Today we meet with Mr J K Quigliari, to help celebrate his 25th birthday and to discover his thoughts following his recent election as MP for Weaver Valley. We find him seated in the popular restaurant at the attractive confluence of the town’s famous rivers, the Weaver and the Dane, where he is joined by his wife Gharam and their three month-old daughter, Louise Charlotte Christine Zanubiya. Gharam, his secretary, is the chair of their local PPP (Progressive Precariat Party) and of Transition Northwich.

Asked about his recent election to parliament following the landslide victory of the PPP, this is what he had to say.

“A tipping point was reached a decade ago in favour of a deliberative democracy in which each and every one of us now plays our part, since when our party’s popularity has soared. The precariat – that huge majority of us, including the elderly, the young, the infirm, the self-employed, the great number of working poor, many of whom were in jobs with short-, medium- or long-term contracts securing few safeguards – finally found a common voice and demanded it be heard. In a spirit of cooperation and consensus we work together to deal with the immediate and existential issues surrounding our ongoing global decarbonisation and adoption of a circular economy. “

“Our first act in the new parliament will be to introduce legislation to introduce proportional representation so as to protect this new democratic paradigm, in accordance with our manifesto.”

“Locally we will continue to build on our previous successes: more passivhaus-style construction, affordable homes on brownfield sites; more community-owned green gas mills powered by the grassed areas in the constituency and similarly-owned shared solar power projects, to heat and power our homes and businesses and to power our electric cars, buses and commercial vehicles.”

“Despite the unfounded fears of 20 years’ ago we will continue our successful assimilation of our fellow overseas citizens fleeing the effects of climate change, from the wars which proliferated as a result, from the flooding caused by sea rise and extreme weather events, from drought and from famine. The large numbers still escaping the ongoing flooding in Bangladesh and the eastern seaboard of the USA are already enriching us, and will go on doing so, contributing to our new circular economy.”

“We are beginning to see new housing, schools, hospitals and a newly-thriving NHS. Why? That tired and outdated paradigm of growth at all costs and of its feedstock, consumerism, was belatedly discarded as being incompatible with a planet of both limited and reducing resources. The taxing of pollution and of the highest earners helped fund much of the improvements we now see. Similarly belatedly, taxation of speculative capital transactions, the removal of subsidies to capital and labour, the redistribution of some of the high returns to financial capital, and the income from cash transferred to the emerging market economies at ethical and equitable rates of interest enabled us, in our first term, to introduce a social dividend\*. As a result, each and every citizen receives a monthly cash payment, either from birth or their date of citizenship, the cash they require to lead a secure and rewarding life. Each of us is now able to live in a far more satisfying way, allowing us to top-up this basic income to the level we wish through our labour. The free time which results we can then use as we wish to work within the community, helping to care for and to enjoy and share life with our families and neighbours and to generally make our society a more resilient and cohesive one; then to have leisure time, to discover new skills, to improve our knowledge, to explore parts of ourselves which the old way, consuming all of our time and energies, precluded; thinking, creating, perhaps just relaxing or being idle, or engaging with community forums in thought and politics; and to then play, engaging in sport, games, song, drama, the arts and enjoying our natural environment.”

“Locally, too, my wife and I, when not engaged in parliamentary business, have been helping to plan the 20th anniversary celebration in November of our very own Transition Initiative, one of the groups which played such a big role in beginning the transition to the decarbonised and resilient community in which we are all now engaged.”

Our MP, in his spare time (for he too does these days have some, since MPs now work from their constituencies, as parliament is largely conducted by video-conferencing other than when special debates are held at the Commons in Birmingham), enjoys life in the family’s small passivhaus in Winnington Village. From here he shares family life with his wife and daughter, his parents and grandparents and his brother Charlie who all live in the town, the latter’s record haul of goals for Witton Albion having helped cement their newly-acquired place in the Premiership. He also enjoys gymnastics at the local club and helping out at the local wildlife centre helping preserve our still-threatened native species. He did, however, decline to comment about the recent conviction of a former president of the USA for crimes against humanity in a case brought by Client Earth and Human Rights Watch and for which he was yesterday sentenced to 10 years’ community service.

*[\* also known as “Citizens’ Income” or “Basic Income”, ed].*