



THE FREE NATION

It is *failure* to leave the EU that would be a catastrophe

With each day that passes, the urgency of leaving the EU as soon, and as completely, as possible grows. Theresa May's insistence on leaving the decision as late as possible belies her narcissistic conviction that she is acting 'in the national interest' - a catch-all ploy widely used by politicians to justify acting solely *in their own interest*.

Her aim, in keeping with the way she has mishandled the whole Brexit process, is to put a gun to the heads of MPs, in the manner of a common gangster, to try to force them, with the clock ticking, to submit to her Brino (Brexit in Name Only) 'deal'. Meanwhile we are all being beaten over the head with Project Fear warnings of death and destruction in the event of the UK adopting World Trade Organisation terms on our departure from the EU. For once, I would argue that there really **is** cause for grave concern - not if we *escape* the EU, but if we *remain* in it as it heads inexorably towards a bitter end. Just look at what will be in store for us should we remain in this ruinously costly, deeply corrupt and fundamentally anti-democratic organisation that treats us with such contempt.

If we remain in the EU, we shall - sooner or later - be forced to join the Euro - membership of which has been so damaging for Italy, Greece and other countries forced to dance to Germany's tune. We shall have to pay for the EU Army which has been created to undermine Nato and the last remnants of national independence. The EU will continue to do all in its power to try to break up our United Kingdom, chipping away at the fabric of union that unites our four countries. The EU's ever expanding foreign and diplomatic powers will leave us with little say in international affairs and even less protection for British interests. The EU's insistence on freedom of movement throughout its territory will continue to damage the economic interests of most British people, leading to lower salaries, lower productivity and higher unemployment than independence will permit.

I could go on, of course, but I feel sure that you understand the dangers of remaining in the EU all too well - even though the BBC and other pro-EU institutions neglect to inform us of these dangers, so intent are they on their 'falling off a cliff', 'crashing out' fantasies. The people of the European Union, too, are, at long last, finding their voice. Patronised and ignored for so long by a political class with its snouts deep in the EU trough, the 'Gilets Jaunes' taking on Brussels's poster boy, Macron, have shown that it is remaining in the EU which will bring about political and social strife and discontent bordering on revolution, accompanied by economic hardship and decline.

Carrying out the will of the British people to re-enter the wide world of free and independent nations is not only the *right* path for our country, but a safe, well-trodden path to peace and prosperity. Remaining in the doomed, failed EU is the rocky road to ruin.

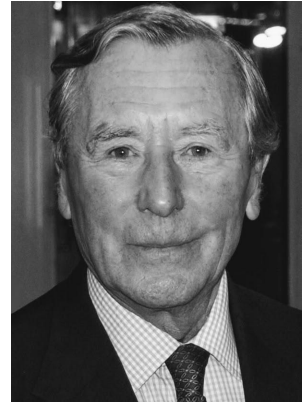
Simon Richards

Chief Executive, The Freedom Association

THE FREE NATION is The Freedom Association's newsletter for Members only. If you receive it only quarterly (**Red masthead**) months (January, April, July and October) and would like it sent to you by Royal Mail **every** month (i.e. including the **Blue** masthead issues in February, March, May, June, August, September, November and December), simply complete and return the form on page 10. Please send any letters, articles, news etc. (by email or post) to Simon Richards - see contact details below. Copy deadline for the next (February) issue is Monday 11th February.

The Master Builder

In each issue, I include an extract from 'Take Upon Retiring', an anthology by our Patron, Lord Vinson, because I think that its contents deserve a wider audience. Last month, I featured the words he delivered at the opening of the Vinson Building at the University of Buckingham's groundbreaking centre for economics and entrepreneurship. This time, I have chosen some words on one of the damaging effects of universal education:



A great social change has taken place which I can only describe as the destruction of the artisan class. Before universal education some very intelligent people had no choice but to become master bricklayers, plasterers or carpenters and as a consequence the standard of workmanship in these trades was quite exceptionally high. You need high intelligence to set out a moulded ceiling, to make a precision-fitting mahogany door on the curve. But universal education drew out such talent and turned them into university dons or tax collectors, to name but a few, greatly to the detriment of workmanship and the respect that the artisan had and deserves, but no doubt to the benefit of some of the individuals concerned.

Nigel Vinson

1985

QUOTE TO NOTE

"If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having."

C. S. Lewis

Please send me any quotes you would like to be considered for inclusion in future issues.

DAVID AUSTIN OBE 1926-2018

David Austin - probably the greatest ever cultivator of roses - was a long-standing Freedom Association Member. Whilst dyslexia held him back at Shrewsbury School, he overcame that to set up a thriving business, employing hundreds of staff.

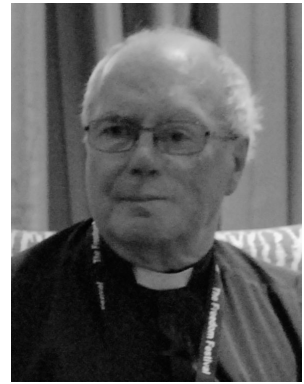
He created a beautiful Freedom Rose (a yellow rose being a symbol of freedom) with a proportion of the proceeds going to The Freedom Association.

Some of his children joined the family business and we wish all of them our sincere condolences. David Austin was a true patriot and a proud Englishman. His genius for roses gave pleasure throughout the world and will be remembered for as long as his roses grow.

Peter Mullen writes:

Welcome to the New Dystopia

The Home Secretary - that interesting man Sajid Javid - recently declared the greatly increased number of immigrants' boats in the Channel "a major crisis." Then he took himself off on holiday six thousand miles away, from where he has since had the courtesy to telephone and tell us that he doesn't intend to deploy patrol boats to deal with this crisis. This incident is a perfect illustration of our duplicitous political modernity. It recalls Theresa May's promise to reduce immigration "to the tens of thousands" - only to preside over its tripling to 300,000. Or we think of Cressida Dick's refusal to take effective action to curtail the number of murderous stabbings and shootings in London, preferring instead to devote all her energies to the detection and punishment of that heinous crime Islamophobia along with those equally vile offences homophobia and transphobia.



These examples, among many others, make me want to ask: is there a drift, a tendency, a movement towards the destruction of our former habits and the establishment of a new and entirely different sort of society? I conclude that indeed there is. What will this society be like? Fortunately, we can answer this question because the new society is being formed today. Let me count the ways. Let me adapt the words of St Martin Luther King . . .

I have a nightmare . . .

It will be, owing to the deliberate encouragement of mass immigration, a society in which there will no longer be black people or white people. Everyone will be Obama-coloured.

I have a nightmare . . .

The genders - what for a thousand years we called the sexes - will be transferable so that, even if the size of your gonads were to win first prize at the village fete, you can still identify as a woman. Children from the infants' class upwards will be told that little boys can opt to become little girls, and little girls self-transmogrify into little boys. Interesting word "transmogrify": it means "suddenly to change in a fantastical or magical manner." That is what has happened to our way of life.

I have a nightmare . . .

Any man/woman may marry any woman/man. A woman identifying as a cat may marry another cat. A man identifying as a tulip may marry his flowerbed.

I have a nightmare . . .

The pronouns he and she will be disallowed and replaced by the uni-gender Zie.

I have a nightmare . . .

The nations of Europe will cease to exist and be replaced by regions. What was Italy will become Europe South Central and Scotland will be Europe North West. There will no longer be prime ministers or national governments. Instead an unelected and unopposed central politburo will rule with the official connivance of regional commissars.

I have a nightmare . . .

University and all higher education will become utterly corrupted and debased. Most of our young people will be given taxpayers' money - which will never be paid back - to attend these attenuated institutions and, though remaining in a pitiful state of ignorance, they will all graduate with high honours. Thus knowing nothing and entirely without critical faculties, they will live their lives wholly at the bidding of the politburo and the commissars. Much progress has already been made towards the achievement of this magnificent goal.

I have a nightmare . . .

Already, there is no more fur and soon there will be no more meat.

I have a nightmare . . .

“Music” shall mean any noise made by anyone and so designated.

I have a nightmare . . .

The terms BC and AD abolished. What were formerly Easter Eggs shall henceforth be known as Spring Spheres and the Christmas Tree renamed the Holiday Tree.

I have a nightmare . . .

The word “brainstorming” is disallowed because it is offensive to epileptics.

I have a nightmare . . .

Spotted Dick shall in future be Spotted Richard.

I have a nightmare . . .

The practice of the Islamophobic, homophobic Christian faith and all its exclusivist doctrines will be banned. The holding of such politically-incorrect doctrines will be a criminal act. Christian iconography and imagery will be removed from all official documentation. This too has already been very largely achieved.

I have a nightmare . . .

There will no longer be the concept of truth. Only your truth and my truth. True for you. And true for me. The age-old distinction between true and false will be abolished - because, of course, this was discriminatory. And antidiscrimination with all other forms of egalitarianism will form the new social morality.

I have a nightmare . . .

Anyone who objects to any of the new diktats mentioned above will be severely punished.

THIS IS THE NIGHTMARE . . .

Rev. Dr. Peter Mullen

Peter's blog, All Things Considered, is at www.revpetermullen.com

The wit and wisdom of Jacob Rees-Mogg

“People voted to leave, they didn't vote for an agreement, they voted to leave and the law has us leaving on 29th March with or without a deal and MPs come on and say, ‘Oh, nobody in Parliament wants No Deal’ - well they shouldn't have voted for the Article 50 Act and the Withdrawal Act. They seem not to have read the Acts of Parliament that they voted for if that's their position, because that is the law that Parliament passed.”

16th January

Listen to Jacob's new weekly radio show on LBC at 6 p.m. every Friday.

Brexit: Same Old, Same Old

Ring out the old, bring in the new. But how much of the old will we bring along with us? Theresa May's Near Year message was hardly a unifying one. Instead of a message of hope to the country, she instead used the opportunity to plead her Brexit case to MPs. She warns that it's her deal, or possibly no Brexit at all. The same old threats remain and no doubt the whips are already back at work putting the frighteners on those MPs who are, for want of a better word, malleable. I don't think the opposition from her own side will be as strong as it would have been if the vote had been taken as planned a couple of weeks before Christmas, however, there aren't enough votes in the Commons to get it through. She will no doubt attempt to pull some form of rabbit out of the hat regarding the Irish backstop, and this will buy off some of her MPs, but thoughts must turn to what happens next - after her deal is rejected. In many ways we are in the midst of a constitutional crisis. The House of Commons is majority Remain. It will not support any deal that the Government presents in front of it. It is ready to go into battle against the executive in a way I haven't seen in my lifetime. The default position is we leave the European Union on 29th March under WTO rules. People like the abominable Dominic Grieve will try and use every Parliamentary trick in the book to prevent that from happening, but they know that as Parliament has agreed to us leaving the EU on 29th March, there is very little they can do to prevent a so-called no deal if another route isn't found ASAP. MPs could try and demand an extension of Article 50, but unless the EU really thinks it is going to get something out of it - i.e. a second referendum later this year - this request could be easily refused.



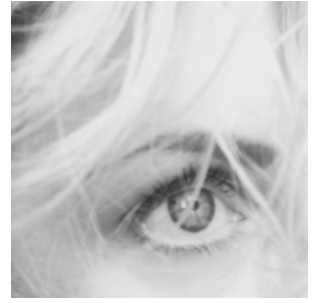
In an interesting article in the *Telegraph* just after Christmas, an anonymous civil servant wrote: "An enormous effort by thousands of hard working civil servants has been made to ensure that if we leave the EU without a deal, "crashing out" over a "cliff-edge" is simply not going to be an option, and it is purely a political decision not to make this clear to the public and nervous backbench MPs. "But if the Government was to be frank with Parliament and the country, what justification would be left for its disastrous Withdrawal Agreement? What would Remainers do without a Project Fear? They would need to think up convincing positive arguments for staying in the EU, something that has so far proved beyond them". All other possibilities, other than a WTO exit, have not been exhausted, but they have been ruled out by this incompetent government. Theresa May has kicked the can down the road for so long, she has not only pushed the government into the corner of a cul-de-sac, she has pushed the country there too. We have run out of time, and as the anonymous civil servant, who has been engaged in preparing the UK for a Brexit on WTO rules after 29 March, indicated, if MPs knew the facts about a WTO Brexit, rather than the endless scare stories trotted out by the likes of Philip Hammond, more of them will see that it is the only way, too. We are leaving the EU on 29th March. Happy New Year!

Andrew Allison

Head of Campaigns at The Freedom Association

Political correctness in the Netherlands

In 1973, during my first year of primary school, our teacher, Miss Risseeuw, announced that a new pupil was to join us in class. A girl from a country very far away. Her name was Dundee. She came the next day. A short girl, a bit chubby, with dark hair and small, dark eyes. We were all so excited! She hardly spoke our language, wore a dress over a pair of trousers and the smell of her hair was completely new to us. I remember we all jumped on her like a Christmas present and everybody wanted to be friends with this strange new girl. All through primary school she stayed at our school although no longer in my class for she had to repeat that 1st year as well as a couple years after that.



Gradually more pupils like Dundee came to our village and school and at some point the novelty of it wore off. In a certain part of our village, just a stone throw away from where I grew up, was an area made up of large apartment buildings for social housing. Somehow all these new families from strange countries ended up there and over the years the area changed. By the time I went to high school I was no longer allowed to go there. Litter, dirt, some incidents of assault were talked about, and sometimes remains of animals were found in the shrubs under the balconies. I recall our neighbour, who was a plumber, telling us about drains blocked with animal intestines and blood on bathroom walls. Back then nobody knew what was going on but of course now we know all too well.

In the early 80s on the weekends we used to visit my grandmother who lived in Utrecht, a big city compared to our rural little village. Saturday was market day and I always loved to go and browse the many different stands. My mother used to make necklaces back then so one Saturday afternoon we found ourselves looking at beads in all shapes and colors. As my mother was collecting her small treasures in the bowl given to her by the stand owner, there was another lady standing next to her, wearing a headscarf and a long coat, doing exactly the same. With one difference though: for every bead she put in the bowl, one disappeared into the pocket of her coat. At some point my mother noticed this and in a subtle way she tried to let the owner know what was going on. He looked at her and dismissively shook his head. The lady paid for her beads and left. The owner turned to my mother and said: "I appreciate what you were trying to do. But this is what happens all the time you see. And I have called the police before, but all they do is accuse me of discrimination. So I have given up on it".

Looking back, I understand we never had a chance. Political correctness has been the decree from the start. That Saturday in Utrecht was the first tangible example of what was in store for us. The second came some time later, as I went to the butchers with my gran. We picked a number and waited patiently for our turn, as a lady, again dressed in a headscarf and a long coat, obtruded the line. My gran wasn't having that and politely told the lady she had to pick a number. I can still see the look on the lady's face when she turned to my grandmother as she hissed in defective Dutch: "I take turn when I want. You wait, until we boss here! You wait!". She was right. To Freedom!

Freebird

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

- ★ **February 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Date to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: with Andrew Allison*** (location and venue to be confirmed).
- ★ **Sunday 24th March to Thursday 28th March 2019** “*Up Yours Delors’ visit to Strasbourg*”. Tours of the European ‘Parliament’ and the city of Strasbourg led by **RUPERT MATTHEWS MEP** and **Simon Richards**. **ALL PLACES NOW TAKEN.**
- ★ **Wednesday 27th March 2019** *Better Off Out ‘Farewell to the EU’ Dinner*, Strasbourg. Hosted by **RUPERT MATTHEWS MEP** and other pro-Brexit MEPs. **ALL PLACES NOW TAKEN.**
- ★ **Friday 29th March 2019** 7:45 p.m. to 11:45 p.m. **UK Independence Day River Boat Party, Westminster Pier**. Tickets £46.24. See pages 8 and 9 for details.
- ★ **April 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Date to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: with Andrew Allison*** (location and venue to be confirmed).
- ★ **Friday 10th May 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. (*coffee available from 11:30 a.m.*) Venue to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: Douglas, Isle of Man with Simon Richards***. Members with an IM postcode will be sent an invitation. Others: please contact us if you would like to be sent an invitation.
- ★ **June 2019** ***Second Jillian Becker Annual Lecture. London.*** Date, time, venue etc. to be confirmed.
- ★ **July 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Date to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: with Andrew Allison*** (location and venue to be confirmed).
- ★ **September 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. (*coffee available from 11:30 a.m.*) Date and venue to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: Rochester with Simon Richards***. Members with ME, CT, DA, SS and TN postcodes will be sent an invitation. Others: please contact us if you would like to be sent an invitation.
- ★ **October 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Date to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: with Andrew Allison*** (location and venue to be confirmed).
- ★ **November 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. (*coffee available from 11:30 a.m.*) Date and venue to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: Lichfield with Simon Richards***. Members with ST, CW, DE, SK, TF, WS and WV postcodes will be sent an invitation. Others: please contact us if you would like to be sent an invitation.
- ★ **December 2019** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Date to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: with Andrew Allison*** (location and venue to be confirmed).
- ★ **January 2020** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Date to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: with Andrew Allison*** (location and venue to be confirmed).
- ★ **February 2020** 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. (*coffee available from 11:30 a.m.*) Date and venue to be confirmed. ***Freedom Forum: Plymouth with Simon Richards***. Members with PL, EX, TQ and TR postcodes will be sent an invitation.

UK Independence Day River Boat Party: *Westminster* **Friday 29th March 2019**

Don't miss the boat!

Our nation has, throughout history, left things until the 11th hour, so it is perhaps appropriate that it will be at eleven o'clock on the evening of **Friday 29th March 2019** that the



United Kingdom will, at long last, regain some measure of its freedom and independence after over 46 years of subjugation to the European Union.

Such an historic occasion - despite all the excessive concessions made by our political leaders - deserves to be commemorated, if possible, within sight and sound of the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben. Our Independence Day Boat Party on the River Thames at Westminster will do just that.

- ★ **Our boat, which bears the appropriate name of *MV Golden Star*, will depart from Westminster Pier at 8:00 pm (embarking from 7:45 p.m.) returning at 11:45 pm on Friday 29th March.**
- ★ The boat has glazing all around, so you'll have great views of London and all the famous buildings along the river at night. With the London Underground now running all night long, you should have no difficulty getting back to wherever you live or are staying.
- ★ There will be **VIP guests and speeches** from MPs, MEPs and leading Better Off Out supporters.
- ★ **Tickets are £46.24** - a pound for every year under the EU yoke, with 24 pence for the pre-Brexit portion of 2019.
- ★ **You will receive a welcome glass of Prosecco** (in tribute to Italy's Eurosceptic Deputy Prime Minister, Matteo Salvini!) when you board. There will be a cash bar on board.
- ★ **The food (included in the ticket price) will have a retro 'back to the 70s' theme.**
- ★ There will be **patriotic music** for you to join in singing and a **flag ceremony** to match those enjoyed by those countries who gained independence from British rule - but this time, the Union Jack will be raised, not lowered.
- ★ **To secure your place/s for this once-in-a-lifetime historic occasion please see the form on the opposite page (page 9). You may book by post or over the phone.**
- ★ If you are also attending the '*Farewell to the EU*' Dinner in Strasbourg on Wednesday 27th March, you will have plenty of time to return to London in time to attend the Independence Day River Boat Party on Friday 29th March.

How to secure your place/s on our Independence Day Westminster River Boat Party Friday 29th March 2019

You can book in any of the following ways:

- **OVER THE PHONE**, paying by credit or debit card, on 01242 235333. If booking by phone, we suggest that you complete this form beforehand.
- **BY POST. Simply complete this form and send it to The Freedom Association, 122 Winchcombe Street, Cheltenham GL52 2NW with a cheque, payable to “The Freedom Association”.**

If you have any queries, please call us on 01242 235333.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- ★ Boat trip on the River Thames aboard MV Golden Star
- ★ Glass of Prosecco when you board the boat
- ★ Back to the Seventies themed food
- ★ Speeches by VIP Brexiteer guests
- ★ Patriotic music and sing-songs
- ★ Flag lowering and raising ceremony
- ★ Commemorative programme, songsheet and goodie bag

★ I would like tickets @ £46.24 each TOTAL

NAME (BLOCK CAPITALS, PLEASE):

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ADDRESS:

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POSTCODE:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

Please advise of any dietary requirements:

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If you are not currently receiving **THE FREE NATION** every month by Royal Mail and wish to do so, please complete this form and send it to the address at the foot of the page. You may either pay £5 or more per month by standing order, or £60 or more annually by cheque, payable to "The Freedom Association" to receive 12 monthly issues of **THE FREE NATION** by Royal Mail (U.K. only).

YOUR DETAILS (PLEASE COMPLETE ALL WHITE BOXES USING **BLOCK CAPITALS**):

Title:	First Name:	Surname:
Address:		
Postcode:	Telephone:	

To be kept up to date with our latest news and events, please provide us with your preferred email address:

Email:

INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY BY STANDING ORDER

(PLEASE COMPLETE ALL WHITE BOXES USING **BLOCK CAPITALS**)

The Manager:	Bank/Building Society Name:		
Address:			
Postcode:		Preferred phone number:	
Name of Account Holder(s):			
Branch Sort Code:		-	
		-	
Account No:			

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly:

Account Name:	The Freedom Association	Account No:	70397554
Branch Sort Code:	60-60-04	Bank Name:	National Westminster PLC, Lambeth North, London
Reference No:	(OFFICE USE ONLY)		
£ 00.00	Date of First Payment: DD / MM / YY	Frequency:	ANNUALLY/MONTHLY (delete as appropriate)
Signature:			Date:

Reasons why Theresa May is the worst Prime Minister of the last 100 years

Thinking of Theresa May puts me in mind of the old Al Murray sketch of “worst prime ministers ever”. However, whereas he makes a good point about the subjective uselessness of politicians (the more they do the worse things seem to be), there is good reason to truly believe Theresa May is the worst Prime Minister in living memory.

The first factor to consider is Brexit. The one thing a divided nation can agree upon is the abysmal nature of our current leader. Regardless of how people voted, it's clear she is doing an appalling job, achieving nothing she has proposed, and satisfying neither Brexit voters nor Remain voters. This is either through incompetence (the most likely explanation), or malicious intent, designed not to fulfil the mandate from the referendum (which is possible). Either way, she deserves no credit for this.

Yet, we should hold our Prime Minister in low regard for other, more important reasons. One such being her desire to appear popular. When Margaret Thatcher was asked to jump in front of camera by a Swedish journalist in order to “show another side of a human being she responded, “I'll tell you what it shows, it shows you want to be thought to be normal or popular” then promptly proceeded to call the notion puerile and refuse to do it. Contrast this to Theresa May in her conferences, dancing across the stage, trying to court the popular attention. She appears to court popularity without realising it's a goal she can never achieve for herself without concrete political action.

Under her leadership, legislation appears to be the main tool of government, and it appears to be deployed in response to social media outbursts. Whether it is questions about “hate crimes”, or the uses of medical marijuana, an edict emerges to change the state of the country without real consultation or consideration for what implications such changes may have.

Ultimately, she does not seem intelligent enough to understand what she is doing. Having stumbled into the reigns of power, and being held there only by Corbyn as leader of the opposition, she has no idea how to govern.

The worst part is she may agree with a good deal of Conservative doctrine, but just doesn't have the intelligence to articulate why it is a moral cause. She seems not to understand that.

By doing all of this she confirms all the suspicions of the political Left. She talks about austerity with the enthusiasm and alacrity of her harshest critics, which only stereotypes it as a negative thing. All this whilst not even practicing the austerity she preaches. Her government has continued to borrow large sums of money, whilst calling this austerity. She has now vindicated Labour's position by saying it's time for an end to austerity, as though not spending more than we have is a policy only for the short term, when it really should be the default position of any responsible government.

She practices exactly the same politics as Labour, finding money for vanity projects or for what activists want, without having a source of this credit. If the Conservative party loses the confidence of the public in its ability to balance a budget, it's a sorry state of affairs, not

only for that party, but for the country as a whole, and that is exactly what Theresa May is doing.

Unless she stands with conservative values on some level, and shows that there is an alternative to what Labour are advocating, she will be defeated not only because she is making the same arguments for which the Left advocate, but because her own voter base will leave in droves, which is what we now see.

Much as how in America the only person who could have lost to Trump was Hillary Clinton, and the only person Hillary Clinton could have looked good against was Trump, in the UK, the only person who is worse than Theresa May is Corbyn, and the only person who could lose against Corbyn is Theresa May. This has created a political stalemate where the country is sacrificed.

Dr. Timothy Tomkinson

Conservative Party Leadership Stakes: runners and riders

The political class's failure to honour the EU referendum is hardly surprising given that, with the honourable exception of the Democratic Unionist Party, none of the parties represented in the House of Commons are pro-Brexit.

In particular, the Conservative Party, despite its protestations to the contrary at election times, has shown itself to be controlled by Europhiles. Donald Tusk recently revealed what we had all suspected, namely that David Cameron thought that he would never have to honour his cynical EU referendum promise, because he had assumed that the Liberal Democrats would hold the balance of power and would refuse to allow the referendum to go ahead. And politicians wonder why most people hold them in contempt!

Until one of the main parties is led by a pro-Brexit politician, Brexit is never likely to be achieved in anything more than name. It is now over 28 years since the Conservative Party was led by a genuinely Eurosceptic Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher and it is surely no coincidence that both she and Iain Duncan Smith were forced out by Tory MPs, whereas disastrous Europhile Prime leaders such as John Major were only removed after catastrophic defeat at the polls.

That is why who replaces Theresa May as Conservative Party Leader is so crucial. I am not a betting man, so I shall leave betting odds to those who know about such things, such as Philip Davies MP, but here is a guide to some of the likely contestants:

- **James Cleverly:** A long-standing Boris supporter and Brexiteer who appears to have 'gone native' as Deputy Chairman of the party. An able speaker and a likeable character, he could be a unity candidate who would transform the party's image. A long shot, but one to watch.
- **Geoffrey Cox QC:** His impressive voice and oratory have won him many admirers. An outsider, but, as a Leave supporter who has been loyal to Theresa May, he could come through as a unity candidate who might be acceptable to people from all sides.
- **David Davis:** It looks as though his time has passed, but his backing could prove influential. If for some reason Boris or Raab fail to stand, he could still be an option.
- **Michael Gove:** As a former Marquess of Salisbury once said of Iain Macleod, 'too clever by half'. There is no doubt about his ability, but grave doubts about his character and trustworthiness. Sustained by Lady McGove's unwavering support, he seems unaware of just how widely disliked he is - especially by grassroots Conservatives. For all his

scheming and plotting, Boris's assassin is unlikely to inherit the crown he covets.

- **Jeremy Hunt:** Like Sajid Javid, a Remainer who now claims to have accepted Brexit, but voted for Chequers etc. He demonstrated resilience and staying power as Health Secretary and has made an impressive start at the Foreign Office, but will Conservative Party grassroots members want yet another self-styled Eurosceptic with a long record which suggests nothing of the kind?
- **Sajid Javid:** Intelligent and able and has performed better at the Home Office than most of his predecessors. Although he accepted the referendum result, he backed the Chequers sell-out. Ambitious but an uninspiring speaker and media performer, lacking charisma. His closeness to George Osborne may damage his chances and, as one of the front runners he is now being subjected to anonymous negative briefings in the media.
- **Boris Johnson:** the frontrunner and people's favourite, Boris has the charisma, intelligence and ability for the job, but he knows that the frontrunner very rarely wins a political leadership contest. Like many a frontrunner in the past, Boris has, by dint of that position, acquired many enemies. Not only are most Conservative Party MPs jealous of his wit and ability to pull crowds, but, even more so, they seethe with jealousy over the amount of money he earns from his brilliantly written *Daily Telegraph* column. Added to that, of course, is the campaign of personal vilification that has been waged against him relentlessly by the pro-EU establishment, not least the Remoaners at Lord Rothermere's Europhile *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday*. Boris's main problem will be trying to be one of the two names selected by MPs to be put to the grassroots members. Like IDS before him, he does not need to be ahead at that stage in order to win the most votes from the grassroots. He will need to be on his mettle to try to prevent being edged out by the sort of tactical voting that Nick Boles was caught trying to promote last time round.
- **Theresa May:** do not take it for granted that the Prime Minister, who is nothing if not resilient, refuses to budge. She is already secure from a leadership challenge for nearly a year and her 'promise' not to try to lead the Tories into the next general election were made under duress and should, in any case, be treated, like any politician's promise, as worthless. If she can bring about some form of Brexit on 29th March it is very likely that she will, as Margaret Thatcher once said, try to go 'on and on'. She will be backed in that by all her No. 10 staff because the likes of Gavin Barwell, her Chief of Staff, who has given her such disastrous advice, will know that they will be out on the street if their boss quits. I have always been of the opinion that, metaphorically speaking, she is only likely to be removed with the aid of a flamethrower.
- **Esther McVey:** An outsider but might stand to put down a marker for the future. Would make a refreshing change from most previous Conservative Party leaders.
- **Penny Mordaunt:** A genuine Brexiteer who has refrained from resigning in protest at Brexit sell-outs, she may still have an outside chance in a leadership contest, but looks more likely to fail to win support from either main wing of the party's MPs. A robust character with an interesting CV, she could yet be the dark horse in any contest.
- **Priti Patel:** A rank outsider but might come into play if other genuine Brexiteer candidates fail to materialise or fall by the wayside.
- **Dominic Raab:** By first accepting and then resigning from the Brexit Secretaryship, Dom Raab both raised his profile and reinforced his genuine pro-Brexit credentials. The likelihood is that MPs will put to the grassroots one Remainer (or, more likely, a Remainer posing as a Brexiteer) and one genuine Brexiteer. Given the devious nature of

many Tory MPs, there are likely to be moves by some Remainers to try to stop Boris's name going to the grassroots; Raab could benefit from such low tactics, but, in any event, there is no doubt that he is a man of ability and integrity with the qualities to be a successful Prime Minister. Steve Baker MP has, very sensibly, suggested that pro-Brexit MPs should hold a preliminary hustings and then support whichever pro-Brexit candidate receives the most votes. It is highly unlikely that Eurosceptic MPs will do anything so sensible, but there is a first time for everything!

- **Jacob Rees-Mogg:** Even more than Boris, he would be the 'people's favourite'. A genuine Conservative and Brexiteer of intelligence, wit and charm, he has all the qualities to make a great Prime Minister, but, having been kept out of office by the Europhile cabal running the party, it might be difficult for him to take over as Prime Minister without having first been a minister, though - as with Corbyn - that would also make it hard for his opponents to pin government failures on him. Unlikely to stand unless Boris or perhaps Dominic Raab decide not to. As Mark Wallace has suggested, he could be the kingmaker and could well emerge as Chancellor.
- **Amber Rudd:** Although much attention is given to the small size of her majority in Hastings, a greater problem might be that she does not appear to have ever said or done anything genuinely Conservative that might distinguish her from a Blairite member of the Labour Party. Like her brother, the leading Remain campaigner, Roland Rudd, she is a fanatical supporter of the EU. She could well get into the final two put to grassroots members, but it is hard to see her going any further.
- **Liz Truss:** This former Liberal Democrat is one of very few Cabinet Ministers who supports market solutions, and she has been an effective critic of her boss, Philip Hammond. Too little support to become leader, but she might be a candidate for Chancellor.
- **Tom Tugendhat:** A Europhile untainted by government office. As a former army officer he might appeal beyond core Tory Reform Group left-wingers, but unlikely to get far at this stage. Might be a more serious candidate next time around.
- **Gavin Williamson:** Does not want for ruthlessness or ambition, but has made enemies in doing so. Despite being more supportive of defence than predecessors such as Philip Hammond, he has failed to convince that he is ready to be Prime Minister. One of many ministers who has made pro-Brexit noises of late, without any record of actually standing up for it at key moments.

There will almost certainly be other candidates, keen to raise their profile or to 'lay down a marker' for the future, but it's hard to see anybody not listed above making any serious headway.

My predictions? Conservative MPs are a notoriously slippery and unpredictable lot and so much depends on timing, but, if pressed, I think that the final two will be Hunt or Javid v. Boris or Raab. There's no guarantee that grassroots members will vote for a Brexiteer (after all, they voted for Cameron over Davis), but the likelihood is that they will.

Simon Richards

A site for your eyes: <https://leaversofbritain.co.uk/>

Leavers of Britain (LofB) is an online and offline community bringing like-minded people together across the UK. It believes in a clean Brexit, one that means the UK controls its own laws, money and borders.

Simply Simon

VISITING Strasbourg to carry out a recce for our ‘Farewell to the EU’ trip in March I came upon the sad sight of a mass of floral tributes and candles laid in memory of the five people murdered by a Muslim terrorist in the city’s Christmas market. The main site of these tributes was a statue (right) to a brilliant Napoleonic general, Jean-Baptiste Kléber, in the city’s largest square, named after him. Kléber was himself murdered by a young Muslim student in Cairo. Presumably, those who picked this spot to leave their tributes, had done so for a reason.



STRASBOURG hospital has a most unusual feature. It contains a gigantic wine cellar, which contains enormous barrels of wine (right) - including some dating back for centuries. They are used by local winegrowers to store their products. The wines can all be purchased by the bottle in the shop on site, with a proportion of the proceeds going to the hospital. Now that would be a good way of funding the NHS!



THE giant mural outside Strasbourg’s modern art museum, reading ‘It’s Almost Over Now’ (right) seemed to be carrying a message about the UK’s imminent departure from the EU. Inside was a surprisingly good modern art exhibition with the title, ‘I Want To Break Free’. I did wonder if, perhaps, they had been expecting me! The museum is practically next door to the École nationale d’administration, created by President de Gaulle in 1945 to churn out énarques to run French bureaucracy.



WILLIAM Dartmouth has just updated and re-released his excellent booklet, [The Truth About Trade Outside the EU](#) (right).



It’s well worth reading. The South West of England and Gibraltar MEP makes the case for British free trade post-Brexit.

Using statistical data, four common falsehoods are dispelled, and three clear truths are stated, giving the reader facts not fear, and the reasons why a world of opportunity awaits the United Kingdom after leaving the European Union.

Remainers spread a lot of false information about trade; this booklet will provide you with the latest facts and figures and is attractively illustrated and easy to understand. Call Guy Parfitt on 07526 281670 or 01666 503455 to obtain copies.

The Freedom Association's Eight 'Principles of a Free Society'

1. Individual Freedom
2. Personal and Family Responsibility
3. The Rule of Law
4. Limited Government
5. Free Market Economy
6. National Parliamentary Democracy
7. Strong National Defences
8. A Free Press and other media