

It has never been accepted by the Sunderland Labour Party that the economy of this country was improving and in quite decent shape in the year or two before 1997. Inflation and unemployment were falling and interest rates had reached a new low.

So let us join their fantasy politics and from 1997 to 2006 allow them to credit Cowdenbeath's finest for the whole show. It was not the legacy of Kenneth Clarke as Conservative Chancellor and it was not an upturn in the world economy; it was good old Gordon who did it all by himself, "just like that." No-one else, but a single-handed example of genius. Not one flicker of recognition of other people or other countries. He was cheered to the rafters and he ran the show; even his own Prime Minister was afraid of him, the untouchable "clunking fist."

The wheel has now turned and how and the country is in trouble. There is no need to list the price rises and state of the housing market, because the inflationary increases of simple items such as garden peas and milk will alert even those not remotely interested in politics that something is terribly wrong. But there has also been a u-turn politically to Labour spin and we heard it in the Council Chamber recently from Labour Councillors. Suddenly it's the world's fault, nothing at all to do with the last ten years or any mis-management. It is now Gordon "due to the downturn in the global economy" Brown, when the excuses are made.

The truth of this situation is of course that Brown was no miracle worker on the economy. He was lucky, he came in at a good time. But he wanted and got all the credit He was ungracious and contemptuous of others, many of whom are in his own Party. Similarly, despite many serious mistakes, he is of course not to blame for some of the economic woes facing many countries. But it is far too late now. If you bask in the praise when it is not deserved, you are certainly going to get it in the neck when the country is struggling economically.

Gordon Brown, through his political arrogance and disrespect to others, has placed himself and his Party in a terrible mess, as witnessed by recent disastrous election results locally and nationally. And this time the political debate on the state of the economy, begins in the mid-1990's. The usual simplistic history lessons from Labour Councillors, such as Cllr. David Allan, who nearly went off pop at the last Council meeting and when he gets worked-up has definitely missed his vocation as a music-hall turn, are entirely irrelevant and inappropriate. The buck stops with Gordon Brown and the Labour Party.

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