

The Plebs News



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June 2022

And the Covid shambles continues: No.10 laughed at cleaners whose lives were at risk, Two million people in UK living with long Covid, workers casualties of covid fiasco ONS report



In England there is no new legislation to protect workers' safety, and remarkably little to enforce workplace lockdown, despite what the media tells you.

Open Democracy- May 20

In a week of sickening revelations, the thought of Downing Street partygoers laughing at cleaners and security guards who tried to warn them they were breaking lockdown rules leaves a particularly nasty taste in the mouth.

A security guard was left “shaking his head” after being laughed at for warning about rule breaking, BBC’s Panorama reported this week. And today’s Sue Gray report shows this was no isolated incident.

Gray highlighted “multiple examples of a lack of respect and poor treatment” of security guards, and of cleaners, who were left to regularly clean up bottles and rubbish littered everywhere, red wine splashed all over the walls, and, presumably, vomit (Gray heard that one person had thrown up following a Downing Street gathering).

It is sickening. But it is also unsurprising. Those at the heart of government didn’t just laugh at cleaners, security guards, and other low paid workers. They sent them out to work at the peak of the pandemic – with no protection, often no sick pay, and no choice. And some died.

Parliament’s own outsourced cleaners were refused furlough and had to travel on public transport to clean a parliament that wasn’t even sitting, despite the condemnation of their union and opposition MPs that they were being put in “unnecessary danger”. Their bosses quoted Michael Gove’s claim that millions of the lowest paid workers were somehow all “key workers” – and therefore could be forced to continue to travel to work. Minimum wage call centre workers doing non-essential jobs were also made to commute in and work in potentially unsafe offices at that time, their bosses again given free rein to designate their work as “essential” and “key”.

And if low paid workers got sick? The government did next to nothing to address the fact that over two million of the worst off had no right to sick pay at all, and millions more could only expect an unliveably low sum.

Emanuel Gomes was an outsourced Ministry of Justice cleaner. He died after working for five days with suspected COVID symptoms in a near-empty office, because he believed he could not afford to lose income. Those working on public transport were left exposed, too. Belly Mujinga died after she had pleaded with her bosses not to make her work on the front line due to health vulnerabilities. Security guards were three times more likely to die of COVID than the average male worker, the ONS found, with other low paid workers, particularly bus and taxi drivers, also at far greater risk than their middle class peers, and their communities also far harder hit.

No wonder the Downing Street security guard was left “shaking his head” and visibly upset by the carrying on at Number 10.

Boris Johnson claimed today he’d been unaware of the disrespect shown to cleaners and security guards, telling the Commons that such behaviour towards staff was “absolutely disgraceful” and “intolerable”. The prime minister promised to ensure offenders “apologise or are otherwise disciplined”. Later in the afternoon, he said he’d “personally apologised to those dedicated members of staff”.

But Johnson oversaw a government culture – indeed, an ideology – where it wasn’t just acceptable to be rude to low paid staff. It was acceptable to send them out to die. And we should never forget that.

This article first appeared in [Open Democracy](#)

Two million people in UK living with long Covid, find studies

Two million people in the UK are thought to be living with long Covid, data has revealed, the highest figure since official surveys began.

While Covid can cause a period of acute illness, some people continue to experience symptoms, such as breathlessness, muscle aches and fatigue, for months or even years – a condition that has been labelled long Covid.

Studies have suggested Covid may have a lingering impact, including through damage to organs such as the heart and lungs, while research has suggested fewer than a third of patients who have ongoing Covid symptoms after being hospitalised with the disease feel fully recovered a year later.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reveal that as of 1 May this year, 2 million people living in private households in the UK – or 3.1% of the population – reported they were still experiencing Covid symptoms more than four weeks after their first suspected coronavirus infection.

The Guardian

ONS Report: Prevalence of ongoing symptoms following coronavirus (COVID-19) infection in the UK: 1 June 2022

Covid-19 Fatalities – Workers

(ONS analysis and report)

2020 – 2021

- The first UK recorded deaths of Covid-19 were in March 2020. A year later more than 100,000 people had died in the UK . ONS have recorded those workers 20-64 years who have died. Many of them will be work related deaths but this is not recorded, reported or investigated in most cases. We should also recognise that many thousands of people have died because the transmission of the virus was not controlled in workplaces and people were infected in the community as a result

Total cases/deaths to March 2022

- By March 2022 - there had been 20.5 million cases and 164,000 deaths in the UK within 28 days of positive test, 186,094 with Covid on the death certificate and approx. 20,000 (12%) workers have died – though this is likely to be an underestimate

On the Cost of Living Crisis, Labour Is to the Right of the Tories

By Rae Hart

Labour leader Keir Starmer and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves. (Christopher Furlong / Getty Images)



With millions facing poverty, Labour should be demanding that the government goes much further than the weak measures announced so far – instead, they're trying to cast those measures as irresponsible.

After months of resisting calls for a windfall tax on oil and gas companies amid surging energy prices and soaring profits, Sunak has announced a major U-turn. The policy will raise the effective rate of tax on oil and gas profits from 40% to 65%, generating an estimated £5 billion in twelve months.

The revenue will contribute towards Sunak's £21 billion 'cost of living emergency package', which will see payments of between £150-£650 made to low-income households on Universal Credit, pensioners entitled to the winter fuel payment, and people on disability benefits. But these payments are woefully inadequate to compensate for the rise in energy bills, which will increase by a further £800 in October—bringing the price cap up to £2800.

Rather than calling on the government to go further with the support package, however, Labour is voicing concerns over the sources of funding. In response to the announcement of £10 billion in new borrowing by the government, Shadow Treasury Secretary Pat Macfadden is crassly attempting to present Labour as the party of financial prudence by asking the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) for a full analysis of the budget's impact.

The Labour leadership wants to brand itself as fiscally responsible, claiming it would give the OBR oversight of any emergency package they would introduce while in government. This rhetoric of divulging control for policy setting to unelected technocrats is reminiscent of New Labour's attempt to woo financial markets when they came to power in 1997—by granting independence to the Bank of England.

By giving up control over interest rates, Gordon Brown was able to shore-up the pound, keep the rate of interest on government bonds low, and cause a surge in British stocks. Rising share prices and a stronger pound won New Labour the trust of banks, enabling their light-touch approach. But that approach was predicated upon low interest rates, public-private 'partnerships', and distributing a small portion of the huge financial profits generated in the City of London through an intricate system of tax credits. These policies were lauded by financial and business elites at the time, but today ordinary people are still dealing with the repercussions of central bank independence.

Blairism 2.0

BoE rate hikes are increasing debt financing costs for the government. According to KPMG, interest repayments on government debt could reach £16 billion in June, largely counteracting the additional £10 billion in revenues generated from recent NIC rate hikes.

Raising interest rates in response to inflation is not a necessity. Rate hikes are a reaction by the BoE to maintain its 2% target inflation, which is more about protecting the returns of the financial sector than it is about protecting the purchasing power of consumers—as made clear by the governor's recent comments urging restraint for wage increases. If wages are rising in line with inflation there is no net impact on worker's purchasing power. However, higher rates of wage and consumer price growth do reduce the real value of income earned from interest on debt—such as the profits generated by bank lending.

Interest rates, government borrowing, and the rate of inflation are all political choices and decisions about them should not be divulged to unelected technocrats who often operate on behalf of the wealthy. New Labour's hands-off approach, which pandered to the financial sector, is unsuited to the emerging conditions of persistently low growth and rising prices. The current leadership's attempt to recreate the sentiment of this approach by proposing to give the OBR oversight of future budgets indicates a lack of awareness.

What is needed from Labour now is a holistic vision for a fairer economy predicated on stronger collective bargaining rights for workers so that wages can keep up with inflation, the utilisation of monetary policy for state lead investments in productive capacity, and a redistribution the massive profits and wealth accumulated by large corporations and the rich during the past four decades.

Tax and Class

Scrutiny over government spending is, of course, important—particularly when it comes to government contracts with big business. Serco's 21% increase in profits to £216 million on the back of Covid-19 contracts should certainly raise questions over companies profiteering from the crisis and the power they hold over the state apparatus. Amazon Web Services won over £600 million in UK government contracts between 2018-2021, and yet transparency over Amazon's historically controversial tax position in the UK remains opaque to the public.

However, pulling hairs over the minutia of who is receiving benefits during a cost of living emergency, as Labour are proposing to do, could slow down the process of distributing funds to those who need it most. Instead of deciding who should or should not receive funds for a given budget (and trying to regulate that) the government could counteract any benefit received by the wealthy through emergency measures by raising the rate of income tax for higher earners and implementing taxes on wealth.

An approach like this would open the door for a broader discussion on reforming the tax system—shifting focus onto higher earners, dividend income, and unearned income such as capital gains. According to Deloitte, the median pay for FTSE100 executives in 2022 was £3.6 million, and a recent study by the Resolution Foundation estimated that the top 1% own 25% of UK wealth. There is also a strong case to be made for higher rates of tax for large corporations, with new research from the Economic Policy Institute showing that corporate profits are disproportionately contributing towards higher inflation. In the first quarter of 2022 corporate profits in the UK reached £139,210,000,000 according to ONS data—well above pre-pandemic trends.

And, at a time when house prices have risen rapidly relative to wages, contributing to higher wealth inequality, landlords continue to be allowed to deduct mortgage interest from their taxable income and are now even eligible for super deductions in their capital allowances. Sunak has plans to extend the super-deduction for businesses beyond 2023 in an attempt to 'stimulate investment', but it is unclear exactly how this approach will help address the cost of living crisis. The Treasury's own research has shown that the government pays far more in R&D tax reliefs than businesses spend on investment.

Rather than trying to signal fiscal prudence to business interests, Labour should be making the case that trying to encourage investment through tax cuts is a flawed strategy. Instead, the government should be raising taxes on corporations and using this revenue to implement measures that directly address the cost of living crisis such as nationalising the energy companies, providing a living income, and upgrading the insulation of homes in preparation for winter. Tony Danker, director general of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), has called for the government to 'help the hardest hit now', saying that he believes 'Helping people with heating and eating bills will not fuel inflation'. In fact, ensuring people have adequate funds to cover food and energy bills will help to strengthen the demand base for UK businesses goods and services—besides its obvious merits on a human basis.

Political decisions like these are too important to be delegated to unelected, unaccountable institutions. Labour needs to take responsibility for envisioning a new economic model for the country—instead of trying to relive the past.

Council tax rebate cheques cashed at pawnbrokers



People have been cashing in their £150 council tax rebate cheques at a pawnbrokers because they cannot afford to wait for the money.

A large queue formed outside the Cash Shop in Rotherham, which deducts a £15 fee for the service. Some of those waiting in line said they could not afford to wait days for a cheque to clear through their bank.

Rotherham Council said it advised using a bank, post office or the local authority to avoid fees.

The government is giving all households in bands A to D £150 through their council tax to help with the cost of living crisis. For those who do not pay theirs through direct debit, a cheque is issued instead.

Aaron Parker, who lives alone, said money was tight Speaking outside the Cash Shop, Aaron Parker, 39, said: "I've got no gas or electricity so it's really important I get the money now."

Mr Parker said he had joined a queue of about 50 people outside the Cash Shop on Wednesday, after 200 people were reported there the previous day.

He has a bank account, but said the only way to get to his nearest branch in Sheffield would be to walk seven miles. "I got £134 so lost £16 but that money will get me through today. Things have been so bad literally I've been going to the bins to get food out on a night." He said the money from his council tax rebate would allow him to pay some bills and buy back his phone from Cash Convertors, which he had previously sold for £35.

Many people visiting the store said they needed the money to pay bills

Danny, who also cashed in his cheque, said his monthly wage of £1,200 only covered his car insurance and buying food for his five-year-old son. "I live with my mum and if I lived alone, it would be either run my car or run my house. I can't afford to do both when I have my little boy to feed too. People have no choice but to come here if they want the money today as most of us can't wait three or four days for cheques to clear."

Another visitor to the Cash Shop, Jordan, said waiting days for his cheque to clear "was a joke" when bills had increased so much. "I work 50 hours a week and sometimes overtime but it's still tough."

Richard Fuller, managing director of Cash Shop Ltd, said cashing fees were 7.9% of a cheque's face value plus a £2.99 handling fee. He said the company took the "inherent risk the cheques may not clear" and there was a calculator on its website which "shows our pricing with complete transparency".

"Unfortunately, banks refuse to offer this type of basic service to their customers and moreover, put a hold on cheques for at least three days," he said.

Councillor Chris Read, leader of Rotherham Council, said: "In terms of running this scheme, the objective was to get this money out as quickly as we possibly could. "We're one of the first places in the country that will have got the money sent out to people, for the majority that means there will be money in their pockets much more quickly - but I accept that for some people it hasn't been the best way of doing it."

Along with paying it in with their bank or a post office, the council said it can make the payment into a bank account on behalf of a resident at no cost.

If residents do not have access to a bank account, cash payments can be arranged by appointment, the local authority added.

'We are returning to the 1800s' in Sheffield's housing

Of all the crises we face, the one affecting our housing system often seems to be the most intractable. It's difficult to escape the conclusion that the market is irreparably broken, but no one seems to have a solution to the twin problems of sky-high house prices on the one hand and poor protection for renters on the other. As a brand new housing policy committee made up of councillors from across the political spectrum prepares to hold its first meeting, we look at some of the issues they face and how they might address them.

One of the main problems is the number of people being forced to live in substandard private rented accommodation.

A daunting task: A briefing due to be given to committee members on Thursday by director of housing and neighborhood services Janet Sharpe details the scale of the challenge. In it, she says the council is faced with "increasingly challenging standards in the private sector".

A private sector stock condition survey estimated a minimum of £1 billion was needed to tackle "category one" hazards (classed as faults that could cause death, permanent paralysis, permanent loss of consciousness, loss of a limb or serious fractures).

Specific areas of poor housing in Sheffield which are in need of "focused attention" include Page Hall, Abbeydale, Sharrow and Burngreave. Selective licensing schemes which vet private landlords operate in both Page Hall and Abbeydale

Raised in parliament: As reported recently by the local democracy reporting service, Sheffield Hallam MP Olivia Blake spoke in parliament about this problem last month. In her speech, she said she had heard "horror story after horror story" from people in her constituency about mould, damp, exposed asbestos, broken appliances, rats and vermin. She continued:

"I have seen numerous cases of new or worsening asthma in children, formally recorded by doctors as likely to be linked to their living in mouldy or damp housing conditions. Other families have reported repeat infections. We are returning to the 1800s."

Lack of affordable housing: People are being increasingly pushed into the private rented sector due to rising house prices, which in Sheffield are forecast to go up by 10% this year.

However, as recently pointed out by Crookes councillor Minesh Parekh, many developments being built in South Yorkshire contain very little affordable housing.

Of the 612 properties in three recent housing planning applications in Barnsley and Rotherham, just 84 of them were classed as being affordable (less than 15%).

More council houses: Many more people in Sheffield used to live in social housing, but over the last 40 years the council's stock has been badly depleted as a result of the right to buy scheme. However, unlike many other local authorities, Sheffield council is increasing its housing stock again and has pledged to build more than 3,000 over the next 10 years.

Our take: The council's new committee system is a chance for the city's main political parties to come together to address the problems we face — none of which are more important than housing. While hugely ambitious housing projects like Park Hill and Gleadless Valley are no longer on the agenda, the committee's nine members do still have policy levers that could make a real difference to people's lives. Finding ways to increase the council's housing stock and extending the selective licensing schemes to protect at-risk renters would be a good start.

Sheffield Tribune

But renters are fighting back with Acorn tenants union, with direct action and Government lobbying



Victory for an Acorn tenant, poster against no notice eviction and the mayoral lobbying show the wide range of Acorn activity and their successes.

Renters Manifesto

Renters organisations from across England have come together to write a manifesto – calling on all parties to commit to radical change to fix the housing crisis.

This National Renter Manifesto sets out the steps needed to ensure that everybody has a secure, affordable and decent home.

The manifesto covers six key themes: Security, Affordability, Justice, Conditions, Discrimination, and Housing for People Not Profit.

45% of private renters have been victims of illegal acts by their landlord or letting agent warn Shelter

Shelter warns new Renters' Reform Bill must help renters fight back against illegal behaviour

Over two-fifths (45%) of England's private renting adults – equivalent to 3.7 million people - have been the victim of illegal behaviour from a landlord or letting agent, alarming new research from Shelter has revealed.

An in-depth YouGov study of 3,500 English private renters revealed the most common illegal behaviour faced by renters is a landlord or letting agent entering their home without giving notice or a chance to give permission – a quarter (25%) of respondents had experienced this, equivalent to 2.1 million people. Even more worryingly, nearly one in ten (9%) private renters (731,000 people) said they have been assaulted, threatened or harassed by their landlord or letting agent.

And now a victory for lobbying . Government announces Renters Reform Bill

What is the Renters' Reform Bill and how will it change things for renters? The much-delayed Renters' Reform Bill will be detailed by the Westminster government later this year after being included in the Queen's Speech. Here's what to expect

What is the Renters' Reform Bill and how will it change things for renters?

The first question is will it actually happen and when?

Theresa May's government first announced the bill in April 2019 as a "step change" in protections for renters, ending no-fault evictions and giving landlords and tenants more rights. It was hailed as "the biggest change to the private rental sector for a generation".

Announcing the plans, the then-prime minister said: "Everyone in the private sector has the right to feel secure in their home, settled in their community and able to plan for the future with confidence. "But millions of responsible tenants could still be uprooted by their landlord with little notice, and often little justification."

Ministers have said the white paper – a government report giving proposals on an issue – will be released later in 2022.

Alicia Kennedy, director of Generation Rent, said: "We can't rest until the changes are passed into law. Now it's the details that matter."

Main proposals needed

End to "no fault evictions"

The main target for the reforms is the abolishment of section 21 evictions, often called 'no-fault' evictions. Removing the clause from the Housing Act 1988 will allow "security for tenants in the private rented sectors and empower them to challenge poor practice and unfair rent increases without fear of retaliatory eviction". Landlords will still be able to end tenancies when they have legitimate reasons to do so, but they will no longer be able to unexpectedly evict families with only eight weeks' notice."

Decent Homes Standard

The government will also look to improve standards in rented accommodation with a Decent Homes Standard and explore the introduction of a national landlord register much like the one in operation in Scotland. The bill will also look to create a new ombudsman for renters to take complaints against landlords without going to court and an app with landlord "reviews".

Its main failings

A landlord can charge whatever they like for a property – there is no law setting a maximum amount and that is not going to change with the Renters' Reform Bill. Instead it is up to the property market to define the price a renter pays.

The National Residential Landlords Association has spoken up in favour of axing Section 21 – as long as there is an agreed mechanism to replace them that allows landlords to reclaim properties quickly when needed. "It is in that spirit that the government should develop its plans for a system to replace Section 21 in its forthcoming white paper on rental reform."

French Parliamentary Elections 2022

After the victory of Macron over the Le Pen National Front in the presidential elections the parliamentary elections in June will see a new left wing coalition attempting to defeat both Macron, the right and political abstentionism and to elect Melanchon as Prime Minister. Their program is based on social and ecological justice by challenging both Macron and EU austerity policies.



The Red /Green coalition of Jean Luc Melanchon will take on Macron/Le Pen in the French parliamentary elections h, healing divisions on the French Left.

France's Left-Wing Coalition Can Stop Emmanuel Macron's Attacks on Welfare

By Harrison Stetler

“Aurélien, you have come back to the light,” an introductory speaker teases, “and I never doubted it at all.” On Saturday, May 21, French member of parliament Aurélien Taché launched his reelection campaign outside a café in Cergy, a suburb northwest of Paris that he has represented since 2017. Five years ago, Taché was part of the crop of young deputies elected to parliament on the coattails of centrist president Emmanuel Macron. He would jump ship from the presidential majority in May 2020, however, founding a small parliamentary formation made up primarily of ex-Macronists like himself. In 2022, the now thirty-eight-year-old deputy's reelection poster features him alongside Jean-Luc Mélenchon, France's leading left-wing hopeful, who finished a close third in April's presidential elections.

This is one of the many political convergences the New Ecological and Social Popular Union (NUPES, in the French acronym) has made possible. An alliance of France's progressive forces, the NUPES was formed in early May after a flurry of negotiations between Mélenchon's La France Insoumise (LFI) and the other left-wing parties, namely the Greens, the French Communist Party, and the Socialists.

Thanks to this agreement, the parties are running a united front of candidates on shared policy planks across hundreds of legislative districts in this month's parliamentary elections. Programmatically grounded in the broad-based radicalism that Mélenchon has stood for since splitting from the Socialists in 2008, the NUPES points toward what many see as the basis for a durable culture of collaboration and unity on the Left.

“I'm very hopeful about the new sequence that is opening up,” Taché tells me. “Finally, the Left is unifying, which is something that we haven't had going into the legislative elections in over twenty-five years. That people who had stopped talking to each other, who at times had even come to hate each other, are now able to come together is historic.”

Does “Cohabitation” Mean Learning to Live With Each Other?

The NUPES' short-term goal is to derail Macron's second-term agenda by forcing the reelected president into a so-called cohabitation, or co-governance, securing enough seats through the June 12 and 19 votes to form an opposition government in parliament. The NUPES candidates hope to turn June's elections into what they call a “third round,” giving left-wing voters the chance to reaffirm their presence in national politics after being narrowly cornered out of the presidential runoff on April 24, when the incumbent Macron again defeated far-right leader Marine Le Pen. “Another world is still possible,” the NUPES slogan pleads, as the over five hundred candidates grouped under the cartel make the direct appeal that French

Largely indebted to LFI's platform, "The Future Together," the NUPES is running on 650 concrete proposals. These include ecological planning along the lines of a French Green New Deal, a minimum wage hike to 1500 euros per month, price freezes on essential goods, the repeal of labor code reforms passed during the Hollande and Macron presidencies, and a constituent assembly to draft the constitution for a Sixth Republic. In stark contrast to the reelected president, who is preparing for a second-term fight over reforming the retirement system, having pledged in his campaign to raise the pension eligibility age to sixty-five, the alliance proposes a retirement age of sixty.

Beyond the vitriol hurled at the new left-wing alliance from much of the political class, the clearest signs of the threat posed by the NUPES are the president's attempts to appeal to progressive voters since winning reelection. Having nominated Élisabeth Borne as prime minister, a veteran of Macron's first-term cabinet and, like him, a defector from the Socialist Party, the president has been peddling an impending legislative package on cost of living and a newfound commitment to "ecological planning." The nomination of the respected black historian Pap Ndiaye as minister of education was meant to send the signal that the president is turning the page, at least partially, on the culture war antics of Ndiaye's predecessor, Jean-Michel Blanquer.

But for left-wing French voters still fresh off the bitter humiliations of Macron's first term, moves like these are probably too little, too late. The president's political identity has long ceased to be a mystery, drilled in by Macron's first-term attacks on the country's social welfare system, and his dangerous willingness to domesticate right-wing cultural anxieties.

While some ousted party leaders from the Socialist Party and the Greens hurl invectives from the sidelines, or sponsor dissident candidacies in some districts, the NUPES has revealed a refreshing changing of the guard in the leadership of the French left. A new generation of activists and political figures are eager to move beyond the divisions of recent decades, and the political and ideological tripping stones that opened the door to Macron and the rise of the far right.

For Taché, the last few years have been galvanizing and at times radicalizing. "Seeing the degree to which people are suffering right now from racism and poverty," he noted, "I'm ready to support economic and social solutions that are much more radical."

What's next for the NUPES is the cultivation of what Chikirou calls a "common culture" of governing and politics. "June 19 will be the beginning of something," she predicts.

Will that something be us in power, in which case we'll have to learn how to govern together, to put into action our program? Or will we be preparing for future electoral cycles, and learning how to be build an opposition together? Whatever happens, this is not going to stop on June 19. That's certain.

Full article- <https://jacobin.com/2022/06/french-legislative-elections-nupes-union-populaire-melenchon-macron>

Can the 'Nupes' revive the French left's fortunes?- LSE Blog

Mélenchon and Macron alliances head-to-head in parliamentary first-round polling

The Price of a Qatar World Cup



How many workers have died?

In February 2021, the Guardian said 6,500 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka had died in Qatar since it won its World Cup bid.

Life at 50C: Qatar accused of under-reporting deaths in Gulf's killer heat

Across the Gulf, extreme heat is affecting ever more people, especially millions of migrant workers who go there to support their families back home.

Temperatures that go above 50C, thanks to climate change, can leave workers with life-altering illnesses including heart failure.

A BBC Arabic investigation has uncovered allegations that Qatar is under-reporting the number of migrant workers who have died of heat stroke.

Migrant workers who have complained about labour laws being broken have been jailed.

UK viewers can watch the full Life at 50C documentary on BBC iPlayer. The Gulf: Killer Heat

World Cup 2022: How has Qatar treated stadium workers?



In 2016, human rights group Amnesty International accused Qatar of using forced labour. It said many workers were living in squalid accommodation, paying huge recruitment fees and had had wages withheld and passports confiscated.

Since 2017, the government has introduced measures to protect migrant labourers from

NEWS Life at 50 Degrees



working in excessive heat, limit their working hours and improve conditions in workers' camps.

However, campaign group Human Rights Watch said in a 2021 report that foreign workers were still suffering from "punitive and illegal wage deductions", as well as "months of unpaid wages for long hours of gruelling work".

Sheffield Love Music Hate Racism presents an evening of acoustic agitprop mayhem!



Tickets:

https://www.wegottickets.com/event/549531?fbclid=IwAR2z91Zd0lKOre8NUrgDXQR2E4WiQ3RAstvXjCeo7TkOsvSm3TbY_eY8-aA

£13

David Rovics

Jess Silk & Doctur Normul

Presented by: Russ Chandler Promotions

SHEFFIELD: The Greystones (map)

Wednesday 20th July, 2022

Door time: 7:30pm, Start time: 8:00pm

14 and over

David Rovics is one of the finest political songwriters in the world.

A real life troubadour who travels the world speaking truth to power, playing on stages large and small, at protests and festivals as well as in squatted social centres and folk clubs. He has recorded dozens of albums and has millions of his songs viewed, streamed and downloaded every year.

"Absolutely brilliant. David Rovics says exactly what needs to be said." - Ian McMillan, BBC

"If the great Phil Ochs were to rise from the dead today, he would probably be hailed as the new David Rovics." - Andy Kershaw, BBC

"I'm a big fan." - Tom Morello, Rage Against the Machine

<https://www.davidrovics.com>

Jess Silk is one of the most exciting songwriters to have emerged in this country in recent years. A guitarist, singer and songwriter from the Black Country, her melodic and intelligent brand of folk/punk music often has her being likened to a female Frank Turner or Billy Bragg. Jess seriously gets people sitting up and listening and she is really going places.

Doctur Normul plays political folk punk with distinctive bluesy vocals.

Media and Books



How to Steal a Trillion- Author and journalist Oliver Bullough traces Britain's vital role in the growth of 'offshore' money laundering - from its origins in the City of the 1950s, through to its impact today.

In this omnibus edition of the series, he traces the origins of 'offshore' back to the sleepy City of London of the 1950s. A moment of inspiration fuses with the shock of the Suez Crisis to create the launch of a whole new approach to finance.

From there, he traces how offshoring developed through Britain's links to an unusual number of islands - the 'last pink bits' on the old Imperial map, and Crown Dependencies, such as Jersey. Next he explores the arrival of Russian oligarchs in the 1990s, and the growth of the shell company.

Finally, he asks why efforts such as the government's much-heralded Unexplained Wealth Orders have not so far managed to stop offshore money laundering - and explores what might work instead.

One omnibus edition or five episodes



Sir Alex Ferguson: Never Give In

Even though you may not be a Manchester United fan or even a football fan the film is worth watching for the social commentary, from a striking apprentice in Govan to the highly personal thoughts of a man who faced death from a bleed on the brain.

His philosophy on life and management came from his upbringing as a socialist and the collective experience of trade unionism. The film is even more poignant in that it is directed by his son and includes extracts with Eric Cantona and Ryan Giggs, both men with troubles who were helped by Ferguson. A film on the meaning of life not just football.



In this major autobiography, McCluskey throws back the curtains on life at the top of the Labour movement—with explosive revelations about his dealings with Keir Starmer, the behind-the-scenes battles of the Corbyn era, his secret Brexit negotiations with Theresa May's government, the spectacular bust-up with his former friend Tom Watson, and his tortuous relationship with Ed Miliband.

McCluskey is no run-of-the-mill trade unionist. Fiercely political, unflinchingly left wing, he is a true workers' leader. His politics were formed in Liverpool at a time of dock strikes, the Beatles, and the May 1968 revolution in Paris. An eyewitness to the Hillsborough tragedy, he recounts in harrowing detail searching for his son.

Witty and sharp, McCluskey delivers a powerful intervention, issuing a manifesto for the future of trade unionism and urging the left not to lose sight of class politics. A central player in a tumultuous period of British political history, McCluskey's account is an essential—and entertaining—record of our times.