

Far Northern

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

news

DECEMBER 2010



Editorial Ramblings



As you will have seen, we've made an addition to the title of our little magazine this month, with *Far* being added to *Northern News*. This doesn't mean that we've moved (*yet*), however attractive that would be. It just means that I've been on a trip to the far North this month, with my son, Paul - to Scotland. Just to give you some idea of how far North - this is less than 2.5 degrees South of the Southern tip of Greenland - almost the same latitude as the centre of Hudson Bay, in Canada - and further North than Moscow. How wonderful it was to be out in the snow taking photographs. As Paul later told Grace, *Dad doesn't feel the cold when he's taking photographs*.

This month is Grace's birthday. I always feel sad that she has everything happen in the space of a few weeks - wedding anniversary, birthday and Christmas - then nothing for the rest of the year. Paul also has a similar problem with Christmas followed by his birthday, a week later, on New Year's Day - but at least his wedding anniversary is in August. Grace's Dad likewise - Christmas Day is his birthday.

Once again, we've had another month of ill health. In particular, Grace has been very unwell. Little Lad has also had a virus that induced vomiting and nose bleeding at the same time. I've had a week off work once again, feeling very unwell. I can only assume that this climate really doesn't suit us at all as none of us have been fully fit since we came to the UK.

I would ask you to make a special effort to read the story of the three abandoned children we are trying to help. We would also be most grateful of any practical or financial assistance you can give to provide help for these children. We really are up against it with these three children, and any help that you can give would be a wonderful present for them in this season of giving.

At this time of year, it is traditional to wish each other a Happy New Year. As I said last month, the year ahead could be truly momentous in terms of world events. However, happiness comes from within, and it is important to be happy with ourselves and with our families. I commented to Grace only the other day about how this Christmas holiday had been such a happy time for all of us, despite our ill health and being unable to go out and do things. We have been happy and content to be with each other, just enjoying being with each other, doing whatever interests us at home. We wish you a happy 2011.



Cover Photograph: Taken in the far North, a short walk from Paul and Julie's new home North of Aberdeen.

Photograph Above: Paul and Julie's new home - Pajero safely delivered. Thanks to the farmer for clearing the driveway.



Around our home this month:

Carol Singers in our lounge (*above*).

Icicles hanging from the gutter outside the dining room (*left and right*).

Our back garden (*below left*).

Waiting for better weather (*below right*), Grace's car tyres - now replaced by Avon Ice Touring winter tyres that provide fantastic grip in the snow and ice!



Trip to the frozen Far North



Paul's wife, Julie, has recently started a new job in Aberdeen in Scotland. Their lovely new home (*above*) is quite a distance North of this city and is surrounded by beautiful countryside and farmland (*photograph, right, below and on next page*). With the recent snows, Julie was somewhat cut-off from her work and civilisation in general as her Audi estate wasn't up to snow trekking. Paul, living in South Devon on the Royal Marine's base, drove to Poole in Dorset after work one Friday, bought a Mitsubishi Pajero 4x4, so that Julie and their children could have a vehicle that wouldn't see them stuck in the snow. This meant he had to deliver it to the family. En-route to the far North, Paul dropped in to see us in Wolverhampton for a meal and a rest, having already covered, probably, about 300 miles that day. As there was still another 430 miles to go, plus the return journey, I offered to go with him and share the driving. We set off at about 2145 hrs and drove through the night, arriving at about 0745 hrs on Saturday morning. Paul managed to get the Audi A3 out of the snow and we drove that to our home on Sunday, just arriving in time for me to drive Grace and JP to church for the Christingle Service. Paul drove on to Devon. As you can see, whilst in the far North, I managed to get out into the snow to take a few photographs. I had a great time and came back with a smile a yard wide - something that doesn't happen very often. I sent a text to Grace saying that I'd found my true vocation. How I wish I could spend more time taking photographs.







Alan's son, Paul, with his children, Emily and Oscar





Snow in Inverurie



Alan's grandson, Oscar, the son of Paul and Julie





Alan's grand-daughter, Emily, the daughter of Paul and Julie



We need *your* help

A very sad story.

Grace received a text message on a recent Sunday, to say that a little boy had wandered into her family home in the Philippines - and stayed! She then telephoned her family to find out the details. On Monday, Grace called again and found out some more details. As the month has progressed, more details have emerged.

It turns out that this little boy, aged only about 7 years old, is one of three children who have been abandoned by their family after being taken, by their father, to a distant relative's home at the other end of the Philippines from where his parents lived (we understand that the mother had already left home and deserted all the family). Their father dumped them before going to Manila (where we believe he has another woman). He never returned for the children. They were expected to do all the housework - cleaning, washing and cooking - and given a hard time. The little boy ran away to another home where he was abused and treated badly before running away again, ending up in Grace's parents home. He was found sitting on the door-step, crying, in the night, with a badly torn ear where someone had got hold of him and twisted his ear.

A sister, aged about 10 years, came to visit him and showed Grace's mother that she was covered in bruises where she is being abused. She was invited to stay with her brother, but she refused, saying that she was too frightened to stay. We are hoping she will return and stay.

We have recently found out that the third child is another girl, aged 13 years.

There were originally four children, but the youngest died from malnutrition.

As this month has continued, more events occurred. One day when Grace's parents were at church, the little boy was taken away. They returned to an empty home. It transpired that the little boy had been taken back to where he came from by a girl in the family who had once been our house-girl / nannie who had come into their home and taken him away. JP had hated her - the only nannie he disliked at all. We now believe she had been abusing him too. She was with us for about 4 months before we fired her - she was useless in her job - and a liar - as well as JP hating her. Anyway, I digress. The next day, the little boy returned. He'd run away again. On another occasion, he was playing in the fields when he spotted that the abusers were coming for him again. He ran and ran so they couldn't catch him and returned to Grace's parents home once more.

What a terrible life for these children. No one to love them or care for them. No family. No one.

We are hoping to 'rescue' all three of them and send them to school when the new academic year starts in January. It is unlikely they will have been to school before, so it will be a major step in the right direction for them.

Of course, we have sent (and will continue to do so) money to buy the little boy all he needs to get started - clothes, school fees, materials, as well as supporting him at Grace's parents.

It will be hard for Grace's parents to take care of them, despite our financial support (which is going to be very hard for us to provide and maintain). They aren't getting any younger (neither am I) and already have another youngster to look after (Daryl - their grandson). If you can help us to help them, in any way, or know anyone who can help these three children, and give them the love and care they need, please let us know. That would be the greatest Christmas / New Year present they could ever receive. To know someone cares for them.

We will keep you informed whenever we have any news of them. We have asked for photographs and further details, but nothing has got through yet.

It is very easy to send gifts of clothes and toys (even second-hand), school requisites, canned food, money or anything else. If you would like to help the family in helping and supporting these children, please let me know and I'll provide you with details of how to send your gifts to the children. Thank you for your support.



Another tree in the snow, this time located next to Paul and Julie's cottage in the countryside.

Playing in the Snow

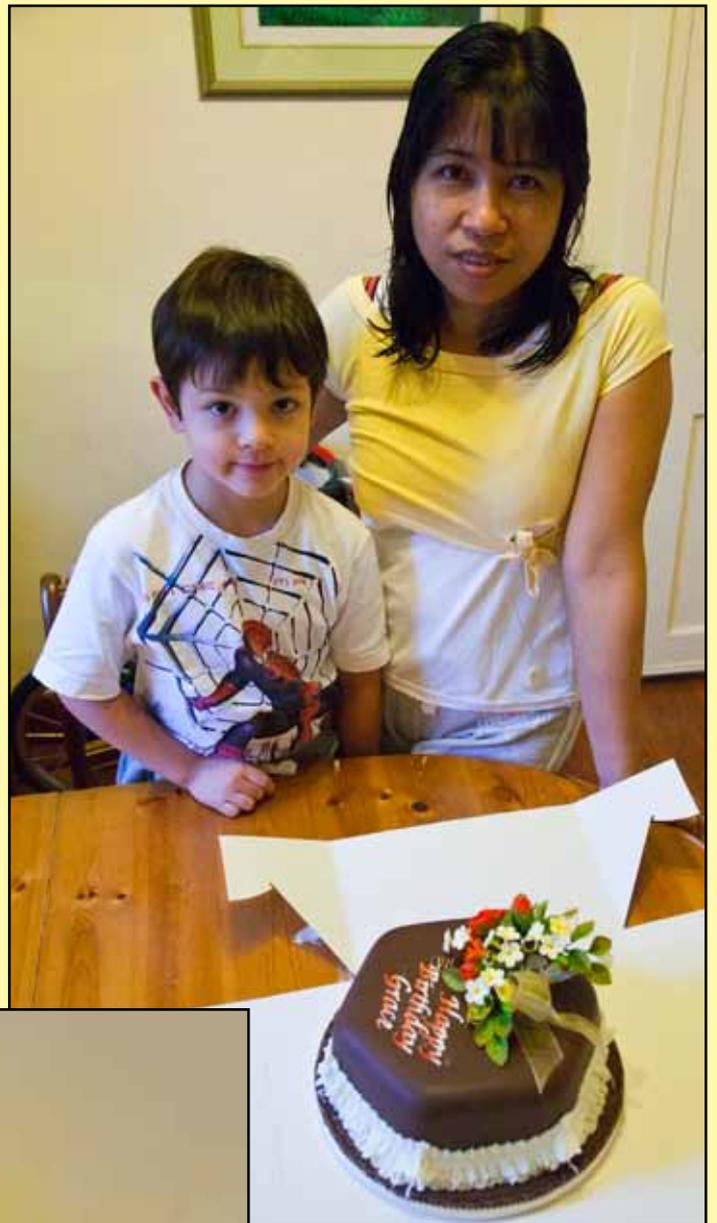


During the second load of snow, on 18 December 2010, we had a great time playing in the garden - mainly throwing snowballs at Grace, as you can see in the photographs. We never stopped laughing! We had such fun.



*Happy Birthday
to
Grace*

19 December 2010



Along the Canal



Dimmingsdale Lock on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal. Photograph by John Cook (JP).

A freezing morning by the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal.





Dimmingsdale Lock Bridge, on the Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal with the lock behind

Sledging with JP





Christmas Day



JP with his Christmas sock full of little presents



Sir David Attenborough interview: *'I'm lucky – plenty of people my age are in bath chairs'*

The Telegraph
25 December 2010.

Ahead of his new Sky 3D film about dinosaurs, the broadcaster tells Andrew Pettie why he will never retire.



There is a scene at the climax of *Flying Monsters* in which two marvels of creation are seen together on film for the first time. One is Quetzalcoatlus, a gigantic pterosaur from the Cretaceous Period which had a 50ft wingspan and could fly half way round the world in a single flight. The other is Sir David Attenborough, the peerless natural history filmmaker from the Anthropocene Epoch who still bursts with boyish enthusiasm at the age of 84. Just before the credits roll, Sir David takes to the skies in a glider and is seen, thanks to some CG wizardry, soaring alongside a Quetzalcoatlus. It is an astonishing sight. But, true to form, Attenborough wanted to attempt something even more audacious.

“As I wrote the script for *Flying Monsters* I realised I had to get together with one at the end. Then I thought, ‘I know, I’ll do it in a hang-glider!’ But the insurance wouldn’t have it. So we used a glider instead. I found it quite moving when I watched the final version, seeing myself in the glider and this fabulous beast performing a ballet in the sky.”

Attenborough has long worked at television’s cutting edge. He was Controller of BBC Two when colour was introduced in 1967. Now he is among the first to explore the possibilities of 3D. Retirement couldn’t be further from his mind. “Retiring?” he splutters incredulously. “I can’t imagine why I would want to: this is such fun. I can’t believe my luck that at my age there should be so many things to do. And it is luck, because I know plenty of people of my age who are in bath chairs.”

Flying Monsters tells the story of the pterosaurs, the flying vertebrates which ruled the skies 200 million years ago. The latest 3D technology brings them back to life almost as vividly as Attenborough’s deft narration. In one scene, we see him sitting at a computer studying a 3D model of a pterosaur. To his surprise the pterosaur clambers through the screen and on to the keyboard. “Where’s he off to now?” asks Attenborough as the dinosaur stretches its computer-generated wings and alights on a nearby coat-rack. Science broadcasters have always had to fight hard for our attention; now, he says, they have a new weapon in their arsenal.

“Television has become wallpaper. People do everything in front of the television and you have to work bloody hard to get them to put down the knitting. But 3D does it. It’s

hypnotic.”

Thanks to innovations such as 3D, Attenborough thinks science broadcasting is on the up. “A decade ago I was vocal in saying that I felt that the BBC was neglecting its responsibilities,” he says. “But now you have Jim Al-Khalili talking about physics, [Marcus] Du Sautoy talking about higher mathematics, you’ve got archaeology, fossils... I think it’s come on very well.”

Attenborough has several projects in the pipeline. He is planning to film King penguins in 3D on the island of South Georgia with the same team that made *Flying Monsters*. For the BBC he is exploring Wild Madagascar and both poles for *Frozen Planet*. However, although Attenborough is in rude health, he is less sanguine about the state of the planet his programmes celebrate.

“You’ve got to be fairly solemn [about the environment],” he says. “I mean the mere notion that there are three times as many people on Earth as there were when I started making television. How can the Earth accommodate them? When people, including politicians, set their faces against looking at the consequences – it’s just unbelievable that anyone could ignore it.”

Thankfully, and partly thanks to Attenborough’s inspiring programmes, children are still growing up with a keen interest in science and the natural world, as he recently discovered to his cost.

“I was at a party yesterday,” he says, “and this woman said, ‘Oh, Sir David how wonderful that you’re here. Neville has a question for you. He’s your greatest fan.’ And little Neville piped up, ‘How big is a Komodo dragon?’ And I replied, ‘Well Neville, I can tell you this because I’ve been to Komodo three times and I’ve caught Komodo dragons and measured them. They grow up to 11 feet long.’ And Neville looked up at me and said, ‘Wrong! That’s not what it says in *The Guinness Book of Records*.’ The little buggers, they really do know it all.”

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/tvandradio/8221632/Sir-David-Attenborough-interview-Im-lucky-plenty-of-people-my-age-are-in-bath-chairs.html>

Ed. Note: David Attenborough is Little Lad’s favourite TV presenter. Since he was only few months old, Little Lad has taken a great interest in any of David’s many marvellous programmes that have appeared on our screen. Long may David continue making his wonderful programmes - even though he is a supporter of the man-made global warming scam! But there again, he has to be - the BBC (for whom David has always worked) is a national institution, so therefore has to go along with government policy - right or wrong.

History's greatest male role model and a humbling lesson for feckless fathers today

The Mail on Line
22 December 2010.

By IAIN DUNCAN SMITH



Over the last fortnight, many of us will have been enjoying the familiar delights of the school Nativity play, sharing the excitement that a new generation of children always brings to it. Their costumes may be fashioned from blankets, tea-towels and old dressing-gown cords but you can see from their rapt expressions that the Christmas Story has lost none of its power and magic.

With Mother and the Christ Child holding centre stage, the final tableau, helped perhaps by a bit of prompting from parents and teachers, slowly assembles. On come the shepherds, earnestly clutching their crooks and toy lambs, closely followed by the three Wise Men, a riot of colour and gold gift-wrap.

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Forgotten hero: Joseph's loyalty to Mary was admirable. It's such a familiar and enduring image that most of us can conjure it from memory in a moment. But it's an image that I believe runs the real risk of overlooking the most important character of all, an individual whose vital role in shaping the Christian message is downplayed and yet whose story

couldn't be more important, or more significant, in today's society.

You'll normally find him in the second row, slightly hidden by Mary or a particularly large King, maybe fiddling with his false beard or tugging nervously with his head-dress. His name, of course, is Joseph, a vital character of any Nativity story you would think. But ask yourself one thing. In all honesty, whoever remembers who played Joseph?

Joseph's extraordinary contribution to the Nativity story and to Christianity itself has been underplayed for centuries but it is my hope that it will be overlooked no longer, for his importance hinges on the critical decision he took, which holds such a powerful message for our own time.



Supportive: Joseph's love of Mary and Jesus was vital to the story of Christ

To understand this, consider how Joseph responds to news that Mary was with child, an extraordinary event that Matthew's Gospel rather rushes through, almost dismissively. 'When as his Mother was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with the child of the Holy Ghost.'

Think about what that actually means.

Mary and Joseph may have become engaged but she has let him know that not only is she pregnant but he is not the father.

And there's worse — or certainly more improbable — news to come for Joseph, with Mary insisting that she is still a virgin and that her unborn child is the Son of God. Even today that would be nigh-on impossible to swallow but back then, for Mary and Joseph, living in a traditional Jewish society, announcing you were pregnant with the Son of God would have been the most serious blasphemy. Mary could have been stoned to death.

Joseph's mind must have been in turmoil. The initial sense of shock would have been palpable, followed, surely, by an overwhelming sense of betrayal. The woman he loved was pregnant and yet he was not the father. Matthew's Gospel touches on what his initial reaction must have been.

'Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away

privily.’

In other words, he would have cancelled the betrothal and in such a way that Mary might hide from her shame. And who could have blamed him — the woman he loved, having betrayed him, had also taken leave of her senses. I’m quite sure that many of us today, if confronted with a similar story, wouldn’t have believed a word of it.

Strangely, the Bible solves this problem in a rather matter-of-fact manner, with the Angel of the Lord conveniently appearing to Joseph in a dream and telling him that Mary was telling the truth. ‘Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived of her is of the Holy Ghost.’ In other words, according to the Bible, Joseph woke up and promptly married her.

But even if Joseph believed the dream entirely, I don’t think this does justice to the enormity of the decision confronting Joseph when he awoke that morning. It conveniently forgets that notwithstanding the vision, he still had his free will, one that had been forged from the social and religious norms of the day.

Running through his head must have been some enormous concerns: there was still the problem of her pregnancy out of wedlock, the social stigma — for him as well as her — and the anger of friends and neighbours about her blasphemy.

No, it must have been a truly daunting prospect, one he could easily have chosen to walk away from, and left her to her fate. After all, he was a respected man in his community, descended as he was from King David — he had much to lose.

And yet he didn’t disown her.

Despite the huge social pressure he was facing and despite the potentially dangerous consequences, Joseph took the decision to stand by Mary, to marry her, protect her and raise the child as his own. I like to think he took this decision not just because of a vision in some night-time dream but because he loved her and wanted to keep her safe.

Certainly, if he hadn’t, the consequences for her could have been dire. A pregnancy out of wedlock would have made her an outcast, a pariah; but giving birth to a baby she called the Son of God could have got her killed. That’s why Joseph’s role is so important; without his support, neither Mary nor Jesus might have survived at all.

Thanks to Joseph, however, they did survive. This quiet and skilled man bravely stepped out into the unknown — deliberately choosing to protect, provide for and raise Jesus as his own. He mentored him and taught him and even gave him the trade — carpentry — that Jesus would use until the time came for him to embark on his ministry. Joseph must have given Jesus so much as a father and Jesus must, in turn, have learned so much about life from Joseph.

Later, during his ministry, when Jesus spoke of God as being like a loving father, surely he must have been drawing from his own upbringing, drawing on his intimate knowledge of this extraordinarily good man, Joseph.

I am not a churchman and I am not given to commenting on Christian theology — rather I raise all this partly because I have long wondered why Joseph seems to have been so

forgotten and partly because it has a very clear message for our own time.

In parts of our society, too many young men and women grow up without the experience of a loving father. And we seem to have forgotten what an important role a father plays. It’s about far more than earning enough money to provide shelter and place food on the table; it’s about nurturing, support and loyalty, it’s about providing the best male role model that a man can.

But we seem to have forgotten that or wrongly come to the conclusion that we can somehow get by without it. The result is that in too many communities, there are deep-rooted problems now shared by generations of young people that stem — directly or indirectly — from the absence of fathers in the vital early years.

I have seen how family breakdown, which often begins with fatherlessness, can lead to high levels of truancy, anti-social behaviour, youth crime, street gangs and teenage pregnancy. But Joseph was not an absent father; he was there, with Mary and with Jesus; and the Christian Church, by underplaying the importance of this in the story of Christ, has missed a real example of selfless dedication and commitment which should resound today.

Whether it was battling for accommodation for his pregnant and exhausted wife in a crowded town or protecting his family as they fled from Herod’s soldiers, this simple man of courage and honour was always there when his wife and son needed him. For some children, we might reasonably ask: where are the men of such courage and honour today? So this Christmas, when you encounter that familiar Nativity tableau, try to look past Mary, the crib and even the Baby Jesus. Seek out that ordinary-looking face in the second row, almost lost behind the shepherds and wise men, and look into the eyes of the forgotten hero in the story of Christ; then smile and give thanks for Joseph.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/debate/article-1340382/Historys-greatest-male-role-model-humbling-lesson-feckless-fathers-today.html>

Photograph below: This young Gull just happened to be flying past Paul and Julie’s home at dusk, while I was still out taking photographs.



The Archbishop of Canterbury and Victorian values

By Melanie Phillips
Daily Mail 27 December 2010

As predictable as the bells pealing out the arrival of Christmas, the Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Rowan Williams has once again managed to mark the festive season by a display of painful moral confusion.

First, he used his sermon at Canterbury Cathedral to rebuke the most prosperous for having yet to shoulder their load in the economic downturn.

And then in an article for yesterday's Mail on Sunday he wrote that the poor should be absolved of any responsibility for their own circumstances.

True, he acknowledged that there were doubtless 'some who make the most out of the benefits culture' — although even here he couldn't resist a swipe at 'some who have made the most out of other kinds of perks available to bankers or MPs'.

But he warned: 'The Victorian distinction between the deserving poor and the rest is very seductive.'

And he added: 'Even if there are those who are where they are because of their own bad or foolish choices in the past, that doesn't mean they are any less in need in the present. And it can't be said often enough that most people in poverty — and we should be thinking of children in particular — haven't chosen it.'

This was an extraordinary thing to say. It means that even if poor people are dishonest or irresponsible, the rest of society must regard them as just as deserving of society's largesse as the honest poor.

But the notion that those who have behaved immorally or irresponsibly should be treated in exactly the same way as those whose behaviour has been irreproachable is itself profoundly amoral.

Of course, no one chooses to be poor. But some people do choose lifestyles that cause them to become poor — such as choosing not to work, or deciding to bring up children on their own.

And what was so disturbing about Dr Williams's observation was that he seemed to be negating the importance of such choices.

Indeed, by demonising the better-off while investing the poor with a halo, he came close to suggesting that wealth — however honestly or arduously earned — is intrinsically

evil, while poverty is a holy state.

His core point was that no distinction should be made between the 'deserving' and 'undeserving' poor — which to him clearly conjures up Dickensian nightmares of workhouses, cruelty and destitution.

This distinction was, indeed, a key concept in Victorian times. However, after the development of the Welfare State, the idea that any poor people could be considered 'undeserving' was ruled out of court.

Contrary to the beliefs of the founder of the Welfare State himself, William Beveridge, it became the accepted view that it was odious to hold any poor people responsible for their own poverty. The question of individual behaviour and its consequences was airbrushed out of the welfare picture altogether.

This was in large measure because Left-wing thinking — in the famous aphorism — replaced Methodism with Marx. And Marxist analysis holds that people are not responsible for their own circumstances, but are instead helpless tools of the capitalist system.

Obviously, many do become poor through cruel twists of fate. But others certainly contribute to their poverty through their own behaviour.

For example, many women choosing to have babies without a permanently committed father on board doom themselves and their children to poverty and a host of other terrible disadvantages.

Of course, some lone mothers are the innocent victims of desertion. But it is crucial to offer all poor people assistance which will give them a leg up and out of poverty rather than kick away the ladder of opportunity from beneath their feet.

Yet leaving them stranded with no escape route is precisely what the 'non-judgmental' view of poverty represented by Dr Williams has brought about.

Which is precisely the woeful state of affairs that the Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith is determined to end.

True, Dr Williams paid dutiful credit to the Government's welfare reforms for its 'clear intention to put things in place that will actually reduce poverty and help people out of the traps of dependency'.

But clearly, he simply doesn't understand that this depends to a large extent upon restoring the distinction between

the ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’ poor that he finds so abhorrent.

That is because it is not motivated by an absence of compassion, as he implies, but by its precise opposite — a deeply principled desire to end the trap of permanent poverty. And the way to do that is encourage behaviour that will end it, through viewing the poor as governed by the same impulses as everyone else.

Dr Williams’s view, however, effectively treats the poor as less than human. The essence of being human, after all, is to be capable of moral choice. And all of us, rich and poor, are capable of making those choices.

The choice to be honest rather than fiddling the benefits system. To work, however demeaning the job, in preference to taking state charity. To bring children into the world only where there is a committed father to help bring them up.

But if people who make immoral — or amoral — choices benefit from these, that creates a fundamental injustice throughout society. For there is no surer way of undermining and demoralising those who refuse to cheat the system or who are living lives of self-restraint and responsibility.

Yet that is precisely what our non-judgmental culture of dependency has given us — the moral degradation of an entire society.

You might think that the Church of all institutions would be in the forefront of fighting such cultural collapse. So why does Dr Williams put himself on the wrong side of the moral tracks?

Well, his disapproving reference to the Victorians is more than a little revealing.

For during that period, it was Christians who spearheaded the great social reform movements which turned Britain from a society riven by crime, illegitimacy and drunken squalor into a tranquil country in which the traditional family was the crucible of social order.

That transformation came about through a profoundly moral view of the world rooted in a muscular Christianity. This upheld the dignity of every human being and the optimistic belief that people could redeem themselves through their own behaviour.

It was these Christian attitudes that led to the abolition of slavery and a host of other reforms. Yet Dr Williams has in the past apologised for the role of the church during this period, radiating deep embarrassment about religious impulses which once were a synonym for progressive attitudes.

This is rooted in a collapse of religious belief within the Church of England which has been going on for decades. Accordingly, it has steadily eroded its commitment to the moral codes embodied in the Bible and embraced instead the secular alternative – the religion of Left-wing ideology.

Thus Sunday school was replaced by social work, morality by expediency and holy war by class war.

Dr Williams undoubtedly wants to do good in the world. And he is far from being a stupid man; he is considered to be a profound thinker and theologian.

But it took Iain Duncan Smith, in the striking article he wrote for this paper last week, to use without embarrassment the Biblical figure of Joseph to illustrate one of the key antidotes to permanent poverty — the committed father.

The fact is that what Mr Duncan Smith is doing embodies Christian conscience in a way that appears completely to elude the leader of the Anglican communion.

When a politician boldly links morality, religion and compassion while a religious leader can only spout Left-wing cliches, a society’s foundations have become shaky indeed.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=788>

*The madness of the windmills - a blot on a beautiful landscape. I took this photograph soon after leaving Paul and Julie’s home in Scotland. Refer to the article **Chris Huhne has a blueprint for a green, cold, dark Britain** later in this edition.*



The man who repeatedly beats the Met Office at its own game

By Boris Johnson - Mayor of London

19 December 2010



Well, folks, it's tea-time on Sunday and for anyone involved in keeping people moving it has been a hell of a weekend. Thousands have had their journeys wrecked, tens of thousands have been delayed getting away for Christmas; and for those Londoners who feel aggrieved by the performance of any part of our transport services, I can only say that we are doing our level best.

Almost the entire Tube system was running yesterday and we would have done even better if it had not been for a suicide on the Northern Line, and the temporary stoppage that these tragedies entail. Of London's 700 bus services, only 50 were on diversion, mainly in the hillier areas. On Saturday, we managed to keep the West End plentifully supplied with customers, and retailers reported excellent takings on what is one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

We have kept the Transport for London road network open throughout all this. We have about 90,000 tons of grit in stock, and the gritters were out all night to deal with this morning's rush. And yet we have to face the reality of the position across the country.

It is no use my saying that London Underground and bus networks are performing relatively well – touch wood – when Heathrow, our major international airport, is still effectively closed two days after the last heavy snowfall; when substantial parts of our national rail network are still struggling; when there are abandoned cars to be seen on hard shoulders all over the country; and when yet more snow is expected today, especially in the north.

In a few brief hours, we are told, the snowy superfortresses will be above us again, bomb bays bulging with blizzard. It may be that in the next hours and days we have to step up our de-icing, our gritting and our shovelling. So let me seize this brief gap in the aerial bombardment to pose a question that is bugging me. Why did the Met Office forecast a “mild winter”?

Do you remember? They said it would be mild and damp, and between one degree and one and a half degrees warmer than average. Well, I am now 46 and that means I have seen more winters than most people on this planet, and I can tell you that this one is a corker.

Never mind the record low attained in Northern Ireland this weekend. I can't remember a time when so much snow has lain so thickly on the ground, and we haven't even reached Christmas. And this is the third tough winter in a row. Is it really true that no one saw this coming?

Actually, they did. Allow me to introduce readers to Piers Corbyn, meteorologist and brother of my old chum, bearded leftie MP Jeremy. Piers Corbyn works in an undistinguished office in Borough High Street. He has no telescope or supercomputer. Armed only with a laptop, huge quantities

of publicly available data and a first-class degree in astrophysics, he gets it right again and again.

Back in November, when the Met Office was still doing its “mild winter” schtick, Corbyn said it would be the coldest for 100 years. Indeed, it was back in May that he first predicted a snowy December, and he put his own money on a white Christmas about a month before the Met Office made any such forecast. He said that the Met Office would be wrong about last year's mythical “barbecue summer”, and he was vindicated. He was closer to the truth about last winter, too.

He seems to get it right about 85 per cent of the time and serious business people – notably in farming – are starting to invest in his forecasts. In the eyes of many punters, he puts the taxpayer-funded Met Office to shame. How on earth does he do it? He studies the Sun.

He looks at the flow of particles from the Sun, and how they interact with the upper atmosphere, especially air currents such as the jet stream, and he looks at how the Moon and other factors influence those streaming particles.

He takes a snapshot of what the Sun is doing at any given moment, and then he looks back at the record to see when it last did something similar. Then he checks what the weather was like on Earth at the time – and he makes a prophecy.

I have not a clue whether his methods are sound or not. But when so many of his forecasts seem to come true, and when he seems to be so consistently ahead of the Met Office, I feel I want to know more. Piers Corbyn believes that the last three winters could be the harbinger of a mini ice age that could be upon us by 2035, and that it could start to be colder than at any time in the last 200 years. He goes on to speculate that a genuine ice age might then settle in, since an ice age is now cyclically overdue.

Is he barmy? Of course he may be just a fluke-artist. It may be just luck that he has apparently predicted recent weather patterns more accurately than government-sponsored scientists. Nothing he says, to my mind, disproves the view of the overwhelming majority of scientists, that our species is putting so much extra CO₂ into the atmosphere that we must expect global warming.

The question is whether anthropogenic global warming is the exclusive or dominant fact that determines our climate, or whether Corbyn is also right to insist on the role of the Sun. Is it possible that everything we do is dwarfed by the moods of the star that gives life to the world? The Sun is incomparably vaster and more powerful than any work of man. We are forged from a few clods of solar dust. The Sun powers every plant and form of life, and one day the Sun will turn into a red giant and engulf us all. Then it will burn out. Then it will get very nippy indeed.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/borisjohnson/8213058/The-man-who-repeatedly-beats-the-Met-Office-at-its-own-game.html>

Maverick Outwits Climate Science in Global Warming Predictions Game

by John O'Sullivan, guest post at *Climate Realists*

As Britain's top independent forecaster (a skeptic) again outwits his global warming adversaries in weather prediction, we examine what really separates the men from the boys in this hot topic.

Award Winning maverick forecaster, Piers Corbyn's unparalleled success in outperforming his rivals (global warming believers) is winning him deserved column inches in the British press.

The man who, in 2010 predicted a trio of major rare events (Pakistan floods, Moscow heat-wave, Britain's brutal winter) gives us a rare glimpse into why he's so successful, to the great embarrassment of his main rivals, the Met Office.

The simple truth is no mystery. Corbyn doesn't rely on what he refers to as "junk computer models" that he claims are routinely fed highly spurious temperature data. But more pointedly, the sage astrophysicist insists the vital ingredient in his method is adding to the mix solar and lunar variability, which conventional climatologists dismiss as being of less importance than human emissions of carbon dioxide. Corbyn raises a wry smile at the mention of the phrase 'greenhouse gases.' "More junk science!" He recommends a more compelling analysis of that theory here.

As the 63-year-old attests, while his predictions are so eerily accurate and his rivals so wantonly askew, can we now deduce there is a fundamental flaw in his rivals' methodology? Let's look closer at the science.

Sceptics Argue Poor Temperature Data Records Skew Analyses

Critics of government-funded climate research have long argued that one of the most insidious acts in recent decades has been the wanton culling of global weather stations maintaining real world thermometer readings.

As reported by 'A Sceptical Mind,'

"In the last 25 years there has been an accelerating reduction in thermometer counts globally with the pace of deletion rising rapidly in recent years. Over 6000 stations were active in the mid-1990s. Just over 1000 are in use today."

Many of the 'lost' thermometers were (and still are) located in Polar Regions. For example, Canada has 100 perfectly usable weather stations inside the Arctic Circle-but only one at Eureka on Ellesmere Island - is used by government-funded climatologists.

So why does this matter? Critics have long pointed out that fewer data collection centres means less reliable data. They argue the ulterior motive for climatologists dropping thousands of perfectly serviceable thermometers is to allow computer modellers a freer hand to 'interpolate' their own

synthetic data e.g. fill the gaps with their own 'confirmation bias.' Some of us would call that fraud.

The 'Bolivia Effect' Warms our new SIM Planet

The confirmation bias of climate modellers also skews the data for weather forecasters, as succinctly shown by E.M Smith who calls this the 'Bolivia Effect.' Smith tells us that, "There has not been any thermometer data for Bolivia in GHCN since 1990."

Why is that significant? Well, Bolivia is one of the 5,000 'cooler' weather stations that climatologists have conveniently dumped from the Global Historical Climate Network (GHCN).

Remember Al Gore's 'Canary in the Coal Mine'?

Noted climate alarmist, Al Gore once famously asked that we look to the Arctic for the 'canary in the coal mine' of climatic change. How convenient for Al when the Arctic has been virtually stripped of thermometers.

Are we seriously to believe that despite over \$80 billion being spent to date on climate research the budget has no room to maintain 'cooler' global thermometers? Aren't weather forecasters entitled to be given a clearer picture of actual shifts in global weather patterns more reliable than what Climate-gate investigator Lord Oxburgh determined was "subjective" climate data?

This thermometer cull is especially worrisome when we learn that U.S. climate scientists at GISS delete Sea Surface Temperature data from the Arctic Ocean, and a third of data from Antarctica. Now polar temperatures have to be based on thermometers 1,200 km away!

Thus it's little wonder that during yet another brutal winter's icy blast NASA and their fellow alphabet gravy train riders can trumpet 2000-2010 as the "hottest decade" in recorded history.

Tired of 'Warming Causes Cooling' Claims

But not to be outdone by revelations of their statistical shenanigans, climate doom-sayers are now resorting to dismissing Corbyn and Co. for daring to suggest a recent crop of cold winters is the harbinger of a new mini ice age.

"Warming causes cooling, too" according to the disjointed thinking of those folks at realclimate.org, the hub of doom-saying lore and who have been chopping and changing their take on this issue for years. However, anyone who has read the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports will know that nowhere in their literature do they claim any such long-term effect.

Reliance on Computer Simulations Led to Faulty Forecasting

Like other sceptics Corbyn, who runs London-based

WeatherAction, believes a doom-saying clique intentionally worsened the problem by encouraging climate modellers worldwide to trust 'official' data. Thus, even honest scientists and weather forecasters become the inadvertent 'useful idiots' of the scam as they blithely load their own computers with pure warmist "GIGO"- or 'garbage in, garbage out.'

What has saved Corbyn from the taint of this GIGO mass epidemic is that he has had the great foresight, nay, genius, the stick to the traditional scientific method and not touch GHCN's nefarious numbers.

While the duped and the doom-sayers at the UK's Met Office have been erring time and again predicting warmer temperatures, the maverick 63-year-old astrophysicist has been making detailed and precise calibrations from the sun and moon coupled with further data analysis of past temperature records (not junk 'homogenized' variants from GHCN, NASA GISS, HadCrut, NOAA, etc).

Despite being mocked by the alphabet soup brigade riding their governmental gravy trains, WeatherAction has risen from within the private sector and can no longer be ignored by the mainstream press. Corbyn's telling warning of "the worst winters for 100 years" was extensively reported across the blogosphere as were his Pakistan flood and Moscow heatwave forecasts.

Corbyn, the Man who came in From the Cold

A bemused Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, warmly praised Corbyn in the Daily Telegraph (December 22, 2010 (Ed - 19th - see previous article).

In these cold, harsh recession-hit commercial times Mayor Johnson is attuned to the fact Britain can afford no room for expensive government failures. The 46-year-old who has never seen a winter like this one berated the Met Office, which, despite being taxpayer funded to the tune of hundreds of millions, is year after year being out-predicted by Corbyn.

In 2009 more than 25,000 people died in England and Wales as a result of the nation's coldest temperatures since 1978. This year that gruesome tally is sure to be exceeded as Britain is yet again caught out and ill prepared for another brutally cold winter.

Johnson, close to Westminster's corridors of power, has helped usher in the one man who really ought to be brought in from the cold. Other media outlets take note.

But Corbyn's successes are no surprise to most sceptics. Bookmakers haven't been taking weather bets off him for years and Dr Dennis Wheeler of the University of Sunderland justified the "85 percent success rate" claim with a peer-reviewed paper.

Some argue if the British government were truly concerned

about giving taxpayers better value for money they'd appoint Corbyn as head of the Met Office. But pigs aren't yet learning to fly in London.

Confirmation Bias Persists Among Government Agencies

UK taxpayers still suffer, as most major media outlets remain wedded to the global warming doom-saying and any and all confirmation bias fitting their mind-set. The current annual tax bill to 'fight' Britain's global warming is set at £18 billion thanks to politicians unanimously voting in the Climate Change Act (2008). This is a pattern of mass delusion well known to psychologists.

Those afflicted with this malaise are possessed by what is termed 'attitude polarization;' they become intently focused on only one possibility and ignore all other alternatives.

As a further case in point, this year's Moscow heatwave was widely trumpeted in the press as proof of global warming. However, those same media outlets are studiously ignoring the current predicament of an icebound Russia where experts are anticipating the coldest winter in 1,000 years.

Interpolated 'Guessed' Arctic Temperatures Skew Weather Forecasts

Corbyn like other sceptics, can outdo Al Gore's 'canary' and it's the world's most accurate scientific barometer of climate change; the 351-year-old Central England Temperatures [CET]). Scientist and non-scientist alike can peer into this 'coal mine' and see not one shred of evidence for man-made global warming.

This much-ignored yet century's-long gentle line of temperatures most evidently exposes the establishment's doom-saying confirmation bias. When scientists (and their government and media buddies) use facts so selectively, and interpret them in a biased way we know they are no longer honest messengers but advocates of an ideology.

Finally, for those possessed of a more open mind and who scorn the aforesaid propaganda, here's another severe weather warning from Piers (ignore at your peril):

'WeatherAction World RED WARNING for extreme weather 25-31 Dec'

"WeatherAction forecasted weeks ahead that there will be many dangerous weather events around the world in the period 25-31 Dec and specified a triple whammy of extreme events for Britain/NW Europe, NE/E USA and South/East Queensland Australia."

Don't say the sceptics didn't tell you.

Reference: Dr. Wheeler, D., "A verification of UK gale forecasts by the 'solar weather technique': October 1995-September 1997." Journal of Atmospheric and Solar-Terrestrial Physics, Vol 63 (2001) p29-34

Courtesy of URL: <http://climaterealist.com/index.php?id=6903&linkbox=true&position=1>

Comments from Piers

WeatherAction

WeatherAction World RED WARNING for extreme weather 25-31 Dec

WeatherAction forecasted weeks ahead that there will be many dangerous weather events around the world in the period 25-31 Dec and specified a triple whammy of extreme events for Britain/NW Europe, NE/E USA and South/East Queensland Australia.

ALSO see here for comment "Will it or won't it on Xmas day in UK?"

The period 25-31 Dec 2010 is a Weather Action Red warning (World) period with top activity expected in sub-periods 25-27th Dec & 29/30th Dec.

"There will be many dangerous weather events around the world in this period", said Piers Corbyn astrophysicist of WeatherAction long range weather & climate forecasters. "Snow/blizzards/rain (where appropriate) and winds will be much more severe than standard meteorology will predict from 2 days ahead in these periods"

"For Britain/Europe, NE/East USA & East Queensland Australia we have specific long range extreme weather event warnings which we first issued end Nov / early December. The extremes to come are a consequence of Jet stream blockings and changes in both hemispheres caused by predictable solar-lunar effects".

For Britain and Europe we stated in forecast words & maps: Two waves of blizzards and drifting snow especially 25th-27th & 29/30th largely for East/South Britain and for a large part of NorthWest Europe (along with thundersnow) around South Scandinavia, Benelux, N Germany, North Poland and perhaps parts of the Baltic States. AND that thundersnow is likley in (North) Italy in this period also.

Piers commented on 23 Dec re Xmas "Our expectation of snow in the UK on Xmas Day is at the starting edge of this Weather period so there are uncertainties. We notice short range forecasts have been changing a lot for Xmas Day which is probably a reflection of increasing solar factors which will upset standard forecasts in this period. We still expect snow in parts of the UK on Xmas day but note that the general centre of this activity appears interestingly to be shifted somewhat Eastward in Europe so snow amounts on Xmas day itself in the UK will not be large.

For NE/E USA we predicted (12-12-10) Very Major snow and blizzard events will strike NE & E USA in a double hit centered around 25-27th & 29-30th Dec; One of the most significant snowfall/blizzard periods in NE & east USA for decades.

For South/East Queensland eg Brisbane region of Australia



25-31 Dec we predicted (11-12-10) HEATWAVE maybe peaking at 36C to 38C around 28th but date unclear.

On climate change issues Piers commented:

"Standard meteorology doesn't know what is hitting the world this Northern hemisphere winter and will continue to make serious errors throughout. They will significantly underestimate the ferocity of events especially of snow amounts in our forecasted extra activity / red warning periods, and at other times may make some overestimates.

"Their forecasts for the cold / snowy parts of Europe and USA will continue to predict temperatures to return closer to normal in about a week's time but such forecasts will fail and generally be extended to further ahead on a daily basis until one of our less cold / milder periods is reached".

"Standard meteorology models ignore solar and lunar factors and are associated with the failed science and falsified data of the CO2-based warmist view of climate and are bound to fail again and again.

"This winter is like the battle of Stalingrad in the 'Climate war'. It will be long and hard and the public will suffer until the failed pseudo-science of man-made climate change - which become like a religion - is defeated; and instead available proven solar-based advances in forecasting science are applied to reduce misery and save lives".

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=286&c=5>

Christopher Booker: The green hijack of the Met Office is crippling Britain: followed by comments by Piers Corbyn

The Met Office's commitment to warmist orthodoxy means it drastically underestimates the chances of a big freeze.

By far the biggest story of recent days, of course, has been the astonishing chaos inflicted, to a greater or lesser extent, on all of our lives by the fact that we are not only enjoying what is predicted to be the coldest December since records began in 1659, but also the harshest of three freezing winters in a row. We all know the disaster stories – thousands of motorists trapped for hours on paralysed motorways, days of misery at Heathrow, rail passengers marooned in unheated carriages for up to 17 hours. But central to all this – as the cry goes up: “Why wasn't Britain better prepared?” – has been the bizarre role of the Met Office.

We might start with the strange affair of the Quarmby Review. Shortly after Philip Hammond became Transport Secretary last May, he commissioned David Quarmby, a former head of the Strategic Rail Authority, to look into how we might avoid a repeat of last winter's disruption. In July and again in October, Mr Quarmby produced two reports on “The Resilience of England's Transport System in Winter”; and at the start of this month, after our first major snowfall, Mr Quarmby and two colleagues were asked to produce an “audit” of their earlier findings.

The essence of their message was that they had consulted the Met Office, which advised them that, despite two harsh winters in succession, these were “random events”, the chances of which, after our long previous run of mild winters, were only 20 to one. Similarly, they were told in the summer, the odds against a third such winter were still only 20 to one. So it might not be wise to spend billions of pounds preparing for another “random event”, when its likelihood was so small. Following this logic, if the odds against a hard winter two years ago were only 20 to one, it might have been thought that the odds against a third such “random event” were not 20 to one but 20 x 20 x 20, or 8,000 to one.

What seems completely to have passed Mr Quarmby by, however, is the fact that in these past three years the Met Office's forecasting record has become a national joke. Ever since it predicted a summer warmer and drier than average in 2007 – followed by some of the worst floods in living memory – its forecasts have been so unerringly wrong that even the chief adviser to our Transport Secretary might have noticed.

The Met Office's forecasts of warmer-than-average summers and winters have been so consistently at 180 degrees to the truth that, earlier this year, it conceded that it was dropping seasonal forecasting. Hence, last week, the Met Office issued a categorical denial to the Global Warming Policy Foundation that it had made any forecast for this winter. Immediately, however, several blogs, led by Autonomous Mind, produced evidence from the Met Office website that in October it did indeed publish a forecast for December, January and February. This indicated that they would be

significantly warmer than last year, and that there was only “a very much smaller chance of average or below-average temperatures”. So the Met Office has not only been caught out yet again getting it horribly wrong (always in the same direction), it was even prepared to deny it had said such a thing at all.

The real question, however, is why has the Met Office become so astonishingly bad at doing the job for which it is paid nearly £200 million a year – in a way which has become so stupendously damaging to our country?

The answer is that in the past 20 years, as can be seen from its website, the Met Office has been hijacked from its proper role to become wholly subservient to its obsession with global warming. (At one time it even changed its name to the Met Office “for Weather and Climate Change”.) This all began when its then-director John Houghton became one of the world's most influential promoters of the warmist gospel. He, more than anyone else, was responsible for setting up the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and remained at the top of it for 13 years. It was he who, in 1990, launched the Met Office's Hadley Centre for Climate Change, closely linked to the Climatic Research Unit in East Anglia (CRU), at the centre of last year's Climategate row, which showed how the little group of scientists at the heart of the IPCC had been prepared to bend their data and to suppress any dissent from warming orthodoxy.

The reason why the Met Office gets its forecasts so hopelessly wrong is that they are based on those same computer models on which the IPCC itself relies to predict the world's climate in 100 years time. They are programmed on the assumption that, as CO₂ rises, so temperatures must inexorably follow. For 17 years this seemed plausible, because the world did appear to be getting warmer. We all became familiar with those warmer winters and earlier springs, which the warmists were quick to exploit to promote their message – as when Dr David Viner of the CRU famously predicted to *The Independent* in 2000 that “within a few years winter snowfall will be a very rare and exciting event”. (Last week, that article from 10 years ago was the most viewed item on *The Independent's* website.)

But in 2007, the computer models got caught out, failing to predict a temporary plunge in global temperatures of 0.7C, more than the net warming of the 20th century. Much of the northern hemisphere suffered what was called in North America “the winter from hell”. Even though temperatures did rise again, in the winter of 2008/9 this happened again, only worse.

The Met Office simply went into denial. Its senior climate change official, Peter Stott, said in March 2009 that the trend towards milder winters was likely to continue. There would not be another winter like 1962/3 “for 1,000 years or more”. Last winter was colder still. And now we have another even more savage “random event”, for which we are even less prepared. (The Taxpayers' Alliance revealed last week that councils have actually ordered less salt this

winter than last.)

The consequences of all this are profound. Those who rule over our lives have been carried off into a cloud-cuckoo-land for which no one was more responsible than the zealots at the Met Office, subordinating all it does to their dotty belief system. Significantly, its chairman, Robert Napier, is not a weatherman but a “climate activist”, previously head of WWF-UK, one of our leading warmist campaigning groups.

At one end of this colossal diversion of national resources, permeating every level of government, we have the hapless Mr Quarmby, who feels obliged to follow the Met Office and advise that the present freeze is a “random event” and calls for no special responses – with the results we see on every side. At the other, fixated by the same belief system, we have our Climate Change Secretary, Chris Huhne, hoping we can somehow keep our lights on and our economy running by spending hundreds of billions of pounds on thousands more windmills.

More than once in the past week, as our power stations have been thrashed way beyond normal peak power demand, the contribution of wind turbines has been so small that it has registered as 0 per cent. (See the website for the New Electricity Trading Arrangements: Google “neta electricity summary page”, and find the table of “source by fuel type”.) At the heart of all this greenie make-believe that has our political class in its thrall has been the hijacking of the Met Office from its proper role. It’s no longer just a national joke: it is turning into a national catastrophe.

Comment by Piers Corbyn ARCS FRAS FRMetS:

If MetO had stated “expect a cold winter” - in the same manner as they stated expect a mild winter - they would have been trumpeting THAT wouldn't they? Can you imagine them saying now “It's cold and that thing you called a forecast of a cold winter on MO website wasn't a forecast and we didn't mean it, we actually didn't mean anything!”

The report of the MO mild winter forecast is an accurate statement of their web-site published temperature probability maps (issued in October) for the winter months Dec 2010 to Feb 2011 inc. Since they only ever issued probability forecasts this is a winter forecast.

The MO response to this report was that They ‘no longer issue long-range forecasts for the general public and instead provide a monthly outlook’!

Well I would comment -

A. If it is not for the general public why was it on the Met Office PUBLIC website?

B. They seem to mean that although they publicly post this forecast information for the public it is not to be taken seriously.

Suppose Transport for London put out timetables with the caveat ‘these are not to be taken seriously’ I think the manager would not be around for long.

Tom's time-wasting apology for lies and failure takes us

away from the key issue that Booker raises:

The Met Office consistently fail and will continue to do so in long and also in medium/short range forecasts - because of their (and the BBC's) wedding to warmist cult ideology. It is the Met Office who should resign not the managers and ministers who have to clear up the mess consequent on their mis-information (notwithstanding OTHER reasons for managers & ministers to resign such as ministers covering up for Met Office failure - now THINK about why they do that!)

Following on Booker's excellent piece let's run through how and why standard Meteorology as via Met Office fails and will continue to fail.

1. Implicit in their models is the warmist CO2 ideology and fraudulent ‘warmed-up’ data massaged through the University of East Anglia and various USA/international bodies which when used for back-testing necessitates warmer output than reality.

The consequences are they can NEVER forecast a significantly cold winter or a significantly cool/wet summer.

2. They have no understanding of slow (over weeks, months, years & decades) or rapid (days/hours) solar drivers of atmospheric circulation and weather events. The equations at the core of their computer predictions (The Navier Stokes equations) are incomplete and inadequate descriptions of reality.

The consequences are:-

(i) They can NEVER forecast extreme months, weeks or events beyond a few days ahead; whereas of course my SLAT (Solar Lunar Action Technique) can and does so months (and years) ahead - see eg our prediction of this COLDEST DECEMBER for 100 years <http://bit.ly/fUqRMt> and the blizzard striking (26/27 Dec) New York/ NE & East USA <http://bit.ly/f7C8tx>

(ii) They fail to grasp the changing general situations of the weather, so for example, as we will see all through this winter, they consistently OVERESTIMATE the rate at which milder air can or might knock aside cold arctic air. So we see their continuing postponement of mild breaks, EXCEPT when OUR Weather Action indicators allow such breaks.

(iii) They know nothing of (solar driven) ‘Extra Activity’ (or ‘Red Spikes’) which drive extremes which means that they consistently UNDERESTIMATE the severity of extreme events (providing they are SLAT-WeatherAction appropriately classified - and ALL the most extreme ones are) and typically one needs to (at least) DOUBLE the amount of snow / precipitation they forecast from 24 or 12 hours ahead in such periods. See, eg, their significant under-forecasting of Scotland blizzards 5/6th Dec - <http://bit.ly/f55e6K>.

(iv) They cannot forecast ‘through a red spike’ - ie they cannot tell when an extreme situation will end and normally go for ‘reversion to norm’ when a different off-normal situation will in fact come.

Courtesy of URL: <http://climaterrealists.com/?id=6907>

Piers Corbyn wins Xmas UK snow bets despite all other forecasters!

25th-31st Dec WeatherAction World extreme events forecasts confirmed in UK, NW Europe & NE /E USA - despite all other forecasters.

Piers on main TV stations USA but ignored by UK's BBC & ITV!

Snow & Ice hit the UK - despite the forecasts of the Met Office and other standard meteorologists until a few days ahead for a mild UK Xmas!

December 25th and nights before and after were some of the coldest ever recorded in the UK especially in Shropshire in the West Midlands where Piers Corbyn started his meteorological pursuits as a teenager and he made sizeable net winnings on the snow on Xmas day PUBLIC bets he placed in November with William Hill.

Piers is banned from weather account betting with William Hill following years of winning but can enter public bets and won money on all the UK stations which recorded snow. These were Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, York & Lincoln.

Piers said: "We predicted snow was most likely in Scotland and East parts of England and that is where it came. Newcastle made me the most cash. Punters who stuck to our detailed advice are well ahead.

We had expected more snow on Xmas day itself but this was the starting edge of our 25th-27th heavy snow / blizzard forecast period - predicted in November - for Britain & NW Europe. More is coming for UK and Europe is being very hard hit.

The simultaneous massive winter blizzard we predicted 2 weeks ahead for New York & NE/E USA is a spot-on success again in the face of all other forecasters who didn't expect it until 24 hours ahead (<http://bit.ly/f7C8tx> , <http://tgr.ph/fMD3Rq>)

"I am especially pleased that Shropshire and indeed Newport Shropshire where I lived was so cold because my former superb Physics teacher – Keith Reynolds - is retired near there and still measuring weather! The River Severn by the famous Iron bridge is frozen over and looks fantastic (<http://bit.ly/eTJRby>)"

"Standard forecasters don't know what is hitting them this winter. What is happening with weather extremes and climate change is caused by predictable solar particle and magnetic effects - called SOLAR - CLIMATE CHANGE and is nothing to do with the fiction of man-made & CO2 driven global warming / climate change; that is failed science based on fraudulent data."

"This cruel winter in Britain & W Europe is going to go on and on and standard meteorology will fail fail and fail again and our forecasts will warn weeks ahead of their likely errors.

"We predicted these dangerous extreme weather events in the UK, NW Europe and USA well ahead of all standard meteorologists but have been ignored by the UK Government and BBC who are putting failed science and ideology before public welfare, safety and lives. Despite our more limited forecast for USA we have appeared recently both on ABC and Fox news and I thank them for their willingness to let the truth come out."

On 28 Dec 2010, Piers Corbyn wrote:

On this period 25-31st as a whole we need to wait until end but it is also worth noting there have been a lot of extreme events around the world as we expected; and THUNDER-SNOW has been a feature of blizzard events. Of the three regions we specifically predicted Britain/Europe; NE/E USA both regions where we had quite a bit to say (re detail 25-27 & 29/30) the forecasts have been very successful. For SE Queensland where we had just one statement although it was dry and warm while there was a massive TC/rain storm in N Queensland the SE did not turn into a heatwave. It appears that the storm was not 'in the right place' re another prediction for subscribers where the South Indian Ocean was where we expected a Tropical Cyclone to form 25/26th. This will be discussed further in January. We have a lot more to do about Australia which is all 'trial' stage. Piers

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=288&c=5>

Chris Huhne has a blueprint for a green, cold, dark Britain

**The government's new energy policy will lead to widespread power cuts and economic disaster, says
Christopher Booker
The Telegraph - 18 December 2010**

As much of the northern hemisphere last week froze under the snows of the fourth unusually cold winter in a row, our ministers, led by David Cameron and Chris Huhne, the Climate Change Secretary, laid out a blueprint that promises to inflict on Britain a social and economic catastrophe unique in the world. They chose this moment to announce what Mr Huhne called “a seismic shift” in Britain’s energy policy, the purpose of which, according to Mr Cameron, is to replace our “clapped-out” electricity supplies by making Britain “the greenest economy in the world”.

The chief driving force of the policy is the EU’s requirement that, within 10 years, 30 per cent of our electricity must come from renewables, mainly through thousands more wind turbines. This would be so expensive that the Government accepts it could only be made economical by massively rigging the market against any form of electricity derived from fossil fuels, such as the coal and gas which were last week supplying more than 80 per cent of our electricity. By a complex new system of regulations, including what in effect will be a tax of £27 a ton on CO2 emissions, the Government thus hopes to make renewables “competitive” with conventional power.

In addition, it will in effect make it impossible to replace the coal-fired power stations that will be forced to close in the next few years under an EU directive, while proposing a hidden subsidy to any new nuclear power stations. (Although, since the EU does not count carbon-free nuclear power as “renewable”, this may well fall foul of its ban on state aid.) All this, Mr Huhne assures us, might lead to a modest rise of £160 a year in the average household energy bill, but in the long run it will make electricity cheaper than if he had not intervened.

So riddled with wishful thinking and contradictions are these proposals that one scarcely knows where to begin. For a start, even if we could hope to build enough windmills to provide, say, 25 per cent of our electricity (10 times the current proportion), this would require not the 10,000 turbines the Government talks of, but more like 25,000, costing well over £200 billion, plus another £100 billion to connect them up to the grid.

At least the Government admits for the first time that the wind doesn’t always blow; so it proposes a Capacity Mechanism to subsidise the building of dozens of gas-fired power stations, to be kept running all the time, emitting CO2, just to provide instant back-up for when the wind drops. More than once on these recent cold, windless days, the contribution of wind to our electricity needs has been as low as 0.1 per cent – so the back-up to all those turbines will cost billions more, doing much to negate any CO2 savings



Coal-fired power stations like Drax in Yorkshire provide a third of the UK's electricity

from the turbines when they work. It does not take long to estimate that the capital cost of Mr Huhne’s new energy policy could well be more than £300 billion over 10 years, or £30 billion a year. Since the total wholesale cost of the electricity we used last year was only around £19 billion, this alone would be well on the way to tripling our bills by 2020.

When Mr Cameron talks of wanting to replace our “clapped-out” power supplies, what he should have had in mind was the need to meet the terrifying shortfall due in a few years’ time when we lose those older nuclear and coal-fired power stations which currently supply 40 per cent of our needs. In a sane world, the Government would be planning to get that infrastructure replaced as a matter of the highest national priority, at a cost of around £100 billion. Instead, it puts forward an incoherent farrago of uncoded policies which, even if they could be put into practice, would cost three times as much, paid for by all of us through our already soaring energy bills. They include no practical proposals to meet that fast-looming energy gap, without which, within five years, we face the prospect of wholesale power cuts, bringing much of Britain’s economy to a halt.

No other country in the world has an energy policy so utterly mad and unworkable. Yet all our major political parties are equally locked into the same self-deceiving bubble of unreality. Any final hope that we might be saved from this absurdly unnecessary disaster seemed last week to vanish, even as the ice and the snow closed in.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8211944/Chris-Huhne-has-a-blueprint-for-a-green-cold-dark-Britain.html>

Cancun climate conference: the warmists' last Mexican wave

By Christopher Booker - The telegraph - 4 December 2010

If, last week, frozen behind a snowdrift, you heard a faint hysterical squeaking, it might well have been the sound of those 20,000 delegates holed up behind a wall of armed security guards in the sun-drenched Mexican holiday resort of Cancun, telling each other that the world is more threatened by runaway global warming than ever. Between their tequilas and lavish meals paid for by the world's taxpayers, they heard how, by 2060, global temperatures will have risen by 4 degrees Celsius; how the Maldives and Tuvalu are sinking below the waves faster than ever; how the survival of salmon is threatened by CO₂-induced acidification of the oceans; how the UN must ban incandescent light bulbs throughout the world.

"Scientists", we were told, are calling for everyone to be issued with a "carbon ration card", to halt all Western economic growth for 20 years.

Meanwhile, Dr Rajendra Pachauri was telling us that we must spend hundreds of billions on covering the world's oceans with iron filings, on building giant mirrors out in space and on painting all the world's roofs white to keep out the heat from the sun.

The most obvious thing about all this ritualised scaremongering was how stale it all was. Not one of these points hasn't been a cliché for years. The only scientist who believes we should all be issued with carbon ration cards is a Prof Kevin Anderson, who has been saying it since 2004. It is only those same old computer models that predict that Tuvalu and the Maldives are about to drown, when real measurements show the sea around them not to be rising at all. Far from the oceans acidifying, their pH currently ranges between 7.9 and 8.3, putting them very firmly on the alkaline side of the threshold, at 7.0.

The prediction that global temperatures will rise by four degrees in 50 years comes from that same UK Met Office computer which five weeks ago was telling us we were about to enjoy a "milder than average" winter, after three years when it has consistently got every one of its winter and summer forecasts hopelessly wrong. (And the reason why our local authorities are already fast running out of salt is that they were silly enough to believe them.)

When Vicky Pope, the Met Office's Head of Climate Change Advice, wanted to fly out from Gatwick to Cancun



Western Europe shivers to a halt and our energy bills soar through the roof Photo: AP

to tell them that 2010 is the hottest year on record, she was trapped by inches of the same global warming that her £33 million computer had failed to predict.

As for all that "geo-engineering" make-believe which has been peddled for years, about giant mirrors and covering the sea with iron filings, it comes straight from Swift's Academy of Lagado – as fanciful as the idea that we can save the planet by forcing everyone to use those miserable mercury-vapour "low-energy" light bulbs, or that we can pipe away all the carbon dioxide from power stations to store it in holes under the North Sea.

What we are seeing here is one of the greatest collective flights from reality in the history of the human race. As western Europe shivers to a halt and our energy bills soar through the roof, the time has come when we should all start to get seriously angry with our politicians for being carried away by all this claptrap.

Why, for instance, when our public debt is still rising by £3 billion a week, do we allow our Government to ring-fence £2.9 billion of our money to help the developing world to build useless wind turbines and solar panels?

Why do we tolerate a Parliament which blithely commits us to spending £18.3 billion every year for 40 years under the Climate Change Act, without having the faintest idea how we are going to keep our lights on?

The global warming scare may have been fun for the children while it lasted. But the time has come for the joke to be declared well and truly over.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8181558/Cancun-climate-conference-the-warmists-last-Mexican-wave.html>

You couldn't make it up if you tried!

Excuse me while I wipe the tears from my eyes - I'm trying to stop laughing, but it's not easy. After reading the latest propaganda from the man-made global warming criminals, I just wonder how they do it - write such rubbish, that is. Try this for a laugh - published in the Daily Mail on Christmas Day (they should have saved it for April Fool's Day!):

Global warming 'will give Britain longer, colder winters' as melting sea ice plays havoc with weather patterns

Melting ice will cause blasts of cold air to be funnelled over Britain during winter months. Britain will be hit by longer and colder winters in coming years because of global warming, scientists have said.

Melting Arctic Sea ice has changed wind patterns in the northern hemisphere - bringing blasts of colder air across the UK. Scientists believe the changes could be why we have been experiencing such a bitterly cold December.

In future we are three times as likely to be hit by bitterly cold winter months because of the changing climate.

Vladimir Petoukhov, who conducted the study at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact in Germany, said the disappearing sea ice will have an unpredictable impact on the climate. *'This is not what one would expect. Whoever thinks that the shrinking of some far away sea-ice won't bother him could be wrong,'* he said.

'There are complex interconnections in the climate system, and in the Barents-Kara Sea we have discovered a powerful feedback mechanism.

'Our results imply that several recent severe winters do not conflict with the global warming picture but rather supplement it.'

Rising temperatures in the Arctic - increasing at two to three times the global average - have peeled back the region's floating ice cover by 20 percent over the last three decades. As the Arctic ice cap has melted the heat from the relatively-warm seawater escapes into the colder atmosphere above, creating an area of high pressure. That creates clockwise



winds that sweep south over the UK and northern Europe. The study was completed last year - before Britain was hit by a freezing winter and heavy snowfall (*Ed: pity no one bothered to tell the Met Office - they predicted a mild winter!*).

Scientists said it was too early to say if the freezing conditions this year and last year were caused by changes in the Arctic.

But as the ice continues to melt, Britain will begin to have warmer than average winters - but not for another half a century.

Stefan Rahmstorf, professor of physics of the ocean at the Potsdam Institute, said: *'If you look ahead 40 or 50 years, these cold winters will be getting warmer because, even though you are getting an inflow of cold polar air, that air mass is getting warmer because of the greenhouse effect.*

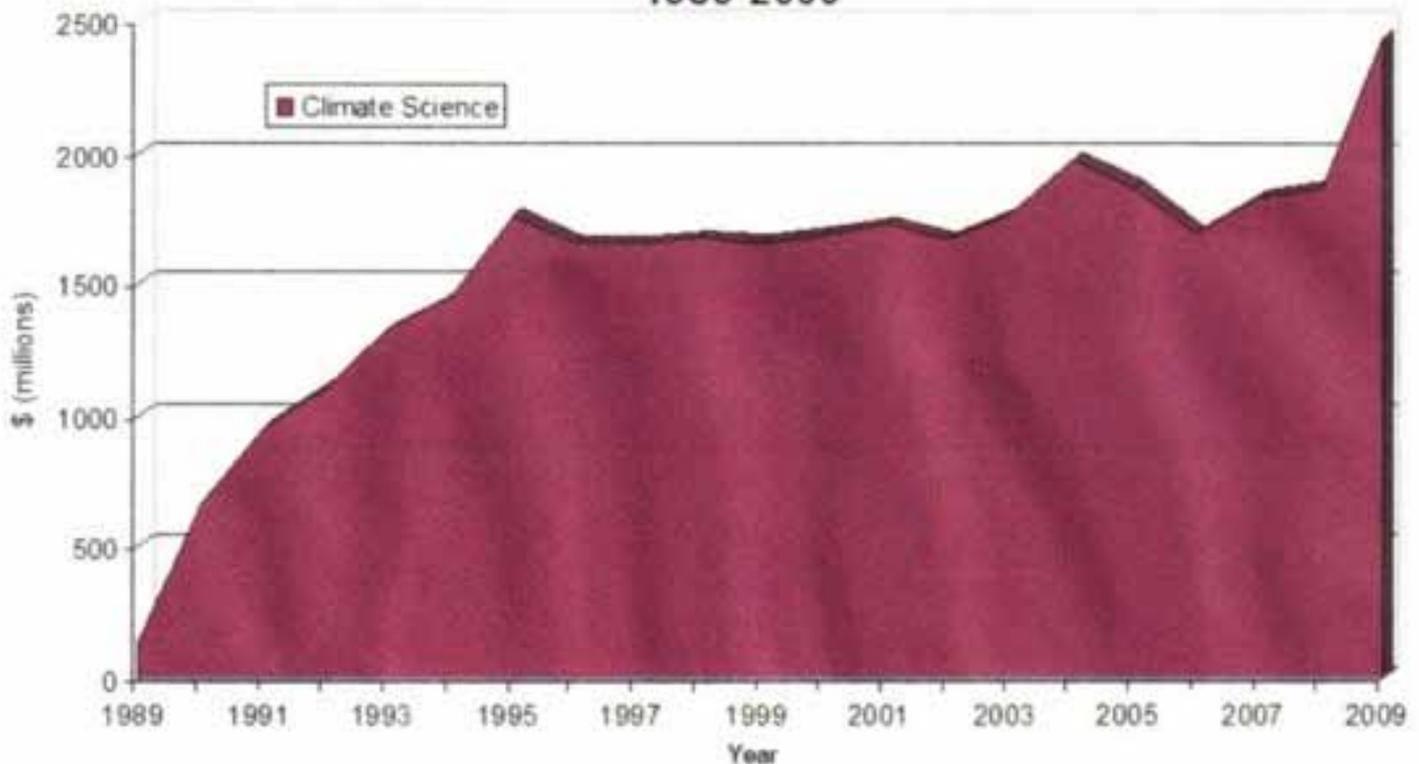
'So it's a transient phenomenon. In the long run, global warming wins out.'

The paper was published in the Journal of Geophysical Research last month.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1341388/Global-warming-Britain-longer-colder-winters-melting-sea-ice-plays-havoc-weather-patterns.html>

Climate Distortions Were Achieved. National Weather Agencies Are The Trojan Horses

US Government Climate Science Research Expenditure 1989-2009



By Dr. Tim Ball Monday, December 13, 2010

Maurice Strong set up the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) through the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide a powerful vehicle for almost complete control of climate science. Each national weather office perpetuates the deception that human CO₂ is causing climate change. He controlled the science through the IPCC and the political and propaganda portion under the umbrella of the Rio Conference (1992) and the ongoing Conference of the Parties (COP). By peopling the IPCC with representatives of national weather offices, he attained control of the politics within each nation and collective global control. They're the Trojan Horses from which funding and research emanate to deceive the politicians and public into achieving his goal of destroying the industrialized nations.

Funnel For Funding

No surprise that control was through funding of research, which was almost all through government. Canada is a good example of how they bypassed normal efforts to prevent political interference. Most scientific research funding goes through the National Research Council (NRC) or the National Scientific and Engineering Council (NSERC) to reduce political interference. However, virtually all climate research funding went through Environment Canada (EC). An article published on December 2, 2010 authored by Gordon McBean says, "This month, the Canadian Foundation

for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences celebrated a birthday that could be among its last. After 10 years as Canada's main funding agency for academic weather and climate science, the foundation will soon cease to exist if there's no further support from the Canadian government."

The author's history reveals the hypocrisy of his letter. It's a perfect example of how they controlled climate science through the WMO and the national agencies. McBean chaired the 1985 meeting in Villach, Austria at which the IPCC was created. Tom Wigley, former Director of the Climatic Research Unit (CRU) and his successor Phil Jones attended. Both were major participants in the corruption revealed by the ClimateGate leaked emails. McBean was Assistant Deputy Minister, the second highest-ranking bureaucrat at Environment Canada. His tenure in that office was relatively brief and appears deliberate. It's apparently related to Maurice Strong's personal friendship with Canadian Prime minister Paul Martin. After securing funding of \$61 million for the Canadian Foundation for Climate and Atmospheric Sciences (CFCAS), McBean took early retirement in 2000. A month later he was appointed as chair of CFCAS. He was also the lead author of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment (ACIA), a report of pure speculation that became a major source of information for the 2007 IPCC Report.

US funding has mostly come from government (Figure

1). NOAA, NASA GISS, NCAR, DoE (including large amounts to the CRU) have all worked to distort the data record, promote IPCC Reports and downplay the errors.

A huge irony exists because the research was used to undermine western development and economies, while funding was justified with claims it would advance development and economies. "The study of global climate change is perceived as one of the key strengths of the UK's environmental research base, and heralded as a growth-point in the context of a competitive, globalized sphere of research activity." In most countries they claimed the centre of elite climate research already existed in government weather agencies so they were the logical ones to be in control of research and funding. "In the meteorological and climatological fields, that elite has centred principally around the UK Meteorological Office (UKMO) and the Royal Society."

Bureaucratic scientists immediately confronted any politician that challenged the science. It was easy to produce global threatening requests for internal funding stamped with the authority of the IPCC Reports. Besides, politicians were eager to don the cloak of green.

Tunnel Vision

As a result, almost all funding went to one side of a theory. Thousands of scientists have been funded to find a connection between human carbon emissions and the climate. Hardly any have been funded to find the opposite.

This did enormous damage because it completely defeated the scientific method. Science works by proposing a theory, which other scientists work to disprove. As Karl Popper explained, "One can sum up all this by saying that the criterion of the scientific status of a theory is its falsifiability, or refutability, or testability." The IPCC consistently work to prove the theory, but as Popper notes, "It is easy to obtain confirmations, or verifications, for nearly every theory – if we look for confirmations." The search was easier because of the singular direction of funding.

This created a momentum so Foundations and other agencies added support to singular research. Tax incentives and legislature reinforced peripheral areas such as alternate energies so they all became supporters and purveyors of the false science.

Major arguments used to 'prove' the science were outside the falsities in the IPCC Reports and the Summaries for Policymakers (SPM). They existed because of the singular funding and directed research. The vast majority of articles supported the IPCC claims and this was used in a circular argument as proof. Most articles listed as proof were actually about the impact or consequences coming from IPCC Working Groups II and III that accepted the false science of working Group I. Similar impact research was funded by national weather agencies.

Most sensational reports in mainstream media used these speculative articles in an exploitive type of pyramid scheme. Naomi Oreske produced a classic totally unprofessional single-sided article to claim a search identified 928 articles, none countering the climate science. It exploited the problem everyone encounters when an Internet search is limited by the keywords used.

Oreske's work was another form of the consensus argument. Change the keywords and hundreds of articles appear, despite attempts by the CRU gang to stop publications.

Falsity In Numbers

The consensus argument appeared early using the IPCC, but the majority are bureaucrats from government weather offices, not scientists. As John McLean notes, "The evidence shows that the claim of "4000 scientific experts supported the IPCC's claims" is dishonest in almost every word. There were not 4000 people, but just under 2900; they were not all scientists; and it seems that they were not all experts. There is only evidence that about 60 people explicitly supported the claim, although that might not mean much given the vested interests and lack of impartiality of many authors and reviewers."

Scientists funded through their governments were more than willing to support the consensus argument. But as Michael Crichton eloquently explains; "Let's be clear: the work of science has nothing whatever to do with consensus. Consensus is the business of politics. Science, on the contrary, requires only one investigator who happens to be right, which means that he or she has results that are verifiable by reference to the real world."

Maurice Strong built the Trojan Horses around material provided by national weather agencies. Too many scientists and bureaucrats were willing carpenters complicit in the construction and operation. Some of the cladding has been pulled off, but the skeleton remains. National weather agencies continue controlling the IPCC and all climate issues. They also continue to fail miserably with their forecasts. Despite millions spent on a new computer the UKMO predicted a mild winter and were quickly proved completely wrong. They were equally wrong in previous winter and summer forecasts with cheaper computers. They did the IPCC 'trick' by saying they don't do long term forecasts, they are "outlooks". Environment Canada has similar spectacular failures for which they invent 1984 type newspeak. A Globe and Mail headline last week announced, Environment Canada admits to 'underforecasting' snow by 1,000 per cent (*Ed. See next page*).

The Trojan horses all have broken legs; it is time to put them down.

Courtesy of URL: <http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/31012>

Environment

Canada admits to 'underforecasting' snow by 1,000 per cent

Montreal— The Canadian Press
Published Tuesday, Dec. 07, 2010 3:59PM EST

The weather man admits he goofed, big time.

Environment Canada's predictions for the year's first snowstorm appear to have been off, in Quebec, by roughly 1,000 per cent.

The national office had warned Montrealers on Monday morning that they should expect a light sprinkling of two to four centimetres of snow.

But it's kept falling, and falling — and, by this afternoon, it's buried cars and fire hydrants as 25

centimetres have blanketed the city and the weather system is still going strong.

Environment Canada meteorologist Rene Heroux says there were problems picking up the fine details of the weather pattern that hit the province.

There are long lineups as commuters queue for trains and buses amid strong winds and blowing snow. Some people had to wait until late into the evening Monday before being able to return home.

Mr. Heroux blames a very unusual weather pattern where the precipitation comes from the east towards the west.

Usually, he says, it's the other way around.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/quebec/environment-canada-admits-to-underforecasting-snow-by-1000-per-cent/article1828689/>

Who is Maurice Strong?

Maurice Strong is someone you should know. After all, he's a major player in the bureaucratic move towards one world government.

Who is Maurice Strong?

By **Ronald Bailey**, originally published in *The National Review* September 1, 1997. Mr. Bailey is also the author of *Eco-Scam: The False Prophets of Ecological Apocalypse and The True State of the Planet*.

"THE survival of civilization in something like its present form might depend significantly on the efforts of a single man," declared *The New Yorker*. The *New York Times* hailed that man as the "Custodian of the Planet." He is perpetually on the short list of candidates for Secretary General of the United Nations. This lofty eminence? Maurice Strong, of course. Never heard of him? Well, you should have. Militia members are famously worried that black helicopters are practicing maneuvers with blue-helmeted UN troops in a plot to take over America. But the actual peril is more subtle. A small cadre of obscure international bureaucrats are hard at work devising a system



of "global governance" that is slowly gaining control over ordinary Americans' lives. Maurice Strong, a 68-year-old Canadian, is the "indispensable man" at the center of this creeping UN power grab.

Among the hats he currently wears are: Senior Advisor to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan; Senior Advisor to World Bank President James Wolfensohn; Chairman of the Earth Council; Chairman of the World Resources Institute; Co-Chairman of the Council of the World Economic Forum;

member of Toyota's International Advisory Board. As advisor to Kofi Annan, he is overseeing the new UN reforms.

Yet his most prominent and influential role to date was as Secretary General of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development --the so-called Earth Summit -- held in Rio de Janeiro, which gave a significant push to global economic and environmental regulation.

"He's dangerous because he's a much smarter and shrewder man [than many in the UN system]," comments Charles Lichenstein, deputy ambassador to the UN under President Reagan. "I think he is a very dangerous ideologue, way over to the Left."

"This guy is kind of the global Ira Magaziner," says Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign-policy studies at the Cato Institute. "If he is whispering in Kofi Annan's ear this is no good at all."

The following is Maurice Strong's biography from Yale University. Again, you'll see he's a key player in the UN, World Bank, and Earth Council among many others.

Speaker Biographical Information - Maurice Strong

Mr. Maurice Strong serves as Senior Advisor to both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and to the President of the World Bank. He is also Director of the World Economic Forum Foundation, Chairman of the Stockholm Environment Institute and of the Earth Council. Since 1999 he has been President and Rector of the United Nations University for Peace (Universidad para la Paz) in Costa Rica.

Mr. Strong is perhaps most well-known for the role he played in organizing the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (Earth Summit), where he served as Secretary-General. At Rio, he challenged the governments of the developed world to extend significant financial aid---over \$600 billion--- to the developing world as reparation for a century of industrial development and the environmental degradation. As Director of the 1972 UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, Mr. Strong successfully placed global environmental issues on the international agenda for the first time. The conference in Stockholm has come to be known as the first Earth Summit.

Obama helped fund the Chicago Climate Exchange, which Al Gore and Maurice Strong cashed in on!

Chicago Climate Exchange

In short, "While on the board of a Chicago-based charity, Barack Obama helped fund a carbon trading exchange that will likely play a critical role in the cap-and-trade carbon reduction program he is now trying to push through Congress as president."

The charity was the Joyce Foundation on whose board of directors Obama served and which gave nearly \$1.1 million in two separate grants that were "instrumental in developing and launching the privately-owned Chicago Climate Exchange, which now calls itself "North America's only cap and trade system for all six greenhouse gases, with global affiliates and projects worldwide."

And that's only the beginning of this tawdry tale, Mr. Barnes.

The "privately-owned" Chicago Climate Exchange is heavily influenced by Obama cohorts Al Gore and Maurice Strong.

For years now Strong and Gore have been cashing in on that lucrative cottage industry known as man-made global warming.

Strong is on the board of directors of the Chicago Climate Exchange, Wikipedia-described as "the world's first and North America's only legally binding greenhouse gas emission registry reduction system for emission sources and offset projects in North America and Brazil."

(Ed. I suggest you read more about this at URL: <http://canadafreepress.com/index.php/article/9629> - This Exchange has now closed - see separate article).

The real agenda is World Socialism ...

Maurice Strong and Agenda 21

The UN has devised a plan where upon they take from the rich (you and I and anyone else in the world that works for a living) and give to the poor (those countries who refuse to elevate themselves due to corrupt governments, societal concerns, etc..) Just like "Oil for Food" however, the real plan is just to steal our money and institute a mafia like system to bully us into cooperation.

Agenda 21

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment.

Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the Statement of principles for the

Sustainable Management of Forests were adopted by more than 178 Governments at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992.

No tin-foil hats needed. This is all happening right out in the open.

Globalist Socialism

[T]he Commission on Global Governance, founded in 1992 at the suggestion of former West German Chancellor and socialist Willy Brandt. Maathai worked on the CGG alongside Maurice Strong, Jimmy Carter and Robert McNamara. The group's manifesto, "Out Global Neighborhood," calls for a dramatic reordering of the world's political power – and redistribution of the world's wealth.

Most importantly, the CGG's proposals would phase out America's veto in the Security Council. At the same time, it would increase UN authority over member nations, declaring, "All member-states of the UN that have not already done so should accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the World Court." It asks the UN to prevail upon member governments to enact proposals made by wide NGOs – such as the Green Belt Movement. "Our Global Neighborhood" also suggested creating a 10,000-man "UN Volunteer Force" to be deployed at the UN's approval on infinite peacekeeping missions everywhere (except Iraq).

In its economic section, the report calls for the international taxation of multinational corporations and for a worldwide carbon tax. A new international "Economic Security Council" would assure the world's economic growth takes place according to "sustainable development" principles. The IMF would be given the ability to interfere in the economic policies of member nations "to ensure that domestic economic policies in major countries are not...damaging to the rest of the international community." Call it pre-emptive regulation.

Maurice Strong Pushes Incremental, Radical Action to Achieve Global Government

MaximsNewsNetwork, a UN news outlet posted an interview with Maurice Strong on October 14, 2009, in which power-behind-the-throne chieftain and current Chinese national Maurice Strong talks about the Copenhagen conference. In the interview Strong stated- among other things- that "What is necessary

is a global system of governance through which the nations of the world cooperate to address issues which none can deal with alone."

The truth about environmentalism. In their own words

Environmentalism Is Racism

Merton Lambert, former spokesman for the Rockefeller Foundation: "The world has a cancer, and that cancer is man."

Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, leader of the World Wildlife Fund: "If I were reincarnated I would wish to be returned to earth as a killer virus to lower human population levels."

Maurice Strong, U.N. environmental leader: "Isn't the only hope for the planet that the industrialized civilizations collapse? Isn't it our responsibility to bring that about?"

Ted Turner, CNN founder, UN supporter, and environmentalist: "A total population of 250–300 million people, a 95% decline from present levels, would be ideal."

No representation ...

Kyoto Protocol compiled by un-elected global bureaucrats

THE Kyoto Protocol was the work of thousands of bureaucrats, diplomats and politicians. But no one person is more responsible for it than a Canadian named Maurice Strong.

Strong organized the UN first-world environmental summit in Stockholm in 1972 and has never stopped pressing for a world where UN resolutions would be enforced as law all over the Earth.

Strong went on to chair the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio and to become senior adviser to Kofi Annan, the UN's secretary general. Not bad for a kid from Oak Lake, Manitoba, who dropped out of school at age 14.

But Strong is different than other social butterflies who flit from one UN conference to the next. He is a powerful businessman, who has served as president of such massive energy companies as Petro-Canada and Ontario Hydro, and on the board of industrial giant Toyota.

He is a huge political donor, not just here in Canada, but to both the Republican and Democratic parties in the U.S. as well.

Maurice Strong is a very dangerous man. He and the rest of his one world government cohorts must be stopped.

Courtesy of URL: <http://the-classic-liberal.com/maurice-strong/>

Chicago Climate Exchange to shut down emissions trading

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) -- The Chicago Climate Exchange, a pilot program for the trading of greenhouse gases in the U.S., is shutting down for lack of legislative interest.

Chicago Climate Exchange Inc., will close down its cap-and-trade market by the end of the year, said spokeswoman Brookly McLaughlin.

This will effectively end the trading of emissions credits in North America. The exchange will, however, continue some activities until 2012, including the mitigating of emissions in farming and forestry through a crediting process, said McLaughlin.

IntercontinentalExchange (ICE), an Atlanta-based operator of exchanges and markets, confirmed that it is winding down the Chicago Climate Exchange, which is the American part of a larger, international company called Climate Exchange. IntercontinentalExchange is closing the Chicago operations just months after paying nearly \$600 million for Climate Exchange. But the company will continue to operate the Climate Exchange's markets for greenhouse gases in Europe, said spokeswoman Melanie Shale.

Shale said that emissions trading, also known as cap and trade, effectively ended in the U.S. when climate legislation died in the Senate. But it's still going strong overseas, she said. "It has to do with the current administration and their outlook on the U.S. for cap and trade," said Shale. "Obviously it's a market that's moving forward in Europe."

She added that the Climate Exchange "was purchased for its bigger European business."

Courtesy of URL: http://money.cnn.com/2010/11/17/news/economy/climate_exchange/index.htm

Another interesting read is at URL: <http://www.masterresource.org/2010/11/death-chicago-climate-exchange/#more-12908>

The Great Collapse of the Chicago Climate Exchange

By Patrick Henningsen

Editor

Aug 28th 2010

21st Century Wire

Plagued by a free fall in carbon emissions prices and the perennial failure of Washington to pass any binding Cap and Trade Bill, it seems that the Chicago Climate Exchange is on its last leg, announcing that it will be scaling back its operations.

Chicago Climate Exchange or CCX, is North America's sole voluntary, legally binding greenhouse gas trading and carbon "offset" projects in North America and Brazil. Reuters reported on Aug 11th that Intercontinental Exchange Inc, the operating body who purchased the struggling CCX in May this year, will be scaling back major operations this month, a move that includes massive layoffs. This is likely due to the complete market free-fall of their only product... carbon emissions.

Anthony Watts from the climate watchdog website Watts Up With That posts a graph from the CCX which shows carbon prices dropping like a stone, bottoming out this week at the embarrassingly low figure of 10 cents per tonne. Compare this to trading prices during its brief hay day in May and June 2008 where market highs reached \$5.85 and \$7.40 respectively, and you can say that most investors will be evaluating carbon as one of today's more worthless commodities.

What a difference a year makes. It's been nine months since the world watched the bottom drop out of a much-hyped UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen back in Dec 2009, with its neo-colonial and UN Global Government taxation agenda exposed within the first days of the summit. One of the keystones of the Climate Change alarmist movement was its audacious attempt to create a functioning market by monetizing the atmospheric trace gas known as CO2. Since last year, a number of scandals like Climategate have penetrated mainstream conversation, putting a rather awkward limp in the once nimble Man-Made Global Warming movement. Hence, apocalyptic frenzies and fears have dissipated and carbon prices around the world have continued to be pummelled by the market.

A Financial 'Boondoggle'

Unlike most real markets, the carbon market was created by banks and governments so that new investment opportunities could seamlessly dovetail with specific government policies. It's a fantasy casino based on a doctrine of pure science fiction. Certainly, gaming the system has always been at the top on the agenda of the new green eco-trader. Most people, investors included, might innocently ask the fundamental question, "what's the point of having a CO2 commodities

market?” The answer to that question should be obvious by now, and you can certainly look to the initial stakeholders in the various international climate trading bodies for a ‘Who’s Who’ list of individuals that have actively been pushing the global warming concept from its inception.

As America’s own CCX nears total collapse, climate alarmists and their vested partners are pinning their hopes on Europe and Climate Exchange Plc. With most European countries happily singing from the same EU song sheet, institutional investment in the carbon market has seen a slightly more sustained existence. Europe’s socialized historical habit of subsidizing anything and everything means that it has been a better safe haven for something as radical as a carbon market. Many financial analysts would say that carbon requires a relatively steady price of around €40 a tonne in order to spur industrial investment in cleaner technologies, but unfortunately, Copenhagen failed and the announcements of emissions cuts are not coming as expected. Perhaps the reality gap is beginning to set in between governments’ political capital in climate change and the peoples’ ability to believe in global warming. Either way, the market will not be able to deliver such lofty figures, which is why real investors are getting out of the carbon market in 2010.

The front end of this game of ‘supply and demand’ is heavily reliant on governments making lofty announcements about future emissions targets. The logic here is that cutting emissions increases demand for carbon allowances. In the absence of such a restriction of the market, it was expected that the price would fall, and naturally that’s exactly what happened. In 2008, it cost European traders €31 to pump out a tonne of CO₂ into the atmosphere, but today it will set you back about half that at €15. You will be hard pressed to find any financial wizard/pundit giving a sermon on a bullish carbon market in the near future- it’s just not happening anymore.

On the back end of the game, things are a bit shadier to say the least- some might call it a recipe for corruption. The industrial monopoly power giants and other green businesses who are ‘well connected’ are of course, being allocated free EU Carbon Allowances until 2012, but from 2013 some sectors will have to pay for 20% of their allowances (those with weaker political influence in Brussels), rising each year to 60% in 2020. Many government/power company ‘green initiatives’ will automatically result in high energy price to consumers, which naturally means guaranteed profit increases for those same corporations (see Enron).

Off-set scam

Carbon trading is underpinned by an equally dodgy product called ‘carbon off-sets’, most of which are taken on face value by the buyer. Not based on an actual ton of carbon emitted, rather governing agencies are issuing certificates for a fictional commodity of emissions not emitted. A rather wild concept. Worse than this however, it is near impossible to verify which of these thousands

of so-called off-set projects in the developing world are actually legitimate. In the coming years, we will no doubt see or read a number of exposes detailing the depths of this fantastic green scam.

Get in early and then get out

The formula: create an investment vehicle, hype the new commodity, buy low, watch share prices rise, sell high. The result is money, lots of it. In some cases it’s been about driving up the share prices of companies Gore’s group has already invested in. The fact that the original shareholders of the CCX have already bailed out with their sale to Intercontinental Exchange Inc. for a modest \$600 million earlier this year only reinforces the reality that its creators have already lost faith in their elaborate invention. Likewise, the self-styled leaders of the climate change crusade Maurice Strong and Al Gore have already cashed in carbon fortunes already, whilst other active politicians like US President Barack Obama, and United Nations IPCC Chief Rajendra K. Pachauri (arguably the world’s wealthiest retired railway engineer) are engaged in similar play with their own financial interests in the Carbon Markets.

Like all government rigged quasi-commercial schemes, the only real beneficiaries are the initial shareholders- a special inner circle who are naturally ahead of the curve knowing about legislation and policy before it comes into existence. They are sometimes called the great and the good, the in-crowd, or the smartest men in the room (again, see Enron). Of these, almost all have jumped ship out of the market while their preferred shares- or in the case of the larger energy and manufacturing monopolies, their gratis “carbon allowances” given to them free by their governments- are still worth something. If you’re on the inside, it’s simple: get in early, make money and then get out.

Climate change based on science fiction

Pointing out the obvious is always a painful thing in the world of human affairs. The real reason for the complete and total failure of the concept behind trading an atmospheric gas like CO₂ is something few within the green block will dare to even mention now, and it’s the same reason why the whole movement will go down in history as one of the most flamboyant efforts in the history of economics. It’s not just hubris. The whole idea behind making CO₂ a commodity was to make it expensive and thus reduce the amount produced, which would (they hoped) reduce the effect of anthropogenic (man-made) global warming, or ‘climate change’ as it’s now commonly referred to. There was only one massive problem with this equation- there has been no global warming since 1998. So despite the hundreds of millions, perhaps billions spent on research and computer models addressing this possibility, no scientist or body has been able to show that man’s CO₂ contribution has had any effect on the global temperature. Another massive blind spot for climatists is their almost religious denial that the sun might have any effect on the

earth's climate (studies show that it does, of course)- a major sore spot in any debate on global warming.

Placed in its proper historical context, we can see that the man-made global warming movement was a classic merger of radical Collectivist ideas and huge financial opportunities. Men like Maurice Strong looked for their moral positions to be anchored by a small group of hand-picked 'scientific authorities', a latter day technocracy if you will. On the opportunist side we also see those same scientists who have made their careers, many millions of dollars over the last decade alone, on grants to prove that global warming was somehow happening. Other financial opportunists will include Al Gore, scores of companies like Carbon Fund and a multitude of charities soliciting millions in donations to save the planet, all of whom were hoping to cash in on this non-event until its financial opportunities eventually die out.

To date, the timeline of the planned green economy has moved at an impressive pace. If you step back and marvel at the timing and combination of the climate change movement and carbon trading business it's enough to make you dizzy. Advanced positioning promised fortunes for those with inside knowledge before the global warming PR cycle went orbital in 2006. Never has the world seen a more stunning collusion between government(include the UN here) and big business, a tango that makes fascist enterprises like Mussolini's Italy or Franco's Spain look like mere student

internships.

Still hoping for some silver lining in this otherwise cloud of failure, most diehard green activists are laying the blame on governments for giving away too many free carbon coupons in recent years. Certainly there is a valid economic point there, but greens were all too eager to get into bed with Wall Street and the Fabian Socialists in order to realize their dream of a new utopia. The current color-blind global financial system based on derivatives, futures and sub-prime gambling products will eventually take down the carbon market altogether, as speculators prey on untapped markets, selling more worthless paper to an ever decreasing naive minority. In the wake of the dot com boom and the housing boom, Wall Street certainly tried to make environmentalism sexy and trendy for investors, but we can see now that the results speak for themselves- CO2, a penny stock for kids. "Roll up, roll up. Anyone want a tonne of CO2 for 10 cents?"

In the end it's just another age-old tale of big business, grovelling academics, power politics... and easy money(see also: slush fund). So it doesn't require an expert to tell you that the carbon market was doomed to fail from the beginning. Let's just hope it doesn't require another Wall Street-style bailout.

Courtesy of URL: <http://21stcenturywire.com/2010/08/27/the-great-collapse-of-the-chicago-climate-exchange/>

Taken on the way home from Scotland - let's pray that we don't have any 'mushroom' clouds during 2011.



Useful Idiots and Fifth Columnists: The Media Role in the War Against the West

By Melanie Phillips

Address to: *Honest Reporting Conference*, Jerusalem,
14 December 2010

We are living through a global campaign of demonisation and delegitimisation of Israel in which the western media are playing a key role.

The British media are the global leaders of this campaign in their frenzied and obsessional attacks on Israel. In the BBC in particular, such virulence attains unparalleled power and influence since it is stamped with the BBC's global kitemark of objectivity and trustworthiness.

Israel's every action is reported malevolently, ascribing to it the worst possible motives and denying its own victimisation. Instead of the truth, which is that every military action by Israel is taken solely to protect itself from attack, it is portrayed falsely as instigating the violent oppression of the Palestinians.

Tyranny around the world — such as the 20-year genocide in southern Sudan, or the persecution of Christians in Africa or Asia — goes almost unreported, as does Palestinian violence upon other Palestinians.

Yet Israel is dwelt upon obsessively, held to standards of behaviour expected of no other country and, with its own victimisation glossed over or ignored altogether, falsely accused of imposing wanton suffering.

Time after time, otherwise cynical, reality-hardened journalists have published or broadcast claims of Israeli 'atrocities' which are clearly theatrically staged fabrications or allegations. The false narrative of Arab propaganda is now so deeply embedded in the consciousness of journalists that they cannot see that what they are saying is untrue even when it is utterly egregious and indeed absurd.

The war against Hamas in Gaza in 2008/9 was a case in point. The British media had scarcely reported the constant rocket bombardment from Gaza. Most of the public were simply unaware that thousands of rockets had been fired at Israeli citizens.

But when in Operation Cast Lead Israel finally bombed Gaza to put a stop to the attacks, it was denounced for a 'disproportionate' response and for wantonly and recklessly killing 'civilians' — even though, according to Israel, the vast majority were targeted terrorists. Nevertheless, the media gave the impression that the Israelis were a bunch of bloodthirsty child-killers.

Israel is further accused of causing a humanitarian

catastrophe in maintaining a blockade of Gaza. But there is scant mention of the many supplies Israel does allow through, nor the steady stream of Gazans being routinely treated in Israeli hospitals, nor the fact that it is Egypt which maintains a much tougher blockade on its own Gazan border.

This is because Israel's crime is to defend itself militarily. To much of the media, Israel's self-defence is regarded as intrinsically illegitimate. It is routinely described as 'vengeance' or 'punishment'. Thus Sir Max Hastings wrote in the *Guardian* in 2004: 'Israel does itself relentless harm by venting its spleen for suicide bombings upon the Palestinian people.'

Israel's attempt to prevent any more of its citizens from being blown to bits on buses or in pizza parlours was apparently nothing other than a fit of spiteful anger. The Israelis were presented by Hastings not as victims of terror but as Nazi-style butchers, while the aggression of the Palestinians was ignored altogether.

In short, Israel is presented as some kind of cosmic demonic force, standing outside of humanity.

To what should we ascribe such unique malice towards an embattled and besieged people?

The first thing to say is that this phenomenon is characteristic not just of the media but the wider intelligentsia and political class.

In Britain, the established church, the universities, the Foreign Office, the theatrical and publishing worlds, the voluntary sector, members of Parliament across the political spectrum, as well as the media — have signed up to the demonisation and delegitimisation of Israel.

It's the home of the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement.

It's where human rights lawyers threaten to arrest Israelis for war crimes as soon as they step off the plane at Heathrow.

It's where an English judge virtually directed a jury to acquit anti-Israel activists, who cheerfully admitted committing criminal damage against an arms factory because it sold equipment to the Israelis, on the grounds that the Israelis were making life in Gaza 'hell on earth', and were behaving like Nazis and that if they had done this during World War Two they 'might have got a George Medal'.

It's where Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron told the Turkish Prime Minister that Gaza was a prison

camp, that the Israeli ‘attack’ on the Turkish terror flotilla ship was ‘completely unacceptable’, and where the British Foreign Secretary ‘deplored the loss of life’ in that Israeli attack.

Britain has effectively become a kind of global laundry for the lies about Israel and bigotry towards the Jews churning out of the Arab and Muslim world, sanitising them for further consumption throughout English-speaking, American and European society and turning what was hitherto confined to the extreme fringes of both left and right into the mainstream. Where Britain has led, the rest of the west has followed.

What is striking is the extent to which a patently false and in many cases demonstrably absurd account has been absorbed uncritically and assumed to be true.

History is turned on its head; facts and falsehoods, victims and victimisers have their roles inverted; logic is suspended, and an entirely false narrative of the conflict is now widely accepted as unchallengeable fact, from which fundamental error has been spun a global web of potentially catastrophic false conclusions.

In Britain and much of Europe, the mainstream, dominant view amongst the educated classes is that Israel itself is intrinsically illegitimate. Its behaviour is viewed accordingly through that prism.

Much of the obsession with Israel’s behaviour is due to the widespread belief that its very existence is an aberration which, although understandable at the time it came into being, was a historic mistake.

People believe that Israel was created as a way of redeeming Holocaust guilt. Accordingly, they believe that European Jews with no previous connection to Palestine — which was the historic homeland of Palestinian Muslims who had lived there since time immemorial — were transplanted there as foreign invaders, from where they drove out the indigenous Arabs into the West Bank and Gaza. These are territories which Israel is now occupying illegally (even after its ‘disengagement’ from Gaza in 2005), oppressing the Palestinians and frustrating the creation of a state of Palestine which would end the conflict.

Every one of these assumptions is wrong. Moreover, many of these errors and distortions not only promote falsehoods but actually turn the truth inside out. This is because the west has swallowed the Arab and Muslim narrative on Israel which acts as a kind of global distorting mirror, appropriating Jewish experience and twisting it into a propaganda weapon against the Jews.

Thus while Muslims deny the Holocaust, they claim that Israel is carrying out a holocaust in Gaza. Antisemitism is central to Jewish experience in Europe; Muslims claim that ‘Islamophobia’ is rife throughout Europe. Israel gives all Jews the ‘right of return’ to Israel on account of the unique

reality of global Jewish persecution; the Muslims claim a ‘right of return’ – not to their own putative state of Palestine, but to Israel. They even claim that the Palestinians are the world’s ‘new Jews’.

These and many other examples are attempts to negate Jewish experience and appropriate it for themselves to obtain what Muslims want from the world in terms of status, power and conquest. They are giving rise to hallucinatory levels of genocidal hatred towards the Jewish people as well as serial falsehoods, fabrications and distortions about Israel.

One might have thought that the supposedly rational west, so quick to condemn religious obscurantism or prejudice of any kind, would object. On the contrary: they ignore, dismiss or excuse it – and far worse, they have even internalised and reproduce many of these tropes which they appear to believe represent the truth.

The core reason that Muslims insist that ‘Palestine’ is theirs is that they believe the Jews have no rights within any land Muslims have ever conquered. The western intelligentsia have bought so heavily into the Arab and Muslim narrative of ‘Palestine’ in part because they fail to understand the fanatical theological sophistry from which it derives.

But it’s also because the western intelligentsia has itself turned evidence and logic upside down. Moral and cultural relativism – the belief that subjective experience trumps moral authority and any notion of objectivity or truth – has turned right and wrong on their heads.

Because of the dominant belief in victim culture and minority rights, self-designated victim groups — those without power — can never do wrong while majority groups can never do right. And Jews are not considered a minority because – in the hateful discourse of today – Jews are held to be all-powerful as they ‘control’ the media, Wall Street and America.

So the Muslim world cannot be held responsible for blowing people up as they are the third world victims of the west; so any atrocities they commit must be the fault of their victims; and so the US had it coming to it on 9/11. And in similar fashion, Israel can never be the victim of the Arab world; the murder of Israelis by the Arab world must be Israel’s own fault.

This inversion of reality and morality echoes the Islamic narrative. This holds that, because Islam is considered perfect, its adherents can never do wrong. All their aggression is therefore represented as self-defence, while western/Israeli self-defence is said to be aggression. So justice and injustice, oppression and freedom, truth and lies are reversed.

Instead of attacking Arabs and Muslims for such irrationality and falsehoods, it’s the defenders of Israel whom the western intelligentsia accuse of lies and even insanity. Instead of

backing Israel against genocidal violence, the British took to the streets, while Hezbollah rockets were raining down on Israel's northern towns in 2006, with placards declaring 'We are all Hezbollah now'.

Israel's perceived 'oppression' of the Palestinians, its 'disproportionate' attacks on them and its supposed violations of international law are actually the very opposite of the truth. This is behaviour of which it is the victim, not the perpetrator.

The treatment of Israel is a spectacular example of the phenomenon of 'psychological projection' – when people ascribe their own bad behaviour to others who are innocent of it and are even its victims — through which the west is mirroring the murderously warped thinking of the Islamic world.

However, the animus against Israel can only be understood if it is set in a far wider context. It is part of a wholesale denigration of and onslaught upon the west and its values by the media, progressive intelligentsia and political class.

The BBC, for example, acts not just as cheerleader for Hamas but for the Islamic world. During the Iraq war the crew of the British aircraft carrier Ark Royal threw their radios overboard because of the demoralising effect that the defeatist and slanted BBC reporting was having on soldiers going to fight for the defence of the west.

The media has systematically presented the war in Iraq in a distorted way. For example, it presented the reprehensible American humiliation of prisoners in Abu Ghraib as infinitely worse than the bestial torture inflicted under Saddam Hussein's tyranny.

Iraq has been misreported through distortion and omission. It has been repeated ad nauseam that we were 'taken to war on a lie' on the grounds that Saddam possessed stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction. But a glance at speeches made by President Bush or Tony Blair shows this simply wasn't so. The reason was Saddam's continuing threat to the west posed by his terrorist record, regional aspirations and pursuit of WMD programmes.

Or take the mantra that because no WMD were found none had ever existed – a totally brainless non-sequitur. This also ignored the evidence that was discovered there of WMD programmes.

In his 2003 interim report as head of the Iraq Survey Group, Dr. David Kay reported that he had discovered 'dozens of WMD-related program activities' that had been successfully concealed from the UN inspectors, and that 'right up to the end' the Iraqis were trying to produce the deadly poison ricin.

'They were mostly researching better methods for weaponisation', he said. Not only that, Saddam had re-started a rudimentary nuclear programme. Kay also told

Fox Television: 'We know there were terrorist groups in state [Iraq] still seeking WMD capability. Iraq, although I found no weapons, had tremendous capabilities in this area. A marketplace phenomenon was about to occur, if it did not occur; sellers meeting buyers. And I think that would have been dangerous if the war had not intervened.'

In other words, what Kay found bore out the concerns laid out by Bush and Blair as the case for going to war in Iraq. Yet this was presented as demolishing that case.

And even more absurdly the argument was then broadened to claim Saddam had no connections to terrorism at all — despite the fact he had been the godfather of international terrorism — and so posed no threat to anyone outside Iraq.

Such distortions, omissions and selective reporting over Iraq are all part of the much bigger media failure to report the really big story in the region that continues to this day. That story is the increasing dominance of Iran.

Astonishingly, there has been virtually no reporting of the part Iran has played in Iraq – actually killing British and coalition troops and destabilising the country. There has been virtually no reporting of Iran's takeover of Lebanon, its grip on Gaza, its steady establishment as the regional hegemon posing an ever greater threat not just to Israel but to the west. Instead the media present the wars in Iraq or Israel as discrete and unrelated events.

Strikingly, it is the intelligentsia, the people of reason, who are the main problem. Bigotry is now correlated with education and class.

The lower down the social and educational scale, the more people are sane and realistic and decent about the Middle East and the threat to the free world from radical Islam. But as soon as you get people who've been through higher education, you find that so often they're the ones who are bigoted and irrational about such matters.

They make truly ridiculous claims about Israel, such as its perpetration of apartheid or ethnic cleansing – claims which, to anyone with even a passing knowledge of the situation, are demonstrably ridiculous.

So how can it be that the most educated are now the most irrational?

The short answer is that among the progressive intelligentsia, evidence and truth have been supplanted by ideology – or the dogma of a particular idea. Ideologies such as moral and cultural relativism, multiculturalism, feminism, environmentalism, anti-capitalism, anti-Americanism, anti-Zionism.

Across a wide range of such issues, it's no longer possible to have a rational discussion with the progressive intelligentsia, as on each issue there's only one story for them which brooks no dissent.

This is because, rather than arriving at a conclusion from the evidence, ideology inescapably wrenches the evidence to fit a prior idea. So ideology of any kind is fundamentally anti-reason and truth. And if there's no truth, there can be no lies either; truth and lies are merely 'alternative narratives'.

So the way has been opened for mass credulity towards propaganda and fabrication. The custodians of reason have thus turned into destroyers of reason – centred in the crucible of reason, the university.

Far from promoting enlightenment, western universities are not only the prime source of falsehoods about the Middle East and hatred and bigotry towards Israel, but also of intimidation against those who try to present a balanced and factual picture and who find themselves professionally and socially ostracised as a result.

All these different ideologies are utopian; in their different ways, they all posit the creation of the perfect society. That is why they are considered 'progressive', and people on the progressive wing of politics sign up to them. That helps explain the distressing fact that so many Jews on the left also sign up to Israel-hatred, since they too sign up to utopian ideologies to which Israel is such an impediment.

But when utopias fail, as they always do, their adherents invariably select scapegoats on whom they turn to express their rage over the thwarting of the establishment of that perfect society. And since utopia is all about realising the perfect society, these scapegoats become enemies of humanity.

For Greens, such enemies of humanity are capitalists; for anti imperialists, America; for militant atheists, religious believers. Anti-Zionists turn on Israel for thwarting the end to the 'Jewish question': the reproach to the world over Jewish suffering which Europe believes would be redeemed if there were peace in the Middle East. The key utopia that Israel's never-ending wars are thwarting is the redemption of European guilt for the persecution of the Jews in which they have been complicit through the centuries.

What these various very disparate ideologies of environmentalism, scientism, anti-imperialism, moral relativism, anti-Zionism and Islam also have in common is – remarkably — hostility to Judaism, Israel and the Jewish people.

It was Judaism that laid down the moral law which forms the very foundation of Western morality which is under attack from moral relativism.

It is the Book of Genesis that draws the wrath of the environmentalists, who wrongly interpret the Biblical 'dominion' of mankind over the earth as an example of divine imperialism or colonialism—a hierarchy which must be destroyed by removing man from the pinnacle of Creation and substituting the natural world itself in his place.

It is Jews who are the principal targets of the attacks by anti-Americans and anti-imperialists on the 'neoconservatives,' the euphemism for those who were alleged to have formed a conspiracy to subvert American foreign policy in the interests of Israel.

And it is that issue, Israel, which is now the greatest symbol of Western irrationality.

The hatred of Israel and the Jews that drives the Islamic jihad against the west is not acknowledged or countered by the west because its most high-minded citizens share at least some of that prejudice.

Both western liberals and Islamists believe in utopias to which the Jews are an obstacle. The State of Israel is an obstacle to both the rule of Islam over the earth and a world where there are no divisions based on religion or creed. The Jews are an obstacle to the unconstrained individualism of western libertines and to the onslaught against individual human dignity and freedom by the Islamists.

Both the liberal utopias of a world without prejudice, divisions or war and the Islamist utopia of a world without unbelievers are universalist ideologies. The people who are always in the way of universalising utopias are the Jews.

So is this all hopeless? After all, irrationality cannot be fought with reason.

But no, it is not hopeless. First, many who spout this irrational discourse are not themselves irrational, merely profoundly ignorant. They are ignorant because no-one is telling them what it is they don't know and are getting so very wrong about Israel, the Middle East or Jewish history.

But for those who are indeed irrational, we have to change our approach. We have to stop trying to argue with bigots. We must instead set out to defeat them.

To do that, we must first realise many of us are fighting on the wrong battleground. We are on the battleground selected by our enemies as the most conducive to victory.

The Arabs successfully redefined the Middle East conflict from a story about Arab aggression towards the Jews to a story about Palestinian suffering at the hands of the Jews.

They reversed victim and victimiser by recasting an existential conflict as a battle between two peoples with rival claims to the land. Inevitably this casts Israel, which is reluctant to go along with the implications of this false analysis, as the villain of the piece.

The problem that cannot be overstated is that Israel has lent itself to this false narrative.

After all, forcing a country which has endured six decades of existential siege with no end to give any ground to its attackers amounts to forcing a victim to surrender. This is

expected by the civilised world of no other country.

Yet for reasons of realpolitik Israel has meekly gone along with this mad pressure. It has never said it is totally unconscionable. It has never put the all-important argument from justice on its own account. So it has allowed its enemies to appropriate this argument mendaciously as its own.

And if Israel doesn't make this case on its own behalf, how can anyone else?

There is therefore an overwhelming need for Israel to alter its strategy. Indeed, it needs to have a strategy.

It needs to recognise that the battleground on which it is being forced to fight is not just military. It is also a battleground of the mind.

The Arab and Muslim world long ago realised if they set the narrative in their own image, they would recruit millions of fanatics to their cause and also confuse and demoralise their victims. In this they have wildly succeeded.

So both Israel and diaspora Jews have to rethink. It's time to change the narrative.

Time to stop conniving with the premise of their enemies that the Middle East impasse would be solved by establishing a state of Palestine to which the settlements – and thus by extension, Israel — are the obstacle. Time for them to stop agreeing that the Jews are to blame for their own predicament.

Time to stop the hand-wringing. Time to stop fretting over how much better it is to play along with the narrative of Israel's enemies in clear English rather than a thick Israeli accent – almost totally irrelevant.

Both Israel and diaspora Jews have to stop playing defence and go onto the offence.

We should be demanding of the world why it expects Israel alone to make compromises with people who have tried for nine decades to wipe out the Jewish presence in the land and are still firing rockets at it.

We should be demanding why America, Britain and the EU single Israel out for pressure which they apply to no other victims of genocidal aggression. For in any other such conflict, their cause of the aggressors would be deemed totally forfeit by their behaviour.

We should be asking so-called 'progressives' – including

Jewish 'progressives' — why they support the racist ethnic cleansing of every Jew from a future state of Palestine.

We should be asking 'progressives' why they are not marching against Hamas on account of its tyrannical oppression of Palestinians in Gaza.

Why they are not mounting a boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Mahmoud Abbas's Palestinian Authority on account of his Holocaust denial and the PA's continued incitement of Arab children to Jew-hatred, murder and genocide.

Why they are ignoring Arab and Muslim persecution of women and homosexuals.

And we should be telling the Jews' own story of refugees and ethnic cleansing – the 800,000 Jews expelled from Arab lands after 1948, and who now make up more than half of Israel's population. It's good to see that at last Israel is beginning to bring this to the world's attention. In Britain virtually no-one knows about it. At a stroke it takes the ground from under the feet of those demanding the 'right of return' for Arabs.

We will never convince bigots that facts are as they are, or that the evidence of history tells a different story from the one they believe. We cannot fight prejudice with reason.

But we have a duty to bear witness to the truth. And we have a duty to fight in our defence.

We can best do this by getting off our back foot and putting western fifth columnists on theirs. We should accuse them, not of Jew-hating motives we cannot prove but of absurdities and contradictions and untruths they cannot deny.

We should ridicule them, humiliate them, destroy their reputations; boycott them, not invite them to our houses, show them our disapproval and contempt. Treat them as pariahs. Turn their own weapons against them.

In short, we must get up off our collective knees and fight. Justice, human rights and truth are on our side, not theirs. We must reclaim them as our own.

***An amplification of this argument can be found in my book *The World Turned Upside Down: The Global Battle over God, Truth and Power*, published in the US by Encounter.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.melaniephillips.com/articles-new/?p=786>

The jihad of the British Left

by **Melanie Phillips**

The Spectator 23 December 2010

A new and authoritative report by Ehud Rosen has just been published by the Jerusalem Centre for Public Affairs, which maps the forces behind the campaign of demonisation and delegitimisation of Israel and shows how the UK has become the global hub of such bigotry.

But the UK has also become the global hub, outside the Arab and Muslim world itself, of Muslim radicalisation. The two phenomena are, of course, symbiotically connected. And what Rosen shows is how the radicalisation of British Muslims – an issue of the greatest possible concern in Britain -- is not just the result of extremist Muslim preachers and the like. It has also been actively pushed by the far left.

It has often been remarked upon with surprise that in Britain, the supposedly ‘antifascist’ left marches shoulder to shoulder against Israel and America with the most obscurantist Islamist fanatics who believe in extinguishing the freedom -- and sometimes even the lives -- of women, gays and apostates in the Muslim world, let alone unbelievers anywhere else.

The conclusion has accordingly been drawn that this unholy alliance is based on a shared aim of toppling western society and the destruction of Israel. A series of conferences between 2002 and 2007 brought together the Socialist Workers’ Party, the Stop the War Coalition and the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign, along with delegates from British trade unions and what turned into the Respect-Unity Coalition, and Islamists from Hamas, Hizballah, the Muslim Brotherhood, and other radical jihadi organizations. The agenda was to organise worldwide boycotts, demonstrations and campaigns against Israel and America.

But as if all this wasn’t enough, what has not been paid sufficient attention is the way in which the British far-left also sought to radicalise British Muslims to the jihad through its close association with the Muslim Brotherhood – part of whose strategy for western domination is to radicalise home-grown Muslims to the cause -- through the Brothers’ UK front in the Muslim Association of Britain. Rosen writes:

...politicizing the Muslims in Britain is perceived as one of the SWP’s major achievements in the last few decades. As explained by Arun Kundnani, editor of the *Race & Class* journal: ‘The role of the anti-war movement and the coalitions it fostered between Islamists and the Left have obviously been central to this [politicization] dynamic and given a wide range of Muslim groups a level of confidence to speak out on issues such as civil rights and foreign policy, despite the fear of being associated with terrorism.’

... In reality, as already discussed, the MAB also played a

major role in forming the political alliance with the British left, mostly manifested by the younger generation of its Brotherhood activists. Rajib al-Basil, an Egyptian journalist and blogger, explained that the MAB has two main political goals: to guide the Islamic awakening in Britain, and to raise the political awareness of the Muslims in Britain and make them more involved in the political process.

After a split in the MAB between older activists and younger radicals, the British Muslim Initiative was formed which

adopts some of the far-left terminology, saying it seeks to ‘fight racism and Islamophobia, combat the challenges Muslims face around the world, encourage Muslim participation in British public life and improve relations between the West and the Muslim world.’ In order to put its name out, the BMI first initiated the IslamExpo, a large cultural affair that was intended to introduce Islam to the British public as a global culture and faith, shed light on the achievements of the Muslim civilization, create stronger foundations for Muslims to understand their heritage and develop their identity, encourage positive interaction between Muslims and other groups, and promote multiculturalism.

... In July 2006, leading figures of the BMI also launched a new Arab TV channel, Al Hiwar TV, aiming to target ‘Arab audiences across the world with a special emphasis on Europe’s growing Arab contingent.’ Broadcasting from London, the channel offers a variety of programs to teenagers, adults, and older persons.

All this quite simply amounts to an active threat to the state. These ‘multicultural’ activities are founded upon hostility towards the west and the strategy of further fomenting that hostility. The results, in the increasing radicalisation of British Muslims, are all around us.

And so what is the government doing to combat this? Nothing. What is it doing to stop the Muslim Brotherhood? Nothing. Indeed, worse still it has a strategy of using the Brothers to ‘reach out’ to the Muslim community in the stupendously stupid belief that the Brothers are a ‘bridge’ between the UK authorities and that community. Without doubt they’re a bridge – but the traffic is all going the other way.

The result has been that the SWP and the Muslim Brotherhood, along with other associated radicals, have been playing the British government for suckers – and as a result, British public discourse has been hijacked to the cause of genocidal bigotry and the jihad.

Yet another report that should be placed on the desk of every member of Parliament.

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/6568739/the-jihad-of-the-british-left.shtml>

Where, and what, is this?

I took this from through the car window as Paul and I were driving from Scotland. I didn't have my GPS device fitted to the camera, so I'd love to know what it is and where it is. If you know, please let me know.



Alan's Reflections

ALAN'S REFLECTIONS

Last month, as you will remember, Grace and I celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary. Not long in a lifetime perhaps, but still something of a milestone. I have sometimes said to Grace how her life has changed since she met me. It would have scarcely been believable had someone told her beforehand what would happen in these ten years.

When Grace and I met, she was working at Subic Bay International Airport, forging ahead with her career. She was also considering emigrating to Canada where she could expect to have a better life than in the Philippines (over a million Filipinos leave the Philippines every year in order to escape from their dreadful, utterly hopeless country, and start a new, and better, life in another country). Since meeting me Grace has lived in three other countries, done various jobs and delivered a little boy to us. She has also travelled to various other countries and shared numerous adventures with me. Something of a change from her former routine perhaps. The message to all of us is that we can never be sure of what God has in store for us throughout our lives. Anything can happen - and frequently does. As we start another new year, we should be prepared for any new adventures that come our way - more so in these days of uncertainty than ever before. We all know that we have evil leaders ruling the world on behalf of Satan, but his rule will come to an end one day - and that day may be closer than we think. Be prepared for new adventures.

You may think I've gone a bit loopy or lost the plot when I tell you the next part of my *reflections*. However, I still want to share this with you as an example of what I believe and as an example of taking heed of signs from God. For some years now, even before we came to the UK to live, Grace and I have been trying to buy a home. We have the money available and have put in several offers - some of which have been accepted. Yet, somewhere along the line, something has gone wrong and the purchase has been stopped. So, we continue to live in our rented bungalow. Why? There must be a good reason - although I have no idea what that could be.

For some time, I've been trying to buy a car to replace my very ancient old banger. Now, you would think, there is nothing easier than buying a car. There are thousands for sale. And yet, despite having money available and having spent many hours looking, I'm still driving my old car. An example of this happened only a few days ago. I was on-line and saw there was a Kia Sorento for sale at the local Kia dealer. Exactly what I wanted, and at the right price. I got in my old car and went to look. When I got there he told me that it had been sold late in the afternoon of the day before. Not to worry, he said, he would be having another one come in before the next weekend. He said he'd let me know more about it the next day. Sure enough, he called me the next day to tell me that it wasn't going to be sold through his

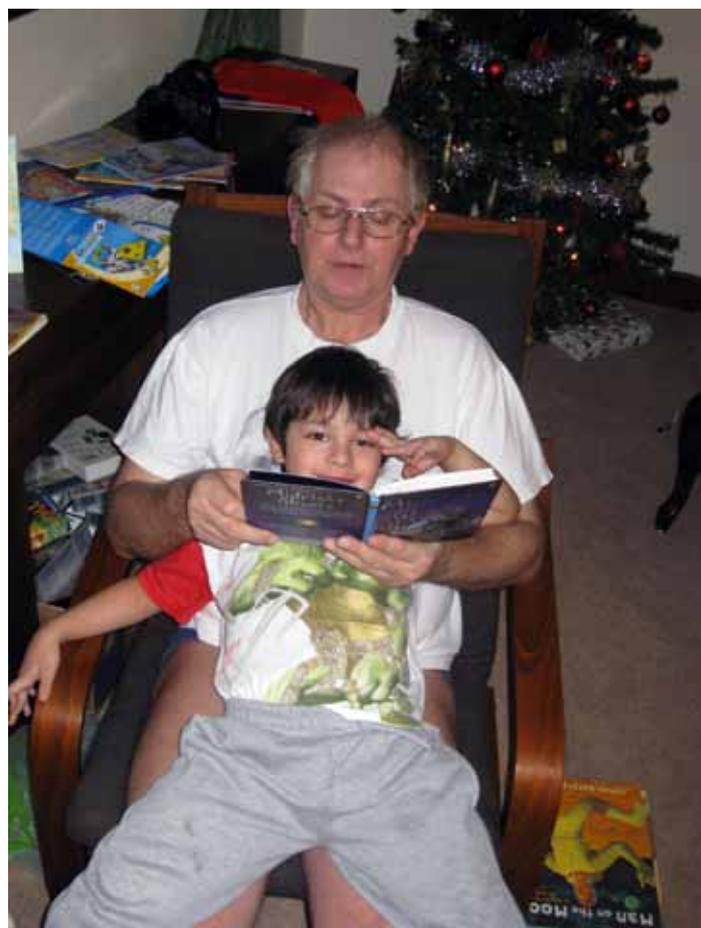
dealership as it had such a high mileage for its year. Also, it had an automatic gearbox, which is something I wouldn't buy. Why? There must be a good reason - although I have no idea what that could be. One day, I'm sure, we'll find out.

These sort of things have happened more times than would be possible due to coincidence. Life is full of surprises, so anything can happen. Sometimes we just have to accept that our own plans aren't always the same as what God has planned for us. If He wants something to happen, then it will. If He doesn't, then it won't. Another example, just briefly, is that both Grace and I wanted to return to the Middle East. I was offered a senior position there with a major oil company. It didn't *feel* right - there was no logical reason for this - so I turned it down and we didn't go. Instead, we came to the UK. In coming here, everything fell into place - more so than we could ever have expected. Getting a home to start with, my finding a job, finding the home where we now live. Everything worked out - even spotting that Grace had been issued with the incorrect visa and getting that rectified (usually an horrific task). It was truly remarkable how everything worked out and came right. Far more so than we've experienced when trying to buy a house or car!

What will happen to any of us during 2011 is unknown, but if it's God's plan, everything will work out for the best.

We hope the world will become a peaceful place, but feel that that is unlikely, given the current political climate and evil leadership that actually **wants** conflict, war and human suffering. However, we can be at peace within ourselves and within our families - and with God.

Peace at home - Alan reading a book to JP.





No Global warming here! Just across the road from our home were a number of ice covered trees.
These photographs (and on the next page) were taken by Grace.



