

YOUR LETTERS

Stalybridge remembers

Stalybridge Remembrance

All united together, what passion Stalybridge people have shown to turn out for Remembrance Sunday.

The day was bright and the sun shone down on our heroes.

I walked with the other proud members of the procession; Scouts, Girl Guides, local schools, bandsmen and women, councillors and local organisations - all turned out to show respect for the heroism of our fallen and surviving forces who gave their bravery so valiantly to protect our freedom today.

There were several thousand people around the town centre and at the War Memorial on Trinity Street.

It was so good to see young boys and girls, some as young as five-years-old laying wreaths to show the collective respect of their groups.

As the band played and hymns were sung the sad and sombre tone was uplifted by the presence of so many young people, all gathered in respect and remembrance.

Stalybridge has a great historical heritage being a Victorian Market town noted for its prestigious cotton mills.

I also learnt on Remembrance Sunday that Stalybridge is unique insofar as it is the only town in the UK which has a war memorial which is separated by a road running through the centre of it!

There are the names of 754 men who fought in the First and Second World Wars inscribed on the memorial.

Hopefully by Armistice Day 2018 there will be a further 300 names from the First World War added to the memorial.

Stalybridge Town Team work closely with Stalybridge Town Council and we have many new ideas for 2018 to move our town forward.

We always need support from the local community to help our town to prosper.

I am so privileged to have been part of the memorial service and would like to say thank you to the British Legion for their continued support and organisation of the Remembrance event and many thanks to West Hill School for their marshalling skills and to Stalybridge Old Band.

'We will remember'

And today in Stalybridge you have.

**Proud Chair of
Stalybridge Town Team,
RAY HARRISON.**

Rethink car tax

What a brilliant idea from this government to stop issuing a tax disc for vehicles and to save around £10m in doing so.

But latest figures from the DVLA are showing a £412m reduction in revenue for the first year.

A small amount of this loss can be attributed to a different payment system that collected our vehicle tax over a longer period.

However, the rest of it is down to a fact that people are not taxing their vehicles.

The number of untaxed vehicles on our streets has trebled in the last year.

I can't imagine that the people who thought of this scheme did not sit down and consider this would happen.

The savings made are so small compared to the loss of revenue that it's time to rethink this scheme.

I must admit taxing cars is now so simple due to the new technology via the internet.

There's no more gathering documents and taking them to the local post office, that's now almost gone for lots of people.

Councillors will tell you we get lots of calls about vehicles being left on streets for long periods of time as if abandoned.

A lot of the time we get told it's an untaxed vehicle and we assume they have been onto some web site to check it out.

I'm not sure if that same website allows you to report these vehicles, but that would be a good idea to get them removed and the owners made to pay up.

I can recall doing some speed checks with our local police in Dukinfield.

Two of the drivers stopped for excessive speeding did not have any insurance or tax.

Their cars were seized on the day and maybe more of these campaigns would help not just in collecting revenue, but reducing the excessive speeds of some drivers.

New technologies with cameras is another quick win in identifying vehicles that are not taxed or insured and in my opinion the government have got to involve local councils working with the police to carry out more enforcement.

**CLLR JOHN TAYLOR,
Jubilee Avenue,
Dukinfield.**

There is a third way

I wonder if the people who have been clamouring for a bypass and spur road have thought enough about it.

The spur road will be a wonderful thing - it will allow all the heavy

lorries struggling with Woodhead to reroute through Glossop to the Snake and Sheffield that way. Oh Goody!

These last few days we in Glossop have seen what having Woodhead closed for repair has done to our traffic.

Do they really think that a stretch of road from Mottram Moor to Brookfield will improve that, or will it just move the jams along?

What we really need to help Glossop is a third lane on Woolley Lane so we could have two lanes out in a morning and two lanes in

at evening rush hours.

It works in Manchester on many roads there. The third lane could go from where the old Spread Eagle pub left hand side of bridge) is, on a new single span across the river to join a new widened carriageway. Glossop traffic would use that as a way out while Hadfield traffic used the present lane.

On way back in Hadfield traffic could use the present lane and Glossop traffic the middle (present) lane.

It would be a great deal cheaper and less disruptive.

Of course, the ideal solution would be a weight limit on Woodhead to exclude lorries not delivering here and a stop to the frantic building on every blade of grass.

PAT ELLISON-REED,
Glossop Road
Gamesley.

The right to a vote

So M Burdekin (last week's letters) thinks it would be OK for the government to tinker with the voting age and only allow people aged between 24 to 80 the hard fought right to vote.

What would the next step be if this ludicrous idea came to pass? Reduce the upper voting limit to 70? Then the government in

question wouldn't have to worry too much about the grey vote.

Perhaps they could allow just one vote per household? Or home owners only? Or women over the age of 30?

Ban the morbidly obese, or smokers or drug addicts! Better still, ban the vote all together and then the Tories can run the country how they know best with rule by the rich for the rich.

I think M Burdekin must be a little bit worried about what happens at the next general election.

If Corbyn can keep the momentum going and inspire the younger generations into voting then we may flush away this awful, inept and uncaring government and end this home made austerity once and for all.

PAUL SMITH,
Hadfield.

Lighting up Christmas

The Christmas atmosphere on Denton Civic Square on Saturday night was tremendous!

Mums and Dads, girls and boys, grans and grandads had a ball.

Special thanks go to Deputy Mayor of Tameside, Cllr Andy Kinsey for coming along and helping the big man in red turn the Denton Christmas lights on.

A very big thank you to the traders that came along for festive fun, for the fair ground men, and also a big thank you to, Fab Fun Kids Karting.

In their first year with us they very kindly donated two prizes of a go-karting day, with lunch, to

our two first placed winners of the Denton Got Talent contest, plus a cash prize.

Well done to Alice and Sophie for your great singing.

It was a brilliant community event that took all year to plan with very little budget.

Team Denton worked well.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas, and see you next year.

CLLR DENISE WARD,
Denton North East.

Positive thinking

Every day on average we have about 50,000 thoughts and the way we think is decisive on whether we achieve contentment in our lives.

No emotions can be felt in our lives without us thinking, yet we get no training on how we should think.

If we constantly think about negative things, then depression will be the result.

People often delude themselves that they will be happy when a future event happens.

If I fall in love and get married that will solve everything.

Then they will say they will be happy when they have children. Then it is when their children grow up.

However, it is important to be happy in the current time and not on condition of a future event.

Often the simple way of stopping depression is to replace the negative thoughts with more optimistic and positive ones.

When we wake up in the morning we do have a choice. Surely it is wrong to constantly think you select the negative thoughts.

We were not born with negative thoughts, but we acquired them possibly through our parents or other mentors.

The great news is that we can change the way we think and we can all learn to be more positive

It will take discipline and effort, but the rewards are incredible.

Shakespeare was surely right when he said :- "Nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

HARRY SINGLETON,
Ashton.

Simply complex

In last week's Your Letters, Harry Singleton hints that the EU referendum was a complex issue that most didn't understand.

It wasn't, it was a straight yes or no for remaining or leaving.

The reasons for how the electorate voted may have been complex and the process of leaving will certainly be complex, but the question and its answers were straightforward.

Unfortunately, many of our 'educated' elite feel that we plebs are unable to make decisions.

Eddy,
via email.

Look closer for answers

As a local health campaigner for more than a decade two articles in last week's paper were hard to digest.

Dr Kailash Chand OBE telling us "We're leading the way in integrated health care" with Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care Organisation led by Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust.

Firstly Dr Chand goes on to list many benefits of the organisations working together.

Yet in the last few weeks the Hospital Trust, which is pivotal to this transformation in care, has courted negative headlines, one concerning sepsis death rates.

While the recent consultation on bed based intermediate care in Tameside and Glossop again highlighted a disregard for patient/community care (we all await the outcome of that, with not so baited breath).

Then Cllr John Taylor states: "It

can't go on like this" telling us that the Government is lurching from one crisis to another and how the NHS is in crisis with NHS officials pleading for help.

I pleaded for some help back in 2011 at a then full council meeting.

But Tameside Council's Health Scrutiny Panel ignored calls re the dire situation at Tameside Hospital Trust.

Next year's £100 million debt/loan at the Trust will have a knock on effect for the whole health economy, with the Council considering a bailout now they are working together. Such a bail out beggars' belief.

Dr Chand and Cllr Taylor need to look to things closer to home to make sure patient care and outcomes for the whole Tameside and Glossop community are in fact improving.

PAUL BROADHURST,
Dukinfield.

Cycling to beat cancer

Five years ago my wonderful wife Rita was diagnosed with bowel cancer and sadly in 2016 she passed away.

Rita wanted to raise awareness of the disease, and that's why from Friday, December 1, to June 2018 I will be cycling 18,000 miles around the world on a static bike for three charities close to my heart: Bowel Cancer UK, Velindre Cancer Centre and Cancer Research Wales.

But I need your support, I'm looking for people to ride 25 miles raising £50 for charity.

You can do this anywhere and anytime! All you need to do is register your cycle on my website: sites.google.com/site/virtual-worldride4rity/home

A cancer diagnosis hits everyone, it's like dropping a bomb and the ripples touch everyone.

And the closer you are to the person that more impact it has on

you. It changes you and affects you forever. It is total devastation. Together we can stop bowel cancer.

CHRIS DANIEL,
Bowel Cancer UK supporter.

The best year of all

Researchers at Warwick University recently concluded that 1957 was the best year in British history.

The researchers had foraged eight million books published between 1776 and 2009, and claimed that all the evidence pointed to 1957 as being the best year ever.

This was the year the new Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, said that Britons had never had it so good.

It was a year when post-war rationing was over; a year when everyone was employed (when was the last time you heard that?) and a year filled with great hope for the future.

If you are under the age of 70-years and reading this, you could never imagine it happened at all – but it did.

I was 10-years-old in 1957 and lived in the West End of Ashton. For me, this was the best time of my life, although probably not for my mum and dad and others of a similar age.

As kids, we would be allowed to 'play out' until we got hungry or died of fatigue, traffic being virtually non-existent and anti-social behaviour at a bare minimum.

During the school summer holidays, Ashton Baths took its biggest hit of kids with nothing better to do than go home afterwards looking like a dried prune.

Ashton Wakes weeks were extra special. The outdoor market closed, as did most cotton mills and other manufacturers, and onto the market came the fairground.

Almost everyone who lived and

worked in Ashton took their annual holidays during the Wakes Weeks.

Sadly, you would have to dig up the concrete and metal fixings to put a fairground on Ashton market these days, but that's another story.

In the year 1957 a new dance called the 'jitterbug' had taken a grip, but for us 10-year-old wise-acs it was Cowboys & Indians as usual; none o' that dancing malarkey for us lads, oh no!

Of course, we would always have it in mind to be home in good time on Fridays, because Friday night was bath night.

Living in a two-up two-down terraced house with only an outside toilet and coal house, meant the bath was made from zinc and hung on an outside wall when not in use.

On Friday night's the zinc bath was brought inside and filled with hot water (via a bucket) from a free-standing boiler in the kitchen, and then you took it in turns to have a bath (in the same water).

For a mere 10-year-old this wasn't so bad, yet for parents who yearned for a bathroom it must have been frustrating to say the very least.

Yet it had been this way for many, many years before 1957; no-one expected it to change, not least those who lived in row upon row of tiny terraced mill houses in the West End of Ashton.

For this 10-year-old 'Ashton Masher' of 1957, it was indeed the very best year of all.

TREVOR JOHNSON,
Hyde.

Rewriting history

For decades the hard nihilistic left has been a waging a war against western values, parliamentary democracy, Judeo-Christian tolerance and Socratic Reasoning

(the means by which rational, pragmatic decisions are made in free democratic societies).

Moreover since the Left adopted the doctrine of political correctness in the 1980s, we've seen ever more and more bizarre interpretations of this insidious doctrine emerge.

The reason for this can only be understood when one realises just how the doctrine of political correctness came to be formulated.

It was devised by Marxist scholars at the Frankfurt Institute of Marxism which re-located to America when Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany in 1933, banished democracy and launched a purge against the liberal left.

The doctrine was further developed in America following the post-war realisation that workers in western capitalist countries were more interested in their own families and local communities than engaging in revolutionary struggle against the capitalist class.

Marxist thinkers like Herbert Marcuse then revised Marxism during the 1950s and '60s so the struggle against capitalism could be continued by other means.

Instead of revolutionary class struggle by workers against their employers in mass strikes and uprisings against the government, as Marx had predicted, Marxism was reformulated.

Out of this revision emerged Political Correctness (PC) followed later by Moral Relativism.

In the 1980s and early '90s the class struggle worldview of the Marxist-Leninist Left and their ideological comrades suffered two devastating blows – the defeat of the British miners' strike of 1984-85 and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

These two events shook the very foundations of Marxism-Leninism, especially here in the UK.

Abandoning Marxist class struggle the hard left then adopted nihilistic Leftism, the idea that all forces opposed to 'western imperialism' were now allies in the struggle

against capitalism.

Leftists then began forming alliances with 'anti-imperialist' Islamists, principally the Muslim Association of Britain who have links with Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Now a new trend has emerged, linked to the doctrine of Post-Truth

– which asserts that emotion takes precedence over Socratic Reasoning - whereby certain historical figures are targeted with demands they are 'erased' from the historical record.

We saw this at Oxford University in 2016 where students formed the Rhodes Must Fall group with the demand that a statue of 19th century British mining magnate and politician Cecil Rhodes, and founder of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), be removed on the grounds that he was a racist and colonialist.

Significantly, students failed to mount any campaign against anti-white Marxist Zimbabwean president Robert Mugabe.

It appears that while 'Rhodes must fall' the aging Marxist despot Mugabe, whose regime was maintained by ruthless repression, could remain!

We see the same thing happening in America with students at Princeton University demanding the removal of former U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's name from the School of Public and International Affairs on the grounds he was a 'racist'.

Liberal leftists are also demanding the removal of statues commemorating Confederate heroes like Robert E Lee and Stonewall Jackson on the grounds they were 'racists and white supremacists'.

As U.S. President Donald Trump said following the violent protest in Charlottesville, "This week, it is Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson. Is it George Washington next week and is it Thomas Jefferson the week after? You have to ask yourself, where does it stop?" A good question, but there's only a deafening silence from the left.

Here in Britain labour candidate for Wyre and Preston Benjamin Whittingham made headlines in 2014 when he denounced the great Winston Churchill calling him a "racist and a white supremacist."

Following the logic through, in years to come those like Whittingham will probably demand the toppling of all Winston Churchill statues while those who object are likely to be denounced as racist.

Leftists may then demand statues be erected to Jeremy Corbyn, Ken Livingstone, Arthur Scargill and Len McCluskey!

While there are many events in history that are truly appalling, the real point of history is to learn from it. The idea that lessons can be learned by erasing certain historical figures just because they don't match the standards of today is not only shallow idealism but arrogance.

How ironic that many of those who denounce various 'evil men' of history either refuse to condemn or resolutely defend 'anti-imperialist' Marxist class war fighters like Lenin, Stalin, Trotsky, Mao, Castro, Guevara, Ho Chi Minh, Mugabe, Kim Jong-un, etc.

History isn't always clear cut or black and white as post-truth leftists would have us believe but is often complex and multi-layered.

We need to learn from history, not erase those figures we don't approve of.

ALAN O DAY SCOTT,
Stalybridge.

Coping with oppression

What with the weather refusing to makes its mind up, bitter cold one day, muggy wet and warm the next, not to mention all this fuss about Brexit and the (so called) BBC spreading negativity in all directions, it is understandable how one can get to feel somewhat

persecuted.

On looking down from one's airy loft in Stocks Lane, Stalybridge, it is apparent that there are two minorities in British society, set apart from the mass of the rest.

These comprise the oppressive minority and the oppressed minority.

The oppressive minority are those addicted to the use of Twitter, Mobile Phones in public places, and Facebook.

These people take part in public demonstrations and marches and attend political rallies.

They are distinguished from the average by their holding of radical views on matters of politics, sexual divergence and religious freedom. They seize every opportunity to stridently foist these views upon anyone unwise enough to stray into their path.

The other minority, which includes the writer, tend not to be joiners, in fact we eschew most of the artefacts that are currently considered essential, and of course we have to suffer for these sacrifices.

We have no fixed view of politics except, perhaps, a preference for the status quo in 1958.

Not possessing either a driving licence, a passport or a mobile phone makes the writer, for instance, a prime target for persecution.

Risking one's life every time a road has to be crossed, deafened by the sound of sirens (because the drivers play radios in car and can't hear them unless the sound is ramped up), and finding the pavements difficult to negotiate because cars are parked half blocking them is the price for not having a driving licence.

None possession of a passport does not exempt one from the continuous noise of aircraft passing overhead, but at least one draws comfort from the avoidance of long queues at airports, claustrophobic flights and all the other litany of woes that beset those intent on holiday ecstasy.

The mobile phone menace has receded with the coming of the smart phone.

Those with more than half a dozen brain cells now prefer to text messages rather than broadcast their personal affairs to all and sundry.

However there is the odd occasion still, where someone does go on at great length (and volume) on their phones to the annoyance of everyone else on the bus.

If they are so bored why not read a book? (or the Tameside Reporter?)

JIM WATSON,
Stalybridge.