Trevor Lyttleton's Non-Times Published Letters

The Daily Telegraph October 23 2026

Putin the "humanitarian"

Sir, Hours after Steve Witkoff, Donald Trump's peace envoy, called Vladimir Putin a "humanitarian" (report, October 21), Russian missiles struck Kyiv, killing and wounding civilians, including children.

Mr Witkoff's defenders may say that flattery was the price of freeing an American prisoner. Are they not aware that Putin is wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the unlawful deportation of Ukrainian children? A diplomat can say thank you without giving such a man a glowing character reference.

The term "humanitarian" applies to the rescuers in Kyiv's rubble, not the tyrant who sent the missiles

Trevor Lyttleton

Daily Mail Letters

An appeal worth leading 13 October 2026

Sir, I warmly thank Janet Stowell for supporting my proposal for a voluntary fund for Ukraine's defence. She is right: contributions from the public could add greatly to those from Britain's billionaires.

Could the Mail bring together experienced fundraisers to turn this willingness into an urgent and independently audited appeal, particularly for air defences to protect civilians and vital power supplies?

Janet's generous response shows that people want to help. They need a trusted means of doing so. With winter approaching, the Mail could give this initiative the impetus it urgently needs.

Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

DAILY MAIL

Trump's diesel deal is a true disgrace

Oct 13, 2026 23

I SHARE the utter despair of Trevor Lyttleton (Letters) at the lack of discussion about Ukraine. The bravery of the desperate Ukrainian people puts the whole of Europe to shame. And where are we? Still sitting on the fence while Putin advances as the bitter winter weather begins. Trevor suggested mustering billionaires to contribute to a voluntary fund to support Ukraine. Why not take it further and let the public donate? I would gladly give what I can. Set up your giving page, Trevor, because no politician is going to.JANET STOWELL, Buxted, E. Sussex

Daily Mail Oct 7, 2026

Ukraine matters

AT THE party conferences so far, leaders have competed over tax, spending and welfare, yet there has been barely a mention of the question that may decide Europe's future: how to ensure Ukraine's survival.Ukraine is not a distant quarrel. Its people are fighting for democracy, freedom of speech and the

rule of law, the values we claim to cherish. If Putin's aggression succeeds, that threat moves closer to us all.

The Prime Minister should invite Britain's billionaires to contribute voluntarily to a fund for Ukraine's defence and urge European leaders to do the same, to supplement government aid.

TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11

The Scotsman

New anthem

Sept 12, 2026

As our three children attended Edinburgh University, I regard myself as an honorary Scot entitled to offer the following suggestion.

As the SNP considers its future direction, might it propose adapting the magnificent final theme from Mendelssohn's Scottish Symphony as scotland' s national anthem?

Scotland inspired one of the world's great symphonies. With suitable lyrics, its triumphant theme could become a dignified and unifying anthem, celebrating not an ancient victory over England, but Scotland's enduring capacity to inspire the world.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE London

Jewish Chronicle September 11 2026

Israel election

AT WEST London Synagogue's Shabbat Nitzavim service, celebrating the synagogue's renewal, I read Moses' words placing before the Israelites the choice between life and death and commanding them: "Choose life." It made me think about renewal for Israel in these troubled times.

This was not a party-political instruction, but it offers Israelis a solemn test at the forthcoming election: which choice will best protect life, uphold justice, restore Israel's moral standing in the world and secure a peaceful future?

Israel will be deciding not merely who governs it, but what kind of nation it wishes to be.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE

Times of Malta 23 August 2026

Companionship cures loneliness

Trevor Lyttleton, founder, Contact the Elderly, now Re-engage, of London, writes:

Mia D'Ancona's deeply moving and perceptive article, "Loneliness isn't about being alone" (August 16), deserves the widest attention. She is surely right that loneliness is not simply being alone but feeling unseen, unwanted and deprived of meaningful human connection, even amid family, friends or a crowd.

Mother Teresa said that loneliness was the world's worst disease. Companionship can be its best medicine, bringing conversation, music and laughter, while creating friendships between people of different generations, cultures and backgrounds.

More than 60 years ago, I founded Contact the Elderly, now Re-engage, after discovering how many older people spent Sundays entirely alone. Our simple remedy was regular Sunday tea parties, with volunteer drivers taking small groups of older guests into welcoming homes.

By the end of my 50 years as chairman, some 8,000 volunteers were supporting 600 monthly tea-party groups. Re-engage now helps around 9,000 older people each year throughout the lUK.

Perhaps Malta, with its strong traditions of family and hospitality, might create more tea parties for older people and informal coffee mornings, picnics or musical gatherings for the young. Loneliness respects no age: everyone needs the comfort of being expected, welcomed and listened to.

Adult children are part of the social care debate

Financial Times 5 Aug 2026

Chris Giles, in his Inside Politics piece "Don't let tax rows eclipse the fundamentals of social care" (FT.com, August 3), rightly argues that disputes over taxation must not distract from the fundamental questions, including the responsibility of the family of someone who needs care. That question has been largely absent from the British debate.

In France, children have a legal obligation to assist parents in need. In Germany, contributions from adult children towards publicly funded support are generally considered only when an individual child's annual income exceeds €100,000.

Many years ago, while negotiating with an Italian lawyer in Verona, he interrupted our meeting to take me upstairs to see his mother, who was preparing lunch. Throwing his arms around her, he exclaimed: "Isn't she a beautiful mamma?" I found it difficult to imagine an English solicitor interrupting a legal meeting in quite the same way.

There must also be exemptions where there has been parental abuse, abandonment or serious neglect.

But should exceptionally well-resourced adult children not be expected to make a reasonable, capped and means-tested contribution towards a parent's care?

A durable settlement must consider not only the responsibilities of the individual and the state, but also the reciprocal responsibilities of family life. Trevor Lyttleton Founder, Contact the Elderly (now Re-engage), London NW11, UK

Financial Times – 13 July 2026

The Clacton by-election cannot settle standards

Nigel Farage says the Clacton by-election will allow voters to judge him. It cannot (Report, July 5).

The issue is not whether he complied with Parliament's declaration rules, nor even whether the people of Clacton choose to return him. It is whether it is right for any MP to accept a £5 million gift from a major cryptocurrency investor and then become one of Parliament's leading champions of the cryptocurrency industry.

Even if the donation were lawful and properly declared, public confidence depends on Parliament being seen to be free from the influence of such substantial private financial interests.

The by-election may settle Farage's electoral mandate, but it cannot settle that constitutional question. Only the parliamentary standards inquiry can do that.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE London NW11, UK

Jewish Chronicle – 10 July 2026

Israel's Reputation

Melanie Phillips's thoughtful article (June 5) raises one of the defining challenges facing the Jewish people.

The long-term security of diaspora Jews will depend not only on the countries in which they live but also on Israel's next generation of leaders renewing its position as a beacon of morality, humanity and innovation.

Israel's security will always depend on its military strength, but its standing in the world depends equally on moral leadership. By responding generously to humanitarian crises, sharing its medical, scientific and high-tech achievements for the benefit of humanity, and extending practical help regardless of nationality or faith, Israel can help restore its often unfairly tarnished reputation and remind the world of the values on which it was founded.

Such leadership will not eliminate antisemitism overnight. But by combining strength with compassion and moral example, Israel can help abate the rising tide of antisemitism and strengthen the long-term security of diaspora Jews everywhere.

Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

Daily Mail – 8 July 2026

Farage's £5m

The fuss about Nigel Farage's finances has centred on whether he broke parliamentary rules over an undeclared £5 million gift from crypto investor Christopher Harborne. But that is not the important question.

Farage received the gift in June 2024, became an MP in July and, in September 2025, privately urged the Governor of the Bank of England to scrap plans for a digital pound, a policy that would help Harborne's business.

The simple question is: did a large personal gift buy influence over monetary policy? That is a judgement about a possible future Prime Minister, not a question of whether a form was filled in correctly.

Trevor Lyttleton London NW1

Daily Telegraph – 7 July 2026

How are Britain's leaders still blind to the military threat that faces us?

Sir –

It has been warned that Russia is likely to pose a military threat to Britain by 2030. But why should the Kremlin wait that long?

If the threat is real, defence planning must surely assume that aggression could come this year, next year or the year after. If the date of 2030 reflects intelligence, ministers should explain this. If it is simply the earliest date by which years of under-investment can be remedied, the public deserves to know that, too.

Deterrence depends not on when we expect an attack, but on whether a potential aggressor believes we are ready today.

Trevor LyttletonLondon NW11

Financial Times – 1 July 2026

The Emperor's Clothes

Christian B Teeter's June 29 letter ("Iran agreement should be judged by years, not days") suggests that celebrations of the recent US-Iran agreement may be premature.

Hans Christian Andersen's emperor was surrounded by courtiers who assured him that his invisible clothes were magnificent. Only later did reality intrude.

If a war launched to eliminate a threat ends with an agreement that leaves key elements of that threat unresolved, the question is not what leaders call it but what it achieves.

A victory proclaimed is not necessarily a victory secured. The American electorate may not ask that question today. But if the problem survives the peace, they may conclude that the emperor had no clothes after all.

In Andersen's tale, the emperor was not exposed by his critics but by events.

Trevor Lyttleton MBELondon NW11, UK

Sunday Telegraph – 28 June 2026

Me and AI

Sir –

Trevor Lyttleton (Letters, June 21) is right to back Claude, the AI assistant.

Since my husband upgraded our AI tech support, Claude has helped him design a bespoke summer house and console table. I keep Claude busy by asking for inspiration on what we could have for supper.

Our poor old Alexa has been demoted to the less worthy tasks of kitchen timer and shopping list duties.

Kirsty BluntSedgeford, Norfolk

Sunday Telegraph – 21 June 2026

AI in Politics (Claude – 1, ChatGPT – 0)

Sir –

At 90, one has survived a good deal, but nothing prepared me for seeking a weather forecast from two AI sources to determine whether my 90th birthday garden party could proceed as planned.

ChatGPT was gloomy: scattered showers, it warned. Unsettled conditions. Do not rely on sunshine.

In desperation, I turned to Claude, who was reassuring: temperature around 22 degrees, and no rain expected.

On the day, the sun shone. Claude was right. ChatGPT was wrong. Most remarkably, ChatGPT then conceded the point and advised me to trust Claude.

Perhaps at 90, one is entitled to a little sunshine. The garden party was a triumph, the bunting stayed dry, and I shall consult Claude henceforth while treating all AI forecasts with a degree of caution.

Trevor LyttletonLondon NW11

Jewish Chronicle – 22 May 2026

Shining a Light for Shavuot

Reports that Israel is supplying Iron Dome missile defence technology to the UAE should give pause to politicians advocating boycotts of Israel.

It is difficult to portray Israel as an international pariah when even Arab states increasingly rely on Israeli technology to help protect civilian lives and regional stability.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE

Daily Telegraph – 19 May 2026

The Innocence of Children During the Blitz

Sir –

As Britain marks the 85th anniversary of the end of the Blitz (report, May 17), I recall being carried half-asleep through the darkness into our air-raid shelter in Leeds as the sirens sounded overhead.

My sister and I thought it a great adventure and enjoyed putting on our funny-looking gas masks, blissfully unaware of our parents' worst fears.

The Blitz continues to serve as a reminder of destruction and courage, but also of the strange innocence with which children can experience the darkest moments of history.

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Jewish Chronicle – 22 May 2026

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London NW11

LLM
Guardian May 7 2026

With artificial intelligence bringing “large language models” into everyday use, the LLM after my name has acquired a new meaning. For 70 years I assumed that it referred to my Cambridge master of laws
Trevor Lyttleton
London

Bayeux Tapestry loan
Daily Telegraph Apr 15, 2026

SIR – The proposed loan of the Bayeux Tapestry to Britain is concerning. Nearly a millennium old, it is a uniquely fragile record of European history. However sophisticated the packing, transport inevitably carries risks – from vibration, humidity and handling – which no insurance can truly mitigate. Damage, even slight, would be irreversible.
There is no compelling need to incur that risk. The tapestry is accessible in Normandy, where millions already view it each year.
Some cultural treasures are simply too important to move. Preserving them in situ is not parochialism, but prudent stewardship.
Trevor Lyttleton
London NW11

Daily Telegraph Mar 20, 2026
Digital ID
Sir – As the Government consults on digital ID (report, March 11), those opposed risk letting legitimate concerns about design become outright rejection of necessary reform.
To portray digital ID as “authoritarian” is a mistake. Identity verification is not surveillance. Properly constructed, digital ID can enhance privacy by allowing individuals to prove limited attributes without disclosing full personal details. The alternative is a fragmented system requiring circulation of passports, bills and bank details – a far greater exposure of personal data.
With robust safeguards and genuine offline access – essential for vulnerable people who are not online – digital ID could reduce fraud, boost productivity by streamlining authentication procedures and lower costs.
Trevor Lyttleton
London NW11

The true cost of Trump’s assault on climate policy
Financial Times February 19 2026

Sir, Your report on plans to rescind the US Environmental Protection Agency’s 2009
That is presented as a saving. The debit side tells a different story. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates that climate and weather disasters have cost the US about $2.9tn since 1980. If emissions rise and extreme events intensify, future liabilities will far exceed projected regulatory savings. Analysis reported by Reuters suggests reductions in US global health and aid programmes could be associated with millions of additional deaths by 2030. Serious government requires full cost accounting.
Trevor Lyttleton London NW1

Homouring Navalny
Feb 16, 2026 Daily Telegraph

SIR – Fresh revelations about the death of Alexei Navalny, the Russian opposition leader (“Putin’s frog poison hit on Navalny reveals his secret chemical weapons”, report, February 15), confirm the nature of the tyranny he defied.
Mr Navalny sent the free world a clear message when he said: “If they decide to kill me, it means that we are incredibly strong.” He added: “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing.”

Europe must prove him right by honouring him visibly – through strengthened sanctions against Russia, and with permanent memorials. In this way it can help to uphold the values for which he gave his life. Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

Daily Mail Tue, Jan 13, 2026
Balancing the books

HOW will abolishing non-dom status raise £3.2billion, as Labour likes to claim, once job losses, reduced invest- ment and declining philanthropy are accounted for?
Secondly, how much will VAT on private school fees raise for the Exchequer after the extra burden on state schools is factored in?
These offsetting losses are never measured, yet they are substantial: as non-doms leave, charitable dona- tions cease, businesses close, luxury spending falls and the hospitality sector shrinks, as shown by the recent closure of Michelin-starred Locanda Locatelli.
Labour can't credibly claim any net gain until the debit side of the ledger has been assessed.
TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11

Honouring Local benefactor
Camden New Law Journal 9 Jan 2026

Sir,, I was delighted to read Dr Mallory Wober's illuminating article on the remarkable new high-rise at Finchley Road and the innovative stone-based construction methods championed by architect Amin Taha.
Dr Wober's clear explanation of how load-bearing stone structures can reduce carbon costs, simplify construction, and enhance the appearance of our built environment is both timely and persuasive. At a moment when Camden faces critical decisions about sustainable development, his contribution offers exactly the kind of informed, practical thinking that planners and councillors should heed.
Camden Council should do more than merely note this proposal: it should actively adopt and promote this approach when considering future high-rise developments in the borough.
In recognition of Dr Wober's outstanding contribution to public debate on architecture and sustainability, may I also suggest that this landmark building be named Mallory Wober House in his honour. Trevor Lyttleton MBE NW11

FINANCIAL TIMES November 7 2025
Baruch's madness of crowds

From Trevor Lyttleton, London NW11, UK
Katie Martin's Long View column ("Safety strategies for a bubble market", November 1) echoes the teaching of Bernard Baruch and the theory of the "madness of crowds". One of the few financial gurus to sell before the 1929 crash, Baruch understood that real danger lies not in ignorance but in misplaced certainty.
It's illustrated by his account of how his niece burst into his Wall Street office in tears: "Uncle Bernie, I've lost all my savings in Pennsylvania Railroad - I overheard you on the telephone saying, 'Pennsylvania Railroad? OK, go ahead." "Yes, my dear," Baruch replied, "but I was placing a selling order."
Today speculation is still driven by snippets - headlines, fragments, overheard confidences - and increasingly by viral posts and algorithmic hysteria.
Baruch's parable reminds us that markets are not moved by information, but by half-information.
Trevor Lyttleton London NW11, UK

WASTED WEEKEND
DAILY MAIL Oct 22, 2025

AT 3.45pm on Saturday, I walked through the Royal Free Hospital in London and was struck by the emptiness. There were a few reception staff on duty but otherwise, silence.
Clinics, corridors, theatres and diagnostic units all stood idle in a multibillion-pound building. Meanwhile, patients die for lack of timely treatment, millions languish on waiting lists and the NHS pleads for more money. Why not start by using what we already have, fully, every day of the week? It is an absurd waste that our medical resources are locked up each weekend, while illness knows no timetable. TREVOR LYTTLETON,London NW11

Part-time NHS
DAILY MAIL Oct 29, 2025
FURTHER to the letter from reader Trevor Lyttleton, I noticed that a major hospital had 540 staff cars on site from Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, but outside these hours there were a mere 40. Presumably these belonged to A&E and in-house care
staff, making the whole complex seem semi-deserted for nearly 70 per cent of the week.
I wrote to Wes Streeting to ask if he had any plans to introduce a 24/7 NHS to reduce waiting lists and make more efficient use of equipment.
I was nonplussed to receive a reply informing me that ‘the use of out-ofhours and weekend capacity remains at the discretion of individual providers’. This seems disjointed for a National Health Service.
KEITH WELLS, Heathfield, E. Sussex

Sunday Express Sun, Oct 5, 2025
Old and young unite

LONELINESS is agony and a national charity’s call for older homeowners to rent out spare rooms to younger people searching for an affordable place to live could bring generations together and reduce awful isolation.
The idea from Trevor Lyttleton of Re-engage could address the housing crisis and demonstrate yet again that older citizens make life-changing contributions to society.

DAILY MAIL September 1
Music money

THE Government's latest deal for music creators may help legacy artists who signed unfair contracts decades ago but it offers next to nothing for young British musicians struggling in the streaming age. With per-stream royalties in fractions of a penny, many can't afford to stay in the profession.
Curiously, this Labour-led initiative seems more concerned with helping comfortable names from the past than those fighting to survive in today's music world. As a Grammy-nominated composer and campaigner for music rights, I ask: were any independent creators invited to the table? The Government must support tomorrow's talent, not just protect yesterday's profits.
TREVOR LYTTLETON,
London NW11

FINANCIAL TIMES August 29
Letters: One reader's turbulent relationship with Copilot

Sir Microsoft's Copilot is an interfering busybody ("Should you say 'thank you' to ChatGPT?", Opinion, August 26). It hovers over text, alters formatting unasked, and is nearly impossible to disable. After two days of careful work, my document vanished for 10 agonising minutes before returning a torment no writer should endure.
Writers need control, not algorithms that presume to know better. By all means let Copilot serve those who want it, but for the rest of us it undermines confidence and wrecks documents. We need one thing only: a clear switch-off "X" to stop it in its tracks before wreaking further havoc.
Trevor Lyttleton
London NW11, UK

Daily Mail 6 Aug 2025
Short and sweet

AFTER Keir Starmer's extended address at July's civil society summit, covering migration, social cohesion and national security, it is clear that today's leaders could benefit from Churchill's sage advice on brevity.

Sir Winston said he would need three weeks to prepare a two-minute speech but was ready to talk for an hour right now. Politicians and pundits should take note (in that spirit, this letter is a mere 100 words).

By championing concise communication, the Daily Mail sets a standard worth following: less waffle, clearer thinking. And more walk, less talk from the Government.
TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11

The Spectator July 19, 2025
Slowly but surely
Sir: Roger Lewis's account of an OAP coach trip ('Life in bottom gear', 12 July) reads like a gently mocking obituary for energy and ambition: all flasks, bus passes and slow progress eastward. But behind the tartan rugs and scheduled toilet stops lies something far more vital. After 60 years organising Sunday tea parties for older people, I've seen how such outings offer companionship, purpose and laughter to those who live alone. They are not retreats from life, but brief returns to it. Smile at their slowness if you will – but it's often the only thing moving in their lonely lives.
Trevor Lyttleton MBE Founder and Chair 1965-2015 Contact the Elderly (Now 'Re-engage')London NW11
Daily Telegraph June 15

A Housing Solution

SIR – The housing shortage brings to mind the old joke: "There's no such thing as a housing shortage – just a silly rumour put about by a million people with nowhere to live." Angela Rayner echoed this in December, claiming that there was "plenty of housing", but later clarifying that for many it remains unaffordable or inaccessible.

To mitigate this problem, I proposed to David Cameron in 2016 that pensioners should receive tax incentives for renting spare rooms to young people to ease both housing pressure and elderly isolation. He replied, calling it "an innovative suggestion". A low-cost pilot, supported by local authorities and charities such as Re-engage, could provide affordable rooms, companionship and intergenerational solidarity. Yet the idea was not pursued. With today's crisis deepening, it deserves revival.

Trevor Lyttleton NW11

How WFH could be good for business

Independent Feb 15 2025

Encouraging employees to work from home offers British businesses a unique opportunity to address two pressing issues: underutilised office space and the housing crisis. By converting often half-empty office buildings into affordable housing, companies can reduce costs and help young people secure a place on the property ladder.

This dual-purpose solution fosters sustainability and tackles the growing demand for housing, benefiting both businesses and communities. It's time to ensure that all wasted urban spaces are used to help secure homes for the country's future taxpayers.

Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

Pension funds - Daily Telegraph Dec 2 2024

SIR-Labour's plan to compel pension funds to invest primarily in the UK poses substantial risks to pensioners' financial security. It ignores the key principle of prudent investment: to diversify, spread and mitigate risk across various markets and sectors.

UK equities have underperformed compared with global markets over the past decade. The FTSE 100's average annual total return of six per cent was outperformed by the S&P 500's 13 per cent per annum.

The Chancellor must think again to avoid a pensioners' revolt.

Trevor Lyttleton

Founder, Contact the Elderly London NWII

The Independent November 20 2024

Forgive and forget

JD Vance becoming vice-president-elect, despite him having previously compared his own boss to Hitler, could be good news for David Lammy. Donald Trump may yet overlook the foreign secretary having previously called the US president-elect "a racist and KKK/neo-Nazi sympathiser". After all, people on his own team have said worse!

Trevor Lyttleton Hampstead Heath, London

THE WEEK MAGAZINE

Exchange of the week

Whose life is it anyway? Oct 18, 2024

To the Financial Times Assisted Dying

Denzil Lush, the former senior judge of the Court of Protection, estimated that 15-20% of enduring-power-of-attorney (EPA) cases involved financial abuse, often by close relations. This troubling figure should be seriously considered in the assisted dying debate. There is a real risk that vulnerable elderly people may be pressured to end their lives prematurely to relieve the financial burden on their families, and expedite the inheritance process.

Any assisted dying legislation must therefore include robust safeguards, independent assessments and mandatory reporting of conflicts of interest, to protect the most vulnerable. The risk of abuse is too significant to ignore in this debate.

Trevor Lyttleton, founder and former chair of Contact the Elderly (now Re-engage)

Daily Mail Oct 17, 2024

Teeth and timing

ACCORDING to a report last year, 58 per cent of us brush our teeth before breakfast, even though this routine may not offer the best protection for oral health.

Brushing before breakfast doesn't remove food particles or sugars from the meal, leaving teeth susceptible. Yet brushing straight after eating is said to weaken tooth enamel.

Health authorities should help us resolve this dilemma by encouraging us to brush our teeth at an agreed optimal time.

TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11

FINANCIAL TIMES OCTOBER 14 2024

Letter: A troubling statistic from Trevor Lyttleton, Founder and Chair (1965-2015) Contact the Elderly (Now renamed 'Re-engage')

Denzil Lush, the distinguished former senior judge of the Court of Protection, estimated that 15-20 per cent of enduring power of attorney (EPA) cases involved financial abuse, often by close relatives. This troubling figure should be seriously considered in the assisted dying debate (Report, October 4).

There is a real risk that vulnerable elderly people may be pressured to end their lives prematurely, not out of personal choice, but to relieve the financial burden on their families and expedite the inheritance process. The combination of financial interest and caregiving responsibilities creates a fertile ground for exploitation, similar to the abuse seen in EPA cases.

Any assisted dying legislation must therefore include robust safeAguards, independent assessments and mandatory reporting of conflicts of interest, to prevent coercion and protect the most vulnerable. The risk of abuse is too significant to ignore in this debate.

Trevor Lyttleton Founder and Chair (1965-2015) Contact the Elderly (Now renamed 'Re-engage')

My above letter prompted this response from former Senior Judge of the Court of Protection and Denzil Lush

Well said, Trevor.
A former colleague drew my attention to this cartoon which appeared in the Spectator a few weeks ago. I don't know what gave rise to it, but it may have been your reference to powers of attorney in the context of the Assisted Dying Bill!
Best wishes
Denzil

https://www.spectator.co.uk/illustration/lets-give-the-children-power-of-attorney/

Daily Mail July 29 2024

Social care silence

AFTER 27 combined years of labour and Tory buck-passing on the crucial issue of social care, sadly it remained the elephant in the room in the King's Speech.
When will the new Government seize the opportunity to end elderly neglect and our continuing national shame?
Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

Daily Mail 2 July 2024

Taxing Questions

STARMER must justify the repeated claims to fiscal responsibility he made in the final TV debate by explaining two things.

The first is how ending non-dom tax status will raise £3.2 billion, after taking account of job losses when talented, high-achieving non-doms leave the country and relocate their assets, businesses and charitable largesse outside the UK.

The second is how much the Treasury will receive from VAT on private schools after deducting the additional costs incurred by state schools faced with an influx of children whose fee-paying parents can no longer afford the private option.

TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11

The Independent April 18 2024

Let's fund the defence of democracy

The UK and Nato allies must find quicker ways to fund Ukraine other than lobbying US Congress for the release of $60bn funding blocked by Republican supporters, who are clearly unaware of the far greater cost if Russia wins this war.

All Nato governments should lose no time in persuading private lenders to pay or loan the funds critically needed for Ukraine's defence. It's hard to believe that the super-rich haven't already seized this unique opportunity to become the heroes of our time. With their resources, they could help defend our right to live in freedom in a democracy, under the rule of law.
Trevor Lyttleton London

The Mail on Sunday 14 Apr 2024
BBC's silence over Rayner's two homes row

The Mail on Sunday rightly calls for scrutiny over the Rayner affair. This would hopefully reveal why Sir Keir Starmer has barely felt the need to defend her, claiming he hasn't even read her tax advice 'because he trusts her'.
Unless Starmer, a distinguished lawyer, can demonstrate, after giving Rayner's tax advice due consideration, that he considers it exonerates her, he won't dispel lingering doubts that he's giving her 100 per cent support.

Trevor Lyttleton,

FINANCIAL TIMES April 3 2024

Time for a Thames tap water tsar

In view of Thames Water's critical situation, an independent "Time to come clean on drinking water" Tsar, preferably - without shares in Perrier, Evian or our water companies should therefore be promptly appointed to protect the public's fundamental right to evidence-based guarantees that they can safely drink Thames tap water FT View, April 1).
Trevor Lyttleton London NW11, UK

Guardian April 2 2024 – *"Trevor Lyttleton on the triple lock"*

Jeremy Hunt announced that the triple lock for pensioners will remain in the Tory manifesto, despite an £11bn increase in 13 years in spending on a measure that should only benefit needy pensioners at this time of acute financial stringency.
To that end and to help increase spending demands on defence, NHS, social care, levelling up and infrastructure projects, the government should obtain a list from HMRC of pensioners whose tax thresholds demonstrate they don't need this costly bonanza or the winter fuel allowance supplement. Such reforms should command cross-party support as they will boost Treasury coffers and make both measures morally and politically viable.
Trevor Lyttleton London

New Statesman - Letter of the week 22 February 2024

Rhapsody in raindrops

Readers' insightful comments in praise of George Gershwin (Correspondence, 9 February) call to mind an occasion in the 1980s when an American tourist went up to Don Lowes at the piano in the Royal Garden Hotel to show off his music industry connections: "I'm a personal friend of George Bacharach!" To which Don replied: "I'm a personal friend of Burt Gershwin!"

Don dined out on this put-down until he died, and I've done the same ever since.
Trevor Lyttleton, London NW11

Financial Times: 12 December 2023
Hunt can still make a difference to the elderly

From Trevor Lyttleton, London NW11, UK Letter:

Sadly chancellor Jeremy Hunt can't afford to deliver social care 10 years after declaring as health secretary that the neglect of the elderly was "our national shame". He can however reduce their plight, the NHS backlog and the cost of social care, by abolishing inheritance tax for heirs who commit to taking on the state's burden by caring for their elderly parents for the rest of their lives. Trevor Lyttleton London NW11, UK

The Law Gazette 8 December 2023

Unwitting benefactor

On 20 October the BBC reported that an elite law firm had rescinded job offers for three Ivy League students who blamed Israel for Hamas attacks. UK elite law firms will doubtless follow suit – despite past transgressions.
In 1961, as a newly qualified solicitor at Slaughter and May, the senior partner asked me my religion at his party for new recruits. I told him I was Jewish, prompting a letter next day cancelling my appointment.
On hearing of this, a friend's father, Lewis Silman, told me Rothschilds Bank paid Slaughter and May £500,000 annually (£10m today) for legal services, and arranged for me to report my experience to his partner, Leopold de Rothschild.
I later joined Freshfields. My boss announced a few months later that he could not understand why Freshfields were getting so much Rothschild work.
I never told Freshfields that I may have unwittingly been one of their greatest benefactors.

Trevor Lyttleton, London NW11
Daily Mail 4 Oct 2023 You don't start from here

While the latest YouGov poll finds that 29 per cent of voters support HS2 and 36 per cent oppose it, most voters probably echo the wise sentiment of the irishman whom i asked the way to Killarney: 'You don't start from here.'

TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11.

The Spectator September 2 2023

Bring back matron

Sir: Isabel Hardman rightly concludes that: 'If previous inquiries are anything to go by, nothing will really be done - and we will have to wait for the next scandal.

Sadly no form of inquiry into the events leading up to Lucy Letby's serial murder conviction is likely to restore trust in the management of NHS neonatal units. If the substantial costs of an inquiry were applied instead to appointing matrons to supervise nurses in baby units, the bereaved and prospective parents would obtain immediate reassurance of future safety without having to wait years for a probably inconclusive outcome.

By the same token, bringing back matrons throughout the NHS would also do much to restore public confidence and staff morale.
Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

From: Trevor Lyttleton MBE, Southway, London.

You rightly highlight successive governments' unconscionable delays in launching social care reform (The Yorkshire Post, July 25).

Jeremy Hunt claims that "the thing I was most passionate about as Health Secretary was reducing numbers of avoidable deaths". This would be more convincing had he taken action six years ago as Health Secretary after calling the neglectof a million pensioners "a source of national shame".

Had he done so, we would now have fully-funded social care, countless neglected lives could have been saved and there would not have been a "million pensioners left starving through loneliness" before he became Foreign Secretary six years later.

He would also not be complaining about "so many lives unnecessarily lost" during Covid as social care could have provided the most isolated with proper care at home, thus enabling NHS hospitals to transfer safely home many of the 20,000 who died tragically in infected care homes.

Trevor Lyttleton

Should our hospitals bring back matrons?
Daily Mail 28 Aug 2023

THE inquiry into the events leading up to Lucy Letby's conviction is unlikely to restore trust in the management of baby units.
If the large costs of an inquiry were used instead to fund matrons in charge of neonatal care, the bereaved and prospective parents would obtain immediate reassurance of future safety without having to wait years for a possibly inconclusive outcome.
The appointment of matrons in the NHS would do much to restore public confidence and staff morale.
TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11.

The Spectator 26 July 2023

Who banks there?

Sir: You correctly state that the public has the right to know what is happening within Coutts and NatWest ('Held to account', 22 July). The key question both banks need to address is whether they still have pro-Kremlin oligarch account holders and, if so, why they have failed to close their accounts.

Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

The Spectator 7 June 2023

Toothless inquiries

Sir: You rightly say that inquiries in Britain have become a form of cover-up ('The politics of panic, June 3). This is clear as we contemplate the delay in reporting on the Grenfell Tower fire of 2017, the £200 million spent on the Bloody Sunday report published 38 years after the event, the seven-year delay in concluding the Chilcot inquiry, and the shaming fact that Sweden has reported on its handling of Covid before our inquiry has even begun.

Instead of spending costly parliamentary and civil service time and astronomical sums on expensive lawyers and experts looking backwards and learning too little far too late from inquiries, our resources should be employed to focus on the future to resolve the long-term problems that are neglected by politicians who seek re-election every four or fie years. Their priorities should include national security, stemming sewage and water leaks, fixing our broken justice system, social care, the NHS, potholed highways, cladding on tower blocks and asbestos in classrooms, instead of leaving these problems for future generations to deal with while parliamentarians kick the can down the road by setting up yet another useless and toothless inquiry to no productive purpose at unacceptable taxpayers' expense.

Trevor Lyttleton London

Super-rich to the rescue

Daily Mail 11 Apr 2023

RISHI SUNAK should consider emulating president Xi's call for China's billionaires to save the economy. He could urge our wealthiest citizens to help meet our defence needs, tackle inflation and relieve supply and cost-of-living pressures.
Those who follow the inspiring lead of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett in tackling major crises will be displaying the same generous British spirit as those who opened their modest homes to Ukrainian refugees.
While a billionaire's gift of 5 per cent of their assets won't change their lifestyles, it will do far more to help us meet our greatest challenges since World War ii than the debt burdened Government can achieve.

Turning back the clock can be a risky business

Camden New Journal Thursday, 10th November 2022

TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11.

I GREATLY enjoyed Jeremy Robson's moving poem *Turning Back the Clock (Review, November 3)*.

At 86 I avoid the risk of falling off ladders to change clocks twice a year by relying on online geek robots to change the time on my smartphone and computer.

This has prevented further mishaps like missing the first act of a matinée or arriving an hour early for lunch to find my hostess still in her underwear and wondering if I would ever receive another invitation.

TREVOR LYTTLETON
Southway, NW11

Daily Mail Nov 3, 2022

Duff details

PRESIDENT Biden's announcement that there may be a 'small recession' and his suggestion in January that the Russians might make a 'minor incursion' into Ukraine call to mind the maid who, questioned by her employer about her condition, replied: 'I'm only a little pregnant'.

TREVOR LYTTLETON, London NW11.

Financial Times 15 Sept 2022 King Charles III can offer the PM some pharaonic wisdom

Our five-year electoral cycle gives a huge advantage to autocratic regimes like China that can make long-term plans while we struggle for 30 years to build a third runway at Heathrow (Report, September 12).
King Charles III is well placed to remind the prime minister that major crises (cost of living, climate change, health and social care, water leakage, sewage discharge, security) require a long-term strategy and the wisdom of the pharaohs: "During the seven good years, the people must give them one-fifth of all the food they grow this way these men will collect all the food during the seven good years and store it in the cities until it is needed."
Trevor Lyttleton
London NW11, UK

Jewish Chronicle Aug 19 , 2022 - Israeli water expertise

Last week India benefited from Israel's water expertise at the 'Everything About Water Expo 2022' in New Delhi, focusing on the Israeli model for water management, policy regulations, technology, R&D implementation and the Israel-India water partnership.

Our next prime minister should follow suit by inviting Israeli experts to help resolve the urgent crisis of serious water shortages, the daily leakage of 20 per cent of water companies' water supply and their 1000 per day discharges of raw sewage into our waters. Trevor Lyttleton

Independent August 12 2022 Watergate

Temporary hosepipe and water use restrictions are sticking plasters on a gaping wound. The next prime minister should impose increasingly draconian annual penalties on water companies until their leaks (currently at 20 per cent of their daily water supply) are eliminated, hopefully long before Water UK's mind-blowing deadline to end only half their leaks by 2050.Trevor Lyttleton London

Financial Times July 27 2022
West was complicit in Putin's energy stranglehold

Killik & Co report that: "Ironically, the best performing currency so far in 2022 has been the rouble. Demand has remained high because Russian exporters have been ordered to convert at least 80 per cent of their overseas currency holdings. The Kremlin has also demanded that payments for Russian energy are paid in roubles." That catastrophe resulted from the failure of western leaders over two decades to speak truth to power, thus facilitating Putin's stranglehold on vital supplies of energy that now threatens the global economy. While Putin must pay dearly for his war crimes, those leaders should, at least, apologise to the millions now facing destitution for their longstanding appeasement of a corrupt and kleptocratic regime. Trevor Lyttleton London NW11, UK

21 June 2022 - CAM96 Magazine

Your excellent article "The Night Climbers of Cambridge" (CAM 95) rightly recalls the stunning night-time assembly and erection of an Austin 7 van on the Senate House roof in 1958.

It fails, however, to mention an even more hazardous ascent at that time that left an item of ladies' underwear fluttering indiscreetly on top of one of the crumbling limestone spires of King's College Chapel – perhaps for the same reason that the Cambridge Union debate motion, "This house prefers Girton to Newnham because it's further away", seems to have been consigned to the dustbin of history.

Trevor Lyttleton (King's 1954)

Independent May 7 2022 Hunt ignored his own alarm call

The High Court ruling that the Covid care home discharge policy was unlawful would not have arisen if hospitals could have discharged patients to the safety of their homes with proper social care.This could have happened if Jeremy Hunt had acted on his own alarm call, describing the neglect of the elderly as "a source of national shame" on 18 October 2013.
Instead, during his six-year watch as health secretary, millions of isolated elderly people died unsupported by social care, including a million isolated older people "left to starve through loneliness" (Independent 22.1.18).
Despite Boris Johnson's promise on the steps of No 10 to fix social care, and Rishi Sunak's spring statement confirmation that "every penny raised from national insurance … would go to fix the NHS and social care" Sunak has yet to explain how much will be allocated, and when, to fix social care so that the neglect of the elderly will no longer remain, in Hunt's words, "a source of national shame". Trevor Lyttleton

The Independent Apr 11, 2022

UN Security Council

President Zelensky's just claim that the UN serves no purpose with a Russian Security Council veto demands prompt remedial action.
As national, local elections, referenda and corporate resolutions are decided by majority vote, if the UN is to survive as an effective force, it must amend its constitution to remove the veto from any member of the Security Council that wages war and uses the UN platform to commit perjury by denying evidence of its complicity in the wholesale slaughter of innocent civilians that is currently there for the world (outside Russia) to witness on TV.
Trevor Lyttleton London

Daily Mail 17 Feb 2022

Article Name: The soul of wit

WITH an email headed 'Lust, power, vengeance', the Royal Opera House proclaims 'a night at the opera has never looked so enticing' as it promotes its latest production of Rigoletto.

Why appeal to the basest instincts and lowest common denominator? It's turned me off, an operagoer for 65 years.

TREVOR LYTTLETON,London NW11.

The Independent April 6 2021 Vaccine perspective

It appears from Pfizer's confirmation its Covid-19 vaccine offers protection for six months after the second jab that vulnerable adults who have received two jabs since January need to be revaccinated from July onwards to ensure continued efficacy.

The government must therefore announce its timetable for a "revaccination plan" and confirm availability of vaccines and resources for this purpose without delay.
Trevor Lyttleton MBE London NW11.

The Independent 2 Apr 2022
Will Sunak come clean about the national insurance levy?

Rishi Sunak announced that "every penny of the increased national insurance levy will go towards removing the NHS backlog", with no mention of fixing social care for which the government's "NHS and social care levy" was also intended.

Sunak later corrected that in his spring statement by announcing that every penny raised would go to fix both the NHS and social care despite having reduced the amount raised from national insurance. The chancellor must therefore explain how much of the NI levy will be available for social care and when the neglect of the elderly, which Jeremy Hunt called "a source of national shame" in 2013, will at last be resolved to prevent millions more isolated elderly dying alone and unsupported by proper social care at home.

Trevor Lyttleton London

The Independent 30 Nov 2021 Two months too late for boosters

Faced with the omicron variant and the NHS backlog, the government is stepping up the booster jab campaign two months too late.nt

Had the government acted on urgent warning calls from July, boosters would have started two months earlier and Javid would not now be urging far too many vulnerable adults to take up their boosters to protect them and the NHS at this late and perilous stage.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE London

THE WEEK Oct 29, 2021
Letter of the week
..and for Hitler

Madeleine Spence's article on anti-Israel sentiment in Ireland tells only part of the story. In May 1945, the taoiseach, Éamon de Valera, visited the German ambassador to express his condolences on the death of Adolf Hitler.
Despite this endorsement of the architect of the Holocaust, de Valera was re-elected twice and served as president of Ireland from 1959 to 1973.
Trevor Lyttleton, London

Jewish Chronicle October 27 2021
Things have changed

The BBC reported this week that an elite law firm has rescinded job offers for three Ivy League students who blamed Israel for Hamas attacks.

In 1961, as a newly-qualified solicitor at Magic Circle firm Slaughter & May, the senior partner asked me my religion at his party for new recruits and I told him I was Jewish. The next day I received a letter cancelling my appointment. On hearing of this with concern, Lewis Silman told me that Rothschilds Bank paid Slaughter & May annually £500,000 (around £10 million in 2023 prices) for legal services and arranged for me to report the matter to his partner Leopold de Rothschild.

When I later joined Freshfields, my boss announced that he couldn't understand why Freshfields were getting so much Rothschild work. I never told Freshfields I may have unwittingly been one of their greatest benefactors.
Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

Evening Standard Sept 24 2021
Time to call in the army

NEWS that Nicola Sturgeon has called in the Army to alleviate the crisis in the Scottish ambulance service prompts the question why Boris Johnson hasn't done the same to guarantee vital supplies threatened by the shortage of HGV drivers. Trevor Lyttleton

The Independent August 24 2021 The needs of the many…

Anti-vaxxers' concerns to protect their right to freedom should be respected, but only to the extent that they don't endanger the lives of others. Challenging though this may be, we all have to accept that dire circumstances alter cases and impose on us all the duty to temper our personal long-cherished habits and ideals for the public good.

In this spirit we accepted draconian restrictions during the Second World War, including strictly enforced blackouts of our houses, to avoid people being killed during the Blitz. In the same spirit we have to accept the rigours of the climate crisis and the pandemic and to place the protection of others before our own understandable but utopian desires for a total freedom that represents the greatest form of intolerance whereby a small minority can threaten the lives and wellbeing of the majority

Yorkshire Post Aug 7, 2020 Funding care is a life-saver

From: Trevor Lyttleton, Southway, London.

YOU rightly state that "Covid-19 has exposed the fault lines in social care" that have arisen following six years of Government delays in launching a social care review since Jeremy Hunt called the neglect of a million pensioners "a source of national shame".

Had Jeremy Hunt acted on that welcome alarm call, his current claim that “the thing (he) was most passionate about as health secretary was reducing numbers of avoidable deaths” would be more convincing.

We would now have fully funded social care and saved countless neglected lives.

He would also not be complaining about “so many lives unnecessarily lost” during Covid. Funding care is a life-saver

Britain’s vulnerable need vaccine boosters now

The Independent Aug 1, 2021

Reports of a rise in Covid-19 cases and drop in tests contradict the government’s suggestions that the pandemic is effectively over for the fully vaccinated.

These hubristic assertions give a false sense of security to the vulnerable whose two Pfizer jabs will reportedly start to lose effect from July, six months after their second jab.

The government must address increasing concerns by giving boosters in time, or at the very least, a definitive statement backed by Pfizer or the regulator, confirming that they remain fully vaccinated beyond six months for a period not expiring before they receive boosters.

Prompt government action will avoid exposing this increasingly vulnerable group and those they contact, to the new transmissions of the variant and giving a further unwelcome boost to the third wave.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE London

Booze, not shoes, may have caused medieval bunions

The Guardian Jun 23, 2021

You report that research on skeletons in Cambridge suggests pointy shoes worn by medieval monks caused hallux valgus (Medieval fashion for pointy shoes linked to rise in bunions, 11 June). A more likely cause may be that the monks suffered from gout due to excess alcohol consumption, given the British Medical Journal report that found a “high prevalence of hallux valgus in gouty patients”? Trevor Lyttleton-London

Social care is biggest issue
Evening Standard June 8, 2021

THOSE seeking to determine who is responsible for discharging elderly patients from hospitals to care homes without Covid tests need to focus on the elephant in the room: social care. For if Jeremy Hunt as health secretary had acted on his own alarm call in 2013, describing neglect of the elderly as “a national shame”, we would not be facing “so many lives unnecessarily lost” during Covid. Trevor Lyttleton

The Independent April 6 2021

Vaccine perspective

It appears from Pfizer’s confirmation its Covid-19 vaccine offers protection for six months after the second jab that vulnerable adults who have received two jabs since January need to be revaccinated from July onwards to ensure continued efficacy.

The government must therefore announce its timetable for a “revaccination plan” and confirm availability of vaccines and resources for this purpose without delay.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE London NW11

Yorkshire Post 24 December 2020 More support for the elderly

From: Trevor Lyttleton, Southway, London.

YOU rightly call for more support for pensioners alone at Christmas whose numbers have doubled since last year.

However isolated elderly people deserve not just calls and Christmas cheer, but all year round care and support.

Millions of pensioners have died alone and unsupported in the seven years since the Government failed to act on Jeremy Hunt’s alarm call – when he described the neglect of the elderly as “a source of national shame”

The Government can best redeem that neglected pledge and boost lonely pensioners’ spirits by announcing that fully- resourced social care will be delivered by July 5, 2021, as demanded by Sir Simon Stevens, to provide the care and support they have waited for, for far too long.

Muddying the waters

The Independent November 2020

Polluted rivers and lakes have for far too long been allowed to remain a threat to public health.

In addition to proposed eye-watering financial penalties, polluting companies should face governmentsubsidised class actions on behalf of victims harmed by contamination with toxic waste, and robustly enforced criminal prosecutions for pumping raw sewage into rivers.

Trevor Lyttleton MBE London NW11

Jewish Chronicle 13 November 2020
Candles of Hope

Dear Sir

Hope is essential for surviving Covid and all existential threats.

As we approach Chanukah we recall Rabbi Hugo Gryn's moving account of how he and his father celebrated the festival in a concentration camp in 1944.

When his father lit a wick dipped in their precious meagre ration of melted margarine, Hugo protested: “We need food and can’t afford to waste it on a candle.” His father replied: “You and I have seen that it is possible to live up to three weeks without food. We once lived almost three days without water, but you can’t live at all without hope.”

Public announcements should highlight harsh health and economic realities, but always balance these with hope to boost spirits, light up our path through Covid, and encourage us all to unite and create a more caring society.

Yours faithfully
Trevor Lyttleton MBE

Evening Standard Aug 28, 2020
MPs who can't represent us

THE denial of parliamentary representation for constituents of ministers is a pressing issue. My MP in Barnet, Mike Freer, with an exemplary record in highlighting the neglect of the elderly, has twice had to inform me that he can't raise PMQs on this burning subject. Constituents should be allowed direct access to ministers or, at the very least, to an alternative MP without the above constraints. Trevor Lyttleton

Yorkshire Post Aug 7, 2020
Funding care is a life-saver

From: Trevor Lyttleton, Southway, London.

YOU rightly state that "Covid-19 has exposed the fault lines in social care" that have arisen following six years of Government delays in launching a social care review since Jeremy Hunt called the neglect of a million pensioners "a source of national shame".

Had Jeremy Hunt acted on that welcome alarm call, his current claim that "the thing (he) was most passionate about as health secretary was reducing numbers of avoidable deaths" would be more convincing.

We would now have fully funded social care and saved countless neglected lives.

He would also not be complaining about "so many lives unnecessarily lost" during Covid. Funding care is a life-saver

The lack of c has cost lives

Yorkshire Post 31 Jul 2020

From: Trevor Lyttleton MBE, Southway, London.

YOU rightly highlight successive governments' unconscionable delays in launching social care reform (The Yorkshire Post, July 25).

Jeremy Hunt claims that "the thing I was most passionate about as Health Secretary was reducing numbers of avoidable deaths". This would be more convincing had Health he taken action six years ago as Health Secretary after calling the neglectof a million pensioners "a source of national shame".

Had he done so, we would now have fully-funded social care countless neglected lives could have been saved and there would not have been a "million pensioners left starving through loneliness" before he became Foreign Secretary six years later

He would also not be complaining about "so many lives unnecessarily lost" during Covid as social care social could have provided the most isolated with proper care at home, thus enabling NHS hospitals to transfer safely home many of the 20,000 who died tragically in infected care homes

Evening Standard March 23, 2020

Neglect of elderly must end now

MATT HANCOCK has rightly called for "everybody in the community to support the people who are being shielded for their own protection: the elderly and the vulnerable".

But how can the community access millions of elderly people who are still off the radar six years after Jeremy Hunt called their neglect “a source of national shame”?
Mr Hancock must therefore ensure that the most neglected elderly are placed within the Government’s inclusive One Nation agenda for social care, and that its watered down Loneliness Strategy gets the action and funding it deserves.
Trevor Lyttleton MBE Founder and former chairman of Contact the Elderly

Make the elderly a bigger priority
Evening Standard Jan 3, 2020

THE Government needs to place at the top of its social care agenda the neglect of millions of pensioners that Jeremy Hunt called a national disgrace as long ago as October 2013.
Five years later Theresa May admitted her Loneliness Strategy was “just the start of tackling this challenge” and granted it £20 million, followed by £2 million a year later.
Recognising that funding alone could not resolve this problem, the Loneliness Strategy included the elderly in the relationships education that all schools will be required to teach by September 2020.
The Education Department rejected its own proposal by omitting teaching relationships with the elderly and focusing solely on sex education in its Statutory Guidance on Relationships Education, issued in June 2019.
Boris Johnson should ensure that further guidance is issued redressing that omission and place the elderly at the top of his social care agenda by giving the Loneliness Strategy the priority and funding it deserves.
Trevor Lyttleton MBE Founder and former chairman of Contact the Elderly.

The Independent November 27 2018
Loneliness will get worse without action from the government

Matt Hancock’s admirable response to the Gosport hospital report (“Lessons have been learned, will be learned and must be applied. The voices of the vulnerable will be heard”) begs the question of how the vulnerable who have neither voice nor means of communication will be heard.

Unfortunately, lessons were not learnt during the five years since the former health secretary, Jeremy Hunt, called the neglect of a million pensioners “a source of national shame”. The government now admits in its otherwise welcome loneliness strategy is “just the start of tackling this challenge” to “establish a clearer picture of the prevalence of loneliness” without even mentioning the “million pensioners left starving through loneliness”.

In apologising for the “truly shocking” findings to the Gosport victims’ families, Hancock said: “Every one of those who lost loved ones was a son or daughter, a mother or father, a sister or brother.” Sadly, however, there are no families to lobby for the neglected million elderly highlighted by Hunt as a national disgrace in 2013, nor for the million pensioners still left starving through loneliness in 2018.

Hancock, who describes the 450 Gosport deaths as “not just preventable, but deaths directly caused by the actions of others”, will doubtless wish to prevent vastly more premature deaths from inaction, to further his worthy aim to create a culture where lessons are learnt.

To this end, as “Loneliness could be costing private sector employers up to 2.5 billion a year due to absence and productivity losses”, a £2.5bn funding boost to adult social care could prove a highly profitable investment and further the prime minister’s worthy aim “to eradicate loneliness in our lifetime”. Properly funded prompt action could help a million pensioners left starving through loneliness and others suffering its devastating impact, especially at Christmas, who will otherwise die unknown and unloved.

Trevor Lyttleton London NW11

Law Society Gazette 27 November 2014

In response to the request for a definition of *obiter dictum* in less than a paragraph may,) I suggest the following: a non-binding judicial detour into uncharted territory. Trevor Lyttleton, London NW11

Evening Standard 30 April 1999

One Way for Mr Sewell

BRIAN Sewell insults not only the victims of Nazism, but the entire people of this country by suggesting that remembering the Holocaust has no relevance here (Manchester's big mistake, 27 April). On the same page, Ryanair offers one-way tickets at $29.99 to several foreign destinations. I shall be delighted to pay for one of these for Mr Sewell, provided that it really is one way.

Trevor Lyttleton, George Street, W1

Evening Standard 14 January 1987

The Blunt truth.

"WITHOUT the warmth, passion and humanity that Informed his actions, the preposterous Blunt of the BBC might as well be in a Punch and Judy show," writes Brian Sewell.

Whether or not Anthony Blunt "gave British art historical scholarship and eminence unmatched in America or Europe" is entirely beside the point.

Is it not enough that after his treachery was revealed to the authorities in 1964, the British establishment not only granted Blunt immunity, but also succeeded in maintaining him in a position of privilege and prestige for 15 years thereafter? Are we now to be subjected to attempts to rehabilitate a self-acknowledged traitor by an irrelevant reference to personal and professional attributes?

Brian Sewell is attempting to do so. No wonder he describes Ian Richardson's dramatic portrayal on Blunt of BBC-2 as "further from the truth in character and detail."-

Trevor Lyttleton, Georgre Street, W1.

SUNDAY TIMES, OCT 15 1978
Copyright claim

THE Mechanical-Copyright Pro- tection Society's claim (October 8) to be (1) "the representative body of music copyright owners," and (2) capable of granting licences for private and domestic recordings in respect of musical works, is exaggerated.

As regards 1, MCPS only represents its members. As regards 2, the MCPS's so-called "blanket licence" for domestic recordings affords the public no protection whatsoever against a claim by a non-member of MCPS whose musical copyright has been infringed.

Perhaps MCPS will inform your readers by what authority they collect the proportion of the "blanket licence" fee which relates to non-members" works, and what they do with these monies which do not belong to MCPS members.

Trevor Lyttleton Bryanston Square, WI

Evening Standard 24 July 1974
Litter: If police haven't the time...

I WAS APPALLED to find while walking in Hyde Park on Sunday afternoon the enormous amount of litter dumped by those purporting to enjoy the facilities.An enormous dump of drink cans, together with paper bags, plastic bags and all manner of rubbish was deposited within yards of Speakers' Corner over a wide area.

When I stopped a passing police sergeant and asked him if the Litter Act was being enforced, he replied: We are far too busy to bother about litter."

Unfortunately, the spoliation of our parks and natural beauty spots is all too easily overlooked. Surely the Department of the Environment should establish a system of policing the Litter Act: there must be a case for appointing litter wardens, just as traffic wardens were introduced to deal with parking offences and avoid placing this burden upon the police.

If the public would become more vocal about preserving what is natural and beautiful, our way of life could be immeasurably improved.-Trevor Lyttleton, Bryanston Square, W.1.
I was appalled to read in your issue of May 12 your account of the inquest on Joshua Macmillan,

A state of affairs in which undergraduates have easy access to drugs of addiction is certainly a matter of public interest. However, I consider it regrettable that your report, which gave undue prominence to Joshua Macmillan's confession and his relationship to the ex-Premier, should have displayed so little taste and regard to the feelings of his family who occupy a respected position in public life and have suffered a peculiarly terrible loss in unhappy circumstances.The Freedom of the Press must always be balanced against a newspaper's obligation to be fair and to ensure that its reporting is not acutely pain- ful to innocent individuals who have no redress against such damage. T. M. Lyttleton, Flat 15, 22 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

Financial Times July 8, 1972

Duty free liquor

Sir, Mr. R. E. Leaton's suggestion (July 1) that travellers from this country should hence.forth only be allowed to purchase alcohol on returning to the U.K. instead of on their departure, would have a quite different effect from that which he supposes.

Far from saving foreign exchange, businessmen and tourists alike would have to use their precious yet depreciated sterling allowance to purchase spirits abroad at the extortionate local prices now prevailing. The British traveller abroad would no longer be greeted with the same enthusiasm at foreign airports by businessmen, relatives, friends and lovers for whom the contents of the elongated plastic bag in hand carries a very special attraction.

The loss to Britain's export trade resulting from the absence of the ubiquitous Scotch bottle from foreign hotel rooms - how many deals must have been clinched long after "Room Service" had closed down by that early morning nip from the "life-giver"! - would be incalculable.

No. Mr. Leaton. Let the "tea-totalitarian" States do as they will but don't insist upon setting our businessmen loose on world markets without that comforting status symbol, under whose influence even the most ruthless Japanese negotiator has been known dissolve into a mellow haze of sympathetic understanding and pliability.

Trevor Lyttleton.

Flat 15, 22, Park Crescent, W.1.

GUARDIAN JAN 26/1963

Why label a child illegitimate?

Sir,-Mr Leo Abse refers in his excellent article in your issue of January 22 to the effect of the present divorce law on the illegitimacy rate. This raises the broader question as to whether, in this day and age and almost 40 years after the abolition of the old rules of inheritance, there is any longer any legal justification for the retention of the distinction between legitimacy and illegitimacy.

There can certainly be no moral justification for visiting the sins of the parents upon their children whether one considers this question from the viewpoint of the parent or the child.

The child's side of the picture is too well known to require elaboration here. From the parents' point of view, however, it is worth noting that the overwhelming problem of adoption might be considerably reduced if unmarried mothers were not schooled by society, with the full sanction of the law, into regarding their children as outcasts to be disposed of at the earliest opportunity.

It is not sufficient that in certain circumstances an illegitimate child can be legitimated under the present law. There is no longer any reason why he should ever have been illegitimate. It is to be hoped that Parliament will ensure that this outmoded concept will shortly follow the feudal inheritance rules into the legal history books.-

Yours faithfully,
Trevor Lyttleton.
Flat 15, 22 Park Crescent, London W 1.