



UK Independence Party

It's Time We Governed Ourselves

Issue 45

Dorset North Newsletter and Digest

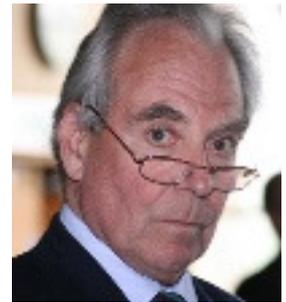
January 2010

We hope you had a really Happy Christmas. May we wish you an awe-inspiring and independent New Year and may the second decade of the century be one of continuous progress for our just cause!

Time now to get ourselves instantly into the right frame of mind to put all our waking energies into fighting the General Election. We don't know for sure when it will be – early March has been suggested but the big money is on the 6th May 2010. Whichever date prevails we have to be ready to spring into action. Much has to be done to put UKIP where it belongs, where the voters cannot say that they did not know what has and continues to be happening to our country and its people. We have to persuade everyone that their vote counts and that a vote cast for any party other than UKIP would be a wasted opportunity to rid our country of the tyranny of the undemocratic and mindlessly destructive and corrupt EU. The General Election is our last chance to democratically 'get our country back' from politicians and self-centred bureaucrats who have no interest in the UK other than a source of their own wealth.

But first to recap. So much has happened since our last double issue newsletter. 1st December 2009 will go down in democratic history as the day when our country ceased to exist – without a shot being fired in anger. The Lisbon Treaty came into effect despite much of it already being incorporated by stealth into our statute books. We can now expect the remaining aspects to be introduced with great rapidity. The obvious features would include the demise of the £, road signs converted to the metric kilometres, and even more importantly the change from a fair and just legal system to the Code Napoleon which is so beholden to the interests of the state and does not have the welfare and care of the people at heart.

Nigel Farage's successor was elected with a clear and convincing majority. The eloquent **Lord Pearson** has now taken the reigns of the party into his firm and capable hands, and we must all to a man [and woman!] get behind him and drive the party onto further and complete success. We must build on the outstanding progress made by Nigel Farage and bring about an unprecedented upturn – after all, the situation is unprecedented in this country. The destruction of our country, our way of life and beliefs must be halted, and this country returned to the prosperous, fair and compassionate land it used to be – run by elected representatives in Westminster, not those unelected and abroad.



In case you missed the **result** of the party leadership vote the numbers were as follows: Lord Pearson: 4,743. Gerard Batten: 2,571. Nikki Sinclair: 1,214 Mike Natrass: 1,092 Alan Wood: 315.

We must take this opportunity to thank Nigel Farage for his amazing work in bring along the party into the 21st century leading to the high of beating the ruling party into third place in the June European Elections. We are delighted that he will continue to be a party spokesman, an MEP, and PPC for the brave challenge on the Commons Speaker, John Bercow in his seat in Buckingham. We wish both he and Lord Pearson every possible success.



In November our branch held its annual **Bonfire Night** celebrations and the evening provided an opportunity to meet Steve Crowther who is UKIP's SW MEPs Personal Assistant. Also of course we continued our purging of the political nasties, a warm departure being given to Cameron, Blair and Sarkozy, along with a copy of a very offensive publication of European origin! Thanks to Susie and her team for the splendid catering. Once again members from other branches helped to keep numbers to a reasonable level, but it has to be said that support from our own branch was lamentable. Despite that, and with the persuasive David Baxter on raffle duty the evening raised £183.50 for the election funds. Thanks to all whose generosity knows no bounds.

On the subject of **generosity** certain Dorset North members have kindly provided continuing financial help to the branch, and we wish to thank them very warmly. However we are scarcely half way to our minimum target and still need at least a further £500 to provide to fight a modest campaign, or a £1000 to be more effective. With respect, after May will be too late. If you can help please send what you something to the branch address, cheques payable to 'UKIP Dorset North'. We do hate having to mention money, but we just can't do what is required of us without it.

With the recent revision of our legal system, there are many worrying aspects of the 'new'. None perhaps more potentially so than the status of **psychiatrists**. They are apparently above the law. A shadowy unit called the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre (FTAC) was covertly established in 2006. The unit includes the services of police psychiatrists. These can detain people, both temporarily and permanently, just on their say-so if they are a perceived threat to themselves or others. Their 'victims' can then receive and be subjected to despicable 'treatments' such as psychotropic drug regimes, lobotomies and electric shocking of the brain. They are not entitled to a trial of any sort, and they need face no criminal charges & have no rights whatsoever. This Stalinist procedure is already in use, and

indeed has been used by Jacquie Smith to harass a political opponent. A member of the public who wrote letters and emails calling the Home Secretary a communist and criticising her for creating a police state, has been summoned for an interview with his GP. The individual, who wishes to remain anonymous, informed the publication called the Column that he was recently surprised to receive a call from his GP asking him to attend the surgery. Once in front of his doctor, Mr X was stunned to be told that the GP had received a letter from the highly secretive (FTAC) following instructions from the Home Secretary herself. Although embarrassed, the GP understood from the communication that he was required to interview Mr X to establish his 'state of mind'. The implications of this incident are extremely serious, as they suggest that anyone who dares to criticise the Home Secretary, or perhaps even the government itself, will be regarded as mentally ill. Clearly for Mr X, Smith's actions were intended to be a warning and the first step in attempting to brand him mentally ill. Will UKIP members find themselves so summoned? Bear in mind that the attackers of both Pope Benedict XVI at Christmas 2009 and the former French President Jacques Chirac in 2002 were both deemed mad and conveniently will never face trial.

EU Bureaucrats want to end **the right of shoppers** to get their money back for shoddy goods. This would end the 100 years of protection British consumers have enjoyed. For more than a century, shops have offered refunds to people who return unwanted or faulty goods. Plans by the European Union to "harmonise" consumer law will short-change them by removing that right and weakening safeguards. The legislation would also cover goods bought over the phone or the internet. Instead of money-back guarantees, the directive would allow traders to offer only the repair or replacement of faulty goods. The liability for replacement or repair would also be cut from six years to two, even though such products as cars, boilers and double glazing should reasonably be expected to last longer. The EU Committee said this raised fears of a spawning new culture of "disposable" goods as the incentive to manufacture hard-wearing products would be removed. "The Government has vowed to fight Brussels to retain this right but they have no power to stop it from becoming law if it wins the backing of the majority of other member states." A rogue's charter – aka a big business charter – seemingly one and the same nowadays.

According to reports, scientists at the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit (CRU) have admitted that they have "thrown away" much of the **raw temperature data** on which their predictions of global warming are based. The CRU is the world's leading centre for reconstructing past climate and temperatures and has provided a large amount of the "scientific" underpinning of the climate change theory which essentially blames industrialised nations for what is claimed to be rising global temperatures.

The disposal of the data means that other scientists will not be able to check basic calculations which allegedly prove a long-term rise in temperature over the past 150 years. The data was gathered from weather stations around the world and then adjusted to take account of certain variables. The "revised" data was kept, but the originals, which were stored on magnetic tape and in paper reports, were dumped. Should this be seen as deliberately rewriting history?

This is the second serious blow to the CRU following the recent leaking of thousands of emails and electronic notes from that institution which revealed in detail how figures had been falsified to promote the climate change theory.

The EU Referendum blog argues that the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme may have played a role in the **closure of the Corus Redcar steel plant**, part of the Tata Group Europe. It suggests that, with a capacity of 3,000,000 tons of steel, closure of the plant will deliver "savings" of over 6 million tons of carbon dioxide, worth £80 million per annum at current rates but around £200 million at expected market levels. It further argues that by "offshoring" production to India and bringing emissions down - from over twice the EU level - to the level currently produced by the Redcar plant, Tata stands to make another £200 million per annum from the UN's Clean Development Mechanism. It argues, "Indian plants being paid up to £30 a ton for each ton of carbon dioxide 'saved' by building [a] new plant, while the company which owns them also gets paid £30 for each ton of carbon dioxide *not* produced in its Redcar plant. That gives it an estimated £400 million a year from the closure of the Redcar plant up to 2012 - potentially up to £1.2 billion. And that is over and above benefitting from cheaper production costs on the sub-continent." Another case of big business benefiting from otherwise pointless legislation?



We as a country are still heavily in **debt** thanks to Messrs Brown, Blair & Straw and their cronies. This is a condition that will haunt us for many a year and bankrupt and ruin many of us. The political parties have all come up with their ideas on how this figure [£175Bn +] can be reduced, and those suggested measures all reduce our standard of living in as many ways as you can think. However OpenEurope has pointed out that the 'top' 100 EU regulations will cost us [2010 – 2014] £184bn. So the simplest way to get rid of the debt without massive cuts would be to get out of the EU! As simple as that! UKIP policy is therefore 100% on the ball, and totally affordable by our once great nation.

The top 4 of these are: the 1st is the Working Time Regulations - these are calculated to cost £32.8bn by 2020, besides causing massive problems for the public sector, in particular the NHS; 2nd is the Climate Change Act 2008 - cost by 2020, £28.2bn, a big chunk of which will be added to the energy bills at your home and business premises; 3rd is the Energy Performance Certificates for buildings, £20.2bn. by 2020, this particular regulation is responsible for the creation of the ludicrous Home Information Packs, which any estate agent (or, any estate agent who is not in on the scam) could tell you are a waste of time and money; 4th is the Temporary Agency Workers Directive, £15.6bn. by

2020, just the sort of expensive bureaucratic interference that is going to make employers avoid hiring temporary workers. Full Details: <http://www.openeurope.org.uk/research/top100regulations.pdf>

Facts and figures pertaining to the last year's European Elections seem somewhat hard to find. This link gives all manner of details and comment. <http://alturl.com/kf72>

Various facts and figures have been compiled to show the benefits or otherwise of **EU membership**. These are some of the highlights. Since EEC membership the UK has been in surplus with every continent except Europe, running a trade deficit with EU member states of £30m per day; EU regs outweigh the advantages of the single market by €600 to €180m a year; CAP cost every family £1200 a year in higher food bills; the reinstatement of British control over its waters would take in about 65% of North Sea stocks; out of the EU more favourable trade agreements could be negotiated worldwide; the countries with the highest GDP per capita in Europe are Norway and Switzerland (both non-EU), both export more, proportionately, to the EU, than Britain does. Outside the EU, Britain could be a deregulated, competitive, offshore haven, and not suffer the imposition of around 80% of Brussels legislation.

Unmissable opportunities: The Dorset North branch has a large number of the UKIP own 2010 **Calendars** for useful disposal. Can you find retail units or anywhere to display them to maximum effect? Due to arrive early this month you may have as many as you like. Additionally we have already in stock 100 copies of the paperback '**Ten Years On – Britain without the European Union**' by Dr Lee Rotherham, as supplied by the Tax Payers Union. This handy book describes how the UK could be after leaving the EU. Stocks of both should be available for the First-Thursdays meetings, by post or collection from the Greenacres address. Both items are completely free to you, although if sent by post postage would have to be charged, but not packing. Ring 01202 897884 for further details.

Links of the Month:

New websites:

Marta Andreasen MEP <http://www.martaandreasen.com>
Nigel Farage MEP & PPC – one page with links <http://www.supportnigelfarage.com>
Stuart Agnew MEP <http://www.stuartagnemep.co.uk>
Dedicated MEPs website <http://www.ukipmeps.org>

Policies:

NEW: Food, Farming and the Countryside: <http://alturl.com/pngo>

View those existing and keep an eye for new ones: <http://www.ukip.org/content/ukip-policies>

Of interest:

A brown musical Christmas: <http://alturl.com/6x26>
A thanks to Hero Nigel Farage: <http://alturl.com/sma7>
Lord Monkton speaking prior to Copenhagen – The Laura Emmett interview: <http://alturl.com/iem2>
BBC complaints page – use of this a lot! <http://www.bbc.co.uk/complaints/homepage/>

Petitions:

Repeal the European Arrest Warrant <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/RepealtheEAW/>

What the media is saying:

- *Europolitics* reports that EU ministers have agreed on a new 'framework agreement' on EU-wide rules on paternal leave. It lays down minimum requirements on parental leave (to be taken during the first six years of a child's life) and extends the leave from three to four months for each parent, of which at least one month would be strictly non-transferable. Other new elements clarify that fixed-term, part-time and temporary agency workers are also covered. The *Coulisses de Bruxelles* blog notes that the new rules will oblige Britain to extend its paternity leave.
- *De Telegraaf* notes that the EU has its own plans to create a European platform for the digitalisation and archiving of books. It reports that French Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand has said that a commission has been set up to create the platform. According to Mitterrand, the digitalisation of books shouldn't be left to the private sector, but should involve governments. A previous attempt, Europeana, has been plagued by problems. [More potential to rewrite history? Ed]
- According to *Euractiv*, citizens of Serbia, Macedonia and Montenegro are now able to travel throughout the Schengen area of the EU without a visa, after a decision by justice and home affairs ministers.
- *BBC News* state the Lib Dems have ended their campaign for an "in or out" referendum on UK membership of the European Union. The pro-European party had argued that instead of a vote on the Lisbon Treaty a referendum was needed on Britain's broader relationship with the EU. But ex-leader Sir Menzies Campbell said there was no "public appetite" for a vote now that the treaty was ratified. [The LibDem's true colours – let's prove them wrong. Ed].
- A survey of UK voters for *Politics Home* shows that David Cameron's approval rating fell from +36 on 18 September to +21 on 27 November. On *Conservative Home*, Tim Montgomerie notes that the fall in Cameron's rating coincided with his announcement that a Conservative government would not hold a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.
- After a 'conciliation' agreement between the European Council and the European Parliament, the total 2010 EU budget has been set at €141.453 billion in commitments and €122.937 billion in payments. Figures from an EP press release.

- Writing for the *Irish Times*' European diary Arthur Beesley argues that recent talks on financial regulation "put paid to any illusion that the Lisbon Treaty heralded a new era of transparency". He notes that, "Negotiations were held in private for more than three hours, leading to a backroom compromise. When the discussion finally went public, observers saw ritualistic congratulation among ministers before the deal was declared to be done, with unanimous support, after about nine minutes." [Sums up the EU way pretty well! Ed]
- The Evening Standard reports that the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) has warned that the UK will drop out of the world's top 10 economies by 2015. [Thank you Comrade Brown. Ed]
- The *Telegraph* reports that the Treasury's Pre-Budget Report shows that Britain's net contributions to the EU are set to rise from £4.8 billion in 2009/10 to £6 billion in 2010/11, an increase of £1.2 billion. This means that Britain's contributions have doubled in just three years from £3 billion in 2008/09. [In time the UK will be the main payer as Germany (current largest) will in time pay a diminishing contribution. Ed]
- The *Mail* reports that Agas are going out, following an EU fuel directive requiring a lower sulphur content in the oil used to fire them. The lower sulphur fuel carbonises more quickly when burned at a high heat, which creates a thick black coke that clogs the fuel supply line to the burners, causing them to go out.
- The Macedonian daily *Nova Makedonia* questions the value of the country joining the EU while the Union has no principles. It writes: "Is there any prestige left in this membership? What is prestigious in a Union where the dialogue is replaced with diktat?" [It would appear they have a free press there – how long will that last? Ed]
- The *Coulisses de Bruxelles* blog reports that Sylvie Goulard, President of the EU-funded European Movement in France has won the €10,000 European Book Prize 2009, for her book, "Europe for idiots" (L'Europe pour les Nuls). [Perfect! Ed]

A very warm welcome to Lord Monkton, the outspoken Climate Change expert, who has joined UKIP.

The **future of the branch** has much been on the mind of your Chairman in recent months. By the time of the forthcoming AGM [details yet to be advised] he will have held his position for five years. This has resulted in things outside of UKIP not having had the required attention that they demand. He appreciates the help provided by his committee, especially that by Charles Upton the Treasurer, but knows that basically one man cannot cover most of the posts indefinitely. The two other committee members are unable to take on further responsibility for differing but valid reasons. This means your Chairman has for nearly 5 years been Membership Secretary, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Vice Chairman[!], had responsibility for the website, publicity and branch liaison, researcher, deputy nomination officer, and the other odd and sods of everyday life in UKIP! Although immensely enjoyable and frequently rewarding, unfortunately it is taking its toll on his health, wealth and homelife. Thus he has two options. The first being to find a full committee to take over the running of the branch, perhaps aided by him as required in an advisory roll; the second being to stand down and perhaps amalgamate Dorset North with another local branch, which would of course would put great strain upon the committee of that other branch. There may be other ways which are currently unclear. The way forward would be governed by you, the Dorset North members. Your thoughts please. The chairman will continue up to the election/AGM [whichever is later] in an unchanged role and with continuing enthusiasm.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Do you need transport to get to a meeting? Or can you provide transport to a meeting? Please contact John Baxter a.s.a.p. so he can liaise. Especially needed for the First-Thursday meetings.

THURSDAY 7th JANUARY 2010 @ 7.30pm onwards – FIRST-THURSDAY MEETING:

Dorset Branch Library and minishop available at this meeting. The first FIRST-THURSDAY evening get-together of the decade at the **Charlton Inn, Bournemouth Road, Charlton Marshall, DT11 9NH**. Our regular informal evening of food, drink and chat. Do one or all three! Call John Baxter for further details if needed on 01202 897884. All are welcome – members, their guests, prospective members or the just curious! Joint event with other local branches. On this occasion Bournemouth West will be holding a committee meeting. But don't let that put you off coming.



THURSDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2010 @ 7.30pm onwards – FIRST THURSDAY MEETING:

Dorset Branch Library and minishop available at this meeting. The first FIRST-THURSDAY evening get-together of the year at the **Charlton Inn, Bournemouth Road, Charlton Marshall, DT11 9NH**. Our regular informal evening of food, drink and chat. Do one or all three! Call John Baxter for further details if needed on 01202 897884. All are welcome – members, their guests, prospective members or the just curious! Joint event with other local branches.



THURSDAY 8th APRIL 2010 @ 7.15pm – Special Bournemouth Open Meeting with Lord Pearson:

A meeting for all members of UKIP in Dorset, + non-members welcome. Party Leader Lord Malcolm Pearson of Rannoch will be speaking along with local MEP Lord Dartmouth. This is likely to be the only meeting in Dorset prior to the General Election in which Lord Pearson will speak. Venue: the Hallmark Hotel [formally Durley Hall Hotel], Durley Chine Road, Bournemouth, BH2 5JS Full details from Ruth Shoebridge, contact details to follow.



FRIDAY 9th APRIL 2010 WEYMOUTH PAVILION @ 7pm – Open Hustings Meeting :

Meet and hear UKIP MEPs Nigel Farage, William Dartmouth & South Dorset PPC Mike Hobson in the Ocean Room, Weymouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Weymouth, DT4 8ED. Further details to be announced.



Other Regular UKIP Events in Neighbouring Constituencies:

<p><u>WELLS BRANCH</u></p> <p>Wells Constituency Association meets regularly on the last Monday of every month in the downstairs room at the back of the Kings Head Pub, 36 High Street, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2SG.</p>  <p>Contact Wyn Thomas at gb.thomas@ukonline.co.uk</p>	<p><u>SALISBURY BRANCH</u></p> <p>On the 4th Thursday of the month [excluding August & December], at 12.30 UKIP Salisbury branch have a lunchtime social at the Green Dragon, Old Road, Alderbury, Salisbury, SP5 2AR. Ring Margaret Strange on 01980 623907 for details. The Green Dragon may originally in part be the Blue Dragon in Charles Dickens's 'Martin Chuzzlewit.' www.ukipsalisbury.org or email jharvey1917@btinternet.com</p> 
 <p><u>EAST DEVON BRANCH</u></p> <p>Come and have lunch in East Devon on the first Tuesday of every month at the Maltsters' Arms, Woodbury, Devon. EX5 1LN.</p> <p>NB November 10th this month.</p> <p>Telephone John Kelly on 01395 276130.</p> <p>Perhaps even get to meet the legendary John Kelly!</p>	<p><u>EXETER BRANCH</u></p> <p>Pub evening 1st Tuesday of the month. Ralph Gay 01392 679187</p> <p><u>Cheltenham Coffee Morning</u> 2nd Saturday of the month Alan Stone 01242 515439</p> <p><u>Chippenham & N Wilts pub night</u> 1st Wednesday of the month Lysley Arms, Pewsham SN15 3RU 7pm</p>

Helpful contact information:

Branch Officers: John L. Baxter, *Chairman*. Charles Upton, *Treasurer*. Betty Dandridge, David L Baxter *Committee*.

Contact address: Greenacres, Angel Lane, Longham, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 9DZ. 01202 897884

Newsletter Editor: John Baxter. Historic Blog Site [not current]: <http://ukipnorthdorset.blogspot.com/>

Branch and Committee Email: john@ukipdorsetnorth.org.uk Branch website: www.ukipdorsetnorth.org.uk

Other UKIP Websites: <http://www.ukipsw.org> www.ukipdorset.org www.ukip.org
<http://www.westbournemouthukip.com/main.htm>

Gawain Towler's Personal Website: <http://englandexpects.blogspot.com/>

Gawain Towler's Campaign Group. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8375308818&ref=mf>

Gawain Towler's Personal Email Address: gawain@ukipdorsetnorth.org.uk

NEW: William Dartmouth MEP's Website: <http://www.williamdartmouth.com>

Trevor Coleman MEP's Website: please follow the link on: www.ukip.org

Between 16 & 35? UKIP Youth Email: lisa.duffy2@tesco.net and website <http://www.youngindependence.org/>

Our Headquarters' details: Telephone: **01626 830630**. Email: mail@ukip.org Postal Address:

Lexdrum House, King Charles Business Park, Old Newton Road, Heathfield, Newton Abbot, Devon. TQ12 6UT.

Special Supplement

Lord Pearson – Your Party Leader.

In case you missed this article in the Daily Express, we reproduce it in full for you:

LORD PEARSON:

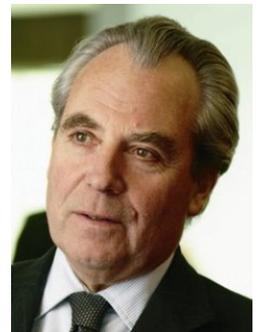
I BELIEVE UKIP IS THE BEST PARTY TO RES CUE OUR NATION.

Friday December 4, 2009 By Lord Pearson, UK Independence Party Leader

AT midnight on Monday Britain ceased to be a sovereign nation in full charge of its own destiny. That is when the fully ratified Lisbon Treaty came into effect, giving Brussels the ability to accrue new powers over our lives whenever it feels like it.

This betrayal of 1,000 years of British history was planned and implemented by a Labour regime that promised voters a referendum in order to keep the issue of Europe out of the last general election but cynically withdrew the offer once that election was won.

But the entire professional political class of this country is culpable. The Liberal Democrats also supported a referendum but would not vote for it in Parliament. Then they moved the goalposts, backing a referendum on "in or out" of the EU. Now they have withdrawn that offer too because they fear the answer they would get.



The Conservatives may have opposed Lisbon in Parliament but once it had been ratified their “cast-iron” promise of a referendum was withdrawn as well. A stunned electorate finally learned what David Cameron meant when he had told them he would not let matters rest if Lisbon was ratified under Labour.

He meant that he would let matters rest because keeping in with the European elite mattered more to him than defending British sovereignty.

No wonder so many voters have come to regard these parties as much of a muchness. The “Lib Lab Con” is not a bad collective description. That is why I am today asking the readers of this great newspaper to support a different political approach.

A week ago I had the honour of being elected leader of UKIP. My task is to build on the groundbreaking results of June when what is essentially an amateur, grassroots army of volunteers was able to beat the Government in a national election.

It was a turning point. Our headline policy, the one which unites us with the majority of people in Britain, is our desire to govern ourselves. We believe the decisions that govern our lives should be made not by faceless Eurocrats and foreign politicians but by those we elect, and that we can throw out at the ballot box.

This of course is at odds with the political elite who govern us today, those who, safe with their tax-funded salaries and pensions, wish upon us a life of technocratic rule. They are absolute in their belief that they know how to live our lives better than we do ourselves. But it is not only on Europe that we have policies to break the cowardly, politically correct consensus of the Lib Lab Con.

We are also deeply sceptical of the new religion of man-made global warming. It’s the focus group favourite. It is also the most catastrophic misuse of dubiously collated statistics yet unleashed upon the world.

That climate changes is not in doubt. That we must conserve, protect and care for our environment is a must. But to pillage the public purse and come over as moral superiors takes a special talent and establishment talent at that.

As always with science the jury is out. UKIP takes the scientific method seriously. Then there is the issue of tax.

All parts of the Lib Lab Con are planning yet more tax rises for after the election. We beg to differ. This summer the Chancellor of the Exchequer charged the taxpayer to employ an accountant to sort out his own taxes that he didn’t understand. When you have a taxation system that taxes those on the minimum wage it’s time for change. No tax system should be too complicated for us to understand.

To that end UKIP proposes a flat tax system, a near doubling of the personal allowance and an end to the fiction that national insurance is different from income tax.

All will gain but those who gain most proportionally will be those who work hard for modest pay.

On Education I believe in parental choice and rigorous academic standards. I support the creation of new grammar schools so that bright children from modest backgrounds can fulfil their academic potential.

Such an opportunity should not be the sole preserve of children of the wealthy as is increasingly the case. The family in a council estate deserves the chance to have the best education that this country has to offer, not to be condemned to accept what the local council deems they must have. Parents in the state sector should have taxpayer-funded vouchers so the onus is on schools to compete for pupils and not the other way round.

Finally I can give this personal pledge: I will never pretend to be something I am not. Like David Cameron I had the good fortune to be educated at Eton College. Unlike him I will not resign my membership of my London club on the advice of spin doctors.

I will not stop taking part in country sports. I do not cycle to the Houses of Parliament but if I take it up I will not have my briefcase transported in a car following behind me and when I am next at the Field of Remembrance I will not bring along a personal photographer to turn the occasion into a picture opportunity for myself rather than a precious chance to reflect on the supreme sacrifice made by so many Britons for the country they loved.

The great Eurosceptic Labour leader Hugh Gaitskell once promised to “fight, fight and fight again” to save the party he loved from extremism. With your help I pledge to fight, fight and fight again to save the country that we all love so much.

Curriculum vitae in brief:

Malcolm Everard MacLaren Pearson, Baron Pearson of Rannoch - Life peer.

Born 20 July 1942 Devizes, Wiltshire. Now aged 67.

Education Eton College.

Family Married to Caroline for 12 years. Has three daughters — Silvia, Marina and Zara — from two earlier marriages.

Career Founded the insurance broker PWS in 1964. From 1983 to 1992 sat on the Council for National Academic Awards, supervising polytechnics. He was made a working peer by Margaret Thatcher in 1990. He sat on the European Committee of the House of Lords from 1992 to 1996. Left the Tories to join UKIP in 2007.

[The editor acknowledges and thanks the Daily Express and Wikipedia for these items.]

