



The UK Independence Party

Let's get our Country Back!

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Another Two Months, Another Newsletter! What to include in it is a major problem for me. So much has taken place since our last offering, and so much is threatened. How to condense all of it into two side of A4 is a real challenge. Major stories present themselves daily. However I am breaking with my tradition this time. One item appears to be of such major importance that I have included it on a separate sheet.

An appeal: A number of you have computers, about half of those agreeing to receive these newsletters in that way. Thank you for that. This helps to keep down our costs [no ink/paper/stamp] which will in turn aid our election chances [more funds for election expenses etc] So if you have a current email address and I do not appear to be using it, do please let me have it! Additionally, I continually receive an amount of very relevant and interesting emails. If you would like to receive some of these to keep yourself up-to-date please email me @ the 'john' address below. A further point: with limited computer knowledge you can access a wealth of internet information via your local library. Why not get someone to show you how to do it, maybe at a First-Thursdays? It will open up millions of articles to your gaze. There is much to be found on UKIP's own sites.

Our First-Thursdays continue but would benefit from new blood! So do come and swell the numbers, I am sure you would enjoy it. Eat [optional] and/or drink in warm & convivial surroundings. Always 7.30 onwards @ The Charlton Inn, Bournemouth Rd, Charlton Marshall, just south of Blandford Forum. Make it a date for the first Thursday in every month. Next three are :- 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May. NB: no fixed time – to suit you.

The pensions crisis throughout Europe may not be as bad as previously thought, according to EU monetary affairs Commissioner Joaquin Almunia!!! Would this be anything to do with the £600 Billion of British pensions being absorbed into the European pot, the extra years Brits are going to work prior to retirement and the £100billion of private pension funds [inc probable interest] taken by Brown since his 'modernisation'???

Last summer I noticed an advert in *the Times* for a new BMW car that had the capability to be left or right hand drive. This had been developed as a result of an EU directive banning RHD cars from mainland Europe as from the end of 2007. From that date, anyone in GB going to mainland continent by motor vehicle [including lorries] would have to drive a LHD vehicle. Thus all British hauliers now have the added expense of purchasing LHD cabs and no doubt holiday makers will have to hire suitable cars or motor-caravans. I wonder whether our government will similarly ban LHD vehicles on our roads? Fat chance! We shall soon, no doubt, have an announcement on the date we will adopt LHD motoring in the UK. Yet more unnecessary expense inflicted upon us by the EU in the name of modernisation.

We have just experienced another by-election, this time in Dunfermline Fife. UKIP were represented but unsuccessful! However the result was a major blow to Labour, especially as Gordon Brown lived in the constituency. The 14,000 or so swing to the leaderless Lib-Dems, ousting Labour, shows what the people think of our esteemed government. With Labour and Blair at an all time low, what happens? GB, that is Brown, suddenly smiles as he has never done before and becomes joint PM! Will this sham be successful? No doubt it will fool many into thinking Labour are yet again reborn and to be trusted. The wise will know better, but we would not have voted for him in the first place!

January 19th marked a change in the status of the EU Rapid Reaction Forces which are based in Italy, Spain, France, Holland and Portugal. Apparently set up some 5 years to sort out problems outside the EU, it now has the power to act within Britain. One wonders what sort of incident would cause them to do so. Would Great Britain pulling out of the EU be a suitable candidate for their attentions?

Changes have been made to the requirements of behaviour of MEPs within their parliament. Now they are no longer allowed to heckle or protest verbally. How else can they show their displeasure at the insulting rubbish they have to put up with day in day out? Another avenue of protest shackled and gagged.

Did you Know? :

When the New Labour government abolished maintenance-grants and tuition-grants for students, it did so

because of forthcoming E.U. legislation which would have obliged the U.K. to extend these benefits to every student in the E.U.. This would have been very expensive, so our own students were hung out to dry because of another one size fits all directive. How is it that Education is one of the disciplines in which the EU is not meant to have any competence ?[Possibly in more ways than one!]

A spot of advertising – Date: Sat 25th March – Venue: Great Hall, Exeter University - Event: South West UKIP Rally. If you enjoy the speeches, meeting the personalities, now is your opportunity to attend. The event is free, but as it costs a large sum to put on, donations would be favourably viewed! It is best to arrange tickets in advance to avoid disappointment or a rucker scrum at the entrance on the day.

Whilst on the subject of advertising, please note that our annual AGM is to be held in the Town Hall, Blandford Forum on Saturday 29th April at 11am . Please see the enclosed formal notice. Your chance to meet the committee, even to become a member of it! If you think you can help, [and I desperately would love some help!] please see the notes about standing for the committee at the foot of the notice.

An element of good news from a lesser known but now important part of the EU. You may not know that before the recent smoking ban, snuff-taking was made illegal within the EU. Sweden for some reason was exempted. However the small island of Aaland, which is a self-governing part of Finland [similar status to the Isle of Man], is Swedish speaking and thus is claiming a similar exemption. Happily, they feel very strongly about this and have threatened to leave the EU over it. We hope they carry out their threat and wish them well. Perhaps we should holiday there and encourage them! Could it be a case of David and Goliath?

Sadly Bird Flu appears to be on its way. An incredible number of birds may die. Financially, the EU has an emergency fund for such occasions. However the compensation paid to the UK for Foot and Mouth was £349 million, the total needed was £948 million. You've guessed it, the British taxpayer had to cough up the remaining £600 million. Oh, France is reported as having already applied for financial compensation for the bird flu – so it looks like we are about to cough up more, regardless of whether our birds are affected. A government advisor also stated that British free-range chickens should be housed indoors for five years or more. Something else to import from the less stringent Europe?

On the 1st of February 2006 the European Commission adopted a White Paper on European Communication policy on how to 'close the gap between the EU and its citizens.' You can find out more by going to the special multi-lingual website – <http://europa.eu.int/communication-white-paper/index-en> or writing to **EU Communication White paper Consultation, European Commission, Directorate General Communication, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium.** Not enough space to go into it here.

Other motoring issues:- a new law introduced “to reduce terrorism and organised crime”, requires that any car that is off-road must have insurance as well as being sorned. A pointless law that if ignored could cost £275 and the loss of your car. “To reduce terrorism and organised crime?” How? On a similar point, motorways are now being equipped, eventually within 2 yrs, every 400 meters with what are effectively barcode readers. This will establish whether the car is 100% legal, help with the new road charging of motorists, replace speed cameras and also help with the identification of the driver. This info will be kept for at least 2 yrs and will be available Europe-wide. In other words, your every move is being recorded. Not a police state then!

The briefest mention only of the Islamic problem – Would it be true to say that the destruction of mosques in Iraq is in part the outcome of their overreaction to minor issues? Enough said!

Not strictly an EU item at present – but beware of Russia and Iran. The Russian leader Putin, former KGB chief who said “once KGB, always KGB” is aiming to recreate the former Soviet Union, with vast military and economic powers. He has developed new zig-zag nuclear weapons for which the west has no defence and is likely to sell some to his Iranian PM friend Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who tells the world he only want nuclear power for electricity production etc. Don't forget when Turkey becomes a full EU member, Iran will our next door neighbour. Scary. Sleep well! See you at the next First-Thursdays.

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