

11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> September 2008, London (*event free*)  
*conference* Political Philosophy & Taxation  
 The UCL Centre for Philosophy, Justice & Health  
[www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucesswo/tax.htm](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/~ucesswo/tax.htm)

20<sup>th</sup> September 2008, London (*members only*)  
*AGM* Henry George Foundation of GB  
 11 Mandeville Place, 10.30 am  
[www.henrygeorgefoundation.org/](http://www.henrygeorgefoundation.org/)

starting week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008  
*course* Economics with Justice  
[www.school.economicsscience.org](http://www.school.economicsscience.org)

26<sup>th</sup> September 2008, London  
**John Heffernan** at the HGF Library (see bottom)

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October 2008, Nanjing, China  
*conference* World Urban Forum Four  
[www.unhabitat.org/files/212/WUF4\\_INFO\\_BROCHURE.PDF](http://www.unhabitat.org/files/212/WUF4_INFO_BROCHURE.PDF)

17<sup>th</sup> October 2008, London  
*book launch* The Silver Bullet  
 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)  
[www.theiu.org/thesilverbullet](http://www.theiu.org/thesilverbullet)

starting 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 for six weeks  
 (Wednesday evenings), London  
*course* The Condition of Labour  
[www.henrygeorgefoundation.org/](http://www.henrygeorgefoundation.org/)

31<sup>st</sup> October 2008, London  
**John Pincham** at the HGF Library (see bottom)

7<sup>th</sup> November 2008, London  
**Michael May** at the HGF Library (see bottom)

14<sup>th</sup> November 2008, London  
**Jacqueline Waltz**, the HGF Library (see bottom)

10<sup>th</sup> December 2008, New York & Geneva  
*celebration* Human Rights Day—60 years old  
[www.ohchr.org/en/udhr](http://www.ohchr.org/en/udhr)

5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August 2009, Cleveland, Ohio  
*cco conference* The Best of Tom L Johnson  
[www.progress.org/ccg/](http://www.progress.org/ccg/)

Fridays (*all welcome*)  
**HGF Library Group meetings and lunch**  
 11 Mandeville Place, 2.30–4.30pm (lunch from  
 1pm at nearby Pizza Express)  
[www.henrygeorgefoundation.org](http://www.henrygeorgefoundation.org)

## so what do you think?

Reading the last issue of **L&L** I was wondering if *Land&Liberty* had changed its name to *Body&Servitude*?

I'm not suggesting we should stick only to a narrow interpretation of the subject matter, but I am surprised that three monologues (including the whole of the front page) were given to opposing medical calls for increasing the availability of transplants from people who have not previously registered their wish to opt out (unless the next-of-kin could demonstrate an unregistered objection or it would cause major distress to close relatives).

If I was one of the hundreds of people who needlessly die each year for the want of a transplant I guess I'd be keen to see the UK adopt a system already successfully practiced in the majority of EU countries.

As for LL Blake's article on the benefits of privilege, monarchy and aristocracy—I'm just surprised that **L&L** didn't provide readers with a free cloth cap so that we peasants would know our place and doff them at our 'betters'!

Dave Wetzel  
 London

*Readers of L&L have a formal opportunity to express their views on the sorts of questions raised in this letter. Let us know what you think by filling out the 2008 L&L Readers Survey, and help ensure your magazine stays your favourite read. (Incidentally, none of the three pieces of writing referred to was actually anti-organ donation. Editor)*



## why HGF not 'well prepared to unlock the puzzle?'

In the spring issue of **L&L** Iain McLean reminds us that John Stuart Mill said: "If the Grosvenor, Portman and Portland estates belonged to the municipality of London, the gigantic income of those estates would *probably* [emphasis mine] suffice for the whole expense of the local government of the capital."

How much is that "gigantic income"? In the same issue the news item 'Whither Grosvenor's medieval wisdom?' tells us that when "David Triggs, Executive Chairman of the Henry George Foundation, wanted to know what the effect would be on the Grosvenor Estate if taxes were removed from its buildings and placed on the value of its land", he received a dusty answer from Grosvenor's Research Director, Dr Richard Barkham.

At that point I hoped that Mr Triggs would say "Well, for your information, Dr Barkham, the Henry George Foundation has calculated that the land value tax on the Grosvenor Estate would be £x!" Followed, of course, by gasps of astonished admiration and thunderous applause.

But that didn't happen. The news item fizzled out with the rueful words "that those with greatest interest in the status quo might be least well prepared to unlock this puzzle."

Sure. But why isn't the HGF 'well prepared to unlock the puzzle' by giving us some real figures rather than optimistic speculation? We have a right to know how much money a tax on land values would raise; how much you, I, and the Duke of Westminster would pay—and how those figures have been arrived at.

Until we have such information, tax reform will remain a beautiful fantasy that no one—least of all the voters!—can take seriously.

And I shall be very sad.

R F Ison  
 London

**L&L** and its publishers are always on the lookout for offers of assistance to do work just like this. Present resources limit our ability to be unfailingly 'well prepared'. If you think you have something to offer please contact the office.



## NEXT ISSUE

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Russia: beyond the oligarch years

England's green and pleasant land: the threat from the north

the modern neo-colonial experience

100 years since Lloyd George's people's budget—a lost century?