

THE RUNNYMEDE GAZETTE

Dear All,

I am writing both to those who have written to me in the last few of days regarding the recent difficulties encountered in distributing the Runnymede Gazette, and also to those who are currently or have in the past, re-distributed the RG on their own sites, and for which I thank you. Also many thanks for the advice I have received on what to do.

I spent much of Wednesday afternoon on the chat-line to the Microsoft technician, but to no avail. I have tried Thunderbird. To create lists in this system involves selecting contacts ... of which there are several hundred ... one by one from a tiny window which reverses to the top of the list after each operation. It would drive a saint insane and I have simply given up on it. I have been advised ... thanks for that ... to use a web-based interface. I haven't a clue what that is, no idea how to install it, or what such an installation might do to the information already on my computer. I have been advised ... again thanks for that ... to try Tiny Letter. All I get when trying to sign up is a blank page containing a blank rectangle. I have no idea how having an 'older browser' might affect the reception of this site and no clue what to do about it. Equally I have no idea what CSV is. So you see the problem ... I am not technically minded and never have been. I am simply not up to the task of wrestling with an endlessly complex, failure-prone technology. It appears that the distribution difficulties are insuperable and the publication will have to close with immediate effect.

The trouble is that I can't even get the message out to most contacts that the publication has closed. Perhaps all this timely. I have little or nothing new to say, and banging on about the same themes has become increasingly wearying over the past two or three years. So I have decided to retire completely from all this, to unsubscribe from all sites, and to disconnect completely from the world of politics, economics and constitutions. I never wanted to become some cantankerous hobby politician flogging dead horses well into old age.

Aside from mostly brief periods when my attention has been focussed elsewhere, I have been involved in politics since my teens, and with this brand of resistance politics for a decade. Reflecting on it now it has all been a waste of time. Oligarchies are opaque black boxes, mostly impervious to the doings of the world beyond their gilded courts. They move in their own way, for their own reasons, and in their own time. Any influence we might ever have on them upon them is minimal. That we are so often seduced by the hubristic delusion that things might be otherwise has troubled me increasingly for some while. The sort of organisation necessary to carry a revolution to a successful conclusion is as far away ... and as unlikely ever to emerge ... as it ever was.

So far as I am concerned the time has come to accept that the war is lost, git then teeth, knuckle down and live with that. I recommend pursuits such as gardening, bird watching, philately and watching comedy DVD's as a more pleasant and rewarding past-times. I thank you all for your time, support, friendship and sometimes forbearance. Sincerely,
Frank Taylor