

RUNNYMEDE GAZETTE

MAGNA CARTA DAY SPECIAL; JUNE 2012

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EDITORIAL

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

The title of this editorial has been a recurrent theme in these pages and forms much of the *raison d'être* of this entire project. We are aware of the volume of dissident information about our ills and grievances which has been circulating for many years on the internet and elsewhere. We know about the conference circuit, where we might find any number of speakers regaling audiences with accounts of the wrongs and threats which beset us.

But all of this activity has long been stuck in a groove ... more or less the same people saying more or less the same thing to more or less the same audiences. And all this against a background where a medley of different groups, campaigns and networks end up firing peashooters at panzer divisions. Occupy might turn out to be the latest example of a campaign which has fired insufficient ammunition,

prematurely, at a complex, diverse and formidably well organised target, without firstly 'digging in' at grass roots level. Greece, Spain and Ireland are also illustrations as to how ... despite all the troubles and all of the information which is available about the cause and nature of those troubles ... we are still nowhere remotely near the 'critical mass' necessary to effect genuine and deeply rooted change.

That 'critical mass' is not measured merely by brute numbers, but also by awareness. If there awareness is lacking the numbers will soon melt away when either put under pressure or when the prospect looms of a protracted and difficult slog ... as has happened to so many causes in the past.

Thus, crucially, the task of awareness building and organisation must, and can only, go hand in hand. The trouble is that there is much information being circulated amongst a relatively small proportion of the population. Thus 1% of the politically aware are left to form a thin line against the 1% of the oligarchs. Again, that is nowhere near the necessary critical mass.

Our actions always need to be tempered by a holistic overview not only of our specific grievances but of how those grievances interconnect and how the many different tentacles form a common pattern. At the root of it all is the massive concentration of political and economic power, both nationally and globally, into the hands of a tiny minority.

The reality is that we face a difficult and arduous struggle against a formidable oligarchy.. This struggle is likely to be prolonged and will certainly be complex and multi-faceted. Whilst there are encouraging signs of greater contact, mutual understanding and co-operation between dissidents in various camps, could this all be too little and too late? Do we really yet have the organisational structures which are capable not only of expanding into great size but also demonstrating the stamina and perseverance necessary for a long, hard slog?

This is all so puzzling when the answer is both clear and simple. There are many examples in even recent history which show that the most effective resistance structure consists of a network of small local cells. This is what is proposed, and a conference will be held at the end of October to put more flesh and bones on to the spinal column contained in this edition.

Whatever view might be taken about Al'Quaida, its organising principle is both brilliant and simple. Take a brief set of wide-brush principles, bolt onto that a simple and flexible organisational method, then wind up the machine and set it loose upon the world. It then replicates itself with little, if any, need for central guidance. Like the proverbial earthworm, even if cut into pieces, each piece continues to move of its own volition.

Last Autumn a group of us met at the home of John Papworth, former editor of Fourth World Review, near Swindon. We produced the Purton Declaration. This is intended as a road map for the organisation of a Democratic Resistance. In the *Declaration of Grievance* it provides a brief, broad-brush account of our grievances. In the manual *How to Form a Runnymede Lodge* it offers some outline advice as to how to organise locally. In the *Draft Declaration of Principles* it offers an initial outline pointing in the direction of a mutually desirable outcome. Thus it unifies causes, and offers shape and direction.

RUNNYMEDE CONFERENCE; OCTOBER 26TH – 28TH 2012

ORGANISING FOR DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE

The Runnymede Project will be hosting a conference on;

Organising for Democratic Resistance

at;-

Barnes Close, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire; 26th-28th October 2012.

Barnes Close is a pleasant and secluded little retreat run by the Community for Reconciliation which has been used for many years by the Bromsgrove Group. Cost will only be £120 board and lodging for the weekend. There is only room for around 40.

On the basis that those attending will be politically well educated and well aware of the issues, the focus will be on organisation ... digging in for the long hard haul against a formidable oligarchy, ... and how different groups networks and campaigns can 'hold hands' and communicate and co-operate more effectively at grass roots level ... how we educate, recruit, and engage in activity etc. so as to attain the 'critical mass' necessary to effect deep and enduring change. Essentially it is for people who can bring something to the party in terms of organisation, especially in areas such as;-

Personal and IT security, e.g. use of encryption, how to remain anonymous, circumventing state snooping, 'money laundering laws' etc.

Developing networks, both IT and personal.

How to run a local group ... those with experience of local group activities more than welcome to share them.

Recruitment and retention. How to engage the public.

Developing local media, community radio, internet radio and TV, local publications and newsletters.

Activism. Experience of actual campaigns and campaign organisation welcome.

Developing the local economy ... for example local currencies, trading schemes, keeping a watchful eye on local government, local campaigning etc.

Working towards a new political and constitutional dispensation. What might a new Magna Carta or Bill of Rights need to contain?

Any further contributions or suggestions more than welcome! The agenda is open and speakers and contributions are invited.

The Runnymede Project now has a temporary website at;-

www.runnymedenetwork.org

Many thanks to Rick Margetts for getting this up and running.

The response address as at the end of this newsletter. Phone calls always welcome!

Frank Taylor

June 15th 2012

PURTON DECLARATION.

Together we join hands and make the following statement;-

We face a severe crisis as outlined in the Declaration of Grievance to which we all subscribe.

We believe that many events over many years has demonstrated that a fragmented mass of small groups, networks and individuals has achieved far too little.

We aver that the way forward it through the establishment of three essential elements; communication, co-operation and co-ordination between groups, networks and individuals.

We consider that the best way of achieving this end is through the creation of a network of cellular network of local lodges which will enable concerned citizens from a variety of different campaigning backgrounds, or no background at all, to gather together in their own communities.

The manual How to Form a Runnymede Lodge sets out the overall approach.

We wish to make as our central priority those issues which affect the general population in their daily lives. In general, we eschew esoteric approaches which are likely to evoke incredulity in the general population and place this initiative in danger of ridicule or disrepute.

All that is required for membership is to ascribe to the Declaration of Grievance. Beyond that;-.

The principle of 'leaderless resistance' is intrinsic to this initiative. The central aim is to get people to 'hold hands' in a convivial partnership of communication, co-operation and co-ordination.

Also intrinsic to our initiative is the urgent desire for the genuine empowerment of people and the construction of genuine and enduring local democracy.

Therefore;-

Local groups/cells/moots/lodges will be entirely autonomous.

There will no national membership.

The network will have no national authority or permanent administrative structures. This does not preclude putting in place ... by consensus and with the unfettered assent and support of those concerned ... ad hoc bodies to conduct specific tasks or campaigns.

Nothing in our initiative will limit the autonomy, independence or integrity of any particular individual, campaign, group, network or organisation.

Persistently contentious matters may be remitted to a modern form of Putney Debate, the method and protocols for which will be decided anon.

DECLARATION OF GRIEVANCE

Once again events have called upon us to confront and defeat challenges to our ancient rights and liberties. Political, economic and technical power has been elevated to arrogant and greedy pinnacles far above our heads. A long train of deceits, abuses and usurpations bespeak a design to reduce us to subservience and despotism. In consequence we face an unprecedented multitude of threats to our long established rights and liberties; to our constitution and common law; to our self determination as a nation; to the privacy of our persons; to our economy, and to the environment which sustains us. The exercise of power by government and allied transnational and corporate institutions has become ever more remote, inaccessible, arbitrary, deceitful, oppressive and abusive. Holding that law and government can only rightly derive from us, as free people, through our ancient rights, liberties and common law, we now lay our grievances before the nation and the world;-

1. The ever growing turpitude of both civil and economic governance; the consequent gulf between government and governed. The frequent resort by government to deceit and dissemblance and the use of mendacious techniques to fatigue the people into compliance with its will.
2. The transfer of our power of self-determination to the European Union and other extra-national institutions which have no mandate to create law; which has occurred by stealth, deceit and treason and without the consent of the people and the consequent change of our nationality without the free and untrammelled consent of the people.
3. The erosion of our civil liberties and common law; the erosion of rights of due process, including the granting of judicial powers to institutions which are not courts and the granting of summary powers of conviction, fine and seizure to minor functionaries; the granting of invasive investigatory powers to minor functionaries who are not constables.
4. The increasing resort by government and its agencies to excessive, onerous, invasive disproportionate, coercive and repugnant measures masquerading as law.
5. The increasing resort of government to statutory instruments and other measures of government by decree and to the use of ultra vires measures by agencies of government and by minor functionaries.
6. The gross imbalance, and lack of any separation, of power between the executive and parliament resulting in parliamentary impotence; and the dominance of the whips by which legislation is procured by offers of preferment or by intimidation, implied or actual.
7. The growing and oppressive invasion of personal privacy by both government and corporate institutions.
8. The dismantling of local government and the decline in local control and accountability.
9. The usurpation of the principle of innocence until proven guilty, so essential to a state of liberty, and its replacement by an alien and oppressive principle that all people are to be regarded as criminal suspects and held in suspicion until proven otherwise.
10. The despoilation of the environment and the wanton squandering of our natural resources.

11. The dependence of our currency and economy upon the creation of debt and the consequent reduction of the people to debt servitude.

12. The grossly excessive power of financial and commercial interests, which places such power beyond the mandate of the people, and the manipulation of law and regulation by such interests.

We reaffirm that all law and government derives from the people and through our ancient rights, liberties, and that without the control of common law, any purported law which is against common right and reason, onerous, corrupt, born out of treason and the subversion of our right of self-determination, or otherwise repugnant cannot be regarded as law.

By those principles the amount of such purported law has become overwhelming in its quantity, and so disproportionate, onerous, invasive, coercive, repugnant and treasonous, and has been so much engineered for the benefit of interests and institutions lying mainly beyond the reach of the nation and any mandate it may award; and also insofar as parliament has declined to impotence and turpitude; we declare that;

*We are not bound by, and are absolved from, any duty of respect, fealty or obedience to such purported law.

*We are likewise absolved from any duty of fealty respect or obedience to any purported law deriving from any transfer of our sovereignty, self determination or nationality and reject such purported law as void..

*We likewise reject as void any purported law contrary to, or destructive of, our natural rights and liberties or to the pre-eminence of common law.

We therefore solemnly pledge ourselves in binding oath or affirmation to take all peaceful measures necessary to defend, preserve and protect or otherwise restore our liberties, self-determination and common law; and to ensure the preservation of all such rights and liberties for our descendants.

DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. Human affairs are out of control and in a state of accelerating crisis in terms of:

- a) Population.
- b) Resources, esp oil and water.
- c) Climate.
- d) War.
- e) Social organisation.
- f) Human identity.

2. The main feature of the crisis is that political and economic structures have become so large as to be uncontrollable.

3. We therefore have an imperative need to reduce their size to a scale compatible with the capacity of their members to exercise adequate control over their functioning.

4. To this end we affirm the principle that power should be deployed to ensure the maximum degree is operating in the basic units of society, in village, parish and urban communities, and that only the minimum forms of power should be deployed in larger national units.

5. No form of power shall be exercised by area or national authorities or governments that is within the competence of local communities.

6. We further affirm the need to ensure democratic control by fragmenting the different forms of power in society relating to local affairs to enable them to be subject to separate, independent area authorities comprised of elected representatives of local communities. This principle shall apply especially to local functions beyond the competence of local community authorities, to be established for the democratic control of:

- a) Money and banking.
- b) Insurance.
- c) Higher education.
- d) Police, law and order.
- e) Water.
- f) Gas, electricity and oil.
- g) Land.
- h) Transport.
- i) Communications.
- j) Health.
- k) Planning.

7. We further affirm in the interests of the democratic control of power that the functions of national governments shall be confined strictly to national concerns such as foreign affairs, defence and currency.

8. It is imperative that these basic principles shall be adopted if the prevailing crisis of power now sweeping through all human affairs is not to engulf civilisation in further disasters of war, economic collapse and social disintegration.

FORMING A RUNNYMEDE LODGE

It is said that a sign of insanity is the belief that a different result will one day be achieved by endlessly repeating the same action. There is too much talking about things we know already. The Runnymede Network will be about practicalities ... about getting things done.

So what practical things can we do now? We are confronted by a range of issues such as European 'integration'; the 'credit crunch'; undemocratic regional assemblies; the imposition of metric measurements by criminal law; abuse of power and denial of due process by public officials and authorities; the growth of the mass-surveillance Orwellian state; the degradation of Common Law and civil liberty, the power of the banks and the big corporations ... the list goes on almost endlessly.

At first it might seem that each of these is a separate self-contained issue which might be dealt with on its own terms. However that would be profoundly mistaken. What so crucially links all these issues is abuse of power by the centralisation of power by ever more remote and arrogant governing oligarchy ... which could not give a fig what we ... the great unwashed, the Hoi Poloi ... think or want.

Are we to find ourselves reduced to a state of resigned helplessness where we can do no more than grumble impotently amongst ourselves?

The truth is that words no longer matter. All the meetings, books, magazine and newspaper articles, emails, uTube videos, and postcards to the Queen ... cut little ice with the powers-that-be. Endlessly repeating the same mantras and nostrums about the same grievances amongst ourselves and to the same small audiences of the already converted will butter few parsnips. The pedagogic approach to campaigning has failed.

WHY WE NEED TO ORGANISE

Many people have done some sterling work over many years in an effort to try to stem the advance of this corporate-bureaucratic juggernaut. The problem has been that much of this effort has been scattered amongst individuals and small groups, working more or less off their kitchen tables, often alone, with little or no mutual communication, co-operation or co-ordination.

These efforts have not been sufficient to arrest and reverse the tide. Our opponents are superbly well organised and financed. We have been fighting panzer divisions with peashooters.

We have now reached the sad state in our affairs where a normally law-abiding people have to consider how to respond when substantial tracts of the law itself has become onerous, invasive, corrupt, disproportionate, unconstitutional, treasonous and illegal. The time for words is over. We need to radically change our thinking and our methods.

THE FAILURE OF ELECTORAL POLITICS

This is emphatically not a plan for another political party. There are several problems with political parties. The first is the sheer difficulty of trying to awaken a deeply stupefied electorate, especially during the narrow window of an election campaign. People can only be awoken by ongoing work 365 days of the year, not just by an election campaign.

Secondly, showering the country with paper candidates backed by poorly funded and organised campaigns only to get a thousand or so votes per constituency has all been done before to little effect. Such activity does not demonstrate strength; but weakness.

Thirdly, because political parties are hierarchical in their structure, they are so often open to external manipulation and disruption..

There are even deeper problems. Every significant agenda is now so dominated by bureaucratic, professional, institutional and corporate interests, and with Parliament almost entirely hijacked by executive whips, very little power is left in the electoral process. The electoral process has increasingly become a choice between cloned parties, with corporate dominated agendas, offering obedient, nondescript lickspittles as their candidates.

Any new party formed now would very likely replicate the failures of earlier attempts. We have a corporate dominated media which would either ignore it completely or subject it to a hail of derision. Even if such a small party managed to crawl across this no man's land and actually reach the enemy lines, by way of actually getting people elected, it would be captured, seduced, and taken to a prison camp so luxurious that it would never want to leave.

So the fundamental approach here is entirely different. We need to go in under the radar.

HOW WE NEED TO ORGANISE

Historically, the most successful military and political resistance movements have been based on a system of small cells.

Thus, in contrast to the conventional political party, we need to do things the other way around ... from the roots upwards ... through an informal cellular network. We have, in effect, to organise ourselves as if we were the inhabitants of an occupied state ... which, indeed ... we are.

If the elephant has got too big to kill outright, then we must work in stages by getting enough fleas on the elephant to suck to life out of it.

Thus we need to create a national network of resistance cells. These will be called Runnymede Lodges. Each will act like a little autonomous Round Table in its own area.

Why the Name? The American Tea Party movement is named after an evocative event in American history. Such events inevitably attract a certain mythology, and the Tea Party and the Magna Carta are no exceptions. Even so, the signing of the Magna Carta at Runnymede is probably the most evocative constitutional event in British history.

Some might wince at the use of the term 'lodge' with its Masonic connotations. However this name has been chosen with a good element of tongue-in-cheek mockery. The term has also been used by many trades unions and other organisations. The Masons themselves stand as an illustration of how successful a cellular network can be. This network has to be called something. Are there any better ideas?

Who can form a Runnymede Lodge? Pretty well any group of people, such as:-

- *A family
- *A group of neighbours
- *A group of work colleagues
- *Regulars at a pub or sports club
- *A group of members in an existing organisation, such as a professional association, trade union or political party.

Running your local Lodge Keep it as informal as possible. Much time can be wasted in formal meetings with all the paraphernalia of executive reports, agendas, motions, amendments, points of order and so forth. The jockeying for position this can cause can often set off disruptive internal turf wars.

It doesn't matter who is Chairman, President or Hon Secretary. Things happen when individuals make them happen. It what people do ... not what positions they occupy which is important. Leadership and achievement are important ... status is irrelevant.

Ideally a Lodge will be a group of friends and contacts who meet in a pub, each others' living rooms, or even over the garden fence. Have a few drinks, some decent food and watch a dvd, or plan campaigns. Do things to raise public consciousness and disrupt the Orwellian Eurosuperstate and put more fleas on the elephant.

THERE ARE ALWAYS THINGS TO DO

Lodges will inevitably differ in emphasis and activity from one to the other. Some will be large and active, others will be little more than a list of addresses of known sympathisers who can be activated when needed.

We face an inter-connected multiplicity of problems, issues and grievances. There will always be thing for Lodges to do. Here are some ideas;-

Local Monitoring and Information Gathering Be aware of what is happening in your own area.

For example;-

- * Are schoolchildren being fingerprinted as a condition of access to school services?
- * Is there a local proposal for road charging? Will this require your vehicle to carry an electronic box or tag which will reveal your whereabouts to the powers-that-be at all times?
- * Is the council going to introduce an electronic bin tagging scheme?
- * Has a local public authority been acting ultra vires (i.e. inventing its own laws)?
- * Has your local authority been spying on residents?
- * Is there evidence of Common Purpose activity or of corruption?
- * Are trading standards officers cracking down on the use of imperial measurements?
- * Is the European flag being flown on public buildings? If so, at whose insistence?
- * How effective is local policing and law enforcement?

Education and Awareness Raising Our constitution, Common Law and historic liberties are being rapidly dismantled. Ordinary citizens can find themselves arrested and/or penalised for thought crimes or for the most trivial offences, subject to summary confiscation without due process, denied due process, or subject to the arbitrary whims of public authorities acting ultra vires (i.e. above their legal powers). All this quite aside from the (often connected) issue of the European Union.

Much of this recent so-called 'law' is illegal and unconstitutional under our system of Common Law, and by the great charters which govern our constitution ... the Charter of Rights of Henry I, the Assize of Clarendon, the Magna Carta, the Petition of Right, and the Bill of Rights. Widespread ignorance of the British constitution, our system of Common Law, and how and why our civil liberties arose is seriously hampering efforts to combat these abuses.

Education is a life-long process for all of us. However expert in any subject, we can always learn new things. And one pathway into learning will so often lead to others.

Constitutional education will only be a starting point. Lodges will, over time, be able to widen this process of education to look at such subjects as the European Union, the money system, neoliberal 'globalisation'; the NeoCon project; mass surveillance technology, techniques of social control, and so forth. There is no shortage of material.

Get some friends together, open a bottle and watch some DVD's or uTube material!

Disseminating the Message The conventional mass media can so often be a two-edged sword which is either at your feet or at your throat. So we will need, wherever possible to create our own media.

This might start with a local website ... and it shouldn't all have to be deadly serious. Lighten it with cartoons, anecdotes, local human and sporting interest stories, and perhaps some items on local history? Hopefully, this will in time develop to the point where Lodges will be able to distribute regular local newsletters door to door, which ... in turn ... might generate advertising revenue from sympathetic local businesses. If there is a community radio station in your neck of the woods, why not get involved? If not, perhaps start your own.

Local events of political and national significance may also be organised. For example November 5th is all about celebrating the defeat of treason. So why not hold a subversive firework party and burn some effigies of well known figures ... there are plenty of choices! Lewes in West Sussex is famous for such an annual event.

The government is anxious to find a day to celebrate Britishness. Well ... we already have one ... June 15th, Magna Carta day. So why not organise festivities in June to celebrate the Magna Carta? That might be the one festival that the government does not want to celebrate and the more we get up their noses the better!

Activism and Resistance Much of our so-called 'law' has itself become onerous, oppressive, invasive, corrupt, illegal and unconstitutional under Common Law, or treasonous due to the handing of powers to the European Union. So the Runnymede Network will always be looking for opportunities to offer passive resistance, to tell the oligarchs that we are not beholden to them. The Runnymede Project is about mobilising large numbers of people in such general actions, e.g. boycotts, tax strikes, campaigns of disobedience. It is emphatically not about a few individuals indulging in hopeless kamikaze tactics, getting crushed by the law, and seeing their campaign fizzle out as a damp squib.

So the guiding principle will be that if one person disobeys the law, then they have a problem,; if a million people disobey the law, then the law has a problem.

Some ideas;-

*If your MP voted for the Lisbon Treaty then report them for treason

*If the Council wants to tag your bin or start a road charging scheme, then organise your neighbours to detach the tags and send them back to the council

*If your local school is fingerprinting children then organise parents to withhold their children from school until the scheme is scrapped.

*Make contact with traders who still use imperial measures. Encourage resistance.

Promote them on your local website or in your local newsletter. You might even get some advertising revenue!

*Organise speakeasies in your own homes to defy the smoking ban as well as making a profit for both yourself and your Lodge..

*If your water is being fluoridated, then organise large numbers on non-metered supplies to turn their taps on and waste millions of gallons of water.

*During the Euro elections to persuade people to spoil their ballots. Would five million, or even ten million spoiled ballots send a message?

Any additions to this list is welcome ... the more ideas and initiatives the better.

RECRUITING

By now it will be apparent that a cellular network will be very much a localised on-the-ground organisation. So it will be with recruiting.

In the first instance the formation of a high quality local leadership is crucial. We need people of integrity, who are tough, resourceful, courageous, and energetic. Elephants, defeatists and timewasters need not apply. We also need people with skills ... IT, copywriting, researching, salesmanship, IT security, publishing, fund raising, artistic, media and so forth.

So talk to your friends and colleagues. Find out what they think about the European Union, ID cards, road charging schemes, the fingerprinting of schoolchildren, the destruction of their personal privacy, the financial crash, the dismantling of civil liberties and so forth. But not simply what they think but how strongly. How angry are they? Are they prepared to do more than talk? What sort of effort are they prepared to offer, when the chips are down, to change things and make a better world?

Then tell them about this network and invite them to join in. When they join always find something for them to do, even if it is simply writing a letter to the local paper, and then see how they progress.

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