

Barbara Sharples

From: Mature Times [editorial@maturetimes.co.uk]
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To: Barbara Sharples
Subject: This month's news and offers with Mature Times

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THIS ISSUE'S TOP STORIES

16 AUGUST 2011
ISSUE 101



Calls for urgent action to protect the nation's bus network Campaign for Better Transport has welcomed the Select Committee's report *Bus Services after the Spending Review* and called on the Government to do more to protect the remaining network by reversing further planned cuts as a matter of urgency. [Read more...](#)



Lack of trust in care homes fuelling a nation of home carers Three quarters of Brits would rather take on the burden of caring for elderly relatives than put them into a home - because they don't trust care homes. [Read more...](#)



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The punishment awaiting *all* rioters

It would seem our vocabulary has been reduced to a mere handful of words in these last few weeks. Across the country, on TV, radio and in supermarket checkout queues, the words "mindless", "stupid", "thoughtless", "irresponsible", "shameful", "wicked" and "shocking" have dominated conversations.

But the most significant and pertinent word to describe the behaviour of the vandals who have rampaged across our cities is CRIMINAL.

The appalling acts of vandalism and violence we have recently witnessed have roused a range of emotions - fear, anger, frustration. Above all, for the law-abiding majority of the country it was incomprehensible. Why? Has been the question of the moment.

Economic cut-backs have been offered as one excuse, the denial of "their" human rights another. What of the victims of the burnt out shops and flats? Are they not human and do they not have rights?

It is a fact that cut-backs have had the hardest effect on pensioners. I didn't see many elderly people hurling bricks at windows and the police and making off laden with looted goods.

Maybe growing up in the post-war period of austerity we learned to accept the fact that there were things you just couldn't have - and that was that. So we're back to "why"?

Doubtless there are many issues which need to be addressed and it is reassuring to hear that our members of Parliament are united in their resolve to do just that.

David Cameron, meanwhile, was absolutely right when he warned these young vandals; "If you think you are old enough to commit these crimes, then you're old enough to take the punishment."



Perhaps though, the greatest punishment awaits these thugs some time far into the future - when, as pensioners, they look back with guilt, regret and shame at their disgraceful behaviour in August 2011. Let us hope so.



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David Thomas, Editor

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