

'Rebels take control of Oxford Circus'.

18 April 2019

Extinction Rebellion Global rapid rise not just to fame but also the attention of the world is something to be noted. Never before has an environmental protest group seen so much quick popularity and success. It is fair to say by now the police in this country probably view Extinction Rebellion as an expensive nuisance. After all, when you grid lock up large parts of London, glue yourself to underground trains, you're not going to be very popular with the commuters that use them.

Having said that Extinction Rebellion succeeded in bringing large parts of London to a permanent halt. They did inconvenience the police, they did trigger the largest spate of mass arrests in one place, and they did park a pink boat in Oxford Circus for a week and shut everything down. The Police did make arrests and did remove demonstrators, but not with the normal effect at previous protests. Watching a Policeman nicely ask a demonstrator to move on lasted forty minutes, then finally when it came to making an arrest most often the protesters were carried away to a police van. But as fast as one protester leaves another protester takes their place and so begins again the long-winded process of attempting to remove the demonstrators from their area they are occupying. This slow means of removing demonstrators proved to work in favour of the protesters. By the end of the day I was there at Oxford Circus the Police had made very little progress and the Extinction Rebellion Protesters were still there glued to their pink boat. So, as we near the next occupation of London by Extinction Rebellion for a second time this year what will they do this time and how will the Police address the protesters. We will have to wait and see.

Article by Miss Gemma Young 2019.

Supreme Court verdict deferred.

16 September 2019

Today the Supreme Court ruled that the result of the case regarding the legality of the Government's enforced Prorogue of the House of Commons, would not now be known until Tuesday 24/09/19.

The widely anticipated result was believed to be deliverable today, but due to the complex nature of this case that was not possible. Prime Minister Johnson's Prorogue of Parliament is widely thought to have been ill thought through. With the current leave date of 31/10/19 only weeks away, time is not on the Prime Minister side.

Should the Prorogue be ruled illegal then Parliament would have to return to sit, giving MP's an new opportunity to hold the Government to account regarding Brexit. But with Labour Leader Mr Jeremy Corbyn MP refusing to give the Prime Minister a General election until a no deal result is ruled out altogether from the Brexit process, The Prime Minister continues to hold office with no authority or legal mandate. Added to that it is known that there will be a Queen's speech on the 14/10/19 but with the Hillary Benn law coming in play on the 19/10/19 when Prime Minister Johnson will be legally obliged to write a letter to the EU asking for an extension if a deal has not been reached before then.

But with the Prime Minister insisting that the UK will leave the EU on the 31/10/19 it is far from clear how all this is going forward, Prime Minister Johnson himself has already said that he would rather be dead in a ditch than write a letter requesting an extension to Brexit. This only muddies the water as it were because it shows there is still no clear agenda on how the UK will leave the EU.

Article by Miss Gemma Young 2019.

'Corbyn makes Climate Pledge'

20 September 2019

Labour Leader Mr Jeremy Corbyn takes to the top deck of a London bus at the Global Climate Strike in London behind the House of Commons. Mr Corbyn a passionate campaigner himself spoke to the crowd on Global warming, and it's effects on our environment in our world today. He is quite right to point out that if we lead a greener lifestyle the world might be a better place.

But it's not as easy as that, With Western nations under pressure to become Greener in how we live, work, and do business it is the west which has the lead in Green technology today. And this is where the trap comes in. With developing nations who haven't the investment budget that the west has are of course forced to sell their fossil fuel assets in return for money they need. All the while nations like China continue to use Coal powered nuclear power stations, this will continue to have an effect on Global warming.

For all the fine talking on Mr Corbyn's part and all the protesting on the part of the demonstrators, none of that is going to make any difference. Until some one sits down and actually does something about Global warming at Government level. So until real change comes the world will continue to get a bit hotter, and we will see more dry summers and large scale flooding in the future. It's our world the future is in our hands.

Article by Miss Gemma Young 2019.

Damp squid or something unique?

7 October 2019

It's now day six of Extinction Rebellion occupation of Central London. The protesters target of achieving 1000 arrests has been surpassed already with an estimated tally of 1,300 arrests and counting. No doubt the Metropolitan Police custody suites across London must by now be largely full of tired and grumpy protesters.

With the majority of protesters now occupying Trafalgar Square does this show that the protest is on the wane? But the somewhat Rebellious protesters ability to come up with ever more protesters as fast as arrests are made, where do the police stand in all this? An already over stretched Met is currently struggling with maintaining normal front-line policing duties.

Mondays arrests on Westminster bridge in the morning gave the police a quick victory over the protesters, But that soon appeared to be a hollow one, when by six O'clock Monday evening the protesters had camped down in Whitehall and Trafalgar square, and the Millbank district clearly preparing for a two week stay in central London by tent, with the intent of turning it into some kind of large holiday camp for the duration.

The threat of being served with a Section 14 order doesn't seem to deter the protesters, despite if convicted of a Section 14 offence you can incur a unlimited fine and 3 months in prison and a criminal record. Normally this would put off most law-abiding people from becoming involved in something like this.

So, what's changed, why are normal middle-class people who usually take no notice of protest activism suddenly getting involved with what has become a very aggressive global worldwide movement. The answerer to this question has to be perhaps and it is a perhaps people in general are becoming more aware of the environment we are living in and the effects we have on the environment. But for all the protest and demos in different parts of the world what does squatting in Whitehall in a small tent for approximately two weeks achieve? And why risk arrest and forced confinement for squatting in tent in Whitehall for a organisation which is not paying you to be there.

This is a question I cannot answer because I am not a protester. But if I was, I am sure I would have an answer. But I don't I am a photographer with a blog, looking in at the spectacle that is Extinction Rebellion and it's circus type performance. to me it's an odd thing to do when politicians invariably don't listen unless their something in it for them to get out of it. And that's the bit's that's unfair on the protester he or she gives up their time and risks their future, But for the politicians to fail to do anything. In time we will find out what the cost to Met is and business of the protest and what if anything the politicians will do. But for now we should spare a thought for those still bravely up in London protesting in the wind and rain living in a tent under the threat of arrest.

Article by Miss Gemma Young 2019

Just another hot day in the hot house of Beirut.

4 August 2020

It was just another day in Beirut, with people going about their daily business. The sun-baked city was suddenly rocked by a sudden blast coming from the port area. Followed very quickly by a second loud explosion, buildings shook, glass windows fell out of buildings, that tremored in the unshakeable way when an earthquake strikes. As ambulance sirens blared that familiar sharp wail cutting through the dusty air, with their distinctive flashing Blue and red warning lights. But for the dust cloud that developed they couldn't be seen. As the paramedics worked their way to reach those in need.

very quickly a sudden panic took over as people slowly realised the hellish nightmare scenario that was rapidly unfolding. On the skyline a mushroom type cloud could be seen over the Port area. Was it a nuclear blast or was it something else? It was of course the result of an excessive quantity of ammonium nitrate, which had just blown up and triggered an earthquake in its wake. With Beirut in a state of confusion as to why this has happened, there are at the moment many questions of if's and but's, and why. Or why did this happen or who is to blame for this tragedy?

Once again Beirut has eyes of the world looking at it with shock and surprise, that such a tragedy would happen today in the 21st century an age of health and safety standards, such a disaster should not have unfolded on a civilian population. But sadly, this tragedy is unfolding, the nightmare is only just beginning as Beirut goes forward she must avoid more unnecessary fighting which has plagued Beirut for so long. Now it is the turn of the international community to come to Beirut aid at this time of crisis. There is a long road to tread, but time is said to be a great healer. As we go forward we will slowly see the true horror of what this industrial accident has done.

Miss Gemma Young

Social Media and Social in justice.

4 December 2020

From the days of black people forced to pick cotton in the American cotton fields in the heart of the deep south, Photography has played its part in recording the civil rights struggles of the time.

British politician William Wilberforce slavery abolition Act 1807, which brought an end to slavery across the British Empire. In 1833 a final act on the abolition of slavery was passed. It was Wilberforce partnership with Thomas Clarkson and Lord Granville later British Prime Minister 1806-1807. Together with support from close friend William Pitt the younger Prime Minister 1783-1801.

But it was Wilberforce tireless devotion to bring the end to the slave trade is the reason why he is often credited with bring about its downfall. William Wilberforce is still viewed today as the first human rights campaigner to fight for the abolition of such a cruel trade, which soar the brutal and often cruel and in human treatment of Adults as well as Children.

Since then Dictators have come and gone, But Photography has continued to bring the truths of our times to the attention of the world. From the trenches in Flanders field in WW1 to the holocaust in WW2, and the reality of the killing fields of Cambodia. Photographers have brought to the world's attention the in justice and crimes against humanity.

But it would be until Dr Martin Luther King's powerful speech in the 1960's real change would come. Dr King was like Wilberforce a hamartian and Christian of his time fighting against in justice and an oppressive and sectarian environment of which was America deeply attached. Those brave souls who dared challenge the state at the time risked arrest and imprisonment. As much did the photographers of the day risk their own lives to bring to the attention of the world the in justice that sectarian America still existed.

So why is it then that now today in the 21st century that the human race doesn't seem to have learnt from the past, by which I mean the way in which people treat each other on social media platforms. If anything, it seems that we are still not there in terms of treating each other with equality or with the respect and dignity to which we have the human right to be treated.

From my own experience I feel the campaign for equality goes on today more than ever. For it seems that the abuses that now exist in today's digital world seem to be going on unnoticed. Or the people behind today's social media platforms are not interested in what is happening on their business model? When a premiership Football star gets caught out cheating on his wife, he loses his sponsor ship and people stop supporting him.

But what has amazed me that when abuse on social media companies' platform is highlighted the businesses that sponsor the social media platform continue their association with it. So, what is going on here?

Why are major brands dropping sponsor ship form a celebrity when they get caught out. But if something happens on social media it's somehow tolerated? That's the bit I don't get my head round so to speak. What's the difference, or are we now living in a world were maybe people just don't care as long as it's not in my back-yard approach.

If we no longer care, and if we don't care about the suffering of others on today's social media which is the equivalent to the sectarian laws and oppression in America in the 1960's. Then how do we go forward, how can we say we are treating people with equality when abuse online appears to be completely tolerated? Dr King's speech was a powerful message at the time and we would do well to heed his words now in the twenty first century and take a modern stand against those who use social media to bully, abuse and humiliate others.

Photography and photographers won't go away because it's still needed today to remind the world of the injustice that are still taking place from the environment to our everyday lives to war torn battle fields where powerful dictators have carried out their crimes against humanity to protests of today from Extinction Rebellion to Brexit.

I am sure If William Wilberforce was alive today he would no doubt take a stand against the abuses on modern social media, it is no different from the days of the cotton fields in America to the civil right marches against America's sectarian laws in the nineteen sixty's.

Article written by Miss Gemma Young.

super spy, traitor and Russian double agent.

George Blake double agent for MI6, and KGB agent turned traitor. He spent three years in a North Korean prison, In 1953 he was released and returned to Britain, but by then he had become an hardened communist. With tension's between East and West at a time when a Nuclear war was a real possibility. However Blake was still considered a valuable asset largely to his understanding of communism, In 1955 MI6 sent him to Berlin as a case officer to recruit Soviet officers as double agents. In the course of nine years, Blake is said to have betrayed details of some forty MI6 agents to the KGB, destroying most of MI6's operations in Eastern Europe, although this remains unsubstantiated. Blake later said of this: "I don't know what I handed over because it was so much. In 1959 Blake became aware of a Central intelligence Agency Mole inside the GRU, and was possibly instrumental in exposing P.S. Popov.

Discovery and Conviction.

In 1961, Blake fell under suspicion after revelations by Polish defector Michael Goleniewski and others. He was arrested when he arrived in London after being summoned from Lebanon, where he had been enrolled at the Middle East Centre for Arabic Studies (MECAS). Three days into his interrogation, Blake denied he was tortured or blackmailed by the North Koreans. Without thinking what he was saying, he stated that he had switched sides voluntarily. He then gave his MI6 interrogators a full confession.

The maximum sentence for any one offence under section 1 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 is 14 years, but his activities were divided into five time periods charged as five offences and, in May 1961 after an in camera trial at the Old Bailey, he was sentenced to the maximum term of 14 years consecutively on each of three counts of spying for a potential enemy and 14 years concurrently on both the two remaining counts – a total of 42 years imprisonment – by the Lord chief Justice, Lord Parker of Waddington.

This sentence was reported by newspapers to represent one year for each of the agents who were killed when he betrayed them, although this is dubious. It was the longest sentence (excluding life terms) ever handed down by a British court. Five years into a 42 year term at H.M.P Worm wood scrubs he managed to escape by traversing an wall and meeting his escape party on the other side he was bundled into a VW camper van and driven out of the UK and across check point Charlie to his handlers in East Berlin were his escape was completed. Much to the embarrassment of British Intelligence. Blake would spend the rest of his life as a Russian Citizen and take a Russian wife and residence,

Death

Blake died on 26 December 2020, aged 98, in Moscow. The RIA Novosti news agency first reported Blake's death, citing Russia's SVR foreign intelligence agency. "We received some bitter news – the legendary George Blake passed away," it said. Russian President Vladimir Putin, himself an ex-KGB agent, expressed his "deep condolences" to Blake's family and friends. In a message published by the Kremlin, the Russian leader noted Blake's "invaluable contribution to ensuring strategic parity and maintaining peace on the planet." Putin also said of Blake, "Colonel Blake was a brilliant professional of special vitality and courage."

Author Miss Gemma Young 26 December 2020.

'Assange victory, but the charges still stand.'

4 January 2021

Today in court at the old baily Julian Assange defence that the charges pressed against him are politically motivated were dismissed by the presiding Judge.

District Judge Vanessa Baraitser ruled that while US prosecutors had met the tests for Mr Assange to be extradited for trial, the US was incapable of preventing him from attempting to take his own life. Outlining evidence of his self-harm and suicidal thoughts, she said: "The overall impression is of a depressed and sometimes despairing man fearful for his future." She said: "Faced with the conditions of near total isolation without the protective factors which limited his risk at HMP Belmarsh, I am satisfied the procedures described by the US will not prevent Mr Assange from finding a way to commit suicide and for this reason I have decided extradition would be oppressive by reason of mental harm and I order his discharge.

For the time being Mr Assange remains confined too HMP Belmarsh Prison, todays ruling is the first positive result since being detained back in on April 11th 2019 when Ecuadorian authorities rejected his application for asylum. British Police were invited to the embassy to detain Mr Assange, where he was charged under the Bail act 50, in breach of bail. He was subsequently sentenced to 50 weeks detention at HMP Belmarsh Prison, there he has been since.

Mr Assange is a Australian national and well known for his controversial journalism, and expose Wikileaks website. He has courted controversy in the past on wide number of different subjects. But his expose over an American Apache Helicopter Gunship shooting un armed civilians brought him to the attention of the United States department for Justice. He subsequently went onto to expose American intelligence data, compromising American citizens in the process.

Since the 23rd of May Mr Assange has been indicted on 17 charges under the American espionage act 1917, If convicted he would face 170 years in Prison. Todays decision comes as great relief to Mr Assange, but at the same time the American department for Justice still maintains it's position. And intends to appeal todays ruling. A lengthy appeals process is now the next chapter in Mr Assange legal battle.

The head of the National Union of Journalists, Michelle Stanistreet, said the outcome was "the right one" but the judgment contained "much that is troubling"

Amnesty International welcomed the ruling but criticised the UK for "having engaged in this politically-motivated process at the behest of the USA and putting media freedom and freedom of expression on trial"

Mr Assange remains an controversial figure in modern media Journalism, but neither the less his actions have at times brought too the public attention acts that should not be taking place in the world in the 21st centaury.

Author Miss Gemma Young.

As panic buying spreads, lorries remain stuck in the slow lane.

22 December 2020

With a Brexit trade deal only days away from being signed and it being exactly two days to Christmas we didn't need France and her European partners closing down all trade and travel routes.

So far the Prime minister response to the crises as been unclear, talks with the EU continuing to struggle to reach an agreement, and an new strain of the Covid - 19 virus developing which has made it more easily spreadable it is easy to see why the alarm bells of panic are ringing across the European Union so quickly. It's clearly a case of not in my back yard.

And with London and the South East now declared Tier 4 status this years Christmas rush has been reduced to a trickle with only essential services now remaining open according to the latest Government advice.

Buying a Turkey in any supermarket is now next to impossible, so their fore one is minded to be of the opinion that this Christmas will be a some quite affair compared to last year. But despite all that and threat of an invisible mutant killer in our midst, we should all do well to remember were British and that we should be proud of what we have achieved this year. Because against the odds we have knocked out two vaccines and new technology developments inside four months, when normally it would take years. So despite our short comings and a not so merry Christmas this year we should remember that having each other in our support bubble is more important than the Christmas turkey and the latest must have gadget.

Author Miss Gemma Young

'So what's new post Brexit'.

6 April 2021

Having completed the trade deal and signed it off by the Johnson government, what's different now since then? Well to be honest the changes we have seen so far have of course been social ones in most cases. The Police and the Home Office have new powers since the development of Covid - 19. We have seen the way we work and socialise change. The internet chat room type web site has really taken off post Covid - 19. Working from home is increasingly becoming the norm as we go forward. We have also learnt the hard way that Covid - 19 is a real threat to us not just here in the UK but around the world. Who would have thought one nasty virus could do so much damage so easily.

Our lives are changing and we are adapting to what is taking place around us. Soon I think the current way of living will become the new normal. The era of the big pop concerts with thousands of people packed into a confined space may be about to come to an end. We may find ourselves watching these live events from our arm chair at home. And what about Sport, there are of course many different sports which use big multi tier stadiums or Grand Stands, are we about to witness the end of fans going to a Formula 1 Grand Prix for example, and what effect if any will this have?

We have seen the demos in London and Bristol recently about the latest legislation proposed by the Home Office, are the ordinary Britons who have taken part in these protests in fear of losing our liberty? and slowly slipping into a dictatorial style of Government. I hope that is not the case as we British have one of the oldest democracies in the world today, which is why I think we should make sure we maintain the democracy we have. Because to have the referendum in the first place on whether we wanted to stay or leave the European Union was a democratic thing to do, and so by that example we should maintain the democratic process we have. No politician including the Prime Minister himself should forget it is democracy that gave us the right to choose and so the people's right to choose must be maintained as we go forward. Not since the Magna Carta which was signed in 1215 under the reign of King John issuing the first bill of rights has our country seen so much change in the history of our nation.

Author Gemma Young

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'Floyd Cop Killers, found Guilty as charged on all counts'.

20 April 2021

In the afternoon of the 25 May 2020, A black Man was laying on the ground struggling to breath, that man was George Floyd. For Nine minutes and 29 seconds Officer Derek Chauvin applied unnecessary pressure to Mr Floyd neck by the use of his knee.

Despite attempts made by on lookers Officer Chauvin did restrict the air way unnecessarily of Mr George Floyd. On that hot down town day in Minneapolis. The drama began in a local supermarket when a till operator disputed the authenticity of a 20\$ bill.

Police were called to the altercation, Officer Chauvin and his three collages responded. What followed isn't quite clear how Mr Floyd ended up in a restitutive position. A standard arrest scenario went wrong fast, quickly leading to the death of Mr Floyd, public unrest followed. The four officers were charged with Manslaughter and Murder.

I can't breath are said to be Floyds last words, The Black Lives Matter movement established it's self in the wake of George's death. Despite being a local matter confined to Minneapolis, Mr Floyds death quickly became an international issue with public unrest following in the United Kingdom, raising the issue of racist conduct in today's society.

Across the last three weeks it has been more of a case of America is on trial at the same time, with relations with the ethnic minority communities at the lowest ebb in modern times.

What the Prosecutor argued:

George Floyd is dead because Mr Chauvin heart was too small. Was the final closing remark for prosecutor Jerry Blackwell in front of Jurors in a packed court room this Monday afternoon. Prosecution lawyers argued strongly that Mr Floyd's death was an unnecessary one and that it was brought on by the pressure placed upon Mr Floyds neck by Officer Chauvin, And that his actions was a contributing factor in the death of George Floyd.

What the defence argued:

The defence argued that Mr Chauvin was justified, and was acting with objective reasonableness in line with Minneapolis Police department policy and current standards of law enforcement, however jurors were not swayed by the arguments of defence attorney Nelson. That the use of force used and been proportionate to the unfolding events.

Verdict:

Their could be no doubt that their would be only one true verdict and that is off course Guilty on all three counts against the defendants. It is clearly beyond doubt that Officer Chauvin did contribute the use of force in such a way that would lead to George Floyds unnecessary death. And that his actions and his alone were the actions that lead to the passing of Mr Floyd. As America braces it self in the coming days what will be the reaction of the people of America to the verdict.

Author Miss Gemma Young 20/4/21

Final farewell to a man of Duty.

17 April 2021

The sky's were clear in the spring sunshine over Windsor Castle today. As the Grenadier Guards marched up towards Windsor Castle playing their funeral tribute musical piece. A pair of jet black horses pulled an empty carriage ahead of them, on the front seat lay a pair of brown leather gloves and a country tweed cap, perhaps referring to a life of service now past.

As the procession pulled forward in it's slow but steady methodical way a line of cars followed at a slow speed, as they approached the Windsor quadrangle, a plain Green Land rover came into view, bare and almost motionless, It arrived and waited for it's Master to take his place. Guards men bore the casket out into the spring sunshine where it was slid onto it's resting place.

As the Land rover pulled away a train of members of the Royal family walked behind in time. Every carefully placed step seemed to take it's time in line with the movement of the occasion.

The Queens private car pulled up outside the entrance to St Georges Chapel, Dressed in black with black face cover the Queen a lighted and was greeted by the Archbishop of Canterbury waiting for her. As she entered coats of arms adorned the walls standing slopped for the occasion, in the centre in front of the alter lay the Dukes casket still, but draped in a prestigious royal flag. Atop a sword and Admirals cap set placed centrally, with a reef of lily's form the Queen.

The Queen sat motionless and still, but alone with her head tipped forward as the service began. A last salute played out in remembrance of the Duke of Edinburgh, As the service continued those in attendance tipped their heads in a mark of respect to a man who had devoted his life to serving his country and his partner the Queen, A life celebrated steeped in tradition and recognition for the need for change in so many areas of life. A man of discipline and standards and sense of Duty. A man who was one of the founders of the WWF, Pioneer and champion of good standards for young people. And campaigner for green space for all. As the service came to a close a lone piper played fare well to the Duke one last time as his casket slowly descended into the vaults of St Georges Chapel to rest in peace. Bring an end to a life serviced in tradition and change in an ever changing world.

The Duke of Edinburgh 1921 - 2021

Author Miss Gemma Young 17/4/21

Conservative juggernaut takes shock victory in the locals.

7 May 2021

As we all know in Football performing well in the Euro's is usually key to what England will be likely to achieve in the world Cup. Which is why local elections should be viewed in the same way, If you perform poorly in the local elections it is usually a good indicator as to how well you will do in a General election. With this in mind you would not be surprised if such a random event wouldn't be taken seriously.

Clearly in Sir Keir Starmer case something appears to have been missed. As the dust settles the picture is becoming clearer and that is the Tories cleaned up at Labours expense. Even the most simple minded of individuals would have to agree on that one. And that's just it, the message is clear from the voter. And that is this is a right wing country now. And at the moment right wing politics seem to be the direction in which the wind is blowing at the moment. So why are Labour going against the political trend. Since the idea of something called Brexit Labour have not fared as well as they could. In fact Brexit has gone from being a thorn in the side of the Conservative party to being that golden bullet which gives you electro success.

So where did Labour go wrong?

Well it went wrong with something rather simple, left wing Labour politics or the left wing agenda of Michael Foot which goes back as far as the nineteen seventies. A time when it was cool to be a member of CND, have views against nuclear weapons and of course it was the last great decade that would see the power of major Unions in this country, before the invention of something called Thatcherism. Now their is a name that not going be forgotten very easily or in a hurry either. It was Thatcherism which soar off Michael Foot in the 1979 General election and again in the nineteen eighty's, bring an end to the left wing communist Foot agenda. And the beginning of the famous Kinnock which hunt. Which lead to a lot of social unrest in the Labour Party at the time.

So what's this got to do with today? Well everything really in the sense that by moving back to a left wing agenda the nation has moved to the right on the back of Brexit, Brexit is the new Thatcherism for the Conservative party and it's working it's what people want. It's what peoples hopes and ideas and aspirations are built on now, that by being free of the dictatorial EU we will do better and prosper. and that's the point. The Starmer left wing message is off beam it's not what people want. Brexit is a done deal now, what people want next is to see what our pollical leaders can do that benefit us post Brexit. Any one hoping to earn the votes on offering alternative to the Conservative Brexit is wasting their time the voter has moved on. But and their is a but, the Labour party clearly hasn't moved on with the national political trend, It's still trying to get a right wing voter to vote left and go back to Brussels and renegotiate Brexit for a left wing agenda.

well that simply isn't going to happen, to coin a phrase that's like trying to blood out of a stone. It simply isn't going to happen no matter how clever and nice you are. It will take a Titanic shift on the part of the Labour party if they are to stand a chance of beating the Conservatives at the next General election. And that's just it the left wing Starmer message is unlikely to change and so Labour have cast the die for the next General election. As we have seen form the results of the local elections. The Conservatives look set to clean up at the next

General election and they know it. Sir Kier really can't afford to return a result below what he has already, But then again his predecessor didn't exactly leave office looking to clever either.

Author Miss Gemma Young.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh 1921-2021.

11 April 2021

It is with regret that HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh has passed away in his sleep at his home in Windsor Castle. The Duke was recovering from a heart condition, for which he had previously had surgical procedure to address. The Duke was 99, and only two months away from his 100th birthday a milestone it said he was keen to achieve.

He led an active life serving in the Royal Navy during World War 2 as a midshipman. By the end of the war in 1945 he witnessed the first atomic bomb go off. However a young Princess Elizabeth had eyes for only one man and that was Philip. While in South Africa on tour King George VI died. Giving him the hard job of informing his young wife Elizabeth of her father's death.

When they returned to the UK Elizabeth Windsor would become Queen Elizabeth II. And he Philip her consort. Always by her side ready to give advice and keep up a very British stiff upper lip. Over the years the Duke has had his moments when some of his remarks were at times misplaced.

But not that it seemed to mind him. Outside of the public spotlight Prince Philip was one of the early founders of the World Wildlife Fund or (WWF). A keen polo player and marksman. As an advocate of fox hunting with hounds this put him at odds with some of his critics. He also valued young people and did his best to encourage them to achieve. He set up and developed the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme which is now a Global organisation and still going strong.

When Councils were spending their time selling green spaces they had, he was spending his time saving it so young people could have somewhere safe to exercise and do activities. He was also well known in equestrian circles, and re-wrote the rule book for horse and trap riding. Rules that are still in use today.

It wasn't until very recently that the Duke finally decided to retire from active service and enjoy more leisurely pursuits. Always ready with a one-liner quip regardless of the conversation, An active allrounder who will be greatly missed.

Author Miss Gemma Young 11/04/21

Max Mosley dies at age of 81.

24 May 2021

It is with regret that Max Mosley has lost his private battle with Cancer. Max was the son of the aristocrat Oswald Mosley and Lady Diana Mosley. His parents political views were controversial and his fathers support for the British fascists came at a time of uncertainty, when Europe looked set to go to war.

The Mosley family was detained by the state in 1940 after the evacuation of Dunkirk. In the 1960's Max would go onto read law and qualified as a barrister in 1964, he specialised in patent and trade mark law. Out side of law Max was a keen racing driver, he contested 40 Grand Prix in total and won 12 and set several class lap records.

But after a second big crash in 1969 in his Lotus Mosley retired from driving after stating it was evident that I wasn't going to become world Champion. At around this time he was already working on setting up March Engineering of which he handled all the legal representation.

He saw mixed success at March but was always better at doing deals than winning races. In 1977 Mosley sold his shares in March to Robin Herd but continued to remain as a director until the end of the year, when he transferred to working for FOCA full time. In the early nineteen eighty's it was Mosley's representation of FOCA Formula One Constructors Association that helped bring an end to the FOCA - FISA war. It would be Max that would negotiate the Concorde Agreement, bringing an end to the dispute.

However a year after signing the first Concorde agreement in 1982 Mosley left FOCA and Formula One and went to work for the Conservative Party. His time working for the Conservative Party was short, and he returned to Motorsport in 1986 to partner Bernie Ecclestone. Mosley now a rising star in the world of Motorsport. Went onto become the first President elect of the then new Motorsport governing body the FIA Formula International Association in 1993. Mosley time in office would last 16 years as President, In that time he achieved a major overhaul road safety and establish the Euro NCAP. But in in 2008 Mosley found himself courting controversy, when the then News of world launched a sting operation on him. leading to calls from with in the FIA for him to stand down and not contest the forth coming FIA election. In 2009 Mosley did finally stand down and support Ferrari CEO Special adviser Jean Todt to assume the Presidency of the FIA.

Mosley went onto launch a legal action against News Group Newspapers and Mosley v United Kingdom against the UK's privacy laws at the European Court of Human rights. Max Mosley Racing Driver, Lawyer, Business Man, Team Co-founder.

Article written by Miss Gemma Young. 24/5/21