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Write to letters@cornishguardian.co.uk or Cornish Guardian Letters, Devon and Cornwall Media, High Water House, Malpas Road, Truro TR1 1QH



A chilly winter’s walk among the dunes at Holywell Bay, by Julie Taylor of Newquay. Send pictures for possible inclusion to thebigpicture@dc-media.co.uk

the majority of those who voted to leave the EU. If such indefinable clichés as “freedom”, “sovereignty” and “taking our country back” had been the sole motivation, then it would hardly have been necessary to dream up the notorious lie about Brexit freeing up £350 million a week to spend on the NHS.

Hating the EU so much that you willingly accept the possibility that Britain’s economy might be crippled and millions of lives blighted is not patriotism. It merely bespeaks a lack of political and intellectual maturity which no amount of indignant huffing about Ms Concanon’s inconvenient truths can do anything to conceal.

**Clark Bryce
Lostwithiel**

Britain is rich enough to help poorest

» I’m so proud of the impact UK aid has made to millions of children and their families. It’s important to me that our community supports the UK’s commitment to helping the poorest people help themselves.

We are big enough to help those in need here and abroad. This means our doctors and nurses assisting in communities and training local staff in times of disaster or disease. During the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone NHS staff and UK military personnel trained 4,000 health workers alongside hundreds of British charity workers.

UK aid shows us at our best. It’s why I’m supporting organisations like Save the Children

to encourage the public to have conversations about UK aid. We can and should move the debate away from why we spend aid to how we best spend it.

Please help shine a spotlight on this issue and the pride we can all take in UK aid.

**Richard Hesketh
Padstow**

Why college is backing bid for a stadium

» As college principal, you quite rightly get asked some challenging and difficult questions. The question: “Why support and invest in a stadium for Cornwall?” is not one of them.

The answer is straightforward and linked directly to why we support and invest in Cornwall itself and in its future. That kind of investment is something we as a college are committed to doing and have been doing for a quarter of a century.

Our commitment is to helping individuals and businesses know more and do more (often referred to as “learning and skills”) so that they, in turn, can contribute much more.

Places themselves, like people, can become more self-sufficient and prosperous and healthy and resilient if, through investment, they are given the opportunities and the support they need.

There is no better type of investment, and no better return on investment.

As a college, for example, we would like Cornwall’s business and employer community to have outstanding, accessible facilities; to network within and beyond Cornwall; to find the best advice and support; to hold conferences and meetings of real scale and impact; to showcase what Cornwall is and does; to attract potential investors from across and outside Cornwall. The stadium and its new business centre will provide such a venue.

As a college, we would like to contribute more to the crucial work of improving the health and wellbeing of families and individuals in Cornwall at all stages of their lives – through getting people to understand the benefits of exercise, good

diet, recreation and teamwork. The stadium will not only offer a fantastic venue for these things but it will actively promote them across a much wider community.

As a college, we know there are great opportunities to enrich the cultural life of Cornwall through a new large performance venue like the stadium. We know the stadium will allow us to grow our successful catering and hospitality provision and further enhance the quality and reputation of these crucial industries in Cornwall.

There are also the huge benefits for sport, not just the extending of the elite sports programmes, where the college now has produced many notable alumni, but the kind of sport-for-all initiatives that involve as wide a section of the community as possible in its benefits: and, clearly, we would love to see Cornish rugby and football go to the next levels with our many learners and stakeholders of all ages among the crowds cheering them on. There is a passion for sport in Cornwall which deserves, and could have, more to cheer about.

Whatever the outcomes of the current national political debates, Cornwall will need to ensure it and its inhabitants are as self-sufficient, as skilled and smart, as confident and resourceful as possible to secure the kind of future it needs and deserves. The stadium supports all of these aims for Cornwall and so the college supports the stadium.

**David Walrond
Principal
Truro and Penwith College**

Advice even harder to get hold of now

» In Bodmin town centre yesterday a man asked me the way to the Citizens Advice office at Normandy Way, because it is on a trading estate on the edge of town. Could not Bodmin town council have found a more convenient office for them in the town?

**Raymond Nelson
St Bodmin**

impact of Brexit on various sectors of the economy?

Why are civil servants in the Department for Exiting the EU accused of “fiddling the figures” because their forecasts showed that all possible Brexit scenarios would have a negative effect on our economy? Why did the PM and her Brexit ministers try to prevent Parliament’s access to these forecasts?

Oh, yes, yes, Ms Chalmers, I forgot; finances don’t matter to you! Well, they matter to the NHS and all the people who need medical care in this country. They also matter to people who run businesses and create jobs. Why do the PM and her Brexit ministers intend that Parliament only be given a binary choice of accepting the deal with the EU that the PM ne-

gotiates or crashing out of the EU without a deal? And if Brexit is about taking back control, then why is the Democratic Unionist Party effectively dictating policy?

I could go on and on, but I won’t. By now, Ms Chalmers should have had enough of the dictatorial tactics of the PM and her Brexit-supporting ministers. Ms Chalmers should be outraged that in a country that ostensibly holds Parliament as the supreme lawmaking body, every effort has been made by the PM, extremist Brexiteer ministers and MPs and the right-wing media to warp and undermine our parliament’s sovereignty.

**Susan Concannon
Trehunist**

Patriotic, or just politically immature?

» Jean Chalmers’ letter attacking Susan Concannon reminded me of an anecdote told by the comedian Stewart Lee, in which his detailed refutation of a taxi driver’s homophobic rant receives the contemptuous response: “Well, you can prove anything with facts.”

Ms Chalmers may not care about the future of the British economy – perhaps, like many of Brexit’s most vociferous cheerleaders, she is very wealthy, very old, very self-centred or all three – but I suspect she does not speak for