

Losing hope that we can make it through this mess

Published: January 13, 2026, 3:51 pm

I asked, [earlier this week](#), if the centre of UK politics can hold, quoting poet William Butler Yeats.

As readers of this blog will know, I have signed off many posts saying 'I live in hope'. It has always been true. Now I have to admit that I am not so sure that I can make that claim.

The Tories deliver new depths of abuse, almost daily. Its position as a purveyor of extremism of many sorts is now clear.

Labour used the abuse of Diane Abbott to score political points yesterday, but has so far made no effort at all to restore the Labour whip to her, which is a failure that feels both racist and misogynistic to me. When a white, male, suspended Labour MP had the whip restored yesterday for a seemingly more significant breach of the Parliamentary Labour Party's paranoid criteria for membership but Abbott was not any other explanation appears hard to find

The Speaker revealed his own hypocrisy yesterday, not calling Diane Abbott to speak in the Commons when she has been subject to a death threat when he claimed so recently that MP safety was his primary concern, unless they are black or a woman it seems. He has destroyed his own credibility.

And the Royal Family is now being openly mocked on mainstream television in the USA, with speculation that Kate Middleton might be injured or even dead being commonplace, or that at the very least her marriage is over because of Prince William having a long-term affair, about which there appears to be press silence in the UK, presumably because of significant threats of legal action. My own guess is the current silence is due to protracted negotiation of a divorce settlement that might protect the children, but what we do know is that the truth is not being told. What I suspect is that the myth that the monarch is sustainable will not survive this year.

And meanwhile, the myth of having a sustainable two-party democracy within a

constitutional monarchy looks as if it is over. All the elements within that narrative look to be damaged beyond repair, with Speaker doing his best to help the crisis along. Labour's poll lead only exists because its true state is not yet apparent to most people, as yet. That will happen.

So, what next?

I know that we need electoral reform. Only genuine PR is acceptable now.

The nature of the Union has to be on the table.

The monarchy is over. We need to be a republic.

The Lords cannot survive.

Party funding has to change. Large donations have to go, and corporate funding has to go completely.

Rules on control of the press have to alter.

Those not telling the truth have to be called out, and go.

And we need a new approach to economics, the environment and the meeting of need.

But will any of that happen, incredibly quickly, which is what is necessary if democracy is to survive in this country? I really don't know. I am not sure I do have hope that all this can be achieved simultaneously as now seems to be necessary, and that is deeply troubling.

But it does all suggest the fifth reason for the mess we are in to be included in a new book, and that is the failure of the state, most especially here in the UK, but in the USA as well, albeit for slightly different reasons.