

# February 2008 News Archive

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Our Web Site

I am very pleased that we have had more contributions from members to our web site. I feel even more so now than when we set up epepnet that unless we record things from our past then not only are they lost but events are open to being 're-written'. Evidence for this is provided by today's children.

It was reported recently that school children believed Winston Churchill was fictional while characters from Harry Potter considered real.

And Bristol, Greenwich and Liverpool have removed much of our exploration and trading history as 'Politically Correct'.

Our thanks to Richard Howells and Frank McAreavey for their efforts.

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Matters of Moment

All our news channels are devoting much time to the elections in the USA.

Meanwhile back at home revelations about our MPs, their expenses, allowances

and office staff get brushed under the carpet with the promise of an investigation by.....three MPs due out in the autumn.

On the not un related subject of our EU relationships, broken election promises means that those in power can only get their way by enforcing the Whips.

Both of these un-British ways have come about due to the changes over the last ten

**years. Where have our democracy and freedom of speech gone?**

**Worse could be in the pipeline unless we take stock and do something.**

**You could do worse than look at**

**www.stopblair.eu**

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### **Post Office Closures**

**In Woking and its surrounds we have one main office and several sub offices - three have already been closed. It is a fact that only those in the surrounds have easy access with parking nearby. And of course, those outlying one are earmarked for closure. What is worse is that the main office is due to be moved to the basement of W H Smith in the pedestrian area.**

**This basement is accessed by the steepest set of stairs I have seen in the UK.**

**So how are the disabled and elderly to cope?**

**If you have similar threats in your area, why not express you views by emailing**

**consultation@postoffice.co.uk**

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### **ID Cards**

**At one time I was in full support of ID Cards - just an extension of my Passport**

**or Driving Licence. But two things have changed that for me. Firstly my complete**

**lack of confidence in the government and civil servants and sub-contractor to take care of such information, evidenced by the massive data losses.**

**When I was in for National Service I was bound by the Official Secrets Act, which meant that I could be Courts Marshalled and dismissed the service if I was found to have contravened this act. As well as being**

**dismissed I would loose all pay and pension rights. None of that today, just a pat on the head and the minister saying 'lessons will be learnt'.**

**Secondly the extension of the ID Card to include all the government reference numbers plus finger-print and eye-scan into one record. Get that into the wrong**

**hands and cloning you and your family become a major possibility - a real threat.**

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### **Brooklands Visit**

**Some of you have booked to join the PHPA visit to Brooklands Museum on Thursday 8 May. I am very pleased to report that John Perry, who help with**

**the Lock Ness Wellington has contributed 20 years as a Volunteer. Nigel Brecknell using his photographic skills has contributed 15 years. Congratulations to both and they will be joining us on our visit.**

**Peter Jago from Ottawa wrote after he'd read the booking form, "I would like to see what it is like at Brooklands now; but we won't be in England at the time of the visit. The last time I was there was in the 1960s when the TSR2 'planes were under construction. (We had a radar in development for the reconnaissance role). I remember seeing a new Vickers VC10 taking off and wondering if it would get airborne before it ran out of runway!"**  
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### **Pancakes**

**Did you miss out? June made a practice batch on Sunday and the real run on Tuesday. Lemon juice and sugar replaced my earlier indulgences of treacle syrup and lemon. But I read that very few indulged. Like so many of our traditional meals that are fast disappearing under the clamour for instant meals in front of the 'box'. I also understand that dinning tables are out of fashion and are 'two-a-penny' on eBay.**  
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### **The Death of C Sense**

**Sad news. Mr C. Sense has died.**

**London Times Obituary of the late Mr. Common Sense**

**'Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as: Knowing when to come in out of the rain; why the early bird gets the worm; Life isn't always fair; and maybe it was my fault.**

**Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).**

**His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.**

**Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the**

**job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.**

**It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an Elastoplast to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.**

**Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband; churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.**

**Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.**

**Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is To Blame, and I'm A Victim.**

**Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.'**

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