstration in Birmingham last August by the self-styled anti-Islamists of the so-called English Defence League (EDL) and other groups.

The cycle continued. The EDL provoked a counter-protest organised by Unite Against Fascism and a day of violent disorder. Similar clashes have subsequently occurred in Luton, Birmingham and in Harrow — brawls invariably characterised in the media as between the 'far right' and 'anti-fascists'.

This is where it gets messy. The so-called 'anti-fascists' include a number of Islamic fascists, not to mention far-left boot-boys. As for the 'far right', the EDL furiously protests that it has no connections with the BNP and stands against them.

But one or two individuals in the EDL have been associated with the BNP in some form or other. Most tellingly of all, EDL leaders have admitted that it is opposed not only to Islamist extremism but to 'all devout Muslims' — a BNP-style pitch.

To our progressive elite, however, the credentials of such groups are irrelevant. In any street altercation like this, the anti-Islamist demonstrators must be aggressors and those who confront them must be either their victims or heroic anti-fascists.

The left has a blind spot when it comes to defining 'fascism'. In its Manichaean way, it views everything that is not 'left' as 'right-wing', everything that is 'right-wing' as evil and everything that is evil as 'right-wing'.

Fascists, therefore, are inescapably 'the far right'. The left rest their own claim to moral virtue on their imagined historic role in fighting fascism. So they jump at any chance to wrap themselves in that heroic mantle.

Thus the Communities Secretary John Denham compared the EDL to Oswald Mosley's Blackshirts, who in 1936 were repulsed in the battle of Cable Street when they tried to take over London's East End. 'The tactic of trying to provoke a response in the hope of causing wider violence and mayhem is long established on the far right and among extremist groups,' he said. This was as absurd as it was offensive.

The most alarming point was that Denham ignored the Islamist protests which inspired the EDL in the first place. This is the same John Denham who told a fringe meeting at the Labour party conference that there was a need for 'critical engagement' with lawful groups with whom one disagreed.

Would Denham 'critically engage' with the BNP or EDL? Hardly. He's apparently still fighting them at Cable Street.

But he would, it appears, engage with jihadis who endorse the Islamisation of Britain, death to gays and apostates, the destruction of Israel and the second-class status of women. It is this kind of cravenness and moral inversion that makes people despair of mainstream politicians and sends them towards the BNP.

Worse still, the label of the 'far right' toxifies everything it touches. There is now a real danger than anyone who opposes Islamic supremacism will find themselves vilified not only as 'Islamophobes' but also as BNP fellow-travellers.

Such an intellectual atmosphere would leave liberals reluctant to speak out against Islamism. This would be the surest way to ensure that Nick Griffin is given access to a far greater audience than the million-odd voters he has so far attracted.

The tactic, for both the jihadis and the BNP, is clear. The Islamists have an incentive to provoke a violent reaction by white groups calling themselves names like English Defence League — simply in order to produce yet more demonisation of the anti-Islamists.

In this way, the jihadis can establish control of an area as they become untouchable — and the fortunes of Nick Griffin and the Muslims he despises become inextricably intertwined. When these groups are left alone to fight each other, they both win.

This poses a grave challenge to liberals. If they absent

themselves from this fray, the battle lines over the survival of Western freedoms will be drawn between the neo-fascists and the Islamofascists.

At a time when there is such contempt for our established political parties, this is a fearsome prospect. As such disorder grows more violent, all minorities will be caught in the firing line, and society risks lurching into ever more panic-driven and repressive measures. And the wedge driven into the ranks of the defenders of the West makes the Islamists' eventual victory more likely.

There is already a huge fissure among anti-Islamists over whether or not to ally with European neo-fascists. Since liberals are either silent, or even aligning with the jihadis on the grounds that 'we are all Hezbollah now' and turning instead upon the pivotal victim in this civilisational war, Israel, some anti-Islamists say that allying with neo-fascist groups is a no-brainer, because 'my enemy's enemy is my friend'.

But this is a highly dangerous course. Islamic fascism must be fought to defend Western values of freedom, democracy and tolerance. This cannot be done in an alliance with white neo-fascists bent on their negation. Sometimes, my enemy's enemy is also my enemy.

This is why all decent people must join in the fight against Islamic supremacism. Support for the BNP would plummet if the political mainstream were to limit immigration, denounce cultural Islamic imperialism and refuse to give one inch to sharia law, saying no to polygamy, sharia finance, sharia courts and all attempts to set up a parallel Islamic society in Britain.

Freedom can only be protected if its defenders are united. But with Britain's collective brain turned to multicultural jelly, liberals are refusing to acknowledge the civilisational battle now under way and gathering pace.

The obsession with the 'far right' has cemented progressive opinion into its current lethal state of cultural somnambulism. Liberals must raise their eyes, raise their game and ask where this is leading. For there is far worse on the horizon than a nasty man on Question Time.

*Courtesy of URL:* <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=689>





# *The conspiracy to transform Britain*

## *by Melanie Phillips*

**Daily Mail, 26 October 2009**

So now the cat is well and truly out of the bag. For years, as the number of immigrants to Britain shot up apparently uncontrollably, the question was how exactly this had happened.

Was it through a fit of absent-mindedness or gross incompetence? Or was it not inadvertent at all, but deliberate?

The latter explanation seemed just too outrageous. After all, a deliberate policy of mass immigration would have amounted to nothing less than an attempt to change the very make-up of this country without telling the electorate.

There could not have been a more grave abuse of the entire democratic process. Now, however, we learn that this is exactly what did happen. The Labour government has been engaged upon a deliberate and secret policy of national cultural sabotage.

This astonishing revelation surfaced quite casually last weekend in a newspaper article by one Andrew Neather. He turns out to have been a speech writer for Tony Blair, Jack Straw and David Blunkett.

And it was he who wrote a landmark speech in September 2000 by the then immigration minister, Barbara Roche, that called for a loosening of immigration controls. But the true scope and purpose of this new policy was actively concealed.

In its 1997 election manifesto, Labour promised 'firm control over immigration' and in 2005 it promised a 'crackdown on abuse'. In 2001, its manifesto merely said that the immigration rules needed to reflect changes to the economy to meet skills shortages.

But all this concealed a monumental shift of policy. For Neather wrote that until 'at least February last year', when a new points-based system was introduced to limit foreign workers in response to increasing uproar, the purpose of the policy Roche ushered in was to open up the UK to mass immigration.

This has been achieved. Some 2.3million migrants have been added to the population since 2001. Since 1997, the number of work permits has quadrupled to 120,000 a year.

Unless policies change, over the next 25 years some seven million more will be added to Britain's population, a rate of growth three times as fast as took place in the Eighties.

Such an increase is simply unsustainable. Britain is already one of the most overcrowded countries in Europe. But now look at the real reason why this policy was introduced, and in secret. The Government's 'driving political purpose', wrote Neather, was 'to make the UK truly multicultural'.

It was therefore a politically motivated attempt by ministers to transform the fundamental make-up and identity of this country. It was done to destroy the right of the British people to live in a society defined by a common history, religion, law, language and traditions.

It was done to destroy for ever what it means to be culturally British and to put another 'multicultural' identity in its place. And it was done without telling or asking the British people whether they wanted their country and their culture to be transformed in this way.

Spitefully, one motivation by Labour ministers was 'to rub the Right's nose in diversity and render their arguments out of date'.

Even Neather found that particular element of gratuitous Left-wing bullying to be 'a manoeuvre too far'.

Yet apart from this, Neather sees nothing wrong in the policy he has described. Indeed, the reason for his astonishing candour is he thinks it's something to boast about. Mass immigration, he wrote, had provided the 'foreign nannies, cleaners and gardeners' without whom London could hardly function.

What elitist arrogance! As if most people employ nannies, cleaners and gardeners. And what ignorance. The argument that Britain is better off with this level of immigration has been conclusively shown to be economically illiterate.

Neather gave the impression that most immigrants are Eastern Europeans. But these form fewer than a quarter of all immigrants.

And the fact is that, despite his blithe assertions to the contrary, schools in areas of very high immigration find it desperately difficult to cope with so many children who don't even have basic English. Other services, such as health or housing, are similarly being overwhelmed by the sheer weight of numbers.

But the most shattering revelation was that this policy of mass immigration was not introduced to produce nannies or cleaners for the likes of Neather. It was to destroy Britain's identity and transform it into a multicultural society where British attributes would have no greater status than any other country's.

A measure of immigration is indeed good for a country. But this policy was not to enhance British culture and society by broadening the mix. It was to destroy its defining character altogether.

It also conveniently guaranteed an increasingly Labour-voting electorate since, as a recent survey by the Electoral Commission has revealed, some 90 per cent of black people and three-quarters of Asians vote Labour.

In Neather's hermetically sealed bubble, the benefits of mass immigration were so overwhelming he couldn't understand why ministers had been so nervous about it.

They were, he wrote, reluctant to discuss what increased immigration would mean, above all to Labour's core white working class vote. So they deliberately kept it secret.

They knew that if they told the truth about what they were doing, voters would rise up in protest. So they kept it out of their election manifestos.

It was indeed a conspiracy to deceive the electorate into voting for them. And yet it is these very people who have the gall to puff themselves up in self-righteous astonishment at the rise of the BNP.

No wonder Jack Straw was so shifty on last week's Question Time when he was asked whether it was the Government's failure to halt immigration which lay behind increasing support for the BNP.

Now we know it was no such failure of policy. It was deliberate. For the government of which Straw is such a long-standing member had secretly plotted to flood the country with immigrants to change its very character and identity.

This more than any other reason is why Nick Griffin has gained so much support. According to a YouGov poll taken after Question Time, no fewer than 22 per cent of British voters would 'seriously consider' voting for the BNP.

That nearly one quarter of British people might vote for a neo-Nazi party with views inimical to democracy, human rights and common decency is truly appalling.

The core reason is that for years they have watched as their country's landscape has been transformed out of all recognition — and that politicians from all mainstream parties have told them first that it isn't happening and second, that they are racist bigots to object even if it is.

Now the political picture has been transformed overnight by the unguarded candour of Andrew Neather's eye-opening superciliousness. For now we know that Labour politicians actually caused this to happen - and did so out of total contempt for their own core voters.

As Neather sneered, the jobs filled by immigrant workers 'certainly wouldn't be taken by unemployed BNP voters from Barking or Burnley — fascist au pair, anyone?'

So that's how New Labour views the white working class, supposedly the very people it is in politics to champion. Who can wonder that its core vote is now decamping in such large numbers to the BNP when Labour treats them like this?

Condemned out of its own mouth, it is New Labour that is responsible for the rise of the BNP — by an act of unalloyed treachery to the entire nation.

*Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=690>*



# Alan's Reflections

## Alan's Reflections

Living in the UK is extremely depressing. This really hits you after you've lived in other countries and then return to live in the UK. There are many times when I just feel like getting on the next 'plane out (every day, actually). Of course there must be reasons for feeling like this, but it's not always easy to analyse just what they are. A major factor is the terrible climate as it is always cold, wet, windy and very rarely warm (never hot) and sunny. There are good things, of course, in as much as everything works well. There is a good infrastructure and reliable utilities and other services - and a huge range of things to buy and businesses almost always give very good customer service. Materially, we can be very comfortable. But that isn't the whole story by any means. Despite being here for 15 months, we are still very much on our own and have no social life or real friends nearby. There is no *community spirit* here in the UK. When we lived in Kuwait and in Qatar, we would have folks dropping in to see us for a chat and a *cuppa* almost every day - sometimes several times a day. Or we would be invited out to other peoples homes or to parties or a get together in a restaurant or some other venue. This happened from day one of our arrival there and continued throughout our stay. Here in England we rarely have visitors (no one *drops by* - only by appointment!). We never receive invitations to *drop by* to other folks homes either. It just doesn't happen. Everyone is too wrapped up in the little boxes of their own lives to look outside the box.

I was reminded of this when our dear friend, Vonnie, rang us from Hong Kong this morning. We met Vonnie while we were in Qatar and were always going out together or entertaining each other (and others) in our respective flats. What a great time we all had. What a big loss it is not to have that community spirit any more. Vonnie mentioned that another friend in HK, Mila, had been bitten by a snake a few days ago. Thankfully it wasn't serious, but so many people sent her texts to cheer her up, or visited her with little gifts - she had the full support of the community. Isn't that wonderful? Sadly, we don't get that here in the UK. Taking that one step further, I feel that this is one of the main reasons for the breakdown in society in general. Imagine if everyone cared for everyone else. Bored youngsters would be able to go to their friends homes instead of wandering the streets causing trouble. Mothers (single or otherwise), overburdened with looking after their children, would be helped by the neighbours and nearby family members. There would be that sense of *belonging* to a community that cared - a community that helped when needed. Here in the UK, the only people who seem to have a good quality of life are those living on welfare handouts! Everyone else is just trying to scratch a living and pay the bills. Some of the men in the company where I work are only too pleased if they get the opportunity to work 12 hours/day - and weekends too. No wonder they have no time for anyone else. Is that

good *quality* living? As Vonnie said on the telephone *Enjoying yourself is the most important thing in life*. Many of us would agree with that philosophy, but few in the UK are able to live that lifestyle. We're too busy pushing the treadmill around to enjoy ourselves.

Two things came to light this week - very much related to the previous paragraphs. Holidays! Having Little Lad means that we should take our holidays when the schools have their breaks. There was a programme on the TV that was investigating the problem of taking holidays during the school holidays - namely: COST. It was found that holiday companies and airlines increased their charges by, sometimes, more than 300% during school holidays. Isn't that a rip off? I had been discussing with Grace the possibility of having a holiday in the sun during the Christmas / New Year period. We found that the cost of this was over £3000. If we waited until mid-January, the same holiday was reduced to £1300. What a difference. No wonder more and more people are taking their children out of school when they take a holiday. Of course, the schools are onto a good thing because they can now fine parents £50 for each child they take out of school outside the school holiday periods. Another rip-off. But still a lot cheaper than the alternative.

The other factor that came to light was the adverse affect on our health that holidays can have. Isn't that strange? It is actually quite well documented that as soon as people jump off the treadmill to take a holiday they frequently get sick. This certainly happened to me last Christmas to the extent that I'm hesitant to have another holiday! You may remember that we rented a cottage in Scotland and I spent most of my time ill in bed until well enough to drive home - cutting short our holiday by almost 50%. Not a lot of fun.

What are we doing this Christmas / New Year - or outside that period? Who knows? Anything could happen.

*Alan*

*Below: What Vonnie sent Grace!*

**Be the kind of woman who, when you leap out of bed in the morning, the Devil shudders and says, "Oh no, she's up!"**



