

The Budget and Mr Bell

Written by EALISH

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Chief Minister Alan Bell 'got carried away' (his own words) in Tywnald's Budget debate.

We have long been aware that, like Peter Mandelson, he is 'frightfully relaxed about people being filthy rich'.

But unlike Peter he doesn't like to use the 'r-' word.

Usually he prefers to clink the odd coinage 'individuals of high net worth.'

(This could be taken to imply a superior morality in such folk.

And such a usage is of course less likely to stir the resentment of those of us who aren't well off.)

But towards 'the end of the day' (another favourite phrase of the reflective politician)... he opened up his vocabulary, urging that more effort must be given to enticing 'the wealthy' to come here.

(Lures of course being the tax cap and scope to sidestep planning regulations and dwell in mansions reflecting their splendour.)

Such 'wealth creators' and 'entrepreneours' would not idle away their time with 'golf' and 'gin and tonics' according to Mr.Bell.

(At least, not with both at the same time, one hopes - could put them off their stroke.)

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Instead they would of course create wealth not only for themselves but also spread some around for the rest of us. (So that's all right, then.)

And while 'wealthy' still somehow sounds a teeny bit more cuddly than 'rich' it is at least sidles a little closer to acknowledging that the government prides itself on presiding over two nations on our Island.

As if one was not enough!

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