

CONTENTS

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REGULARS

CORRESPONDENCE 4

EDITOR & PAUSE 6

HIDDEN BRITAIN &
EYE OF THE STORM 9

Bob Monkhouse's joke book

LETTER TO MY

YOUNGER SELF 10

John Cleese

JOHN BIRD 13

COMMENT 15

Damian Barr

STREET ART 16

ECONOMICS 18

THE BIG INTERVIEW
MICHAEL GAMBON 20

CUBA 26



THE ENLIGHTENMENT

BOOKS 32

FILM 34

MACKENZIE & GEEK 35

SAM DELANEY,

EVENTS & MUSIC 36

SPOT THE BALL 44

NEXT WEEK
AWAY WITH
THE FAIRIES

ON SALE JANUARY 12



Photos: Travis Hodges

Hello, my name is Steve.

Boris Johnson said Big Issue vendors were "pillars of the community". He's right – I try to help others because The Big Issue has helped me. I grew up in care homes and foster families and I know that it gets harder to piece your life together each time something goes wrong. But my kids are my saviours. I hope to travel to see them and their own children soon. For one month I'd like to live the life of a grandad. You can read more about my story on page 46.



OUR MANIFESTO

● WE BELIEVE

in a hand up,
not a handout...

Which is why our sellers BUY every copy of the magazine from us for £1.25 and sell it on to you for £2.50. In this way we have helped hundreds of thousands of people to take control of their lives over the past 23 years, and in the process created a global blueprint for social change.

● WE BELIEVE

in trade, not aid...

Which is why we ask that you ALWAYS take your copy of the magazine – it's a bloody good read and our sellers are working and need your custom.

● WE BELIEVE

in the right to citizenship...

Which is why The Big Issue Foundation, our charitable arm, helps sellers tackle their social and financial exclusion.

● WE BELIEVE

poverty is indiscriminate...

Which is why we provide ANYONE whose life is blighted by poverty with the opportunity to earn a LEGITIMATE income.

● WE BELIEVE

in prevention...

Which is why Big Issue Invest offers backing and investment to social enterprises, charities and businesses which deliver social value to communities.