

Britain is heading for the rocks – but here is the plan to fix it

Ewen Stewart

In an article entitled “Britain is heading for the rocks – but the good news is here is the plan to fix it” Ewen Stewart writes about the state of the UK economy and where it’s heading – but lays out a plan he crafted with Richard Tice for Reform UK to turn the ship around.

“Britain is in economic crisis. Today’s poor GDP numbers for April should be no surprise but on the back of inflation heading to double digits and petrol close to £2 a litre (£9 a gallon) we should be under no illusions of the scale of the challenge the country faces. The current Government crisis management of short termism, tax, spend and regulate will only exacerbate decline yet further.

What is more while Government blames Russia for this crisis the truth is far more complex. Most of the UK and indeed the West’s problems are self-inflicted and a direct result of multiple policy failures over many years.

Inflation was already becoming a significant issue well before the war in Ukraine. Its root can be directly traced to a decade and more of near zero interest rates, continual and deliberate Quantitative Easing (monetary creation) by the central bank to initially reflate asset prices and then effectively fund lockdown. Add to this a decadent energy security policy de-emphasising proven carbon for unproven and uncertain renewables and the disastrous impact lockdown had on the global supply chain, UK

public sector spending and productivity – together with, let’s call it euphemistically, employees’ individual lifestyle appraisal post-furlough.

Then tragedy in Ukraine leading to the sanctioning of one of the three global paramount oil producers and dominant supplier of EU gas and a the disruption of a major player in the global food chain inevitably has caused severe and potentially growing distress.

Unfortunately UK Governments have taken wrong turn after wrong turn while the remedies offered from Labour or the Liberal Democrats are more extreme variants on the same theme. The decision to lockdown with a cost to the economy, for no good purpose, in excess of £370bn, or to put that in context enough to pay every Briton’s grocery bill for well over 18 months, followed by the subsequent tax raid which is the most severe in magnitude since the war, just as the economy was on a knife edge, was one hundred and eighty degrees the wrong approach.

The proceeds of this tax raid have directly disappeared into a public spending black hole where public sector productivity is now at a 20-year low and contrasts sharply with the productivity gains of the private sector. Unless addressed this has serious negative long-term implications for everyone.

Today the state accounts for virtually half of all UK output. This is

a most unhealthy and tragic statistic as government becomes the central agent of economic activity seriously impacting on the long term growth potential and opportunity of the nation.

This particular Government has created a subsidy culture, where despite labour shortages in key sectors, the number of people on out-of-work benefits has increased since before the lockdown by 1.2 million to one-in-eight of the adult population. This is a vicious negative spiral of despair, lost opportunity and decline. It is not sustainable.

With this backdrop of the lowest decade for economic growth in prospect for 70 years – and not coincidentally the highest tax rate for 70 years – and the highest inflation in 30 years. I with Richard Tice, the leader of Reform UK, published a simple remit of digging ourselves out of this self-inflicted mire ‘Grow our way out of this crisis’....

Our plan is to create a virtuous circle based on trusting the people, growing the private sector but cutting tax and regulation, helping mitigate inflationary pressures through, in the short term, targeted tax cuts aimed at muting inflation and in the longer term through a more balanced energy security policy. Allied to this we urgently need to start the process of re-sizing the scale and scope of the state so that’s its productivity and delivery is manifestly better while becoming far more

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accountable to performance failure.

Our plan is a £74bn tax-cutting stimulus focused on increasing personal income tax allowances for all, scraping VAT on energy bills, scraping environmental levies, cutting VAT and reducing substantially the fuel duty. This plan will stimulate and protect individual and family spending thus helping grow the private sector and in turn generate stronger employment.

Moreso, it will be self-funding within three years. It will be self-funding because it will raise the level of growth in the economy which in turn will stimulate employment and tax receipts and it will be self-funding as it will raise public sector productivity from its current unacceptable level.

We would mandate Government departments to cut One pound in Twenty over a two year period saving the tax payer £55bn. This still leaves spending at substantially higher real levels than just before the lockdown. This is not austerity. This is normality.

To suggest £55bn can't be cut from public spending budgets without impacting service or benefits is delusional. The number employed by

the civil service has increased by a staggering 49,000 over the last two years alone in direct proportion to failing service, track and trace wasted £37bn, HS2 will cost over £100bn. The list goes on. 5% cost savings on average across departments is a very modest target and indeed will still leave public spending in real terms at a substantially higher level than it was at before the lockdown.

Our goals would kick-start the economy. We conservatively estimate they will add around 0.5% to GDP pa and as such will quickly be self-funding. Those who say it can't be done are the ones caught in the current cycle of short term fear and decline. Simply put, tax, regulate and spend is killing the economy, undermining the family unit and is ultimately counter-productive as the golden goose is strangled and with it the tax receipts that pay for public services.

The plan is simply the start. The long term plan for tax rates is to move where possible to zero, 20 / 40. We want to create a framework where long term decisions can be made free of arbitrary political expediency. This will encourage further investment and

prosperity, the very cornerstone of a free society, a virtuous circle.

Naysayers will say it's unaffordable. But the real risk the risk is continuing as we are, taking short term expedient measures to micro manage this crisis or that. We are literally on the road to serfdom where the state controls, regulates and gifts at an arbitrary whim. That is not free society and it is not what I believe the vast majority of the people desire.

We need long term strategic ideas to break the cycle of dependence, despair and decline. Ours are not new ideas. They worked for West Germany after the war, they worked spectacularly for Hong Kong under the tutelage of the British civil servant Sir John James Cowperthwaite, they worked for failing Britain in the 1980's and the worked for eastern Europe post 1991. Our ideas are tried and tested. They work, they liberate and are the cornerstone of a free society.

Source: www.brexit-watch.org

Ewen Stewart is an economist and a director of Global Britain and a co-founder of Brexit-Watch.org.

EDF to be nationalised

France is set to take full control of the debt-laden nuclear power group EDF, prime minister Élisabeth Borne told parliament on the 6th July. She did not give any details, but president Emmanuel Macron said during his re-

election campaign in March of this year that part of the company should be nationalised to bolster French energy independence. EDF has been grappling with debt which further spiked during the energy crisis this

year.

Currently, the UK's need for energy independence is also under scrutiny. Now we will have to wait to hear how this could change the UK's reliance on EDF for new nuclear power plants?

Euro stability

While the UK is worried about sterling we should perhaps consider the problems the euro has.

On the 5th July the euro dropped to its lowest level since 2002 as traders fearing a potential recession rushed into the safety of the dollar. "People want dollars in times of stress and anxiety," said Jane Foley, head of FX

strategy at Rabobank, to the *Financial Times*.

Amid growing energy and food prices inflation in the euro area hit a new high of 8.1 percent in May, the latest OECD figures show.

Furthermore eurozone rules on maximum national debt levels - the stability and growth pact - are no

longer relevant in an era of pandemic, war, and gross inflation, French finance minister Bruno Le Maire told the *Financial Times* in an interview. "The debt rule is obsolete, simply because you have a gap of more than a hundred percentage points between one country and another in the same monetary union," he said.

UK exports to EU

In a recent article by Facts4EU, they point out that while the UK can't export EU's illegal migrants, they have increased exports of goods to the EU instead.

Global Britain continues to sell more to the EU and more to the world.

The latest trade figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show Global Britain forging ahead in its exports of goods.

The UK has been unable to return the EU's illegal migrants to them, as France refuses to take them back. Thanks to the European judges sitting in Strasbourg recently, readers will also know that they have banned the UK's export of the EU's illegal migrants to Rwanda instead.

Nevertheless, British companies have steadily been increasing exports of another kind – goods.

Global Britain is at least exporting goods to the EU – in record numbers

Within all the numbers, the value of goods exports to the EU are extraordinary.

“EU exports have increased for the third consecutive month in April 2022 and are at the highest levels since records began.”

ONS, 13th June 2022

Brexit Facts4EU.org - Summary

* Total exports of goods increased by £2.2 billion (7.4%) in April 2022 compared with March 2022

* Exports to EU countries increased by £1.2 billion (8.1%)

* Exports to non-EU countries increased by £0.9 billion (6.5%)

* Exports to the EU are now at the highest levels since records began.

* The UK's exporters have been working hard, despite the EU's efforts

to thwart them.

* Goods exports to the EU reached £16.4 billion in April 2022, their highest level in current prices since the series began in 1997.

In 2020 it was £9 billion

In 2021 it was £8 billion

In 2022 January it was £12 billion

* The media has been full of stories about UK exporters struggling to comply with the onerous and overly-bureaucratic import controls imposed by the EU. Some smaller companies have simply given up the fight and are now reaching out to world markets.

Despite the EU's best efforts, however, Facts4EU.Org's analysis for CIB clearly shows that exports to the EU have been gradually rising since Brexit. In April they rose faster than to the rest of the world and are now at their highest level since records began.

Speaking to former Brexit Minister the Rt Hon David Jones MP said:

“For years, we were told by Remainers that Brexit would be disastrous for British exporters: that we needed to be part of the EU single market if we were not to experience a catastrophic collapse in trade. These new figures show just how wrong the naysayers were.”

“Nimble, innovative British businesses have demonstrated that their world-beating products have a ready market in the EU and in the rest of the world. There is no need to surrender our national independence to trade successfully with our European neighbours - and there never was.”

- The Rt Hon David Jones MP, Deputy Chairman of the ERG and former Brexit Minister, 15th June 2022

What are we selling to the EU?

Exports to EU countries were £1.4 billion higher than exports to non-EU countries in April 2022.

The increases in UK exports to the EU involved an increase in machinery and transport equipment of £0.6 billion and an increase in fuels of £0.5 billion. Part of the latter comprises exports of oil to Ireland. The UK has also continued to import Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from non-EU countries and is increasing exports of gas to continental Europe to fill storage sites.

The total of the UK's goods exports to April 2021 is £321.8 billion. Below in order the UK's top five customers.

USA, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, and France.

Observations

Recent news has been filled with the decision by European judges to overrule the UK's Supreme Court and ban the exportation of the EU's illegal migrants who have crossed the English Channel from France. Unfortunately while the UK has left the EU, it is still subject to the European Convention on Human Rights. This now urgently needs to be addressed by the Government.

Regardless of the illegal migrant crisis.... readers might like to know that the export trade from the UK to the EU - in terms of goods - is going in the opposite direction.

Despite all predictions, the UK's businesses are exporting more to the EU than ever before. These British businesses are also growing their exports to non-EU countries.

Behind every cloud there's a silver lining.

Source: www.Facts4EU.org

Scottish independence

The SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has called for an independence referendum in October 2023!

Meanwhile, Scotland's highest legal authority, lord advocate Dorothy Bain,

has said it may well be unlawful for first minister Nicola Sturgeon to call a second independence referendum without London's blessing. “In the present case, the lord advocate does

not have the necessary degree of confidence [of the legality of the move], Bain said in a letter to the British Supreme Court, according to a report in *The Guardian*.

The UK economic outlook is better than you think

Robert Lee

The UK's current economic problems are serious, but not insurmountable. Here are nine good reasons why the degree of public pessimism is excessive. The UK was the best performing G7 economy in 2021 and after a tough 2022 may be again in 2023.

Depending on which news media you consult and your own biases you are likely to be depressed or *very* depressed about the UK economic outlook. There is no doubting the seriousness of current problems, but public pessimism has become excessive and thus self-defeating. A respectable "quality" daily recently proclaimed that "*The UK Economy Faces Oblivion*". Seriously? To restore some perspective here are key reasons why the current difficulties are far from insurmountable.

1) UK money supply growth has returned to levels consistent with low inflation

This is the most important positive development of recent months, though few economists or commentators refer to it. UK money growth (M4) in the year to April fell to 4.7%, down from the highly inflationary level of 15% reached at end 2020. Money growth is now back to the level that prevailed in 2001-2019, during which inflation averaged around 2.5%. The Bank of England (BoE) is still raising interest rates, and gradually unwinding the Quantitative Easing (QE) programme, so low money growth is likely to continue. Given the powerful long-term relationship between money growth and inflation we can be confident that UK inflation will return to the 2.5% level by 2nd half of 2023. The spectre of sustained high inflation is not going to happen.

2) Energy prices appear to be stabilising

The Brent Crude Oil price peaked at \$124 in early March and has since traded in a \$100-120 range. UK wholesale gas prices peaked at the same time and have since fallen

sharply to levels well below the equivalent EU price. The adage that the "best cure for high prices is high prices" seems to be working its magic. Demand is constrained and new sources of supply appear. UK energy policy has become markedly more pragmatic, with new licenses for oil and gas drilling being granted, a more open-minded approach to shale gas fracking and accelerated investment in appropriate renewable energy sources. Significant global under-investment in fossil fuel production in recent years means it is unlikely that oil prices will sustainably fall below the \$100 level, but the recent trading range might represent a new equilibrium. In time this alone will materially reduce the headline inflation rate.

3) The weak economy and higher interest rates seem to be crushing "Zombie" companies, but quality companies remain confident

The company insolvency rate has been rising sharply in recent months from the pandemic lows when Covid-support measures protected weak companies. More broadly, the very low interest rate environment prevailing since the Global Financial Crisis has kept many fundamentally unsustainable operations – brutally known as "Zombies" – on life support. It seems that merely raising the Bank Rate from 0.25% to 1.25%, combined with a slowing economy, has been enough to push heavily indebted companies over the edge. The insolvency rate will rise considerably further. While distressing for those involved this process is a healthy one overall as resources are shifted to more productive uses, thus raising the economy's potential growth rate. In contrast there are credible reports from specialist investors in quality UK businesses that such companies are continuing to trade well and remain confident in the longer-term outlook.

4) The BoE should be able to finish its rate raising cycle within a few months

It follows from the above that the BoE need not aggressively raise interest rates. The BoE does not pay enough (any?) attention to money growth trends – if it did much of this current spike in inflation could have been avoided – but it is clear from recent statements and actions that it is alert to the danger of overdoing monetary tightening. Alarmist forecasters argue that a return to an historically normal level of interest rates will have devastating consequences for a highly indebted economy. True enough, but the early evidence from the UK – the first major economy to raise rates in this cycle – is that even small rate rises now have powerful monetary and economic effects (could this be a new economic theorem in the making?). Scare stories about the UK economy being crushed by high interest rates are thus implausible. This is a greater danger in the USA, with the Fed seemingly intent on raising rates considerably, even though recent US money growth has been notably weak.

5) A global recession can be avoided

The UK economy is highly dependent on global economic conditions and thus underperforms in synchronised global recessions. Recession risks are highest in the US – due to possible Fed over-tightening – and the EU – as rising bond yields re-ignite its sovereign debt crisis and the consequences of Ukraine war feed through. Indeed, both the US and the EU may already *be* in recession. However, an *overall* global recession is less likely because the inflation spike hitting the West has not occurred in the dynamic Asian region, even though they face the same commodity price and supply chain issues. This is because none of the Asian economies responded to the pandemic by allowing a splurge of money growth. They are thus better able to absorb current global price pressures. A global slowdown but not recession would be a

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relatively favourable outcome for the highly interconnected UK.

6) Free trade talks are progressing well

The UK is the only major economy pursuing multiple free trade deals, a highly positive consequence of Brexit. The UK commentariat persistently underplay the importance of this. Having finalised trade deals with Australia and New Zealand, the UK is in advanced negotiations with the massive Asian trading bloc CTPPP, with India, Canada, and the Gulf Council (UAE, S.Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain). Last month the UK also signed its first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an American state – Indiana – with other MoU's with US states expected in coming months. The states involved are those with dynamic economies, growing populations and pro-free trade attitudes. This is more important than it sounds, because most trade regulatory powers in the US are held at state rather than federal level. This can also be a building block to an eventual US/UK trade agreement at a national level. These deals or negotiations will have limited near term impact but will be an increasingly powerful growth factor in coming years.

7) Regulatory reform is gathering pace

The government has been slow in removing/ amending/replacing unnecessary/inappropriate EU laws post-Brexit. However, the appointment of Jacob Rees Mogg as Brexit Opportunities Minister appears to have shaken the tree, with the need for reform also given new urgency by the energy and food supply crises. Mr Rees Mogg recently unveiled a website detailing all laws inherited from the EU on Brexit day, and subsequent changes. So far about 20% of the 2418 laws have been repealed (196), amended (183), or replaced (33). This pace can be expected to accelerate. It is critical to remember that from that date we stopped adopting new EU laws

(there are a constant stream of such). Over time the divergence will be very significant and to our advantage.

8) The UK's new points-based immigration policy is starting to benefit the economy

Media coverage of the controversial illegal migrant issue has completely overshadowed the fact that the UK's points-based immigration system – only possible because of Brexit – is bedding in well. According to the international jobs website *Indeed* the UK is beginning to benefit from an influx of highly skilled workers from outside the EU – a “brain gain”. The head of Europe research at the firm writes that “*Our analysis suggests that non-European jobseekers are likely to be more highly skilled and therefore interested in higher paying jobs, compared to lower skilled roles European workers have previously taken.... the UK government's post-Brexit immigration system is operating as intended, with new sources of global immigration of greatest benefit to employers in high skills sectors like IT, engineering and finance*”. A significant influx to the UK from Hong Kong in coming years will accentuate this trend. Major economies such as Germany, Italy, and China face the daunting economic and social challenges that result from rapidly ageing populations. The UK (and the US) have notably more favourable demographics.

9) There is no panic in UK financial markets, and Sterling is not “collapsing”

The pessimistic public mood – fuelled by an hysterical media and political class – is *not* shared by either foreign or domestic investors. UK companies are buying back their own shares at a record pace (according to a Montaro Investment presentation) while directors (“insiders”) are also buying heavily. Despite all the bad news the UK FTSE 100 has only fallen 3% since December (thus outperforming the US S&P 500, which has fallen 17% – in line with recession fears outlined

above). The UK 10-yr bond yield briefly rose to a recent peak of over 2.5% before falling back, while the 2-yr yield hovers around 2%. It is more than 6 months since the BoE ended its bond purchases, so this is no longer a distorted market. These bond yields are in line with my relatively sanguine views on UK inflation and interest rates. There are regular headlines about the “collapse” of Sterling – one article even described the fall in Sterling as “epic”. This is unadulterated rubbish. The Pound has fallen against the US\$, but so has just about every world currency. On a trade-weighted basis Sterling has fallen a trivial 4% so far this year and has been remarkably stable in the six years following the Brexit referendum. The UK continues to attract significantly more foreign investment than any major EU economy, attracted by the UK's greater adaptability and strengths in leading edge research and technology.

Outlook

A recent OECD forecast attracted a lot of publicity with its view that the UK would be the worst performing economy in the G7 in 2022/23. The OECD has consistently produced gloomy but wrong forecasts for the UK since Brexit. The UK's growth rate of 7.4% was the highest in the G7 in 2021, compared to 2.8% in Germany and 1.6% in Japan. The UK may or may not experience a technical recession – two successive quarters of negative growth – in 2022 but it will clearly be a tough year. However, I am confident that it will not have the weakest growth in the G7. In contrast to the OECD, I fully expect the UK to be close to if not *the* best performer in 2023.

Source:

www.briefingsforbritain.co.uk

Robert Lee, Former chief economist, Board of Executors (South Africa).

Critical race theory should not be above criticism

Christina Jordon

There is, in our country, a rather unhealthy obsession with race and colour. We have allowed self-appointed racial guardians (under the guise of diversity and racial literacy consultants) to push noisily an inconsistent, illogical and divisive ideology while the rest of us keep our heads down, mind our Ps and Qs and work long hours.

However much we try, there is just no escaping them or their censure. With their unwavering devotion to Critical Race Theory (CRT), these newly-minted 'anti-racists' are causing harm to race relations in the UK. Challenging their contested beliefs can get you sacked, all while they earn a pretty penny preaching to the converted. It is they, and they alone, who have the monopoly on anti-racism. Pretty impressive going for a relatively new outfit. Who knew there would be so many gullible participants in the victimhood and grievance charade?

It is my firm belief that CRT is flawed. It takes advantage of guilt and teaches that racism is ingrained in 'white psyche'. It ignores the fact that oppression is not limited to Whites but is a historic and fundamentally human problem. Advocates of CRT-based approaches have, by their own estimation, seen the light and, if you do not see it too, you can bet you will be labelled as 'part of the problem'.

Critical Race Theory does not promote integration or cohesion or any sort of coming together based on common shared values and principles. Critics, afraid to challenge the doctrine for fear of losing their jobs, sit obediently at mandatory 'Diversity and Inclusivity' training sessions, seminars and webinars about 'checking their white privilege and becoming allies in the ongoing battle against the pervasive forces of white supremacy'. They have to bite their tongue while

blame is heaped upon them for acts they have not committed and offences they have never caused.

Kemi Badenoch warned last year that beliefs informed by the overarching ideology of CRT must not be presented to school children as uncontested fact. Unfortunately, cult-like followers of the with-us-or-against-us racial justice activists have not taken heed of her warning. As the campaign work of *Don't Divide Us* has shown, CRT is still being presented as an indisputable fact in Brighton and Hove schools as well as schools in cities and towns across the UK. It has even been introduced at nursery level education!

'White privilege', 'unconscious bias' and 'systemic racism' are just some of the abstract ideological concepts which form the basis of the majority of the diversity training that is offered to employees across the UK, in both public and private sectors. But what happens when your employer effectively mandates that your unquestioning acceptance of a dubious set of abstract concepts about race and privilege is one of the conditions of remaining employed? Is it even acceptable or legal for an employer to follow a specific roadmap on race relations whilst openly dismissing other viewpoints, or approaches, as *de facto* racist?

One of the most long established and enduring approaches to race relations that stands in opposition to a CRT-based system is colour blindness. Indeed much of CRT-based 'enlightenment' openly dismisses the desire to treat people of different groups the same. Instead, they will tell you that white supremacy is pervasive in every UK system and institution and, if you are not proactively hash tagging about it on Twitter, you are guilty by virtue of your inaction.

Silence is violence is not just a

slogan. This lot really mean it.

If you are White and you dare challenge this, they will tell you that you are displaying white fragility. Is it any wonder that many of us, whatever our colour or ethnicity, are annoyed and exasperated when we come across cases like that of Mr Simon Isherwood who was dismissed by West Midland Trains for what has been described as 'gross misconduct'. During a voluntary webinar on Diversity, Mr Isherwood is alleged to have made comments critical of white privilege. Apparently, the comments were directed at a family member but were allegedly overheard by his fellow employees because his microphone had been left on.

In a sign of our times, when employers push unproven ideology and unsubstantiated data about race and victimhood onto independent-minded employees who question the imposition of imported dogma in the work place, the employees risk facing dismissal for 'causing offence'. The feelings of the person who was 'offended', it seems, trump the livelihood of the one who has the temerity to challenge a crazy, racial justice doctrine jet-streamed over to the UK from across the pond.

We need to be clear about this. CRT is an American battle. It is not our fight. We have our own approaches to integration and race relations. There is nothing more British than standing up to, and confronting, racism, prejudice and discrimination.

With allies by our side, our country has gone to war to uphold our values and rescue the persecuted. There is no call for zealots to preach to us about tolerance, common decency, respect or morality. So why on earth do we allow diversity officers and shouty activists to import this divisive, counter-productive, hotly contested ideology,

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Critical race theory should not be above criticism

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unchallenged, into our public and private institutions and our lives?

The UK is a model of integration and social cohesion. We do not need lessons from other countries or their

activists.

Christina Jordan was born in Malaysia. She arrived in the UK in 1985, trained and worked as a registered general nurse before

working for British Airways as cabin crew in the nineties. In 2019 she came out of retirement to be elected as a Brexit Party MEP for South West England. She is married and has two grown-up children.

Energy security

Michael Wood

There are still areas of our lives that have not benefited from the people's decision to choose independence from the EU. The unfinished business is harming our country and its future. One aspect of government policy that it shares with the EU, is the Green agenda drive to Net Zero. How a small island off the coast of Eurasia became a world superpower has been written about and debated for hundreds of years. Apart from the creativity and ingenuity of the people, one element stands out. Energy Independence.

Arguably, the world was little changed for millennia. Life depended on seasons and the seasonal availability of food and fuel. Life for most, changed little as energy depended on wood, horses, cattle and man power. Wind power for sailing ships is an ancient use. Not until the 9th century was wind used industrially to produce flour and irrigate crops. Developed in Iran and Afghanistan the technology did not reach Europe until the 12 century. Apart from the end of Serfdom a British person of the 17th century faced much the same life challenges as their forbears.

Coal changed everything. Economist William Jevons in his 1865 enquiry into Britain's dependence on coal was in no doubt that it was the use of coal that had ended what he termed the 'laborious poverty of early times'. A reliable non seasonal energy that powered machines broke the old cycle. Free from the famines that had suppressed population, the population of Britain grew dramatically. From an

estimated 5.5 million in 1695 it grew to 9.3 million in 1801 and to 15.9 million in 1841. A growth of 60% in 40 years. Despite overcrowding in cities, there was an increase in life expectancy, an improvement in health due to reliable food supplies and improved sanitation.

The Industrial revolution was made possible because of coal. Its most enduring legacy, in my view, is the middle class. Industrial society freed people from dependence on the vagaries of the weather. It allowed an upward mobility in society and access to the comfort associated with progress. This was widely spread as one can judge from the observations by 18th century English travellers in Europe on the rarity of glass windows. The agriculturist Arthur Young wrote 'Pass an extraordinary spectacle for English eyes, of many houses too good to be called cottages, without any glass windows'. Britain's reliable energy meant cheaper glass, wider availability.

British manufacture and invention opened a new world. It was a world of possibility. Of a self-belief and willingness to experiment that seems sadly lacking today. Isambard Kingdom Brunel inherited the fruits of the first Industrial Revolution. Used them and drove the process unrelentingly forward..... Brexit should release a renaissance in British engineering and manufacture. Government hesitancy and high energy costs conspire to thwart that ambition.

The terrible events currently unfolding in Europe are a timely reminder of the need for energy independence. The EU is reliant on an

unreliable source. Its Green agenda compounds the problem. We do not have to suffer the same fate.

The refusal by our government to use our own resources is beyond comprehension. Apparently, the line is that Fracking will not help the immediate situation. That kind of thinking, applied to our past would have seen us stuck in a pre-industrial agrarian world of famine and disease. The anarchist founders of the Green agenda claim their aim, is precisely that..... The concept is frightening.

British prosperity, the industrial revolution, universal suffrage, freedom itself were possible only because we were energy self-sufficient. We can be again. Our reserves of natural gas are sufficient for centuries. All it needs is the courage to face down a noisy minority of ill-informed eco cultists. Denying the British people the benefit of their own resources is only helping those who wish us harm. We expect our government to lead, to protect and further our interests. We invented Nuclear Power for energy. Shamefully, we now rely on foreign companies to build power stations. Rolls Royce's Small Modular Power stations offer the way back to our previous independence. Fracking, will provide the breathing space, the energy certainty and affordability that we need. The governments failure to seize the opportunities of Brexit are desperately disappointing. Refusal to use our own resources would be a catastrophic act of self harm.....

Source: www.brugesgroup.com

EU transparency

Elena Sáchez Nicolás

The European Commission has been unable to find the text messages exchanged between president Ursula von der Leyen and the boss of giant pharmaceutical company Pfizer, the EU executive said in a letter to the EU ombudsman published on Wednesday the 29th June.

Last year, the *New York Times* first revealed that von der Leyen and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla had been exchanging texts and calls for months to seal a deal for 1.8 billion doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine.

The messages were then requested by journalist Alexander Fanta of news site netzpolitik.org, given the importance of the deal.

But the commission's refusal to grant access to these communications prompted the EU ombudsman Emily O'Reilly to criticise how the commission handled this freedom of information request.

Earlier this year, O'Reilly found that the commission staff had never explicitly asked the president's office to look for the text messages - calling

on the EU executive to do a more exhaustive search.

The commission now says that it is unable to find such messages, but it previously argued that this type of "short-lived and ephemeral" communications do not fall under the scope of EU transparency rules on access to documents.

"The commission can confirm that the search undertaken by the President's cabinet for relevant text messages corresponding to the request for access to documents has not yielded any results," the EU transparency commissioner Vera Jourova said in the letter to the ombudsman.

The commission's response has been slammed by the ombudsman's office as "problematic" - with a full analysis expected to be published in the coming weeks.

In its response, the commission also says that it is considering recommending its staff not to use messaging apps in business context - which would, as a result, eliminate the need to keep a record of such instant

communications.

Nevertheless, the lack of transparency surrounding these texts has triggered outrage among MEPs and civil society organisations - who criticised the commission for using tricks to avoid accountability.

Belgian socialist MEP Kathleen Van Brempt, who chairs the parliament's special committee on Covid-19, deemed the commission response as "unacceptable".

"The complete lack of transparency benefits the industry, not the European citizens," she tweeted.

The campaign SumOfUs has collected nearly 130,000 signatures in the EU to ask von der Leyen to publish the text messages.

Meanwhile, MEPs have been calling on the commission to reveal information on vaccine prices, since only a small group of lawmakers had access to heavily-redacted versions of the contracts.

Source: www.euobserver.com

First lobsters released by Whitby Hatchery

While we hear about doom and gloom, at last some good news for fisheries.

The Whitby Lobster Hatchery is celebrating after releasing its first batch of juvenile lobsters. A project aiming to release 100,000 juvenile lobsters each year has released its first batch into the sea near Whitby, reports Paul Scott. The Hatchery kick-started its campaign with the initial release of 50 juvenile lobsters at Saltwick Bay....

The charity says that the project aims to 'ensure a healthy marine environment and a protected and sustainable fishing community for future generations'.

Councillor Linda Wild, mayor of Whitby, said the release was even more important following the recent incidents of dead crustaceans washing up along the North East coast. "It's just the right time for our release of the

juvenile lobster," she said.

Calling the crustacean deaths 'a disaster that has unfolded on our coast', she said that moving forward, the hatchery 'will help to replenish the seas with lobster for the future'.

Rearing juvenile lobster in the hatchery ensures a higher level of early life survival. The lobsters are released into the sea once they pass their vulnerable larval stage....

Thousands of juvenile lobsters will be released in the coming years to help sustain our fishery. Our project, in which we envisaged replacing each lobster caught by a fisherman, is finally underway."

The charity is aiming to have the full hatchery equipment installed later this summer, which will allow it to release many more juvenile lobsters over the coming years.

"I could not be more proud to see

the efforts of so many people finally start to see some reward for all their work," said Terry Pearson. "Customers are now, more than ever, questioning whether the foods they purchase are sustainable. This is certainly a huge step in the right direction."

The charity is hoping to raise £10,000 towards the hatchery equipment needed to kick-start the full juvenile rearing programme.

Whitby Lobster Hatchery general manager Joe Redfern said: "What a great achievement. We are so close to having the full hatchery installed, with the aim to release 100,000 juveniles each year. This first release of the juvenile lobsters is a massively symbolic step for the future....

Source: www.fishingnews.co.uk

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: info@junepress.com

Trust

Dear Sir,

Some sense in the recent letters in *euofacts*, but sad to see that one or two contributors of main themes, support the evil from the US 'Democrats' and NATO [turned from its origins now into the North Atlantic Terrorist Organisation!] Driven by the WEF/UN/WHO cabal, it is through the fake President Biden, demanding that all nations attack Russia. This expansionist policy takes no account of the installation of a puppet 'Leader' by Washington, after the 2014 'Maiden Coup' illegally replacing the democratically formed previous government with one controlled by America.

The installation of Bio-labs, funded by the US, very close to the Russian border, as well as missile bases elsewhere, broke a treaty agreement which Vlad Putin warned about and in the 8 years since that 2014 has made it clear several times, that if 'Western expansion' events continued he would be forced to react.

Instead of taking notice, the West, led by the US prompted 'President' [a former stand-up comic!] constantly insulted Putin, who at the same time was receiving appeals from the centuries-old established Russian population in Ukraine, to come to their aid as the new 'Azov' Battalions of the expanded Nazi Ukrainian military, were picking off Russian-oriented civilians at will; close to 14,000 have been murdered since 2014 and he was determined to stop that continuing. The West goaded by America, has with the aid of a suborned media, Monstered Putin, who has done nothing wrong in coming to the aid of his people. Those Azov militarised Nazis have caused wanton destruction against their own people. All this has been twisted with half truths to heap hate onto Russia and unbelievably, we are giving aid to a savage 'Hitler-based' genocidal state, encouraged by the EU who were

set up by the machinations of Klaus Schwab & other WEF members, helped by the CIA [Ref. Operation Paper-clip']. Though non-existent as recognisable organisations at the time, they turned peaceful bodies such as the UN, previously 'The League Of Nations', into vehicles of aggression to feed corporate greed. The Biden family, Obama and many others have been vastly enriching themselves on the wealth in Ukraine; now they see the opportunity for world control by stimulating conflict, if Putin can be goaded into a wider war, it will serve their Global Genocide objective well, ducking the blame, while spreading needless fear and injecting the world's population with poison. Johnson's father was a great Eugenics enthusiast, along with the Gates family, writing books on what was to happen in 2013-2015 ['Virus', pub. May 2015] on what was to occur, so no surprise that our 'government' is in their thrall, supported by a sensationalist, suborned MSM.

JOHN BARRINGTON-SEARS
Essex

Leadership

Dear Sir,

The Conservative party has at last done the decent thing by calling for and obtaining the removal of Boris Johnson as leader and prime minister. At the time of writing this letter over 10 MP's were putting their names forward to replace him. The party will reduce that to two names before putting the issue to the full members of the party.

I hope that they conduct this leadership challenge quickly and honestly in order for a new Prime Minister to be elected before the party conference in October. Better still by late August or early September.

The sooner the party moves on and gets back to true conservative values the better for this country and the hard pressed tax payers'.

I for one would like to see a women

leader with a vision and understanding of how political decisions affect the lives of the average citizen.

DOROTHY RENOLDS
London

Border controls

Dear Sir,

I was heartened to hear about a recent report, that referred to the EU's border police Europol, having made 39 arrests in a migrant-smuggling network. "This criminal group is suspected of smuggling Middle-Eastern and East African irregular migrants from France to the UK with the use of small boats," said Europol, in a statement.

Let's hope this is the beginning of real action! The network was taken down by police from Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands and the United Kingdom in an operation coordinated by Europol and Eurojust.

SIMON DALLEY
Yorkshire

Governance

Dear Sir,

We left the EU so that we could return to being a sovereign independent country. It follows therefore, that the highest court in the UK should have jurisdiction over our lives and values.

The United Nations Refugee court UNCHR has many good and important values in terms of human rights, but here in the UK we should withdraw from it. Clearly it would be better for us to have our own system, incorporating immediately all the necessary UNCHR rules and values, but having the UK court to be the final arbiter and not a foreign organisation.

The UNCHR was set up many years ago and requires updating to fit into the world we now live in, especially in the area of people who deliberately put their lives at risk with the object of obtaining access into another country.

PAUL STEVENS
Coventry

LETTERS

Tel: 08456 120 175 email: info@junepress.com

Universal help

Dear Editor,

The Government is rightly concerned about those on benefit and struggling ...but seems to forget about those on the margin and thus ineligible but also struggling. Who can blame them if they are a bit resentful when their neighbour, after special hand-outs, is better off than they are. Some are "Copers and some are non-Copers" as Keith Joseph put it. So it does make sense and is more fair when Government subsidies' are universal - like cutting VAT on fuel. It would be helpful if the Government sometimes sang the praises of those trying to manage ...getting up early to give their Kids Breakfast.

LORD VINSON

London

America v Russia in Ukraine

Dear Sir,

When American foreign policy is dictated to spreading Democracy, the targetted outcome is bloody chaos and destruction. Moreover, democracy in American terms entails regime change in targetted countries and the imposition of puppet government which is thereafter completely subservient to America.

When in 2013, the democratic government in Ukraine lead by Yanukovic, was hounded out of office by armed Ukrainian thugs of the Red Sector, it was portrayed in the West as a spontaneous uprising against the government. Much blood was spilled in the streets of the capital Kiev. Ominously, America's deputy foreign minister, Victoria Nuland, appeared in the street with the rioters, handing out food and encouragement. America also pledged \$5 million to the new regime. The illegal imposition of the coup resulted in the Russian speaking Eastern provinces of Luhansk and Donetsk declaring themselves autonomous states by an

overwhelming vote. Those two provinces regarded Russia as their ethnic brothers and had no desire to join the EU as Ukraine wished to do or to become eventual members of NATO. Moreover, they had total objection to being a part of the American imposed regime in Kiev.

Immediately, after their declaration of autonomy, these two provinces were attacked and for nine years have suffered the destruction of war and loss of life. Many thousands of their citizens have fled across the border to their neighbours Russia. The democratic rights of the two breakaway regions were denied democratic choice. In truth therefore, the present war against Russia was started by America behind the scenes with Ukrainians doing the fighting and dying and as with numerous previous American coups, destruction and huge civilian casualties ensued. America has long used private armies to do the fighting and dying to reduce the number of American soldiers returning home in body bags.

America, having a suborned media worldwide, presents the violent conflagration as Russian aggression against Ukraine and the puppet Ukrainian leader, a hero. America and its subordinate Western countries have given the Ukrainian military the most modern weapons and huge sums of money. Meanwhile, in obedience to America's aim of world domination, an enlarged NATO has advanced upon Russia, borders...in total disregard of the agreement between the former Russian leader Gorbachev and the American Secretary of State Baker some years ago. These NATO countries are supplying the modern weapons of war whilst Ukrainians are doing the fighting and dying.

Russia had often told America that if NATO advanced to the Russian border, they would cross a red line which Russian security could not permit. America's total disregard of this red line constitutes the imminent threat of

a much wider conflict involving all the countries of Europe, hapless mercenaries of America.

The war has transformed NATO's role as a defence alliance against the USSR which no longer exists, into an aggressive force which is camped on Russia's border. This aggressive alliance of NATO members, has recruited every European nation despite the numerous Russian protests that such advances would necessitate a strong Russian reaction. The outcome of the present hostilities suggest that a much greater conflict with catastrophic results is possible if not probable, presuming America's aim of world domination and Russia's resistance.

MATTHEW HENDERSON

Glasgow

Royal interference

Dear Sir,

I have been alarmed at the recent speeches made by Prince Charles regarding his interference in political issues and his clear attempt to influence the agenda for UK parliament to pursue.

The Queen has always correctly kept out of the political actions and agenda of her government. Only reading the statements of her government at the opening of parliament. The heir to the throne Prince Charles on the other hand appears to be intent on taking charge of the political direction and agenda of the government. Constitutionally this is not permitted and should he continue in this vein he will be unable to take on the role of King of the UK and the Head of the Commonwealth.

He has recently taken on engagements on behalf of the Queen, in this role he has proved that he has the ability. Now he has to prove that he has the respect and dignity of the office or like Boris Johnson he will be unable to continue.

MANDY MATHEWS

London

MEETINGS

This year due to the ongoing Covid crisis some of the meetings might well be held both in person (where the wearing of face masks may be recommended) and virtual on line, please check before attending.

Liberal Democrats

Autumn Party Conference

17th - 20th September

Brighton

Labour Party

Autumn Conference

25th - 28th September

Liverpool

The Green Party

Autumn Conference

30th September - 2nd October

Harrogate Convention Centre

Conservative Party

Autumn Conference

2nd - 5th October

Birmingham

The Reform Party

Autumn Conference

Date & Venue to be announced

The UK Independence Party

Autumn Conference

Date & Venue to be announced

FREE

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DIARY OF EVENTS

UK Parliament **21st July**
Summer Recess Starts

Conservative **5th September**
Leadership announcement due

UK Parliament **5th September**
Summer Recess Ends

UK Parliament **15th September**
Conference Season Recess Starts

UK Parliament **10th October**
Conference Recess Ends

2023

Sweden takes over **1st January**
EU Council Presidency

Spain takes over **1st July**
EU Council Presidency

2024

Belgium takes over **1st January**
EU Council Presidency

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www.junepress.com

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www.eurosafeguards.com

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www.leavemeansleave.eu

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www.newalliance.org.uk

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www.policyexchange.org.uk

The Reform Party

www.reformparty.uk

The Red Cell (Think tank)

www.theredcell.co.uk

Stawatch

www.stawatch.org

The Taxpayers' Alliance

www.taxpayersalliance.com

United Kingdom Independence Party

www.ukip.org

Veterans For Britain

<http://www.veteransforbritain.uk>

Wishing you a happy summer recess.

The next *eurofacts* will be on the 9th September.

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