

# MUDDLED METAPHORS

*Posted on November 1, 2020 by John Rentoul*



A brief medley of mixed metaphors, all rather fun to untangle, or better yet - visualize!

**"It would open up a can of worms and a legal minefield about freedom, religion and equalities legislation... It may open up old wounds and put people into the trenches; no one wants that."** David Burrowes, Conservative MP, on gay marriage, 17 January 2012.

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**"Labour are fighting like rats in a barrel."** Charlie Elphicke, Conservative MP, 16 February 2014.

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**"I don't like it. When you open that Pandora's box, you will find it full of Trojan horses."** Ernest Bevin, Labour Foreign Secretary, on the idea of a Council of Europe, 1948.

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**"I'm kickstarting a drive to get employee ownership into the bloodstream."** Nick Clegg, 17 January 2012.

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**"Far-right vacuum could trigger 'lone-wolf' attacks."** Independent headline, 29 December 2012.

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**"They've put all their eggs in one basket and it's misfired."** Paul Merson, Sky football pundit, of West Ham's purchase of Andy Carroll. From Vincent Clark.

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**"Out of the hat on Monday night the Home Secretary produced the rabbit, the temporary provisions Bill, as her fig leaf to cover her major U-turn."** Simon Hughes, Lib Dem MP, 2008.

These are [\*courtesy of the Independent\*](#).

The [\*image\*](#) shows **Trial & Error**, Meredith Frampton, painted in 1939.

