



“Am I ‘bovvered’?” And why I should be!

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Katherine Tate has made ‘Am I ‘bovvered’?’ a popular phrase and, sadly, its popularity is indicative of this widespread sentiment in this day and age. The rhetorical question is asked with barely masked aggression and brings with it the complacency, lethargy and mediocrity which sometimes seem to rule the day.

Anyway, why should any of us be bothered? Being bothered takes a lot of hard work and effort. Being bothered isn’t glamorous. It isn’t a skill that will get you on television. It isn’t a quality that the media recognises. Sometimes, being ‘bothered’ can get you into a lot of ‘bother’ with those who would prefer it if you kept quiet, if you didn’t highlight their inadequacies or inappropriate behaviour, if you stuck to the status quo. Being bothered means that people might start relying on you and who wants that sort of responsibility – right?

So, what would happen if no-one, not even you, ever bothered about anything? I’ll leave you to answer that question for yourself – the answer will be quite different for each one of us. Some of you will think of the ones you love and how it would affect them if you just didn’t bother and no-one cared for them. Others of you will think of close friends or colleagues at work and the support that they need. There will also be some of you who will think of people they don’t know at all who are suffering in some way and can only be released from their suffering if someone can be bothered to help them. Some of you will think of world crises and the results if no-one at all cared.

Thankfully, there are people who care and who can be bothered to make life the better for living. There are people who dare to stand up and be counted. There are people who challenge the status quo. There are people who work hard at bettering themselves for the sake of others. There are people who will bother to question themselves before they question others. There are people who understand that they cannot expect others to be bothered if they cannot be bothered themselves. There are people who will bother, not because they will be in the papers, not because they will make a lot of money, not because they will make a lot of friends, but just because every tiny act of being bothered helps to make the world a better place for someone, if not for several.

Some American people stood in line for four and a half hours on the fourth of November 2008 to show that they have had enough of complacency and abdication of responsibility. They were bothered enough to bring about a historic moment in the history of the United States.

Are you bothered?

