

It's time the politicians opposed to our well-being s...

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I put this on Twitter last night:

<https://twitter.com/richardjmurphy/status/1677778258564112384?s=61&t=fQEnD35XLiGihXLT1M1wyA>

I note that the media would have it that they are really shocked about this. Rachel Reeves has condemned Just Stop Oil, again. But what really happened?

A person of about my age decided to mark the wedding of a man who did untold damage to the economy, and who denied funding to the NHS that has resulted in the early deaths of vast numbers of people, and who essentially refused to engage with climate change issues. She did so respectfully. She dressed appropriately. She scattered some confettis, as is commonplace on such occasions. And, very peacefully and without threatening anyone, she made her point. You could almost describe this as a near perfect peaceful protest.

And my argument is that she had the right to make that peaceful protest. Osborne chose public life. He has benefitted enormously from it. It is why he can live in Bruton with the 'celebs'. He wanted the celebrity of a showpiece wedding. He wanted the media attention. In that case a non-violent, extremely peaceful and wholly appropriate protestor was entitled to make clear that he has profited by denying people the services that they need and by denying us the climate change policy that we required for so long, which he would have nothing to do with.

Of course those of a conservative inclination, including the Labour leadership (who were represented by Yvette Cooper at the wedding), have condemned this. They don't want to spend on climate change and wring their hands on climate change. Balancing the books is their priority.

But they are wrong. Balancing the books is not our priority. Sustaining people, life and the planet should be our priority. Everything else is incidental to that, and Just Stop Oil are saying that. If they persist with these types of protest that harm no one, damage

nothing, and simply draw attention to the issue then Just Stop Oil are following in a wholly appropriate tradition of protest which was the only thing that delivered almost every social change from which we now benefit.

It's time the politicians opposed to our well-being stopped condemning Just Stop Oil protests. It is time that they took note. I can live in hope.