



THE

YORKSHIRE POST

"The Yorkshire Post will lay before the public information both exhaustive and precise."

FOUNDED AS THE LEEDS INTELLIGENCER, 1754

COMMENT

Banks must pay dues to society

Transparency is necessary price

TEN YEARS to the month after RBS announced its first loss in four decades as the banking crisis paralysed the economy, the after-effects are still being felt by those customers whose businesses collapsed, or suffered unduly, because of the flawed financial practices which were being pursued at the time.

Yet, a decade later, it's only thanks to the persistence of campaigning MPs like Kevin Hollinrake, who represents Thirsk and Malton, that there's still pressure for a public inquiry to ensure lessons are fully learned so that bankers never again become 'untouchables' who cannot be disciplined for misconduct.

As the co-chairman of the increasingly All Party Parliamentary Group on Fair Business Banking, he believes the threshold for an inquiry has been met – he's been championing this issue since he was elected in 2015 – while the Financial Conduct Authority continues to drag its feet.

After all, the opening text of Mr Hollinrake's latest letter to FCA chief executive Andrew Bailey is fundamental to what is at stake. "The lack of accountability of senior figures in the financial services industry for the widespread destruction of British businesses undermines confidence in our financial services sector and is a threat to the integrity of the sector as a whole," it says. "Our entire economic model depends on fairness, transparency, accountability and justice not only being done, but being seen to be done. As things stand, this is not the case."

In the interests of consumers, and also all those in the financial services industry who are striving to uphold the highest standards, the Government and FCA should have nothing to fear from holding an inquiry along the lines suggested by Mr Hollinrake. The people who should be fearful of such an exercise are, however, those who should have no place whatsoever in a reformed banking sector.

Yorkshire's future

Home in on housing policy

IT'S IRONIC that those who complain most vociferously about the imposition of housing targets are, invariably, those who also bemoan sky-high property prices and how they are now out of the financial reach of so many prospective first-time buyers.

However they do need to recognise that every missed target therefore exacerbates the housing shortage and puts further pressure on prices at a time when this country needs a far more balanced, and nuanced approach, to such a complex issue.

As *The Yorkshire Post's* week-long series on the county's changing demographics continues to demonstrate, current decisions on all aspects of policy will have long-term repercussions for an ageing society – and housing is no exception to this.

Yet, while it is understandable that developers want to exploit the regeneration opportunities that still exist in Yorkshire's cities, the need for affordable housing will be even more pressing in the county's towns and villages in future.

For, unless younger families can afford to live here, and further their own career ambitions, older residents face the prospect of a lonely existence because the correlation between housing and social policy has not been recognised by national, regional and local leaders.

And while many will sympathise with Boris Johnson's call for a stamp duty cut as part of his pitch for the Tory leadership, Yorkshire – and the rest of Britain – does, in fact, need much firmer policy foundations if new homes are to be not only built in the correct place, but also meet the needs of the young and old alike.

The great outdoors

Nurturing tourism in the county

A GREAT outdoor county like Yorkshire will always be at the mercy of the weather gods and this year remains no exception. For, while a harsh winter and hot summer meant an inglorious start to the traditional grouse shooting season, the county's coastal resorts are enjoying a boom as families make the most of the heatwave.

Yet, while this region is fortunate to have a diverse rural economy which helps to underpin the county's £8bn a year tourism industry, it needs nurturing. The issues facing the uplands are different to seaside locations that cater for a different market, and it's important that the One Yorkshire devolution drive recognises this.

The fortunes of rural and urban Yorkshire are inter-dependable. Cities like Leeds and Sheffield prosper because the region's three national parks make them great places to live and work while, at the same time, countryside communities benefit from enhanced visitor numbers in this 'win, win' for God's own county.

Boris is guilty of nothing more than frippery over veils

From: Paul Rouse, Main Street, Sutton upon Derwent.

DON'T the PC Brigade of the chattering classes love an excuse to get on a high horse? The only thing Boris Johnson can be accused of is frippery. It may be a ridiculous form of dress but likening the Muslim face veil to a letterbox completely misses the point. It's yet another issue that shares its root cause with such things as the Catholic College scandal – religion.

It's about time that everyone woke up to the fact that religions always have and always will divide people and create endless problems if they are allowed to do so. I believe in God, but man-made religions, and they are all man-made, have long provided an excuse and opportunity for abuse, violence, and hatred that the God I believe in would never countenance.

Of course, there are good people in every religion, just as there are good people in every walk of life, but inevitably it is those who hide behind, and take advantage of, religion to further their own agenda who cause the problems.

From: Philip Taylor, Huddersfield.

BORIS Johnson is an excellent politician. He is open and honest and says what he thinks, and does what he says. Other politicians should emulate his example. As a consequence, the public at large will be less complacent and inspired to be more interested in the way that the United Kingdom is governed.

From: Barry Geldart, Glen View, Hebden Bridge.

MY dictionary defines the silly

season as a period in summer when newspapers print frivolous articles because they're a lack of political news.

A perfect example of this is the furore whipped up by the media with regard to Boris Johnson's statement on burkas.

Mr Johnson's sense of humour may not be to everyone's taste, but with all the doom and gloom about these days, a touch of levity is to be welcomed.

Boris Johnson did not seek to offend Islam, merely gentle mockery. What a load of snowflake moaners our nation's leaders are becoming.

From: R.E.N Webb, The Grove, Hipperholme, Halifax.

THE cost of Brexit negotiations is £3bn so far – would this have been spent in the NHS?

Jacob Rees-Mogg has recently suggested that the full benefits of Brexit will not be received for 50 years; this may be true but is it what was voted for? Of course these matters will involve the 'easiest trade deal ever' – this must be true because Dr Fox said so!

My Picture Post: Dusk in Kirkstall, Leeds, by Daniel Tavet.



Have you taken a stunning photograph of everyday life in and around Yorkshire? For a chance to be featured, email your image, along with your contact details and a brief description of the image, to yppicture.desk@ypn.co.uk (Please label your email "My Picture Post". Image format: Hi-res JPEGs only).

Johnson has opportunity to lead nation

From: David Nutt, Huby, Leeds.

IF the Conservative party is stupid enough to suspend Boris Johnson for expressing a legal and widely shared opinion, then a golden opportunity presents itself to him.

As a result of the impending implosion of the Tory party, and the probable result being a general election, the UK desperately needs a new political party to provide a space on the ballot paper for the 17 million leave voters, who will otherwise be at a loss to know where to place their cross.

Boris, come on, you can do it, and get our exit from the Brussels nightmare back on track.

From: Brian H Sheridan, Lodge Moor, Sheffield.

"UNLIKE 99.9 per cent of the outrage mob, I've actually read the article they are all complaining about" (Bill Carmichael, *The Yorkshire Post*, August 10). He is responding to the alleged offence caused by Boris Johnson when he described women wearing burkas as looking like "bank robbers" and "letter boxes".

Your columnist admits to having to go out and buy a specific newspaper to appraise himself fully of the offending article before forming an opinion. Unlike Mr Carmichael, very few of the general public would go out of their way to research the matter: Johnson's gratuitous, irresponsible little quip was always going to be the only bit that reached most of us.

Any responsible politician would have known that.

From: Richard Cadogan, Lepton, Huddersfield.

BORIS Johnson has done no more than write what millions of reasonable British people think. The time has come to get a grip of reality and for some of our 'visitors' to remember how lucky they are to be here.

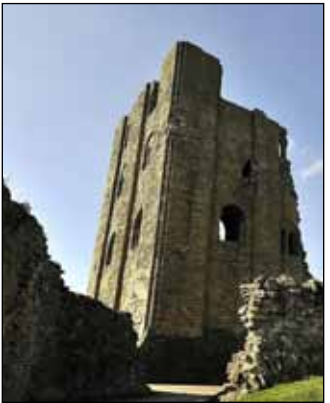
Red Tractor steers itself

From: Adam Bedford, NFU Regional Director.

RESPONDING to the recent letter 'Lack of NFU action on issue', it is important to realise that one of the strengths of the Red Tractor assurance scheme is that it is run totally independently of the farming industry by Assured Food Standards.

The NFU is involved as an external stakeholder, along with others from across the food and agricultural industries.

The importance of animal health and welfare is paramount for the NFU and for all farmers working under the Red Tractor scheme. We are committed to ensuring that the high standards achieved by British food producers are both maintained



LANDMARK: Scarborough's castle has great tourism potential.

and recognised, and expect swift and immediate action in instances where those standards are breached.

No need for illumination

From: Mrs J O'Halloran, Harrogate.

I HAVE to say I do not support the campaign to illuminate Harrogate's war memorial. I think the memorial is centrally placed in the town – you cannot miss it. It is a beautiful structure in its own right and does not need 'improving'. Plus there is a national trend to decrease light pollution at night and illuminating the memorial will only add to this pollution.

Also, in these difficult economic times, who is going to pay for this? It is a sombre monument remembering our war dead and should be treated as such.

I say all this as someone who has lost several family members in world conflict and who has a current family member serving in the armed forces.

Time for king to be deposed

From: WK Murphy, Pitsmoor, Sheffield.

PLEASE do something about that statue of King Edward VII in Fitzalan Square in Sheffield city centre. He has been there since 1910.

Surely someone more worthy than King Edward should grace that spot, like Sebastian Coe or Jessica Ennis-Hill.

People who paid for his monument are long since dead, so I can't see why we are keeping him there. City coun-

cil take note, he has been there long enough.

Restore castle

From: Arthur Quarmby, Mill Moor Road, Meltham.

SCARBOROUGH'S castle, if imaginatively and partially restored along its hilltop site, could be as major a tourist attraction, as is the restored Cardiff Castle.

It would make a real contribution to the prosperity of the town, at what could be fairly modest cost. A pity to ignore its potential!

Unclean gas

From: Jarvis Browning, Main Street, Fadmoor, York.

I THINK Lorraine Allanson's view on fracking is totally misguided (*The Yorkshire Post*, August 10). It is not a clean gas, to burn or extract out of the ground, unlike conventional gas.

Chuckle tears

From: Rosemary Nattriss, Church Fenton, Tadcaster.

THANK YOU to cartoonist *Bandeira* for the delightful tribute to the Chuckle brothers (*The Yorkshire Post*, August 11). It brought tears to my eyes.

Over the edge

From: B Murray, Halifax Road, Sheffield.

THE pressure of exams, high expectations and the bombardment of the media is sending our youngsters over the edge (David Blunkett, *The Yorkshire Post*, August 11).

wife's pleasure at seeing these views.

From: Thomas Reed, Harrogate.

GIVEN Yorkshire's unrivalled countryside, and the challenges facing the rural economy, will One Yorkshire devolution be to its advantage or disadvantage?

Feedback

Comments on Yorkshire Post stories posted on our website, Twitter and Facebook.

The Yorkshire Post says: Northern runs out of excuses as trust breaks down in rail operator over Sunday services

Helen Clayton. It's not just a matter of getting a refund either, people book these trains to change at Huddersfield or Manchester Victoria to get to Manchester Airport. The Government want people to use public transport, but up North there's no point because you spend all night worrying if your plans are doomed from the outset. Filthy old trains on slow lines, and that's if they turn up. One train to Leeds from Brighouse takes 50 minutes to go an 18 mile journey, but let's keep thinking about the Northern Powerhouse. No let's not because Northern 'snail rail' makes it a no show.

@tomriordan. Unfortunately some things haven't changed and the @northernassist and @TPExpressTrains trains appear to be just as bad – thanks to the @yorkshirepost and @OpinionYP for keeping commuters' interests at the top of the news agenda. Things have got to improve.

@Timewalkproject. They don't have the staff because they don't pay them enough and aren't training new staff. There is a limit to how many hours a train driver can safely work. So they can't just plug gaps with overtime.

@acer_bob. Can't they just do what @tpexpress trains do and blame @northernassist and @networkrail or anyone but themselves?

@CarolArthu. You can plan your journey as carefully as you like but if the trains are late/ cancelled all the planning in the world won't help. Keep the pressure on with your campaign!

Christine Purchas. It's the railway unions that need to accept the change.

Howard Tyers. Time for the Government to take control and remove Northern's franchise.

@paul_cundall. Sat on an overcrowded, very old two carriage train going from Manchester to Sheffield. I won't be booking a Northern train for this trip in the future.

@ipadsmcfarlane. Northern – we have decided to cancel the 7:57 from Bramley to Leeds, to makes sure your week starts in the worst possible way. Happy Monday love Northern, your constantly incompetent rail company. Remember we only care about profits not customers!

What do you think? Let us know:
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Horace & Doris

