



Y'alright there,

Welcome to 'The Whippet', our fortnightly Northern Independence Party newsletter.

'The Whippet' is not just a way for you, as part of the movement, to remain alert to how it's all going, what we're planning and where we're at on the scenic route to independence – this is a forum to elevate the voices of our members. We want to hear from people within the party and for you to have a chance to express who you are and what you care about.

Every person who joins our party does so because they recognise what the North could be under its own aegis; they see something brilliant within our regions and the people who inhabit them that is only dulled by being part of a United Kingdom structured to strip away our lustre. We're being dragged down into decrepitude by association with a southern-centric England, one that is gradually atrophying through voting in successive governments of entitled, feckless individuals with inherited privilege and little in the way of common-sense or savvy; it's an undignified demise – the equivalent of accidentally drowning from flushing your own head down the toilet – and one we want no part in.

We want the people of our movement to show us what they see, what inspires them to fight for a free North where we can flourish. If you have something you'd like to share with the movement –

whether it is detailing a cause you're passionate about, a vision for Northumbria, a personal story about what being Northern means to you or other thoughts you'd like to voice - then do not dither and contact us.

[Get In Touch](#)

We are not just a political movement, we are a community of people who are here to listen and look out for each other; every one of us has something vital to say that will further the cause.

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### **Headlines from Northumbria: what have we been banging on about recently?**

#### **Police, crime, sentencing and courts bill:**

As draconian legislation goes, one bill that not only effectively outlaws protest by allowing police to mobilise against you for constituting a "serious annoyance", but also criminalises the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community by imposing restrictions on their way of life that pretty much ensure they cannot comply without basically abandoning their identity... well, if I was a sociopath fifty years in the future reading a history text detailing England's shift into fascism, I'd probably be loudly applauding the repugnant audacity of it (before immediately being arrested because my clapping startled someone and they assumed I must be protesting).

The bill passed its second reading, but there's another reading to go - there will be more protests, more pressure and more "serious annoyance" from its opponents. Let's not just let history judge this bill as the heinous act it absolutely is, let us judge it so vociferously and venomously in the present that any MP contemplating voting for it is acutely aware of what their legacy will be. Let's make it clear what our judgement will be on those who enable fascism and let's

show them that if they're planning to slip into something a bit more authoritarian, we're not going to make that comfortable for them.

### **Meghan Markle and the UK Press:**

80% of British media is owned by 5 billionaires, does that sound like 'free press' to you? The ritualistic humiliation Meghan Markle was subjected to was not the product of a democratic media that reflects the public's mood, but a handful of media barons with no regard for journalistic integrity. In-fact, I have personally seen certain toilet cubicle doors, scrawled with hyperbolic claims around the pleasurable qualities and sizeable dimensions of various individual's appendages, that contain more corroborated facts than most editions of The Sun. NIP will stand against the media establishment and a Northumbrian press will genuinely be free, fair and fundamentally opposed to our media being co-opted by those with vested interests.

### **Hartlepool:**

We haven't just been talking about it to ensure the London political-media aristocracy don't cause Google to crash by all frantically searching "Where is Heartlepole" simultaneously (Hint for any journos reading: It's in Northumbria). We'll be running! If you live in the area and would like to assist in the campaign, please let us know

**Help Us  
Campaign**

If you'd like to help with funding it, please share or donate.

**Fundraising is  
Fun!**

**Not all Men?**

In this newsletter we feature a tremendous piece by Hannah Copestake discussing the tragic case of Sarah Everard and what this reflects in our society. As a male contributor to this newsletter, I would like to refute a toxic response to this urgent conversation, which has unfortunately become prevalent on social media – that being 'not all men'. Saying 'not all men' is claiming 'not my problem' and elevating yourself above reproach prevents anything changing, meaning more people will suffer. I own up to having been an entitled male - not only bound by, but benefiting from, society's expectations of me – and, as a consequence, I have a veritable rap-sheet of objectionable behaviour that I can't just ignore. I know I haven't done enough and that I will inevitably not do enough again out of ingrained instinct if I don't accept that. My discomfort in facing the awareness that my actions have caused harm is only a diluted, homeopathic dose of the true turmoil that those subject to the oppressive fear of male violence live with unrelentingly. As-well as standing in solidarity, I hope other males in the party embrace the necessity of enduring uncomfortable self-reflection if we're to take responsibility and aid in altering the damaging dynamic that exists within our society.

### **Violence at the hands of men**

**Content Warning: mentions of suicide, sexual assault and death.**

**If you'd prefer to read this article via our website, click [here](#).**

I imagine there are many members who, like me, have been struggling to concentrate the past 10 days or so. First the '[Women belong in the kitchen' tweet from Burger King](#), then the [sexism of Good Morning Britain](#), and then Piers Morgan's [denial of Meghan Markle's confessions of mental ill health](#) (CW: suicidality) - all in a week that began with International Women's Day and ended with Mother's Day. Then the news hit about Sarah Everard.

Sarah was so like me - her family are from Yorkshire, she worked in marketing, she was almost exactly the same age as me. She had visited a friend and was walking home, down brightly lit streets and on the phone to her partner. And someone chose to harm her. It's the fear many of us carry with us all our grown lives. A [recent study found that 80% of women reported having been sexually assaulted](#), and this rose to 97% for those aged 18-24. We are taught to modify our behaviour - to shrink, to hold our breath, to keep loved ones on speed dial. How many of us have held keys between our fingers on walks home, or taken a detour because we noticed we were being followed? The reality of this omnipresent fear is exhausting.

More exhausting can be the sense that the media, and some men, are only just acknowledging the problem. #NotAllMen began trending, with [celebrities wading in to say that we should think about the mental health of men](#) in the face of another murdered woman. This misogynistic violence doesn't just affect cis women either - it is meted out against trans women, non-binary people and is related to the violence gay men face. [70% of LGBTQ+ are sexually harassed at work](#). Most people don't report their attacks - I've never reported any of the one's I've experienced to the police - and even when they are reported, [they are rarely prosecuted](#). If you present as anything other than a macho, straight cis man - the patriarchal violence and justifications for the violence will follow.

It may be uncomfortable for some of our male members to read this. Thank you for getting this far. We need you to listen to us while we experience this grief, because without you we can't change the system. Feminism is sometimes wrongly thought to be about artificially pushing women into power. Or about swapping a system that favours men for a matriarchal one, that favours women. Feminism is actually the struggle to destroy the patriarchy.

The patriarchy is a social system in which men hold most power and dominate political leadership, moral authority, social privilege and control of property. It creates arbitrary gender roles that hold us all back - like boys don't cry and girls are irrational. Patriarchy promotes those who believe that men are naturally better than women, and keeps others out. Patriarchy enforces the idea that men are naturally violent and sends them off to die in wars. It enforces the idea that women should be caregivers, and punishes them if they stray outside the home - with sexual assault, with catcalling, with blame when they get hurt. The backlash against trans rights is, in part, because it undermines the idea that the imaginary, supposedly fixed, societal roles of men and women are just that - imaginary.

In destroying the patriarchy we will free everyone to be themselves. After we've grieved, we need to come together and fight for all our freedoms.

"Until we are all free, we are none of us free. "

— Emma Lazarus

By Hannah Copestake

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### **Spare 5 minutes for the Northern Revolution**

Everyone should have received a threatening letter from the government asking you to fill out an online form or be subject to a punitive fine- if you're anything like me and love both admin and financial-masochism equally, it's been a tricky decision. However, if you are opting to take the 5 minutes to tap out your details on-line - here's how you can help the cause when filling out the census.

When asked to describe your national identity, simply select 'Other' and type in 'Northumbrian'. Let them recognise us for who we are!

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## Got more than 5 minutes to spare?

NIP is a vibrant, representative organisation and, as such, we want our members involved. Currently we have the following positions available, if you want to get stuck in please do contact us.

[Reach Out](#)

### Councillor

Local and Parish Council elections are happening this May and this is an ideal opportunity for those with an interest in local politics to make a difference to their area.

[Find Out More](#)

[Apply Here](#)

### IT Director

If you have IT experience and think you can help with coordinating the running of the various platforms we use as a party, please consider applying for the [IT Director role](#).

This role takes up only a couple of hours a week and is ideal for someone looking to gain more experience in IT.

[Apply Now](#)

Applications for both IT Director and Councillor are open until 22nd March.

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### Join our Discord

If you haven't already - join the Discord! We have some great discussions, and it's a way to make friends and find support in the Party.

1. Download [Discord](#).
2. Add your Discord username to your profile [on our website](#).
3. Follow this link to [join the NIP Discord](#).

### **Come to the first NIP Book Club meeting**

Join the #reading-room channel on the Discord server to take part. We're meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 14th April in the Book Cozy voice channel to discuss [New Model Island](#). Hope to see you there!

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Ta!

The Whippet

Northern Independence Party

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This email was sent to [hannah.copestake@freethenorth.co.uk](mailto:hannah.copestake@freethenorth.co.uk). To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).