

DEBATELOCAL

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picture of the week



Picture by Sri - If you have a Borough View picture you would like to be considered for publication or a letter you want printed email will.harrison@newsquest.co.uk

Farewell and adi-EU...

To our dear friends in the EU.. On January 31st you will see news reports of fireworks and street parties held around the UK, but at least half of us would rather not be leaving at all. We voted to Remain in the 2016 Referendum because we appreciate all that EU membership has granted us.

It is hard to overestimate the value of the 4 freedoms that we in the UK have enjoyed as EU

citizens; so many of us have travelled, worked, loved and lived in many of the member states. We have enjoyed the extraordinary access to products and foods that were able to be imported tariff free. Our lives and culture have been enriched by the free flow of people from 27 other countries. Few of us have made it across all 27 of those borders, but millions from these countries chose to move to the UK and we

have benefited and grown from the interactions, both chance and planned.

For the many millions of Europhiles in the UK, we appreciate that our rights as citizens have been strengthened as EU members. Whether it is security, employment, welfare, human rights or simply ongoing peace, we have benefited. The European Social Fund has been the backbone of many support services

to the less privileged members of our society, particularly women in low paid jobs.

On the climate crisis, where cooperation is key to achieve global emission reductions, the EU has led the way in setting goals and standards.

We feel that this removal of our EU citizenship is a crime against everything we have fought for, and we will never 'just get over it'.

So no bell ringing, champagne or street parties for us on January 31st. Just a steely determination to uphold the values we imbibed as EU citizens, and a promise to our extended family across the EU:

We'll be back!

Our best wishes from members of the European Movement

A renewable energy alternative provided by City Hall

This week marks Big Energy Saving week and as winter continues to bite, we must remember the million Londoners trapped in fuel poverty and often left with the choice of heating their homes or putting food on the table.

It's crucial we provide a helping hand to families struggling with their fuel bills, and so I welcome the recent launch of London Power – City Hall's own energy company. We're told that, by offering fairer tariffs, London Power could save the average household paying by direct debit, £300 each year, or £160 a year for those using pre-payment metres.

It is also positive that any profits made by City Hall will also be reinvested back

into community projects aimed at supporting fuel poor Londoners and tackling the climate emergency.

I know that many Londoners share the Mayor's ambition to make our city zero-carbon by 2050. The fact, that all the electricity generated will be supplied by renewable sources - such as the sun, wind and water – should go some way to helping us to achieve that.

I would urge all local people to look into switching to this new supplier by visiting www.mylondonpower.com.

Yours,

Leonie Cooper AM

Finding happiness in the here and now



THE GOD SPOT

By Paul van Essen
greaterlife.org.uk

Once people know you are a Christian, or involved in Church leadership, or a minister, they tend to think most of your focus will be on the life after this.

But that really should not be so.

I conduct a lot of funerals each year, but mostly for people who have limited or no church connections at all. Why? Because they deserve love, honour and respect just like everyone else - and because, whilst

they may have no clear convictions about the life after this, they do have real feelings about a life that has been lived here on Earth. Surely that makes sense? When Christians present themselves as people whose main concern is getting to Heaven they have actually missed the whole point of Jesus' coming.

Happiness – joy – is something we are supposed to discover in the here and now. God intends for you to find real

joy in this life. You were built for it, and that's why you long for it. But it is not simply a matter of praying a prayer or going to church and thinking joy will magically come. We have a part to play. Authentic christian teaching will inspire you regarding the kind of life you can live, and also supply both wisdom and grace in regards to the decisions you will need to make in order to live in a joyful place here on Earth.

More on that next week...