

## Editorial

Current Affairs – this issue of *Hard Times* is devoted to the most recent developments in the UK. The new LibDem-Conservative coalition government recently announced massive spending cuts, in particular with regard to social welfare, housing benefits, and education. The arts sector was also severely hit. What this might mean long-term remains to be seen – although the educated reader can guess her/himself how a new Winter of Discontent, increased poverty and an even greater divide between the North and the South will probably be the outcome of these highly unpopular and problematic „policies“. An indication of what might happen more frequently in the near future occurred during the summer when a sudden wave of protests swept the country.

Different perspectives come together in this issue. We start off with a social-science view of the cuts impact on social welfare, move on to how charities are affected and the arts sector. The protests are explained and contextualised and related to recent social and musical developments in two separate articles. Apart from book reviews and our regular columns, we are happy to announce a new feature: Jessica Fischer will cast her eyes on the recent developments in painting, photography and sculpture in her column which, we hope, will become a regular alongside the already established ones on film, music, politics, and the literary field.

I would like to conclude this editorial with an apology: due to a last-minute withdrawal from two guest editors, this issue was edited by Gesa Stedman and was consequently delayed. We hope that future issues will be on time again and will do our utmost to ensure this.

Gesa Stedman

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## Hard Times Back Issues ab Nr. 50:

**Nr. 50:** "Special Jubilee Issue" (kartoniert, über 120 Seiten): Trends in the Nineties (Politik, Literatur)

**Nr. 51:** Filmmakers, Thatcherism in Literature, Britain and the European Union  
**Nr. 52:** Irland: der Weg zum "Ceasefire"; GB: Die neue Labour Party; Literatur: Amryl Johnson

**Nr. 53:** Theatre of Catastrophe (Howard Barker), Anglistik im Neuen Bundesland, Im Londoner East End, Fußball (Klinsmann in Britain), Sport in Irland (Hurling)  
**Nr. 55:** English Comedians in Germany: Past and Present, Englischsprachiges Theater in Deutschland

**Nr. 56:** Recent Literature: Salman Rushdie, Hanif Kureishi, A.S. Byatt, Romesh Gunesequera, James Kelman et al.

**Nr. 57:** Travelling in England – Past and Present

**Nr. 58:** Ireland: Theatre, Irish Language, Cultural Debate, Michael Collins

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**Nr. 61:** Aspects of British-German Relations II: German Views of "Englishness"; England in Heritage Films; German Philosophie in Britain; British Writers in pre-Nazi Berlin; Labour Party (interview with Ken Livingstone)

**Nr. 62:** Recent Literature, Recent Films; Racial Discrimination; New Labour's "New Britain"

**Nr. 63:** Wales II

**Nr. 64/65:** Scotland ('Devolution', Literatur, Film, Musik, Sport, Geschichte etc.)

**Nr. 66:** Alternative Initiatives, Social Economy/Third Sector, 'Good Work', Ecology

**Nr. 67/68:** India in Britain

**Nr. 69:** Millennium; New Labour and "Third Way"; Neue Filme

**Nr. 70:** Pop Culture: Sociology, Styles, Music, Film, Theatre, Star Trek

**Nr. 71:** Varieties of English

**Nr. 72:** Sports in Britain

**Nr. 73:** British Women – Women in Britain I: Histories, Stories, Identities

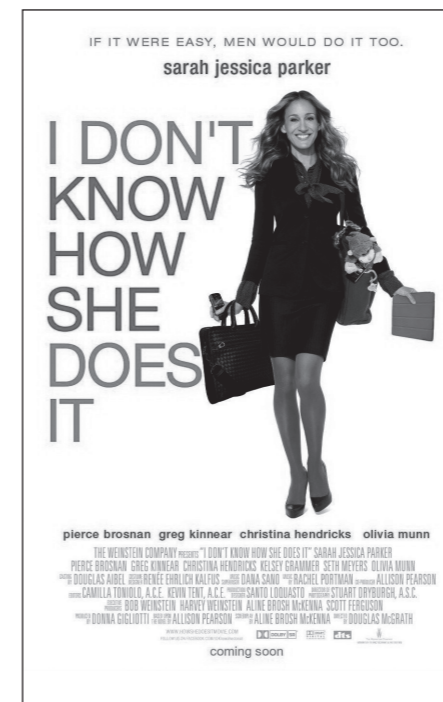
**Nr. 74:** British Women – Women in Britain II: How Far Have They Got?

**Nr. 75:** "Special Jubilee Issue": from British Visual Arts, Cultural Studies, Films and Literature to Trends in Contemporary Politics

**Nr. 76:** The North East of England

**Nr. 77:** Black British Culture

**Nr. 78:** Scotland, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales



Film poster: *I Don't Know How She Does It*

for his novel *Mother's Milk* (2006), part of a set of novels about his own family background. *Mother's Milk* is a rather limited version of today's world. The act of balancing family life and work is represented from a strictly middle-class/upper-middle class perspective, in a realist-ironic mode, with very little formal innovation or any other creative novelty. The outcome is an unmitigated parochialism and a complete absence of political analysis, quite apart from the absence of people for whom balancing work and family responsibilities is a far greater challenge than for the relatively affluent, if overworked middle-class professional Londoner.

### Anniversaries, Dead Authors, and Other (Sad) News

Dame AS Byatt has recently celebrated her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. Known to a wider audience for her neo-Victorian novel *Possession*, which won the Booker prize and was adapted for the cinema by David Henry Hwang and directed by Neil LaBute (2002), she has written a large number of mostly middle-class, serious, academic novels as well as contributions to the debate on the neurosciences, and essays on a number of other topics. She works as a critic as well as a writer of fiction. Before becoming a full-time writer, AS Byatt worked as a lecturer in

English Studies.

Eva Ibbotson, the inventor of platform 13, cleverly copied by JK Rowling, and author of numerous books for children and young adults, has died (1925-2010). Eva Ibbotson emigrated from Vienna to Scotland as a child and came to writing late in life, having trained as a school-teacher. Recently, some of her books for adults have been re-published for teenagers, many of which have sold very well.



AS Byatt

list more frequently than any other writer by creating a "Best of Beryl" Booker, and asked the public to vote for their favourite of Bainbridge's shortlisted books.

Over 1,000 readers voted in the contest, with *Master Georgie squeaking in just ahead of Every Man for Himself*, published in 1996. The other titles in the running were all older novels: *The Dressmaker* (1973), *The Bottle Factory Outing* (1974), and *An Awfully Big Adventure* (1990). Alison Flood at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2011/apr/19/beryl-bainbridge-best-of-beryl-booker> last accessed 14 December 2011.



Eva Ibbotson



Beryl Bainbridge (c) Jane Brown

Dame Beryl Bainbridge never got a Booker Prize during her lifetime, but was awarded a posthumous award: *Following her death last July, aged 75, organisers of the award decided to honour an author who had made the short-*

Nr. 79: The (New) Right in Britain  
 Nr. 80: Contemporary British Poetry  
 Nr. 81: Sex and the British  
 Nr. 82: Tony Blair and After  
 Nr. 83: British Film  
 Nr. 84: The Politics of British Humour  
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 Nr. 89: The White Backlash. Conservatism in Contemporary British Writing

**Die Back Issues ab Nr. 77 sowie das Heft Nr. 67/68: India in Britain können für 7 Euro zuzüglich Porto unter der folgenden Adresse bestellt werden:**

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**Weitere Back Issues finden Sie auf der Website: [www.hard-times-magazine.de](http://www.hard-times-magazine.de)**

Die deutsch-englische Zeitschrift *HARD TIMES* erscheint zwei Mal im Jahr. Ihre Beiträge befassen sich kritisch mit kulturellen, sozialen und politischen Entwicklungen in Großbritannien, in Irland und gelegentlich auch in anderen englischsprachigen Ländern. Die Hefte haben jeweils – neben einzelnen verstreuten Artikeln – Themenschwerpunkte. Vorrang haben Themen, die um aktuelle Probleme, Konflikte und Theorien kreisen, sowie solche, die demokratische, soziale, ökologische, antirassistische, feministische und andere emanzipatorische Bewegungen und diskriminierte Gruppen in den Blick rücken. Die Artikel werden teils auf Englisch, teils auf Deutsch gedruckt – in der Regel je nach der Muttersprache der Verfasserinnen und Verfasser.

*HARD TIMES* wurde 1994 mit dem Journalistenpreis des Verbandes deutscher Anglisten (Anglistentag) ausgezeichnet.

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