

Hope is what it's all about

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I had a number of appreciative comments [for my deconstruction of an article on modern monetary theory in The Guardian](#), which I published in Saturday, but I admit I was especially pleased by the comment from someone called Richard Payne who has never commented before and [who said](#):

I am a bit in awe of this blog which often takes me to edge of despair then by patient and clear analysis prevents me falling and provides glimpses of hope. Deep gratitude for your (hopefully) indefatigable work.

I admit that there are moments when I am also in awe of this blog. When I started in 2006 I never imagined that it would grow as it has or that it would last for more than 15 years.

They have been more than 19,000 posts and almost 23 million reads in that period. This year will see about 2.1 million reads, the third biggest in its history. 2020 was the biggest because of Covid, and 2017 the next, which was heavily election and Brexit driven.

But away from the stats, what I never anticipated was the number of comments that would be received, which vastly outnumber in a very real sense the contribution that I make. There have been more than 150,000 of these now, excluding my own. PSR tops the commentators' list but there are a significant number of commentators who have now contributed more than a thousand times, which is not to undervalue those who only contribute occasionally (the trolls apart, that is, and I have had to learn the importance of editorial freedom, including the right to delete, as a result of running this blog).

However, what I really did not appreciate when I began what I thought would be a blog almost entirely about tax, with a little bit of economics and accounting thrown in, was that what would actually result would be a space in which the search for a more just society could be pursued.

I often wonder what it is that makes me want to get up almost every morning and write

several blogs before turning to what I call the day job, which is definitely related, but different. The only answer that I can give is that I genuinely believe that we can do better. I suggest that by carefully thinking about the options that are available to us whilst mixing in some empathic concern for others that a better politics, a better society, a more just world and so a better place to live can be created.

I admit that I worry about the world that we live in. There is much to worry about. However, at the end of the day I have faith that people do want to live in a better way. I'd like to think that this belief is what really permeates into my writing, because hope is what this blog is all about.