

Your letters

Tell us what you think

My first reaction to "Some People Bully You Because Your House Is Not All Fancy" (4 June) was to go straight to Bradford and paper Courtney's bedroom walls; I wanted to pay for these kids to go on holiday, help their parents find a job. But these families don't want charity, nor should they have to rely on it. They are our neighbours and deserve better. We should all be ashamed that children are being so badly let down in 2011.

Amanda Waite
London SW16

Our politicians tell us that, although poverty does exist in the UK, it is relative. Having read these painful accounts, I am forced to ask, relative to what? All our children should have access to enough food, clothing and decent shelter, yet the situations described were almost Dickensian in their bleakness.

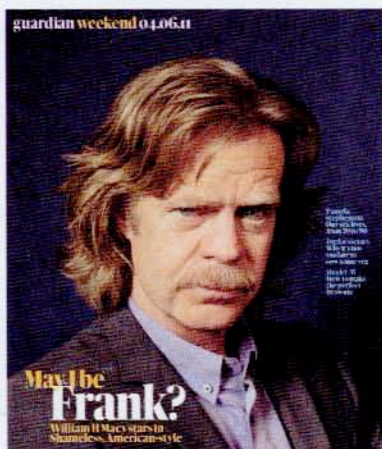
Janine Sumsion
London E12

I read about the hand-to-mouth existence of the children with a mixture of admiration for their tenacity and horror at their life experiences. But what really struck me was how little is made in the media about the appalling poverty such children are living in, compared with the loud howls of protest from middle-income families who are having to forgo their second car, the cleaner and a foreign holiday as a result of the cuts.

Ruth McFarlane
Kineton, Warwickshire

While these children living in abject poverty are undoubtedly financially disadvantaged, the positive impact of living in an area that is "rich" in terms of its sense of community should not be overlooked - this is so often lacking in more affluent areas.

Shelly Coyne
Gorbals, Glasgow



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The piece put me in mind of William Blake's Holy Thursday in the Songs of Experience: "Babes reduced to misery, Fed with cold and usurous hand... And so many children poor? It is a land of poverty!" Not much has changed in 200 years.

Lionel Burman
West Kirby, Wirral

Has Debbie Pack considered the effect that her insensitive comment regarding Amanda Craig (Letters, 4 June) could have on a woman who suffered a severe trauma and physical injuries as a result of being attacked? This almost sounds like justification for the actions of her abusers. Victim-blaming does not defend the indefensible.

Sallyanne Smith
London

I read the piece about the Twist (Let's Twist Again, 4 June) with interest. In our family, we call it Daddy Dancing, and it can be very embarrassing to witness.

Kate Bellenberg
Southampton

Good to see the Twist celebrated. It's the only dance I have ever managed to do without making a complete fool of myself.

Stephen Shingler
Cheadle, Staffordshire

Lee 'Scratch' Perry (Q&A, 4 June) comes across as a very unattractive person. Presumably he lives in Switzerland as a tax exile, unwilling to pay his fair share of Jamaica's tax burden.

Michael Greenwood
Lower Westhouse, North Yorkshire

Lee Perry: "Birds are angels... I eat marijuana... I refuse to kiss human beings as I am scared of getting a virus from things people eat. I prefer to kiss a tree... Before I was a human being, I used to be a kingfish": yeah, let's legalise cannabis.

Tim Davies
Cardiff

Did Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall deliberately leave out the most essential ingredient for a successful brownie as a concession to any Daily Mail readers (Brownie Pointers, 4 June), or did he just forget?

Michael Mariscotti
London E17

Write to Guardian Weekend, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU (weekend@guardian.co.uk). A full name and postal address (not for publication) must be supplied. For inclusion on Saturday, letters should reach us by first post on Tuesday, and may be edited.