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Christmas Issue

NEWSLETTER #11

Another busy month and our campaign is almost run off its feet. And we are starting to get somewhere. And it shows. There isn't much opposition or even any sense of coherence on the other side, only threats, remonstrations and a barked insistence that England expects every man to do his duty and jump off the bloody cliff.

Why do we sense the tide is turning? The leaders of the Brexit gang are in disarray. Two of the gang have been sacked in disgrace, with one more hanging on by his fingertips. Key interest groups who have been promised the earth - from the people of Northern Ireland to the hill farmers and the car workers - are starting to realise that the inducements they were promised are not as clear cut as was promised. Last month's budget has cast an uneasy pall over Christmas. The horror that is Trump will focus people's minds on his friends over here - Gove, Farage, Johnson - and what they stand for. Our focus has got to be on keeping on keeping on. We have to change people's minds. There has to come a time when, all but the most determined, can see there is no way for the economy from here but down.

For the confirmed masochists and kamikazes of course, the cliff edge still beckons. You can see from the glint in their eye that the act of self-immolation has real attractions to the Redwood/Rees-Mogg/Fox axis for whom, it goes without saying, a bit of pain (especially other people's pain) only adds to the allure.

Our job now is to keep calm, keep improving the quality of the dialogue and hone our arguments so that when the crunch votes come, be they in the Commons or in an election or a second referendum, we are ready to engage and show the sensible ones that there is another way. It doesn't have to be like this. We don't have to be the new Singapore.

As far as the day-to-day goes, we are joining up our campaigns across Sussex, trying to get out of our bubble and venture into leave-supporting areas. Some of us have been campaigning in Burgess Hill and there was a brilliant turnout for our day in Eastbourne where we got several names for our petition on a meaningful vote. We found people much less hostile than when we canvassed before the election.

Britain for Europe and the affiliated groups hosted a conference and lobby of MPs on 24th October. All three of our MPs came to support us (see pictures) and all three were insistent that we must continue to fight and make our voices heard, that the decision to leave the EU is revocable and that we needed to continue to persuade people that this is possible. They were clear that, if the people change, the politicians will follow but, at the moment, the groundswell is not strong enough for that to happen.



Spot the Brighton and Hove MPs: three out of three of them are there. Well done!





Plans to build a stronger youth voice in Brighton and Hove were given a boost on the 23rd of November, when 'Supergirl' activist Madeleina Kay came down from Sheffield to speak at a workshop for students at Sussex University. The event opened the floor to discussions and brainstorming around how to motivate younger people to participate in the campaign. Lots of ideas were contributed by the students: street parties, 'mock trials' and theatrical performances. There was a definite desire to get the campaign to adopt a stronger cultural voice, to have the arts used to highlight the emotional attachment to Europe - a vital way for the Remain campaign to sway public opinion in its favour.

Madeleina, who made national headlines in October when she was ejected from an EU Press Conference for being dressed as Supergirl, spoke to the students about the ways in which she has promoted the Remain cause: performing songs, writing books, promoting nationwide projects such as 'Letters for Europe'. She really helped the group see the variety of ways in which creativity can spark up the campaign. Building the youth vote has got to be a key part of our strategy and we hope this event will be the first of many student events, helping to build those vital numbers.



November 24th was our early Christmas social. It's not all campaigning. Lousy picture but you get the idea.

Dig for Victory

Households face increases of up to £930 in their annual shopping bills if Britain walks away from Brexit talks without a trade deal, according to a study published in the authoritative National Institute Economic Review, and a disproportionate impact of that will be felt by poorer families and the unemployed. Meat, vegetables, dairy products, clothing and footwear would be subject to the largest consumer price rises, adding to inflationary pressures that have this month already forced the first interest rate rise in a decade.

Nonetheless, the Brexit secretary, David Davis, warned MPs that the government still needed to seriously consider pursuing the no-deal option in the face of alleged EU intransigence over exit negotiations.

In the long run, Brexit enthusiasts argue, Britain could offset the rising cost of European imports by growing more food at home. Chris Grayling, the Transport Secretary, isn't worried. "It would mean that ... supermarkets bought more at home, that British farmers produced more"

Getting digging folks.



Lots to say about Tory MPs in this issue. And that's before we get on to buffoonery, lies, more lies (that's you Priti) - and sexual harassment. We can start with the good guys, the 'mutineers', not yet 'Enemies of the People' but still deserving of a hate campaign which got Anna Soubry 13 death threats in the 24 hours after the article was published. If you must read *The Telegraph* you can get the gist of it online for free. No need to put cash in their coffers.

Priti Patel used her first speech since losing her job as international development secretary last week to call on MPs to ignore those who have misgivings about the Bill. "I don't think we should listen to, really, those that simply do not have the confidence in this House, in our democracy and also in our country going forward, along with the suggestions that we are incapable of governing ourselves."



No need for pictures of Priti Patel as we don't want to give her any more encouragement but who is this guy? What is this guy? Owen Paterson, MP for Shropshire. Look closely. Yes, he did say that and, yes, people do actually vote for him. 'Only a madman would actually leave the single market', he said, before spending the next 12 months campaigning to do exactly that. Liar or madman? We let you judge.

The Daily Telegraph

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The Brexit mutineers

◆ Remain-supporting Conservatives rebel against May's move to enshrine in law the date Britain leaves EU



By Steven Swindford
HEAVY POLITICAL DIVISION
 THERE'S A MAY 15 rebellion from at least 15 Conservative MPs who are threatening to block her plans for Brexit in Parliament.
 The group, which includes several former ministers, have informed senior party figures that they will join forces with Labour to block new measures that would enshrine the date of Brexit in law.
 All the disqualified members, with the exception of Kenneth Clarke, voted to invoke Article 50, which gives Brit-
 date - giving rise to accusations of a "mutiny" that threatens to wipe out the Prime Minister's majority and plunge the party into crisis.
 Some of the MPs, who all backed Remain but mostly represent Leave constituencies, are understood to have had a "normy" meeting with the whip earlier this week. They are braced to come under intense pressure to reverse their opposition before a key parliamentary vote next week.
 Ministers have already announced a major concession by handing Parliament the opportunity to debate and vote on Britain's final deal to leave the
 the deal. Britain would simply depart without one.
 However, there are fears among some Brexit-supporting Tories that if the date of Brexit is not written into law, there will be a last-minute attempt to keep Britain in the EU if Parliament
 Brexit were laid bare in the Commons yesterday as pro-European Conservative MPs condemned the Government's plans - first revealed by *The Daily Telegraph* last Friday - as "mad".
 Bernard Jenkin, a senior Leave-supporting MP, said: "Anyone who voted for Article 50 but then does not wish to fix the date, they are open to the charge that they do not actually want us to leave the European Union."
 Sir Bill Cash, another prominent Eurosceptic Tory, accused Conservatives opposing the amendment of "collaborating" with Labour.
 The "mutinous" MPs are led by former ministers and two select committee chairmen.
 Among the most prominent members are Nicky Morgan, the former education secretary; Anna Soubry, a former minister; and Mr Clarke, the former chancellor.
 MPs usually loyal to the Government - including Tom Tugendhat, the chairman of the foreign affairs select committee, and Oliver Heald, a former solicitor general - are also in the group.
 All voted for Britain to stay in the EU in the referendum but only Mr Clarke has said that he wants to reverse the result of the historic vote.
 Labour MPs gave Mr Clarke an over-

Somewhere else on the spectrum, more at the villain end, John Redwood has also been in the news recently, this time for “talking down Britain”. Surely not! Not patriot John! But yes.

In a financial advice column for the *Financial Times*, Redwood noted the poor state of the UK economy and recommended investors to “look further afield”. Despite arguing for Brexit all his life, he now doesn’t like what the future holds (but he’s not telling you - unless you are one of his business clients). Frances Coppola, a commentator for *Forbes Magazine*, hardly a radical rag, wrote: “John Redwood warned his wealthy clients to get their money out before the disaster hits. To me, this smacks of disaster capitalism. Engineer a crash while ensuring your own interests are protected, then clean up when it hits. This is despicable behaviour by a lawmaker.”



Tom Brake, for the Liberal Democrats, criticised the column, calling the advice “sheer hypocrisy” from an MP who had promoted leaving the EU. “He is advising investors to move their money out of the UK, all the while pushing in parliament for a destructive hard Brexit that would see even more investment desert the country” Brake said. “Major investors may be able to move their money abroad, but it is ordinary people who will suffer from the impact of a hard Brexit on jobs and living standards. The fact that even arch-Brexiteers are now losing confidence in Brexit Britain shows why we must give people a chance to think again and, if they choose to, stay in the EU.”

Even Redwood’s colleagues have to hold their noses. A recent profile of Nicky Morgan MP, in the *Guardian*, quoted her as saying “I don’t understand how it’s possible for somebody to stand up in parliament and talk about how our economy is ultimately going to be stronger because of all of this, but outside parliament appear to be advising people to do something that says: ‘Actually, there *is* a risk, and I’d advise you to do something to protect yourself against that risk.’” Can she think of any word other than hypocrisy to describe this? “I think it’s better for him to explain his own actions. Put it like that.”



Bad Karma?

Nov 23, British papers report that formal bids by Dundee, Nottingham, Leeds, Milton Keynes and a joint proposal from Belfast, Derry and Strabane for the title of European Capital of Culture have been disqualified under eligibility rules. Outrage, say the leader pages who have somehow failed to notice that not being in the EU might be a problem when you apply for EU money. Iain Stewart, MP for Milton Keynes (Dimwit party), said "This looks like they are turning their backs on us".

What is it about these little Englanders? We are told we mustn't assume they are stupid. Is it that they have learned from Trump that if they tell enough lies some of them will stick? It took Nicola Sturgeon to point out the bleeding obvious: "Dundee's European Capital of Culture bid looks as if it is going to be the latest victim of the Tories' obsession with taking this country out of the European Union against our will, and they should hang their heads in shame. Last year, the Scottish Government wrote to the UK Government to highlight the enormous benefits that international cultural engagement can bring and to seek reassurances that the UK would continue to participate in partnerships like the European Capital of Culture. So it is now deeply concerning that the amount of time, effort and expense that Dundee have put into scoping out their bid could be wasted thanks to the Brexit policy of this Tory Government." She went on: "We're starting to see on an almost daily basis the consequences of Brexit."

Our full diary: the Winter of Discontent rumbles on:

Enjoy Christmas and roll up your sleeves for more campaigning next year. Remember, it's not a done deal. We want to stay with the EU and we won't go away until the horror that is Brexit is stopped. Let's make a noise!

9 December: Open Britain Day of Action , Worthing - leafletting outside Café Nero (opp the pier) 11.30am

9 December: Next B&H4EU meeting, 7.30pm at Craft Beer Company, Upper North St.

10 December: Open Britain 'B&H for EU' Birthday action in Brighton - information to follow

11 December: EU Withdrawal Bill London Demo outside Parliament. Meet 9.30 Brighton Station

13 December: 3 Million action to support EU citizens. 8am in Trafalgar Square, info to follow

16 December: Lewes, 10-12am, Cliffe Bridge. Having cake (and eating it)?

13 January: Seaford, 10am-12noon, outside Morrisons

17 January: East Sussex Coordinating Committee, Lewes (The Depot), 7.30pm

5 February: Dialogue Brexit talk, with Vice-Chancellor of Sussex University and others

17 February: One Day Without Us Europe Corner in Brighton

7 February (?) Eurovision Heats at the Dome - we will organise something

24/25 March: Regional rallies to mark anniversary of triggering Article 50

9 May: Europe Day

23 June: Event for the anniversary of the Referendum



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