



John Lloyd
Director of QI
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John

P for Pedlary

It occurs to me as I sit on the west coast of Ireland flicking to QI that Stephen Fry is the best advocating medium to dispel confusion & myths whilst exploring not commonly known secrets about a piece of current British legislation that dates back to 1697 and William III's bright idea about raising a new tax on merchants whose mode of trading was town to town with pack horse and cart.

Stephen's most believable submissions about the oddest facts place the programme where no others dare to go.

Well, *we've got news for you* (we tried them last year without reply) - **we** at pedlars.info are a small band of lay researchers defending an 1871 Act of Parliament that affects everyone over 17.

Some 48 million eligible people don't even realise that in these hard economic times there is for the 3-4 million unemployed a £12.50 Authority under the Pedlars Act 1871: called a **Pedlars Certificate** that entitles the practitioner to trade in any part of the Kingdom without any restriction on what, where, when, why or how they trade providing only that the person intends to act in good faith. So what?

Just imagine if Stephen and the crew made this information public – the latent entrepreneurship that this government is now relying on to get the nation going again may well be the catalyst for those with innovative ideas to hit the streets and talk the talk. Well guess what? If they do that today they make themselves potential victims of recent legislation to stop any activity in the public domain for gain or reward. That just about eliminates the random but unique quality of cultural life on our streets - the chestnut roaster, punch & judy, the balloon twister, the magician, the busker, the glove seller, the storyteller and the poet. Beware of what you do and say on a street!

Mr Marks and Mr Sparks began as did The Apprentice Lord Sugar with a barrow full of opportunity as hawker, pedlar and street trader and let's note what they now provide for the nation – shops full of consumerism and television full of apprentice pedlars in smart suits. It is a success story worthy of popularising, so you might ask as we do – why does this respectable profession get such a hard time from authorities whilst plying their trade? Good question!

That is why **P for Pedlary** would make a novel, interesting, educational and most humorous topic for Stephen's investigative panel which will help dispel the myths and also as a matter of public awareness promote this as a noble profession that ministers, MP's, and the nation can celebrate public awareness about pedlary as a unique British alternative to the dole queue.

Did you know...

Peddling a bike is not the same as pedlary?
Peddling a private bill was once considered as pedlary?
Exposing goods for sale is also pedlary?
A pedlar in Tunisia sparked the fall of government?
A pedlar saved central Manhattan from a bomb?
EU nomenclature recognises the profession of pedlary?
Pedlary has the lowest start up cost of any profession at £12.50?
A pedlar is not the same as a hawker?
How a horse makes a difference?
What king introduced the first tax on travelling merchants?
Why weren't non-travelling merchants taxed?
What is the oldest profession beginning with the letter P?
Why will Zurich law override UK law in 2012?
Where would one find the Pedlars Window?

The effect we seek to achieve in May this year is to preserve and protect the institution of pedlary at a time when we common folk will stand without paid advocates in Parliament before Select Committee to object to 4 more privately drawn bills aimed at disabling a perfectly lawful and historic good. The last time we did this was two years ago when we asked for 5 days to submit our case but were granted just one and a half hours. So there we were and will be once again defending a Public Statute that we understood was the sworn duty of government, civil service, ministers, MP's, Lords & Ladies, magistrates and judges. Alas!

This is why there is a need for media to alert the public.

The Pedlars cause is shown in a 30 minute video on the web site.

<http://www.pedlars.info>

or

<http://vimeo.com/14594805>

I look forward to talking any of this through with your researchers.

Yours sincerely

Robert Campbell-Lloyd

commoner, sometime pedlar, researcher, Roll B Parliamentary Agent, advocate for the
General Interest, businessman & global trader etc

website: www.pedlars.info email: pedlars.admin@gmail.com