

# Londoner's Diary

Edited by Ethan Croft



Speculative fiction: Jack Anderton with Reform UK leader Nigel Farage

## Farage's TikTok guru and a Right-wing dystopia

EARLIER this week we reported on the social media whizz running Nigel Farage's viral TikTok, 23-year-old Jack Anderton. He has been working with the Reform UK leader for months and is described by the party as a "contractor". But Anderton has other interests, including a taste for speculative fiction.

On his now dormant blog Inflater Media, we stumbled across an eccentric piece of creative writing titled Britain 2050: Rogue Nation in which Anderton imagines "an alternative British future". In it, the UK is taken over by "progressive revolutionaries" who "convened special courts to prosecute and jail enemies of Britain". In this imagined future, "Britain is entirely run by a group of 25 powerful revolutionaries in a single building in London", "all visas previously issued were re-evaluated which resulted in mass

visa revocations and deportations after decades of high mass migration numbers" and "the death penalty is also brought back into use".

The short story goes on: "The media is brought to heel by regulation similar to that used in Singapore which discourages subversion and restricts the power of journalists, historic outlets such as The Guardian, The Telegraph, and The Times are banned." According to this latter-day George Orwell, "the aristocracy is dismantled" and "95 per cent of universities are abolished".

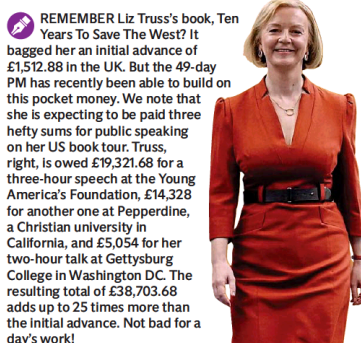
We asked Anderton about the blog post. "It is evident to anyone reading this short story published in 2022 that it's a fictitious piece of work," he said. "To insinuate that this piece of fiction is an opinion piece would be a total misrepresentation and distraction from the serious current issues facing our country." Reform UK did not respond to a request for comment.



FORMER sort-of Glastonbury headliner Jeremy Corbyn won't be attending the festival this weekend as he busily tries to win his seat as an independent. But he told the Standard he still remembers the roar of the crowd when he spoke back in 2017. When he recently learned that hippy Glasto founder Michael Eavis had accepted a knighthood, Corbyn said: "I was very surprised about that... I didn't know he wanted it."



DAVE BENNETT



REMEMBER Liz Truss's book, Ten Years To Save The West? It bagged her an initial advance of £152.88 in the UK. But the 49-day PM has recently been able to build on this pocket money. We note that she is expecting to be paid three hefty sums for public speaking on her US book tour. Truss, right, is owed £19,321.68 for a three-hour speech at the Young America's Foundation, £14,328 for another one at Pepperdine, a Christian university in California, and £5,054 for her two-hour talk at Gettysburg College in Washington DC. The resulting total of £38,703.68 adds up to 25 times more than the initial advance. Not bad for a day's work!

## Ex-Mail editor Greig takes aim at his old paper

EDITOR Geordie Greig took a swipe at the Daily Mail, his former employer, as he delivered the Hugh Cudlipp lecture last night. Now editor of the Independent, Greig criticised the Mail's approach to Brexit, saying that "contentious slogans on red buses" and "claims it would solve all our immigration problems" should have been questioned by the paper. "We are seeing news diluted and distorted and derailed by social media, and also in some instances by other parts of the media," Greig said, asking "Did parts of the Tory press in Britain



IAN VOGLER

Independent-minded: Geordie Greig criticised the Daily Mail

exacerbate the problems of the Tory party by losing perspective and being too partisan?" Greig was sacked as Mail editor in late 2021 after running a series of front pages that criticised Boris Johnson's government. Referencing Johnson's "powerful friends in the media", Greig teased that the sudden termination of his employment "could all have been a coincidence". While Greig praised the Mail's proprietor Lord Rothermere for personal integrity, he made no mention of the chairman Paul Dacre.



A WEEK out from polling day, Labour is ramming home its we-won't-rock-the-boat message. Bankers and other financial sorts arrived in the Square Mile this morning to be greeted by large electronic billboards of the shadow chancellor Rachel Reeves. "I worked at the Bank of England," they read. "I'll always put economic stability first."

PRINTED AND DISTRIBUTED BY PRESSREADER PressReader.com +1 604 278 4604 COPYRIGHT AND PROTECTED BY APPLICABLE LAWS

