

LORDS DIARY

Jenny Jones' chagrin at her unparliamentary language and attempts to clear desktop 'piling' system are thrown into sharp relief by the arrest of Green MEP friend

Wake up on Thursday still mortified that I called Matt Ridley 'that fellow over there' yesterday in the Chamber. I apologised at once to him and he kindly laughed it off.

I usually get to my desk about 8.30am, to keep on top of all the emails and the occasional letter. In the afternoon I raced over to Bermondsey to a small sunny park to introduce the results of the internal Green Party selection for Mayor/Assembly candidates in 2020. Lovely to be with so many Greens.

A day off for chores on Friday, Ashtanga yoga, more chores, and the last episode of Game of Thrones, Series 7. The Climate Strike by school students was amazing. Right up to the moment that pictures started coming out with police horses pushing back the peaceful crowds of children, and the arrests of three young people. They are absolutely right when they say that we politicians have failed them. In the last week I have asked questions in the House on why we are burning so

much waste and on how the Government will help farmers achieve zero emissions agriculture and been fobbed off on both issues. There's not a feeling of urgency about Climate Breakdown and we have to have the situation described to us by schoolchildren. Personally, I'm panicking.

8am start at Broadcasting House on Sunday to be a guest on the BBCR4 Paper Review. The other guests are

George Parker from the *FT* and Shappi Khorsandi, the comedian, with whom I bonded over feminism.

I have an odd week ahead, with a light agenda in the House, so on Monday there's a chance to clear my desktop piling system. I suppose like most peers, I get sent a lot of things, cards, badges, paintings, and I can't bear to throw them away.

My new Hansard intern, Coles Cotter, is doing research on immigration for the arrival (when?) of the Bill. We discussed what amendments might be necessary.

Over lunchtime I queued to table an Oral Question on the issue of child



spies, which was debated in October last year. I also started sending questions on the same subject for written reply. It's crucial to follow up on debates, to check on government action.

In the Chamber, I tried and failed to get in on an Oral Question on air pollution and its damaging effects, especially on children. My Clean Air (Human Rights) Bill, now waiting for its second reading, would be

perfect for the Government to adopt.

I've started doing podcasts called Jen's Green Jam. My last one was with fellow peer Chris Holmes on diversity in the workplace. I'm now planning my next

which will be on Fast Fashion with Amelia Womack, Green Party Deputy Leader. She's highlighting how environmentally and socially damaging cheap clothes can be,

from non-existent labour rights to ocean pollution from plastic microfibres. And we here in the UK are big offenders.

At 4pm on Tuesday, a quick interview on College Green for ITV on waste. Medway Council have started to target fly-tippers by confiscating, and in some cases crushing, their vehicles. Very brave.

News comes in on Wednesday that my friend Molly Scott Cato MEP for the SW has been arrested with other MEPs for breaking into a Belgian military airbase to protest against the stockpiling of American nuclear bombs. My week of concentrating on clearing paperwork starts to look very dull.

Mid-morning I treated my 16yr old grandson to a ticket to a Tate Britain exhibition as he's going to study photography at A level. As we walked in, I realised I had never been there, in spite of being so close to my office. And I end the week with more mortification, this time for being so culturally lazy. 



Baroness Jones is a Green peer