

The  
**PAINSPOTTER'S**  
Guide  
To

**BROKEN  
BRITAIN**

**50**  
PEOPLE TO  
LOVE, HATE,  
BLAME, RATE

Andrew Holmes  
& Dan Wilson



# Table of Contents

[Cover](#)

[Title page](#)

[Copyright page](#)

[Dedication](#)

[The end of boom and bust](#)

[Acknowledgements](#)

[Let the bad times roll](#)

[Recession 101](#)

[What goes up must come down](#)

[It's not my fault, honest](#)

[Pay up and look big](#)

[Don't despair ... the perfect antidote is here](#)

[The About to Retire, Retiree](#)

[SYMPATHY RATING - 10](#)

[RARITY - 5](#)

[WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?](#)

[AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES](#)

[THE ABOUT TO RETIRE, RETIREE:](#)

[The Bailout Beggar](#)

SYMPATHY RATING - 6

RARITY - 9

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE BAILOUT BEGGAR:

## The Buy-to-Let Basket Case

SYMPATHY RATING - 2

RARITY - 8

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE BUY-TO-LET BASKET CASE:

## The Cash Finder

SYMPATHY RATING - 8

RARITY - 10

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE CASH FINDER:

## The Celebrity Money Saver

SYMPATHY RATING - 4

RARITY - 4

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE CELEBRITY MONEY SAVER:

## The Cohabiting Divorcee

SYMPATHY RATING - 9

RARITY - 6

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE COHABITING DIVORCEE:

## The Conspicuous Consumer

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 1

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE CONSPICUOUS CONSUMER:

## The Credit Crunch Crook

SYMPATHY RATING - 0

RARITY - 4

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE CREDIT CRUNCH CROOK:

## The Credit Crunch Scrounger

SYMPATHY RATING - 5

RARITY - 6

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE CREDIT CRUNCH SCROUNGER:

## The Deadbeat Debtor

SYMPATHY RATING - 2

RARITY - 10

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE DEADBEAT DEBTOR:

## The Desperate Estate Agent

SYMPATHY RATING - 1  
RARITY - 10  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE DESPERATE ESTATE AGENT:

## The Disposed of Worker (previously known as Our Most Important Asset)

SYMPATHY RATING - 9  
RARITY - 7  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE DISPOSED OF WORKER (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET):

## The Downwardly Mobile

SYMPATHY RATING - 9  
RARITY - 8  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE DOWNWARDLY MOBILE:

## The Dubai Deserter

SYMPATHY RATING - 2

RARITY - 6

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE DUBAI DESERTER:

## The Economic Rioter

SYMPATHY RATING - 8

RARITY - 2

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE ECONOMIC RIOTER:

## The Economically Stressed

SYMPATHY RATING - 10

RARITY - 10

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE ECONOMICALLY STRESSED:

## The Elusive Tax Evader

SYMPATHY RATING - 0

RARITY - 1

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE ELUSIVE TAX EVADER:

## The Escaping Entrepreneur

SYMPATHY RATING - 9

RARITY - 8

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE ESCAPING ENTREPRENEUR:

## The Ex, Expat

SYMPATHY RATING - 7  
RARITY - 5  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE EX, EXPAT:

## The Extended (to breaking point) Family

SYMPATHY RATING - 10  
RARITY - 3  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE EXTENDED (TO BREAKING POINT) FAMILY:

## The Financial Oracle

SYMPATHY RATING - 4  
RARITY - 10  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE FINANCIAL ORACLE:

## The Frightened Fat Cat

SYMPATHY RATING - 2  
RARITY - 3  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE FRIGHTENED FAT CAT:

## The Good Lifer

SYMPATHY RATING - 4

RARITY - 3

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE GOOD LIFER:

## The Gravy Train Politician

SYMPATHY RATING - 0

RARITY - 9

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE GRAVY TRAIN POLITICIAN:

## The Grumpy Undergraduate

SYMPATHY RATING - 4

RARITY - 10

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE GRUMPY UNDERGRADUATE:

## The Humbled (but still incredibly wealthy) Bank Boss

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 2

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?



AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE HUMBLD (BUT STILL INCREDIBLY WEALTHY)  
BANK BOSS:

## The Irate Investor

SYMPATHY RATING - 7  
RARITY - 10  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE IRATE INVESTOR:

## The Living Big Loser

SYMPATHY RATING - 2  
RARITY - 6  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE LIVING BIG LOSER:

## The Low-Bonus Banker

SYMPATHY RATING - 0  
RARITY - 10  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?  
AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE LOW BONUS BANKER:

## The Miserable Middle Class

SYMPATHY RATING - 6  
RARITY - 7  
WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE MISERABLE MIDDLE CLASS:

## The Newly Liberated

SYMPATHY RATING - 2

RARITY - 9

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE NEWLY LIBERATED:

## The No Responsibility Regulator

SYMPATHY RATING - 0

RARITY - 10

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE NO RESPONSIBILITY REGULATOR:

## The Not Quite Such a Master of the Universe

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 7

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE NOT SO QUITE MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE:

## The Nuevo Altruist

SYMPATHY RATING - 3

RARITY - 8

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES  
THE NUEVO ALTRUIST:

## The Organic Food Fly-by-night

SYMPATHY RATING - 4

RARITY - 8

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE ORGANIC FOOD FLY-BY-NIGHT:

## The Out of Touch Politician

SYMPATHY RATING - 0

RARITY - 9

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE OUT OF TOUCH POLITICIAN:

## The Outbound Immigrant

SYMPATHY RATING - 8

RARITY - 6

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE OUTBOUND IMMIGRANT:

## The Petty Thief

SYMPATHY RATING - 3

RARITY - 3

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE PETTY THIEF:

## The Pissed-off State Pensioner

SYMPATHY RATING - 9

RARITY - 8

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE PISSED-OFF STATE PENSIONER:

## The Ponzi Schemer

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 6

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE PONZI SCHEMER:

## The Pseudo Rich

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 7

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE PSEUDO RICH:

## The Relegated Rich

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 1

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE RELEGATED RICH:

## The Repossessed

SYMPATHY RATING - 6

RARITY - 5

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE REPOSSESSED:

## The Savvy Squatter

SYMPATHY RATING - 6

RARITY - 3

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE SAVVY SQUATTER:

## The Secure Civil Servant

SYMPATHY RATING - 0

RARITY - 7

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE SECURE CIVIL SERVANT:

## The Self-help Sado

SYMPATHY RATING - 1

RARITY - 6

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE SELF-HELP SADO:

## The Self-righteous Tightwad

SYMPATHY RATING - 3

RARITY - 4

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS TIGHTWAD:

## The Taxed to Death

SYMPATHY RATING - 9

RARITY - 10

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE TAXED TO DEATH:

## The Unabashed Bankrupt

SYMPATHY RATING - 3

RARITY - 7

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE UNABASHED BANKRUPT:

## The Worthless Degree Holder

SYMPATHY RATING - 4

RARITY - 9

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

AVOIDANCE / REVENGE STRATEGIES

THE WORTHLESS DEGREE HOLDER:

## Afterword - The Blame Game

1. NEVER JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER

2. DON'T PIGEONHOLE
3. DON'T BE TOO JUDGMENTAL
4. DON'T GET INTO ANY FIST-FIGHTS
5. LEARN TO LOVE YOUR PAIN

**The  
PAINSPOTTER'S  
Guide  
To  
BROKEN  
BRITAIN**

**Andrew Holmes  
& Dan Wilson**



**CAPSTONE**





This edition first published 2009

© 2009 Andrew Holmes and Dan Wilson

*Registered office*

Capstone Publishing Ltd. (A Wiley Company), The Atrium,  
Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, United  
Kingdom

For details of our global editorial offices, for customer  
services and for information about how to apply for  
permission to reuse the copyright material in this book  
please see our website at [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com).

The right of the author to be identified as the author of this  
work has been asserted in accordance with the Copyright,  
Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be  
reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in  
any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical,  
photocopying, recording or otherwise, except as permitted  
by the UK Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, without  
the prior permission of the publisher.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic  
formats. Some content that appears in print may not be  
available in electronic books.

Designations used by companies to distinguish their  
products are often claimed as trademarks. All brand names  
and product names used in this book are trade names,  
service marks, trademarks or registered trademarks of their  
respective owners. The publisher is not associated with any  
product or vendor mentioned in this book. This publication is  
designed to provide accurate and authoritative information  
in regard to the subject matter covered. It is sold on the  
understanding that the publisher is not engaged in  
rendering professional services. If professional advice or

other expert assistance is required, the services of a competent professional should be sought.

**The views expressed in this book are solely those of the authors and do not reflect the opinions of either Capstone Publishing or John Wiley & Sons Ltd.**

*Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data (to follow)*

9781906465711

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

**To Gordon Brown - without whom this book would not  
have been necessary**

# The end of boom and bust

I have been watching this recession arrive for quite some time and I am certainly not surprised that it is here or indeed at its severity. For at least the last four years, I have been reading books, newspaper articles and blogs which have been warning of the impending doom. As time wore on these became more and more alarmist in their claims and predictions and although sometimes very enjoyable to read, they were clearly depressing. And unlike the apparent threat from 'Y2K' which was going to wipe out civilisation, this current economic turmoil may actually succeed.

It should have been obvious to anyone who has the reading age of an illiterate that things were getting out of hand. But clearly people cannot read or were just too busy spending like water and juggling their credit card debt to notice. But the supreme irony has been in the actions of our elected officials who have expertly demonstrated that not only are they out of touch with what is happening economically, but they are also patently unable to organise a bun fight in a bakery. Claiming to have banished boom and bust to 'the dustbin of economic history' is something that only a moron would do, or perhaps an alien from a distant galaxy newly arrived on planet Earth; at least they could be forgiven. Of course it gets worse, as having spent recklessly for a decade there is now nothing left in the coffers to get us out of this mess. So the answer is to saturate the markets with more cash (euphemistically known as 'quantitative easing') and saddle the next ten generations with massive amounts of debt, (tax, tax and more tax). Apart from the chosen few (the politicians, their friends, the mega-rich, high-rolling bankers and a few ex-CEOs of screwed up

banks), no one is being spared the misery of their economic incompetence.

Of course, it is not only the politicians we have to blame. Celebrities, too, have much to answer for with their obsession for empty-headed wealth generation, an approach that most of the population has seemingly bought into, despite having no celebrity and very little wealth. The public's spending spree has finally hit a brick wall. There are millions of people who have been caught with their pants down and have woken up to a massive debt hangover that even a good dose of Alka-Seltzer won't cure. Many of course have only themselves to blame.

But no matter how bad it gets, the one thing we do have is the ability to laugh in the face of adversity; some good old fashioned 'Blitz Spirit', a bit of 'Shadenfreude', is what's needed - it's always good to laugh at other peoples' misery rather than your own. So instead of taking that piece of razor wire to your femoral artery, please read this book. In it you will find the antidote to all your woes and if nothing else it will provide you with the comforting knowledge that you are not alone. It's cheaper than Prozac and less addictive.

AH

# Acknowledgements

This book would not have been possible without the incompetence, greed, stupidity and arrogance of so many people, way too many to mention. However, there a few I would like to thank from the bottom of my wallet, my empty pension pot and for my children's hamstrung, debt ridden future. Without them this book would have never been possible. So, in no particular order I would like to thank Gordon Brown, Yvette Cooper, Alistair Darling, Alan Greenspan, George Bush, Bernie Madoff, Fred Goodwin, Jacqui Smith, New Labour, Lehman Brothers, AIG, The Royal Bank of Scotland (sorry, England), the G20, mortgage brokers, estate agents, the rocket scientists working in the investment banks, and everyone who's lived well beyond their means for the last 20 years. I have appreciated your invaluable input.

There are of course a small number of people who are genuinely worthy of acknowledgement for their input, support and feedback during the writing of this book. Emma Swaisland and the Capstone team; it's good to be back; Dan Wilson, who as always produces such superb images to complement the entries so well and which always make me laugh; Graham Guest and his interesting and now groundbreaking views on quantum finance; David Mitchell, with whom I laughed like a drain when we discussed potential entries; David Vaughan and Colin Woolgar, with whom I discussed the merits of abattoir sets for recently bereaved middle class girls who had to kiss goodbye to their beloved pony; and, of course, my family who are always delighted to see me back at my laptop writing yet another bloody book!

AH



# Let the bad times roll

**It's only when the tide goes out that you learn who's been swimming naked - Warren Buffett**

## Recession 101

During the 1980s when I was barely into my teenage years we found ourselves in the depth of a deep and very painful recession. The one thing that stuck out amongst it all, apart from the incessant strikes, riots and power cuts of course, was the way the news broadcasts would highlight the latest job cuts announced each day. The deadpan and serious delivery of the news, that another 7500 people had just been made redundant from a steelworks in the North of England, was accompanied by a colourful looking starburst which contained the jobless total carefully positioned over the approximate location where the redundancies took place. Alongside the map of the UK was a counter that would indicate the running total of those who were out of work. Up, up and up it went. Admittedly it looked a bit naff, but I guess that's all they could do before PowerPoint. This time around the deadpan newsreader has been replaced by a pseudo-celebrity arm-waving cretin who can't even speak in complete sentences and whose latest job losses announcement is accompanied by a satellite image zooming in from outer space, sometimes from beyond the solar system, pinpointing with extreme accuracy the precise location of the office where the redundancy letters were signed.

We have, of course, been subject to the vagaries of the economic cycle ever since we dragged ourselves out of the primordial soup. Back then, the cycle was defined by the

availability of edible flora and fauna, whilst today it is principally about spending and debt. Even during the short time I have been alive there have been a few booms and busts, a couple of v-shaped recoveries as well as u-shaped and jobless recoveries too. There have been periods of high inflation and high interest rates and times when interest rates and inflation were low. I guess the only thing I have not lived through is a depression, but according to some we are heading that way so maybe I will be able to chalk that one up to experience too.

Recessions and indeed depressions come and go; some are long and some are short, but they are nearly always nasty in one way, shape or form. And although there are those who believe that they have solved the old problems associated with boom and bust, it is well known amongst the Scientologist community that it is only aliens from outer space who can do this type of thing and although the chancellor resembles an alien, he doesn't act like one. Sometimes recessions are bad for a single cohort of society and occasionally they affect each and every one of us whether directly or indirectly. This one, however, seems to be especially bad and not only is it impacting most of the population (it doesn't really matter if you are a homeowner, a pensioner, in work or out of work), but it is also likely to run and run and run.

We should remember that this is a global recession impacting countries across the world which is good news as it gives our leaders someone else to blame. What beggars belief, however, is that the supposed 'experts' and government officials who were on the economic frontline and meant to be monitoring the economy were not forecasting any downturn at all, and if they were, only a very shallow contraction. In doing so they have demonstrated that they are unfit for their jobs. But, as we know most of those who seek government office are self-

centred, ego driven maniacs with no real concept of what is going on in the world outside the petty arguments and pointless debates that fill their day.

## **What goes up must come down**

The boom since the last recession of the early 1990s seemed to be unstoppable, and despite the brief dip following the bursting of the Dotcom bubble continued unabated. However, it has now gone into reverse at an alarming speed. Starting with the collapse of Bear Sterns, the news around the world has got progressively worse. We have witnessed the failure of a significant number of banks who have either been subsumed by other institutions or have been bailed out and nationalised – it seems we are all bankers these days; what a terrible thought.

Any industry sector that relied on the out-of-control spending of consumers is suffering and experiencing double digit drops in demand, revenue and profits. And for some it has resulted in them going to wall in the most spectacular, and sadly inevitable, car crash that occurs when the music stops.

The financial markets have been decimated along with the pension pots and savings of millions who were told that the sure-fire investments they were making would see them right. Unemployment continues to ratchet up to levels we have not seen for many years and who knows which may yet reach levels not witnessed since the Great Depression. Companies and people are going bankrupt as their precarious financial positions have got to the point where only a big lottery win would get them out of the hole they're in.

Times are likely to be tough for a very long while yet and far longer than the morons who have been running the country since 1997 would like us to believe. Even looking at it from the simple perspective of government debt, we are deep in the mire. Government borrowing started way back in 1692 and it took 300 years for this to reach £ 165 billion. It has taken New Labour barely 18 months to rack up the same level, which means that someone born today will be 23 before it is back to sustainable levels. Nice job.

## **It's not my fault, honest**

So who's to blame? Well, the list is a long one, so I will keep it to a few of those who are worthy of special treatment.

There is no doubt that the idiots in power, the tax-obsessed left wing muppets who have wasted most of our taxes on pointless jobs, allowances for *hardworking* MPs and projects which were never going anywhere from the get-go, have a lot to answer for. They show no real concern about our plight and when they do they come across as arrogant, patronising and completely out of touch. They tell us that it will be alright and then tax us until we cough up blood, which they also tax. They talk about making efficiency savings across the bloated public sector, and then continue to increase it and pay themselves more.

Defeating Napoleon, Kaiser Wilhelm and Adolf Hitler almost bankrupted the country but the economic geniuses of New Labour look as though they will achieve what years of warfare failed to do; and still they smile, laugh and joke. It's a real shame we don't live in medieval times, as most of government would find themselves on the end of the tip of a very sharp sword or perhaps a blunt farm implement. Still it's nice to fantasise about them queuing up to be eviscerated. It would certainly draw a large crowd and provide some much needed entertainment.

Next on the list is the banking community and especially those that were apparently paid very handsomely to run them. Driven by insatiable greed, they developed more and more risky approaches to squeezing every last drop of profit from their increasingly complex, rocket-scientist-developed products. When they dreamt up collateralised debt and the opportunity to slice and dice consumer and corporate loans and sell them off to unsuspecting investors across the world, the final nail in the coffin of the boom was hammered home. Once the house of cards started to collapse no one knew who owed what to whom and who would pay the debts that had been racked up by simpleton consumers and corporations and passed off as a great investment opportunity to the rich and wealthy. Then when bank losses skyrocketed and the big bosses floored, it was the bank of you and I that was left to pick up the pieces.

Third on the list, and I promise I won't go on for much longer, is the general public. Now I grew up to believe that you had to live within your means and that it generally wasn't a good idea to get yourself too much into debt. So, being a good boy, I always ensured that my mortgage was never more than three times my income and put aside some cash for my retirement and for a rainy day. I took on some debt when I had to, but again this was paid off as quickly as possible so that I didn't feel burdened by it all. Such prudence (sorry to use a term often used to describe our former, now discredited chancellor and unelected prime minister) does in the long run pay off. I also believed in the good old protestant work ethic and that work was an unfortunate means to an end. However, to do all this meant shunning a bullshit celebrity culture in which everyone wants to be rich and famous, not going on crazy spending sprees buying overpriced tripe and not filling up my house with stuff I never needed in the first place. Clearly, few people did the same. As the television spewed-out more

cheap reality TV shows and 'talent' competitions in which the witless and great unwashed tried to impress a bunch of cheesy and disinterested celebs with their (previously unrecognised) ability to tap dance or eat razor wire, the desire to work hard for a living went out the window. It became all about being the next Britney Spears or Paris Hilton. At the same time, those who clearly *were* talentless and would never become famous felt they shouldn't miss out on the celebrity lifestyle either. They went on a decade-long spending binge, maxing-out on their credit cards and using their houses as convenient piggy banks. And what have they got to show for it? Apart from an out-of-town lock-up stuffed full of the crap they bought and never use, huge amounts of debt, no savings and plenty of sleepless nights.

## **Pay up and look big**

And who pays? Yes you've guessed it, it's us. With the government coffers running on empty and the public debt at unprecedented levels, ours, our children's, our children's, children's and our children's, children's, children's futures have been sold down the river. It will take generations to dig us out of the hole that we find ourselves in and we can only look forward to being taxed to death to pay for it. And don't expect any respite soon; there will be no return to boom, just perpetual bust dressed up as 'green shoots'. And when it comes to the cost of living and taxes, as Yaz said during the 1980's recession, 'The only way is up'.

## **Don't despair ... the perfect antidote is here**