



## The truth, some of the truth and everything but the truth

“ The front cover of this issue portrays a cohort of the devil called Vitrios who first appeared in the 1962 novel *The Troubling of the City*, written by the late Canon of Winchester Cathedral, Roger Lloyd. The original mission of Lloyd's anti-hero was 'to reduce Winchester to the despicable status of a beautiful but dead ecclesiastical museum'. So I should really know why SMUG has revived such a malignant spirit. Only I'm not sure I do.

I certainly don't possess the clarity of vision of Roger Lloyd. For him, Vitrios was quite simply a n evil force tasked by the Prince of Darkness himself to attack the "slow beating heart of England". For Lucifer, 'once the grace, kindness and contentedness of Wintonians was corrupted, it could infect a whole nation, even the world'.

For Vitrios to carry out his demonic 1962 mission, he rested control of an ailing local newspaper the *Scrutineer*, whose editor was the already godless and corrupted Scrivener. Together Vitrios and Scrivener befuddled the population by publishing half truths, misinformation and fake news, causing the good people of Winchester to bicker amongst themselves, draining them of all hope and ridding them of any inclination to forgive.

Central to Vitrios' plans was the sabotaging of a conference due to held in Winchester called *The Council of Universal Reconciliation*, the purpose of which was to find ways to achieve peace between warring local parties and politicians.

Opposing Vitrios' plan to sabotage the conference was the hero of Lloyd's fable, a local monk called Father Gill who had it on good authority (from an angel) that the people of Winchester could not defeat the demons alone. They must ask for God's help, for only He can defeat the devil. So the good people of Winchester followed Father Gill to the sanctuary of the cathedral where, in unison, they asked God for help. God duly obliged by summoning his army and defeating the devil in a celestial battle.

The final reckoning took place in a local heavenly Court of Justice where the presiding judge, the spirit of St Swithun, offered forgiveness and freedom to those in the docks who asked for it, and a return to 'unrelenting plotting and fighting in hopeless revolt' for those who refused to be 'released'. Vitrios opted for hopeless revolt.

## Vitrios opted for hopeless revolt

And here he is, back again, revolting in 2020. But why open the door for such a malignant force?

Well, because something about Lloyd's fable isn't quite right. If the mission of the 'goodies' was to ensure that the *Council for Universal Reconciliation* went ahead in order that peace between warring parties could be achieved through reconciliation, why did God resort to bludgeoning the devil into submission on a bloody celestial battlefield? Isn't the whole point of reconciliation that dialogue, listening, collective negotiation and the active communication about conflicting motives and ideologies are used to resolve conflict and restore relations? Not, brute force.

If so, isn't it only fair that Vitrios be given a chance to at least be heard. He might have something interesting to say. He may even have changed. His current mission certainly isn't to 'reduce Winchester to a beautiful but dead ecclesiastical museum', but to save it from becoming one.

Then again, it is possible that same malignant spirit that seduced the editor the *Scrutineer* has tapped into my own vanity.

Either way, Vitrios is back, so why not hear him out. And if you don't want to be entertained by the devil, I hope you find something else to amuse you in this final issue.

Have fun!



Drink up



Lady Wench



# Bar End earmarked for new retail store



REAL NEWS OR FAKE NEWS @smugw

**Nick Pick** *Commercial Correspondent*

**DISCOUNT** retailer-of-everything *The Range* has announced the opening of a new store at Bar End. Chief Development, Expansion and Growth officer Ms. Ink presented plans to local residents in a packed meeting last Thursday.

Enthused Ms. Ink, ‘The site we have earmarked is currently occupied by Winchester’s bespoke recycling facility (‘The Old Tip’) and provides immense potential for our operation, with almost zero capital outlay. In fact, we plan to simply change the signs. Let’s face it, the stuff Winchester throws out is what everyone else buys new.

Local resident Ernest Clever (68) is not happy about the development: ‘I’ve been buying my computer monitors, glass coffee tables and golf clubs at The Old Tip since it opened at the start of capitalism. Once the Range moves in it’ll be nothing but higher prices and cinder toffee at the checkout.’

**It’ll be nothing but high prices and cinder toffee at the checkout.**

However, not everyone disagrees with the new store. Cherise Button (26) is thrilled: ‘This is just what Bar End needs. As a mature student studying for a BA in Art, Pets, Clothes, Sweets and Furniture at the University of Winchester, I shall be making good use of the Range’s facilities.

# Knife crime in Winchester on the rise

## “Parents to blame” claims chairwoman of parliamentary group on knife crime.

A **REPORT** commissioned by the parliamentary group on knife crimes has revealed that knife crime in Winchester has increased by 20% since last year.

Winchester MP Steve Brine has likened the rise in knife crime to a ‘disease’ and has created a task force to tackle the issue.

On the back of the findings, the task force has published guidelines to ‘inform and educate’ so parents can no longer be able to use ignorance as an excuse for their children’s behaviour.

**Knife crime is not something we will tolerate.**



### Government Guidelines for parents

► **When presented with two knives, always start with the one placed on the outside.**

- **Don’t** stab your food.
- **Always** use serving utensils to serve yourself, not your personal silverware.
- **Don’t** gesture with your knife.
- **Only ever** cut one piece of food at a time.
- **When you pause** during eating but have not finished, the knife and fork are placed in the “resting position” with the knife placed on the right side of the plate in the 4 o’clock position, blade in, and the fork placed on the left side in the 8 o’clock position, tines up. This alerts your waiter that you’re not finished.

“Knife crime,” says task force leader Teresa Cucillo, “is not something we will tolerate in Winchester. We ask anyone who suspects their children or siblings to report them before it is too late.”

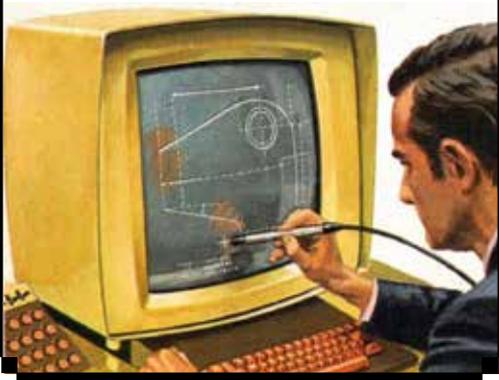
Proposed solutions have ranged from the severe to the outlandish, but most seem to gloss over the fundamental causes of knife related crimes.

Explains the head of the new task force, “It’s easy to blame the influence of nearby Eastleigh for the rise, or isolate it to those segments of society that frequent places like Winchester Rants. But the truth of the matter, and the most worrying aspect, is that the greatest rise of knife crime has been recorded in the middle and upper-middle class families.

“Causes include a lack of discipline at home, a lowering of standards and defiant children refusing to follow the rules. The root of the problem, however, appears to be ignorance of the rules.

# Komputer Korner

**Questions and answers about common challenges faced by Wintonia's computer users, and handy tips for the novice and expert alike.**



*Dear Komputer Korner,*

*I've been trying to find a wonderful website that I visited last week. It was called [www.quiltingquilts.com](http://www.quiltingquilts.com) or something very similar. I tried looking in browser history but it's completely empty. My husband explained to me that it is very important to erase internet usage history daily, and sometimes several times a day, so it looks like our computer has developed a mind of its own! All be it a very tidy one! Please help Komputer Korner! Can you find my browser history?*

*Janet from Winnall*

*Komputer Korner Solution?!*

**Hi Janet, Yes this is a common problem faced by many of our clients and their husbands. We suggest you ask your husband to investigate the issue and attempt to recover the deleted history. It's easily done and we're sure he knows how. We suggest you sit with him as he does this so that you will know exactly what to do next time.**

*Dear Komputer Korner,*

*I want to know what to do once I've moved my mouse to bottom of the mouse mat. I can see the corresponding arrow rests half way down my CRT monitor but I simply cannot get it to move any further because the mouse has come to the edge of the mat.*

*Ray from Oliver's Battery*

**Komputer Korner Solution?!**

**Hi Ray! Our experts have looked into this issue for you and we recommend you purchase another mouse mat, place it under your existing one and continue moving your mouse in a downward direction. You should see the arrow continue its hoped for progress. We have a selection of mousemats currently available at £9.99 per cubic foot. Each one is designated as a specific add on (left, right, up, down) for your existing mat configuration.**



*Dear Komputer Korner,*

*I am looking for a piece of software to permanently erase any deleted files, browser histories etc. Something that even GCHQ couldn't piece back together. I'm willing to pay several thousand pounds for such a piece of software. Please.*

*Derek from Winnall*

**Komputer Korner Solution?!**

**Sorry Derek, I'm afraid this kind of software is only available to security personnel and cyber-forensic teams.**



*Dear Komputer Korner,*

*I'd just like to applaud Microsoft India for their timely and wholly unexpected intervention and advice received by phone last week. Who would have known that a virus had infiltrated my online banking passwords. They did! Thank you so much Microsoft India for your free support.*

*Janet from Winnal*



*Dear Komputer Korner,*

*I've lost my fucking dissertation! It's fucking gone! I thought autosave was on but there's no fucking previous versions. Oh Christ, it's hand in tomorrow. Why does this always happen to me every hand in day. Please help me KK, I can't have deleted it, can I?*

*Alisha from Winchester University*

**Komputer Korner Solution?!**

**Hi again Alisha, good to hear from you so soon after last hand in. If you remember what we told you and your parents in May, you actually have to do the assignments. You can't cry wolf and blame the technology. Just get off your arse and do some (fucking) work.**



# Vitrios

## the Scrutineer

Casting a fiery eye over the beings and goings on in God's favourite city

BACK in 1962, in his book *The Troubling of the City*, the late Canon of Winchester Cathedral Roger Lloyd unleashed upon Winchester a cohort of the devil called Vitrios. The mission of Roger Lloyd's anti-hero was to turn Winchester into 'a beautiful but dead ecclesiastical museum' by publishing misinformation, fake news and half truths in the local newspaper of the time, *The Scrutineer*.

Roger Lloyd was a devout soul and at the end of his novel, Vitrios was defeated by God in a celestial battle and subsequently brought to justice

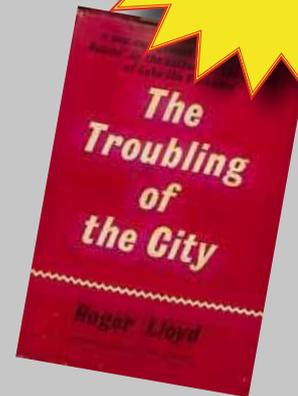
in a local heavenly court presided over by the spirits of St. Swithun.

Over fifty odd years on, SMUG has re-invoked the spirit of Vitrios so that he may once again influence the citizens of God's favourite city.

Only this time round Vitrios' mission is not to turn Winchester into an ecclesiastical museum but to save it from becoming one.

No doubt the spirits of King Alfred and St. Swithun will once again vanquish Vitrios, but until then at least here him out. He might even have something of interest to say.

He's  
back!



## Capitalism

Well now fellow Wintonians: Capitalism! There's a thing. And what an enthralling mistress of perpetual reinvention she is!

What a fine alchemy of intersubjunctive reality! My very good friend Thomas Malthus (1766-1834), half-demon, economist and currently poised at my shoulder auditing each pen-stroke, bade me last week swing my journalistic lantern Capitalism's way - to illuminate not only its shifting form, but also its cracks and crevices and its tiny, tiny crannies.

"Vitrios my friend," he implored, "your duty to Wintonia lies straight and clear. Warn its citizens; counsel them well!! Give them news of the coming disaster; the *Armageddon of Stuff!*"

### Catastrophe

Thomas, my beloved doom-sayer, keeps our pseudo-intellectual society constantly a-snigger with his humorous and ever-shifting prophecies. First one fake apocalypse then the next, each time Thomas squirming out from his erroneous predictions and hastily clamping on to the next. 'Our species grows geometrically yet food production falls arithmetically! A healthy populace will outpace the wheat and livestock from which it takes sustenance!' he declared last week from the third step of the Buttercross. Poor Thomas then implored the passers-by to celibacy, infanticide and an early death, these ideas full declaring the stunted reach of his creative problem solving skill.

Woe-monger Thomas is blind to the facts around him; namely that our population continues to bulge and swell, lump by demographic lump, through constant innovation such as the Potted Noodle, the Maxi-Muscle Protein Bar (Mint & Cranberry) and the Cod, frozen yet full ready for the Oven. These inventions set us Sapiens on a course of merry thrive, not a sorry decline as Thomas would have us think. Yet he simply shrugs off these truths and crafts for himself a different foretelling of catastrophe, heaving his keen and miserable eye upon another topic.

### Blind

Most recently, as evidenced by this current literary appeasement, Thomas holds worrisome of Capitalism; that we too easily fall to the temptation of excessive ownership, and that we draw too ravenously at mother Earth's generous teat.



But double wrong upon Thomas; he is twice blind! For he does not see that in the very nature of his latest deleterious muse is the solution to the former. Namely that Capitalism (and its gluttonous offspring consumerism) provides the engines which drive our species forward - unhindered by over population, meagre food supply or lack of shoes and handbags. Come with me Wintonians on a brief trail of sound logic that will empower your city strolls, open wide your plump wallets and ensure your tables remain warped with nourishment.

from other lands, buy maybe an antique typewriter, a dozen World War 2 shell casings, or a snap-together-non-glue wooden Titanic. Fill your Kath Kiddingme status bags with artisan kumquat bread, a tin poster of James Dean or something made from sticks and buttons. You don't need this stuff. But you think you want it as some externalisation of your fragile self. Deep down you know the rouse; the thrill of new ownership is just as transitory as your fickle moods. But you must buy regardless.

For withholding your consuming is the gravest sin. You prevent your money passing as it naturally should to the future blossoming of the human race. Buy or die!

**Buy or die!**

vitrios@smugwinchester.com

**Gorge**

If Thomas implores us remain a small and meek race, nibbling quietly here and there on our dwindling supplies of leaf and meat then Capitalism says gorge yourselves! Drink deep and grasp wide at all the planet has to offer. Fill your gut, your home and your mind with fayre you neither want nor need in exchange for loaned coin. The goods' value themselves equating a mere fraction of the fee paid release vast amounts of pretend worth to fund Capitalism's next fine projects, those of making more and more stuff. The message is clear, the rationale sound. A citizen full assimilated with Capitalism is a citizen of high moral substance. Wintonians who consume fund the future. Thrift kills. If you don't buy pointless goods then children will die horrible deaths. How many ways do I need to say it? So at our local souk, enticed under the green striped awnings of the curious merchants



**The original spin doctor, one-demon Daily Mail and proto-Trump**

