

YOUR VOICE



Edited by **FIONA PARKER**



YOUR MEMORIES

I found this photo among my mother-in-law's things after she passed away some years ago. The man on the left with the accordion is her brother, Gerald Arthrell from Lichfield, Staffs, in a German prisoner of war camp. He was captured at Dunkirk at the start of the Second World War and was interned for the remainder of the conflict.

His family would knit him thick jumpers which they only found out later, he would undo and roll the wool around a ball of paper to barter with the guards for extra treats and favours.

Alan Daft, Porthmadog, Gwynedd

If you'd like to send us a photo of a cherished loved one, please email us at the address below with a picture and some information about who they are and when and where it was taken.

Fair pay for those who serve us well

WE'RE facing a summer of discontent with workers from all walks of life preparing to ballot for strike action.

It's a national disgrace that people who risked their lives to keep us safe during the pandemic are having to visit foodbanks to survive, nurses in particular. The situation must be tackled from the top down.

It's obscene that companies and bosses are raking in huge profits at the expense of employees. Then there's the question of shareholders coining in dividends on the back of staff who slave away for a pittance.

It's all very well for the elite to say increased wages will fuel inflation, but they aren't struggling. The problem is multi-millionaires in charge have no idea what it's like to survive in Britain these days.

Don't forget there's been over a decade of wage restraint because of the banking collapse. The nation was sacrificed by the Tories to support their rich friends. Time to rectify this by booting them out.

I can appreciate the anger and disappointment public sector workers like teachers, nurses and others must be feeling at the below-inflation pay rises. These people provide essential services to help run the country and should receive pay rewards which reflect the esteem in which the public hold them. When will the Government wake up to

THE BIG ISSUE

Public sector workers including teachers, doctors, nurses and police officers are to receive below-inflation pay rises of 4-5% despite warnings inflation could spiral to 12% this year. Labour accused the Tories of "failing to grow the economy", while nurses and teachers are among those considering strike action. You say...



the realisation that these people can't afford to live on a meagre pay increment?

M Smith, Chatham, Kent

Ministers say cutting business taxes encourages investment, but what it actually does is increase share prices and dividends, which benefits the rich Tory backers and members who will decide who the next Prime Minister will be.

Cuts to income taxes help the highest paid who pay more than those in need. Yet they still insist on wage rises well below inflation for workers and permanent Tory austerity for everyone else.

Brett Grainger, Rugeley, Staffs

If, like Johnson, you ended up in hospital, who would you rather be looked after by? A casual worker or a highly trained nurse? This government knows nurses and teachers don't want to strike, so push them as far as they can offering low pay rises to lower living standards further. The only industry that's grown while the Tories have been in

power is foodbanks. It's absolutely abhorrent in 21st-century Britain.

Tony Howard, Salford

I don't support calls for strikes as they would only increase inflation. Prices are abnormally high due to the after-effects of Covid and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Once these horrible situations are more stable, prices should come down.

But by then the panic for higher incomes, which are then taxed, will have also pushed up prices. The postal service is already in decline due to online deliveries, so why make the situation worse with more lay-offs likely if Royal Mail workers take action?

Paul Joslyn, Maidstone, Kent

Years of below-inflation rises have eroded the living standards of public sector workers to the point where nurses are having to use foodbanks and teachers are taking second jobs. Yet they're still expected to accept a pitiful 4 or 5% when inflation is running at more than double that. How can that be right when they do such vital jobs?

Ken Wickes, Gtr Manchester

Under a Labour government there wouldn't be this threat of strikes as they would have talked to the unions and sorted it out. Let's get these money-grabbing, unfit-for-purpose Conservatives out and get back to some normality.

Alan Bryan, Walsall, West Mids

Lionesses big game hunt

I'd like to wish the fabulous Lionesses the best of luck for their Euros semi-final tomorrow. They pulled off a stunning victory against Spain to get there, with an 84th minute equaliser from Ella Toone and then Georgia Stanway's clincher in extra time. And I am sure they can do it again.

I think I speak for the majority when I say the tournament has been a resounding success and has given a huge boost to the women's game.

Louise Pegg, Birmingham

GOAL!
Georgia Stanway

Be specific on gangs

Your article "Telford child sex inquiry wasted 10 years before stopping grooming gangs, says hero cop" (July 17), highlights the bravery of former DCI Alan Edwards, who worked on Operation Chalice and has spoken about being silenced while in the force.

It appears despite evidence of "Asian men grooming girls as young as 11", he was informed by colleagues in West Mercia Police, "not to rock the boat" for fear of race relations with the Pakistani community. The nation is indebted to Nick Sommerlad and Geraldine McKelvie for their dogged investigations which led to the inquiry.

However, many in the Sikh and Hindu community have reservations about the term "Asian" to describe perpetrators who predominantly come from the Pakistani, Muslim community.

The Telford inquiry itself mentions "Asian" or "Asians" nearly 200 times, but we must be specific about who the perpetrators actually are.

After all, "Asian" is a bit like saying "Europeans" were responsible for the holocaust.

Lord Singh of Wimbledon, Director, Network of Sikh Organisations

Tweet of the day

Labour's Chris Bryant gives his verdict on the Tory leadership race between Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak...

@RhonddaBryant - Pretty clear Winston Churchill would not have got through to the final round with this set of Conservative MPs. Too left-wing, too pro-European.

One of my favourite shows is BBC's Garden Rescue with Charlie Dimmock, but how I miss the Rich brothers who've been replaced. It isn't the same without the repartee between them and Charlie. Please let's have them back.

D Hughesdon, South London

Pub quiz answers

How many of our daily pub quiz brainteasers did you manage to get right?

1. Nitrogen
2. Bow
3. Clarinet
4. Cillian Murphy
5. Abu Dhabi

THE BIG QUESTION

Every day we'll be asking your opinion on one of Britain's big talking points. You can have your say and vote at mirror.co.uk

Tory leadership hopeful Liz Truss backs Boris Johnson's idea for a new £250m royal yacht to promote UK interests around the world, but wants businesses to help pay.

Do you agree with plans for a new royal yacht?

YES
27%

NO
73%

Yes. Britannia helped to promote Britain and the Royal Family around the world. A new royal yacht would be good PR for the UK.
CORINNE DAVIS

No. The royals have said they don't want one. This is another Johnson Unicorn to go along with his Garden Bridge and water cannon.
ANTONY CHESTER

No. £250m for homeless people seems a better deal to me instead of getting boats for overpaid royals.
DES E

No. People are literally going without meals and Truss wants to spend £1/4 billion on a vanity project. Get rid of these people now.
DAVEHORTON123

Yes. Let big business pay as it's ultimately they who would benefit.
JIM STRACHAN

No. With respect, the Queen isn't going to be using it at 96, so it's just another expensive status symbol.
MICHAEL ELIAS

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