

## **WE HAVE THE CIRCUS. WHERE IS THE BREAD?**

**The Royal Family is a huge business. It is bedecked with the badges of many charities. You know what these charities are? Most are organisations working hard and unselfishly to levy a tax on goodwill so that government can avoid its responsibilities. Protecting the bonuses of failed bankers has been a higher priority for governments than the rough sleeping homeless who, incidentally, were not allowed to spoil the wedding party by coming into camera. I am not sure that many people, looking at their wedding photographs, would be happy knowing that the crowds had been cleansed of those that might prick consciences.**

To contact the Royals your best bet is to attach yourself to a charity: one that has received Royal approval. Do not ask the Royals to take a stance against injustice because they 'do not intervene in political matters'. That phrase is a Royal mantra.

Their entire existence is, however, a huge intervention necessary for government to diminish democracy, poison politics and exercise power. No serious democracy, no grown up country, requires a Privy Council or a Royal Prerogative. We do because we are a monarchy and monarchies have subjects, not citizens. Theresa May's first instinct upon coming to power was to employ the Royal Prerogative to precipitate Brexit. To do this she tried to blindfold the Goddess Demokratia. That she failed demonstrated that the barely alight democratic fire that stops the Goddess from freezing sometimes responds to a stirring of its embers.

Yes a case will be made that the cost of that wedding, a wedding dripping with privilege and the display of conspicuous consumption, could easily be borne by Royalists PLC. But that is a company, really an international corporation, that is intended to bedazzle us so that the powerful and the privileged can sleep secure in their beds while the peasantry dream of diadems and gowns seen through a tiny gap in the Royal curtains.

That wedding reminds us of the twin purposes of the Royal family. The first purpose is to bequeath to politicians the power of monarchy and endorse its use; hence the Privy Council and the Royal Prerogative, not to mention legislation hurried through with insufficient scrutiny. The second is the provision of a circus: a never-ending constitutional Disneyworld to distract us from unfairness and injustice by means of births, deaths and marriages, all filling the front pages and our television screens.

**These twin purposes are the answer to the child's question:**

**'Mummy, what is the Queen for?'**

We are in desperate need of a written constitution but not one handed down to us like the constitution of the USA by a small group of self-serving slave owners. If such a constitution is to enable and support participation it must start like that. Mr. and Mrs. Windsor and their family are welcome to sit around a table with Mr. and Mrs. Bloggs to discuss, disagree and arrive at proposals for such a constitution. Let us have a bit of inclusion.

You may think that I am fantasising, that nothing like that will ever happen; perhaps you are right, perhaps the inertia of the status quo shall wear out the forces pushing for change. But without such change where shall we be? Our country is subject to powerful social fracking forces. While that fracking proceeds Royal events shall distract us.

**The Royal Family is often presented as the cement that holds us together. It is a nice and comforting thought. That 'together' maintains, however, a growing gap between rich and poor, a society increasingly stratified and governments that hoard power. We are now, courtesy of Theresa May, officially a nasty country. When the good ship Brexit is launched by the Queen and sails out to sea we can forget about the leaking hull for we shall all be on deck celebrating another Royal event.**

**Cliff Jones 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018**