

IN THE THICK OF IT

The diary of Alan Duncan (2021).

Gossip is great. Gossip is wonderful. Gossip informs us. But of what?

I now know what it is like to stay up into the small hours banqueting in Oman. I am now aware of a long list of former colleagues that are entered in Duncan's To Be Slagged Off Category. And slag them off he does, big time.

But, after the satisfaction of reading what he has to say about Patel and company, what else is there to learn from this memoir?

My awareness that THE referendum was an internal Tory fight between the party's UKIP wing and the 'sensibles' has merely been confirmed. I am now, more than ever, frightened for the future because Duncan has described so well the sheer incompetent lunacy of Boris and his chums. But what stands out for me is that even the 'sensible' wing of the Tory Party, at least as represented by Duncan, are driven by prejudice. Express a desire for equality, even just a bit of it, and you are labelled a LEFTY. Worse, you are a Marxist!

Duncan was integral to the 'sensible' wing of the Conservative Party. He could fix things. He could do detail. He was liked and had useful connections. Perhaps that is why he never got, what he clearly wanted, a top job. That is a theme of the diary. "Why have all the fools been promoted over me?"

His celebration of the arrest of Assange was sickening. And his belief that Venezuela ought to be happy to serve the interests of the USA was disturbing. He really does want, both at home and abroad, an ordered society in which the powerful remain powerful, but do it nicely. He has, however, a redeeming feature. He is extremely critical of Israel's treatment of the indigenous people of Palestine.

Cliff Jones, April 26, 2021

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