

EDITOR'S NOTES



News and views from the City, Westminster & beyond

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Why did people vote Leave? Clue: it wasn't because they're unhappy

THE REFERENDUM result left a lot of people stunned and confused. Not just because a Leave vote was contrary to the predictions of pollsters and pundits, but because they couldn't understand why anybody would want to leave the EU in the first place.

In the days and weeks after the vote, the very same people who predicted that it simply couldn't happen recast themselves as experts on the motivations of those who voted Leave. One of the earliest proposed explanations – and one of the most comforting to the left-leaning institutions who failed to see the result coming – was that the Leave vote was a howl of anguish from 'the losers of globalisation'.

Indeed, when I told one media friend that I voted Leave, he was staggered and said "but you're not one of life's losers". I thanked him for the compliment and explained that there was a bit more to it than that. My motivation sprang from a long-held discomfort with the EU's

direction of travel, and a deeply held feeling that democracy and sovereignty are not merely academic concepts and are in fact worth seeking to restore.

I don't speak for all Brexit backers, of course, and it's true that there were a variety of reasons behind the vote. But too often the 52 per cent of voters who backed Leave have been described as angry, tricked, frustrated, left behind or confused. Rarely are they credited with having thought about the issues. This week, Labour's Clive Lewis said that the referendum was really a proxy vote for "are you happy with your life" – an appallingly condescending and arrogant analysis.

In reality, the evidence shows that reinstating democratic control over our law-making was by far the biggest motivation for Leave voters, ahead of concerns over immigration. Until the likes of Clive Lewis come to understand this, they will struggle to adapt successfully to the forces now shaping the world around them.



CITY FIRMS TAKE ON EPIC 150KM SKI CHALLENGE

SKI SEASON is well and truly upon us and plenty of City folk are digging out their gear from the back of the cupboard – including yours truly. But whereas my weekend in Chamonix is likely to be pretty easy-going, 20 City firms have just competed in a frantic dash for 37 check points across a 150km course to raise funds for the excellent charity Snow Camp. Hats off to beancounters KPMG for their victory.

NOT SURE THIS ONE IS MEANT FOR ME, REG

I get plenty of feedback on our stories or editorial stance – and plenty more emails asking why we've run out of copies in Morden or why we don't yet deliver in Brighton. We're working on these issues, I assure you. Yesterday, however, a complaint arrived by email that left me quite unable to assist: "Dear Morrisons, why do you not have turmeric in stock? I've asked people but never get an answer." Can anyone from Morrisons help Reg from Skegness?

SHOCK JOCK REJECTS BBC STRAITJACKET

LBC talk radio host James O'Brien serves up a punchy left-wing alternative to his more populist colleague, Nick Ferrari. His anti-Brexit, anti-Trump views make for a good radio show, but not everyone is happy that O'Brien also crops up as an occasional presenter of BBC Newsnight. Yesterday, on twitter, he compared the US president to a wife-beater, prompting criticism from MP Douglas Carswell. Maybe it's time to pick a path: shock jock or impartial BBC presenter?

CAN I QUOTE YOU ON THAT?



Don't run with the pack – there's a good chance you'll get tripped up

One of the City's top bankers when I ask him the top lesson he's learned after decades of doing deals

CITY'S BARONESS STILL UNDER FIRE

The Baroness Patricia Scotland of Asthal, QC, is not having an easy run of things as secretary general of the Commonwealth. She's been battling questions over lavish spending and now the Queen has snubbed her by deciding to miss her Commonwealth Day reception – taking place a few hundred yards from Buck Pal. Awkward. Still, there is at least one place where the Baroness can put on a robe and enjoy some ceremony: she's an Alderman in the City of London.

MAY PLAYS TO TRUMP'S SCOTTISH ANCESTRY

Theresa May doesn't often appear relaxed in public. Footage of her fiddling with her cuffs while other leaders chatted together at a Brussels summit was difficult to watch. So how will she get on with the Donald? She hopes to break the ice with a traditional Scottish 'quaich' or drinking cup – the giving of which is supposed to signify trust and kinship. Traditionally they came with a glass bottom, so one could be sure one wasn't about to be stabbed when taking a gulp...