



## The English Freedom Tea-Towel

I believe *English Freedom* is a balance of our Rights with our Responsibilities.

The Ginger Pop Shop is *dedicated to the world of Enid Blyton & her era*, central to which was the Second World War.

Every day I sell memorabilia of that time and think of the values of Freedom for which Britain and our Allies were fighting.

In the light of BREXIT we urgently need to think of what it is that defines us as a nation and how to face the future.

Despite what some thugs might think, the English do not have the right to incite hate or abuse strangers on the street. Yet a fear of unleashing some sort of stifled native xenophobia has too often stopped the decent English from having any sort of public debate about what sort of a nation we are and what we could become.

**The red words** on the tea-towel are amongst the best the English aspire to be. We don't always get it right but it is about an outward looking attitude, fairness, the Common Good.

**The grey words** are what may threaten our open society and some ways we let ourselves down. (See inside this leaflet for further explanations)

**Why the Golliwogg?** Some people look at my tea-towel and can only see the "racist" Golliwogg. In recent years a *political correctness* culture has developed whereby Racism Trumps All, whether the racism was real or imagined. It has closed down much legitimate Public Debate, as exemplified in 2010 when Gillian Duffy tried talking to Gordon Brown.

The Golliwogg is a 'good' toy, yet because a small number of bullies used him to taunt Caribbean immigrants, he became demonised. It is awful that some people now assume that just because he is black, he must somehow be 'bad'.

Find out more about his history on YouTube. *Je suis Golliwogg; the toy that dare not speak its name*

**Allowing thugs and bullies to define the agenda**

**about our nationhood has not done The English any favours.**

**My *English Freedom* tea-towel design is to help stimulate that debate.**

**Bans** - Things that can harm the health of others such as cigarettes and guns need banning, but in a democracy with Free Speech there are very few other things or people that need banning because it takes away free choice from individual citizens. Cultural Appropriation isn't always disrespectful.

Bullies will use whatever they can to attack their victims; red haired people get taunted by the name 'Marmalade' as black people have been called 'golliwogg' but it is foolish to ban either marmalade or golliwoggs because to do so gives credence to the bully's warped views. I'd rather ban bullies!

**Bullying**– Bullying adds to the gross national misery since being bullied can affect someone for years after the event. Some people reading this are bullies. **Why do you do it?**

**Cynicism** - OED "...a disposition to disbelieve in the sincerity or goodness of human motives and actions..." Most of our MPs do a good job and need support, not abuse. For all its imperfections, I prefer our parliamentary democracy to anything else on offer.

**Hate** - This is aggressive bullying behaviour against someone who can do nothing about whatever the bully doesn't like, such as acne, skin colour, disability or gender issues. The hateful perpetrator can be a family member or troll. Robust and reasoned disagreement with the ideas held by a faith group or political party is not inciting hatred against that community.

**Internet trolls** - Sending strangers depraved messages and then hiding behind a mask of internet anonymity is cowardly. Disrupting chat rooms by swearing and name-calling denies Freedom of Speech, which is about reasoned argument.

Anger against society, general feelings of inadequacy or substance abuse is no excuse for these perpetrators.

**Misogyny** - Hatred against women occurs in every society. On BBC Question Time Jess Phillips MP pointed out that in places such as Birmingham women were "heckled and baited" on nights out.

Chivalrous Englishmen understand that women have the Right to go where they like, when they like, with whom they like, dressed how they like, without let or hindrance.

**Nationalism** – Karnak wrote

*"There is a large difference between nationalism and patriotism that is lost on some people. Patriotism is good, nationalism is bad.*

*Patriotism inspires one to improve and help one's country, nationalism blinds one to the deficiencies of one's country.*

*Many people have been highly critical of their country's actions and policies out of love of that country. This is one of the highest forms of patriotism, to try to let your country know that it is going wrong in the face of public opinion. The person may not be correct, but they are being patriotic.*

*On the other hand, the blind support of your county's actions and policies is one of the least patriotic things that a person can do."*

**Tolerance - Charles 2<sup>nd</sup> 1660** - “*we do declare a liberty to tender consciences, and that no man shall be disquieted or called in question for differences of opinion in matters of religion, which do not disturb the peace of the kingdom*”

**Political Correctness gone mad** - PC is about not causing undue offence to others. However, following the law of unintended consequences, *PC goes mad* when, with the best of intentions, an affirmative action does more harm than good. Whilst vile practices like FGM have been tolerated for the wrong reasons, The Golliwogg was effectively banned for the wrong reasons.

Our YouTube film *Je suis Golliwogg; the toy that dare not speak its name* explains how this happened. The short film *Why not buy a Golliwogg?* answers customers questions and was the inspiration for the *English Freedom* logo.

**Safe space** - Oxford University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Louise Richardson said “*We need to expose our students to ideas that make them uncomfortable so that they can think about why it is that they feel uncomfortable and what it is about those ideas that they object to. And then to have the practice of framing a response and using reason to counter these objectionable ideas and to try and change the other person's mind and to be open to having their own minds changed.*”

She added: “*That's quite the opposite of the tendency towards safe spaces and I hope that universities will continue to defend the imperative of allowing even objectionable ideas to be spoken.*”

**Sharia Law** - I believe that Justice should be blind and apply equally to all citizens. I do not believe in capital punishment because we've had too many miscarriages of justice.

**Slavery** - Trafficking - forced labour, call it what you like, modern slavery has no place in any civilised society, yet it is thought that there are in excess of 10,000 people held in slavery in England today. Denying the poorly paid their wages or seeking to pay less than the price of production for goods also pushes people into abject poverty.

**Tax evasion** - No-one *likes* to pay tax but why do people prefer to pay accountants than contribute to the things that society need, such as caring for older people, mental health services and environmental protection? Companies have responsibilities to society as well as their shareholders.

**Victimhood** – There is a fuzzy line where anger about deep injustice blends into exaggerated complaints over minor transgressions. In a perverse way victimhood can be a mirror-image of bullying in that often the person doesn't recognise where the boundaries lie. At worst, victimhood can lead to calls for restraining Free Speech, which is totalitarian and illiberal.

Victimhood by way of “heritage” can cause resentment, especially when aspects of that heritage may itself be regarded as intolerant.

**Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness** – In 1941 the government commissioned a report into the ways that Britain should be rebuilt after World War Two.

William Beveridge published his report in 1942 and recommended that the government should find ways of fighting the five 'Giant Evils' of Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness.

**Common Law of England** - According to the criminal defense barrister Harry Potter, the English Common Law is *“this country's greatest gift to the world”*.

**Compassion** - Britain is one of the most generous countries in the world. We freely give of both our time and money to help others, including those with whom we share nothing other than common humanity. We also care deeply about wildlife and the treatment of farm animals.

**Constitutional monarchy** - Constitutional monarchy is a form of government in which a king or queen acts as Head of State. The ability to make and pass legislation resides with an elected Parliament, not with the Monarch. As a system of government, constitutional monarchy separates the Head of State's ceremonial and official duties from party politics. A constitutional monarchy also provides stability, continuity and a national focus, as the Head of State remains the same even as governments change.

**Courtesy** - The British will say “sorry” almost as a reflex! Generally we don't like to give offence, which is why we can feel so offended when something is taken out of context by a ‘victim’.

**Decency** - behaving in a moral way in our day to day living. *A decent sort of chap* is high praise.

**Equality of Opportunity** - This is the idea that, regardless of your background, you should be able to achieve your potential through talent and competence.

**Free Press** - what we write or publish must not be libelous. We do not have a blasphemy law.

**Freedom of Speech** - We can attack ideas (not people) by refuting, ridiculing and using our vote. In the case of a company, active citizens can boycott products. Calling people names and prolific use of profanities is an abuse of Free Speech.

**Humour** - we use humour to laugh at ourselves, to empathise with others, and to stand up to absurd abuse of power by Religion or The State,

**Integrity and Trust** - Business doesn't value this intangible capital until they lose it, as the Banks found out: *“We are working at Barclays to change conduct, Mr Stoley told the BBC. “I am truly dedicated that Barclays rests itself on the foundations of integrity and engenders trust from our clients, so the conduct issues will be a thing of the past.”*

**Liberty** - Tolpuddle Martyrs 1834;  
*“We raise the watchword liberty. We will, we will, we will be free”*

**Parliamentary Democracy** - The United Kingdom is a parliamentary democracy: government is voted into power by the people, to act in the interests of the people. Given the alternatives (dictatorship, theocracy) we need to strengthen our democracy and every adult should use their vote. Many who voted BREXIT were apparently amazed to find that their vote really did count!

**Respect** - the idea that each individual has integral worth and should be listened to. It doesn't mean that you will always agree with whatever they say.

**Responsibility** - not to blame everything and everyone else for what we have done, or failed to do.