

Harris Education and Recreation Association – new term enrolment



Harris Education and Recreation Association had an excellent start in its first term running a great choice of evening classes at the school.

The new Spring session of evening classes will commence later this month with the following options :

- Holiday Spanish
- Introduction to Photography
- Pilates
- Painting & Drawing
- Beginners Art for Fun
- Foods of the World
- Ballroom Dancing for Beginners
- The Therapeutic Art of Crochet

Enrolment night will take place on Wednesday 19th April at 6pm in Harris. Spaces will be allocated upon registration and payment at that time.

You can read more by clicking [here](#).

Xi Jinping: 'The Governance of China' launched in Cambodia



Xi Jinping: The Governance of China. [File photo]

The Cambodian edition of the book “Xi Jinping: The Governance of China” was released on April 11 in Cambodia.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen presided over the release ceremony of “Xi Jinping: The Governance of China” on Tuesday at his office, the Peace Palace, in Phnom Penh, together with Jiang Jianguo, chief of China’s State Council Information Office.

The book contains 79 speeches, talks, interviews, notes and letters of the Chinese leader between November 2012 and June 2014. It was already translated into 16 languages and has a distribution of over 6.2 million copies around the world.

“It is a milestone in China-Cambodia relations, and the Cambodian version of the book is a new testament to the fruitful relations and cooperation between China and Cambodia,” said by Jiang Jianguo in a speech released on Monday.

During the speech, he believed that Cambodian readers will better understand President Xi’s thoughts on China’s development, domestic and foreign policies and response to the concerns of the international community.

“The Cambodian version of the book can open a new window for Cambodian readers to watch and understand China, and provide a new platform for us to communicate the experience of governing and administering the country,” Jiang said.

Taxing the rich.

Here's a surprise. I agree with the three main political parties in the UK that we have to tax the rich. They are right to say most of the tax has to be paid by those with the higher incomes and with more assets. All three main parties have been living high on rhetoric about taxing the rich and closing tax loopholes for the last decade, and all three in power have decided to put tax rates up and impose new taxes on the rich. It's certainly worked. The top 1% of Income taxpayers pay 27.5% of all Income Tax, and the top 25% pay 75% of all Income tax paid. 44% now pay no Income Tax.

Some of this is not socialism but commonsense. There's no point setting out to extract tax revenues from those who have little income and no assets. Even the steeliest state tax tyrant knows you can't get money out of those who do not have it in the first place.

The issue between socialism and commonsense is how you tax the rich, and by how much. Socialists want to tax the rich because they do not like them. They do not mind if they tax them beyond the point where they leave the country or to the point where they are no longer rich enough to pay the extra taxes. Sensible Conservatives want to tax the rich because we want decent public services and understand it is the richer part of the country that has to pay for the bulk of them. We want to tax the rich in ways which will coax the money out of them we need for a decent society, without taxing them so much that they leave, stop investing, decide not to participate fully in the private sector economy for fear of having to pay more. We believe in the power of aspiration. Many people who start out with no assets and little income aspire to have assets and a decent income. Too much tax can blunt aspiration or thwart ambition.

This poses two questions. What is the right rate for taxing income and consumption of luxuries? Tax at too high a rate and you will collect less revenue and do damage to the productive economy. Tax too high and the marginally ambitious for a better lifestyle will conclude it is too difficult. What is the right balance over taxing things the rich do which are usually thought of as a good if others do it, like buying a home or investing in a pension fund.?

It is clearly right that we will only have a successful economy if the rich share their surplus somehow with those on lower incomes. We rely on the rich to invest in businesses that will employ others, to buy luxury items and services which others supply, to redevelop our cities and build new buildings. If they do not spend and invest enough willingly, the UK economy may be impaired. Germany's refusal to share her massive surplus with her partners in the Euro shows what misery large scale underspending and underinvestment can create if the rich surplus holder is too cautious.

Taking some of the money off the rich in taxes does ensure more of it is spent, as much of this money is given to people on lower incomes as benefits or in the form of public services free at the point of use. Take too much and

you may get the opposite effect, as the rich go elsewhere or adapt their behaviour to an even more cautious private sector pattern. If a relatively well off person feels their tax rate is too high, they may well spend less to conserve what money remains.

In subsequent posts I will look at what this means for the detail of tax policy on income and assets.

Ten dead in traffic accident in south China

Ten people died and another was injured in a traffic accident Monday night in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, local police said.

The accident occurred at about 9 p.m. Monday on an expressway surrounding Nanning, capital city of Guangxi. Four vehicles including three trucks and a car were involved in the crashes.

The injured person has been sent to hospital.

An investigation into the accident is under way.

Expats' dinner party on Shanghai subway criticized



The photo has drawn criticism online. [Photo/ Eastday.com]

A group of foreign passengers are seen having a “dinner party” on Shanghai’s Subway Line 11 on April 7, 2017. The passengers placed a table in the aisle and held up goblets, eating and drinking wantonly inside the train.

The photo has drawn criticism online, as according to the Shanghai Rail Transit Passenger Code, it’s forbidden to consume food or drinks on subway.

The rule warns passengers that such behavior could affect the normal running of the trains because open liquids could spill over other passengers, and food debris would encourage cockroaches and rats, damaging the fabric and facilities of the subway tunnel.

However, the rules are only for guidance and are not legally binding. There are no specific penalties for violations at present.