

Politics goes on, even when the politicians stop talkin...

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There is usually a little problem in noting themes worthy of comment on any day: they jump out from the morning's news agenda and the wide variety of news that I receive by email, Twitter, and other sources.

This morning, those sources are largely moribund. I think we have finally hit midsummer, when politics goes to rest.

Except it doesn't, does it?

There is still a genocide going on in Gaza.

There is a war in Ukraine.

Around the world, the planet is burning.

And in the UK, no one is really talking about tackling the real political issues we face.

Labour has no obvious plans to talk about addressing inequality, and yet doing so is vital.

Nor is Labour apparently changing its narrative on migrants coming to the UK to stress that they are welcome, almost entirely legally here from the moment they arrive, and usually become so not long afterwards in the cases when that is initially in doubt, and that they add enormously to our society.

Poverty remains real for millions.

Many other forms of discrimination remain rampant.

Far too many are working in insecure jobs.

Grim housing is to be seen almost everywhere.

People are still on waiting lists.

And the news concentrates on the likely death of an exceptionally rich man whose yacht sank, which is, of course, profoundly unfortunate and appropriate to report, but which fact also just highlights that we don't talk about those dying by the day in the Mediterranean as they seek refugee status, and who are treated so very differently.

Life is going on. It does, whether politicians are available to talk about it, or not, and they do not seem to be this week. And what would really matter is if they could address these issues of concern.

What matters is not balancing budgets - because they never do.

What matters are not arbitrary targets, because they can always be changed.

What matters is that people are living without the protection, care, support, security, income, education, healthcare and economic and social justice they need to believe that they are included in the world of politics that excludes them so often, which fact is more obvious when the politicians shut up for a moment.

On a morning when there is so little news, it's worth recalling that.