



Adult Learning Within Reach

## Member Lecture – 9 Jun 2022

Margaret Thatcher: Britain's most successful revolutionary?  
Dr Michael Lynch, WEA tutor

Questions answered post-lecture

**Q1 It is said that Thatcher performed much needed surgery on the nation, but without an aesthetic, would you agree?**

Yes, that's a memorable way of putting it.

**Q2 Was the Falklands war just a distraction for what was happening at home?**

I think the crisis developed too quickly for it to have been planned as a distraction. The invasion required a response quite independently of any domestic considerations.

**Q3 Would you consider that North Sea Oil (and gas) were part of Thatcher's 'luck'?**

Yes, it couldn't have been planned that way.

**Q4 Did Thatcher bring in any bills regarding safeguarding women and children, especially in relation to Mary Whitehouse's campaigns against porn and TV sex and violence?**

The Video Recordings Act 1984 banned video nasties. But, Mrs Whitehouse wrote to Margaret Thatcher in 1986 to say she was bitterly disappointed that Home Secretary Douglas Hurd could not promise any further legislation on obscenity, and again asked to meet her. In a memo, Mrs Thatcher wrote 'I will, of course, see Mrs Whitehouse. But first I must have a meeting with the Home Office. We have been doing nothing about this subject for years. Of course she is upset.'

**Q5 Do you think her statue in Grantham may end up being 'Colston'd'?**

Could be, but I hope not. Let's have reasoned debate not iconoclasm.

Forthcoming WEA courses by Dr Michael Lynch

The 1922 Committee and the soul of the Conservative Party (C2347746) – 21 Sep 2022

Holy Russia and the Russian Psyche (C2347860) – 5 Oct 2022

Vladimir Putin (C2347859) – 26 Oct 2022

Nixon in China (C2347749) – 9 Nov 2022

**Note – WEA Autumn 2022 courses will not be available to book until 27<sup>th</sup> June when the members' priority booking window opens.**