

STATEMENT.

It would seem that there have been some very strange rumours circulating regarding a small parcel of land we own in Wales, which have led to several unpleasant news articles being published. The misinformation within these articles requires that I put the record straight.

Before I comment on the misinformation published I would like to note that these "cut and paste" articles seem to have made little or no research effort regarding the authenticity of the claims made about our organisation. Most of the pertinent accurate information is freely available on our website, but somehow this seems to have been overlooked. If this is an innocent oversight it bespeaks a serious

lack of professionalism in the reporters concerned.

Claim 1.

We are building a village.

I'm sorry to disappoint people, but our finances just won't stretch that far. As wonderful an endeavour as this would be, it was never our intention.

The land in Wales has been designated for permaculture and forestry. Beyond these two main activities the land offers us the ability to hold occasional social events for members. We have held three weekend events, all of which passed peacefully with friends and families enjoying the beautiful

surroundings.

Claim 2.

That the village (which we are not building and never had any intention of building), would be for whites only.

As we were never building a village this is a moot point, but as to that our membership criteria does not mention colour and nor havr any of our policies ever been discriminatory. Whilst we are concerned that those with a British heritage be able to keep, enjoy and prosper the land as the inheritance of their forebears, it is not a question of colour it is a question of tradition, heritage and cultural roots. Only an unfair mind could

deny this prerogative to the English, Welsh, Scots and Irish as it is enjoyed by other native populations.

Claim 3.

That The Woodlander Initiative is an "extreme" organisation.

The Woodlander Initiative is not even a political organisation; this is plainly stated on our website. There is nothing extreme about wanting to preserve our woodlands and meadows from further wind turbines and solar farms; nothing extreme about planting fruit trees or cleaning streams, all of which things we have undertaken. Our opposition to the trends of urban modernity may strike some as eccentric,

but no informed person could construe our aims or activities as extreme, dangerous or repugnant. More than anything we have sat around a camp fire, laughed, talked, shared stories and helped one another where we can. If any of these things are extreme in our day then it reflects poorly on the culture at large.

Our mission statement is on our website, as is the membership criteria; it's all fair, legal and open. Nothing we have done or said can be fairly accused of the least extremism; only by exaggeration, tenuous association and bogus ad hominem is this term foisted upon us.

Claim 4.

Links with "Far Right" organisations.

This is a claim made about myself and TWI.

I have never made a secret that four decades ago; I joined the British National Party; I was nineteen years old. Later on in my life I joined the Conservative Party; I sat on the European Committee, ran the Conservative Business Club, I was even put forward as a Councillor. Of the two political parties, I'm more ashamed of being in the latter.

The Woodlander Initiative is not affiliated to any political party, and membership is not restricted based on anyone's political ideology or membership of any political party.

Though I myself have had a background in Conservative or right wing politics, other members have been communists, hippies, libertarians and practically all else; indeed political opinion amongst members is varied but animated by shared sentiments of heritage, tradition, community and proprietorship.

Much has been said about a speech I gave at a Patriotic Alternative conference. It was a speech outlining the futility of politics in the current era and the promotion of peaceful parallel institutions.

As for Patriotic Alternative as an organisation, as far as I am aware they are not a political party, they are an advocacy group for the English, Welsh, Scots and

Northern Irish. They are a community group that spends time cleaning up local areas and trying to improve the lives of its members and the British people as a whole. Although The Woodlander Initiative is not affiliated to Patriotic Alternative, I find it difficult to find fault with that.

Claim 5.

This addresses the general tone and method of these articles. They brim with hate, they use every buzz word they hope will cause alarm. The terminology used, racist, fascist, nazi, far right; all thrown at a group that wants to grow carrots and raise hens, hoping to enable people to take back a little control of their lives.

These words they hope will cause fear and

alarm, and in some cases they will succeed. Gladly, many people are becoming aware that such slurs and vitriol are unsubstantiated and moreover are actually untrue. This is easily proven by any who take the time to actually investigate our activities and publications, and more especially by those who have had personal dealings with us as friendly wholesome neighbours.

I will close by saying that last year saw hundreds of people arrested and many imprisoned for publishing misinformation and disinformation.

Misinformation is false or inaccurate information that is spread or published with or without the intention to deceive. This can happen when someone shares or

publishes information they believe to be true but is not supported by the facts.

Disinformation is when false and inaccurate information is spread or published intentionally.

It's only ever the public who are on the receiving end of reprimand and punishment for the sin of spreading untruths. Perhaps it has always been this way, but it is a shameful double standard. I hope these journalists will better honour their vocation in future by taking a little time to look more closely into the facts, and cleave more closely to the truth.

Simon Birkett

The Woodlander Initiative

