

News from the Brexit Cliff Edge

10th May 2019

News Highlights

Welcome to the Brexit Cliff Edge

Never Mind the Bollocks Here's the Lib Dems

- [Vince Cable staked the Liberal Democrat's claim](#) to be the leading remain party in the European elections as he unveiled a forthright new slogan for the campaign 'Bollocks to Brexit' previously used by many ardent Remain supporters, though there is an option to use Stop Brexit for the more squeamish
- [The Bollocks to Brexit message quickly became](#) a talking point in the news coverage surrounding the European elections. Defending the message Sir Vince Cable said critics should get a sense of humour. He importantly added, 'some people may not like it but I think others will admire the honesty and clarity of our position'
- [The Guardian appreciated the Bollocks to Brexit](#) message, saying 'the colourful language has marked out the Lib Dems as a party with a bit of fight in them. The contrast with the other anti-Brexit parties could not be more striking.'

Jeremy Corbyn claims he can 'heal the Brexit divide'

- [Corbyn launched the Labour Party European election](#) campaign saying he wants to bring the two warring side together. It is time to heal and move on.
- [Jeremy Corbyn explicitly rejected calls for Labour](#) to become an explicitly anti-Brexit party. He reiterated his intention to 'back an option of a new referendum' only if forcing a General Election is unsuccessful or changing Theresa May's bad Brexit deal were not possible outcomes
- [Jeremy Corbyn said he would unite](#) the country and heal the divisions and distress caused by Brexit, as he launched Labour's European election campaign
- [Jeremy Corbyn urged voters to discard](#) the divisive labels of Leave and Remain now. He said Labour will seek 'common ground' and will try to avoid the country being sucked into an endless Brexit loop
- [The BBC's Norman Smith confirmed on twitter](#) that Labour's initial priority will be to first seek to deliver on Brexit, as they will not ignore the 17 million people who backed Leave in 2016

Sturgeon steps up the call for all pro-EU voters to shun Scottish Labour

- [Nicola Sturgeon said voters needed to treat both Labour and the Conservatives](#) as pro-Brexit parties, despite Corbyn's best efforts to face both directions at the same time. She said Labour's stance was pro-Brexit and dishonest and voters should recognise Corbyn and May both want to take Scotland and the UK out of the European Union

Tories fear the party could come sixth in the European elections

- [With support plummeting to single digits in some areas](#), candidates running in the election said the party was almost in denial that the poll was happening and continued to insist they would not need to take up their seats in the European Parliament. The fears of a dismal performance

have been stoked by the fact that the party plans to spend no money on candidate campaigning, will not publish a manifesto and is refusing to hold a launch. Candidates are allowed regional manifestos but many are not bothering as they are having to fund them

Tory MPs are more interested in running in the Conservative Party leadership election which has not officially started yet than campaigning

- [The Evening Standard has Amber Rudd setting out her](#) vision of a modern-day Conservative Party, saying it must support workers from all backgrounds. Ms Rudd follows the footsteps of: Sajid Javid, Jeremy Hunt, Andrea Leadsom and Dominic Raab.
- [Amber Rudd told BBC Newsnight that a 'No Deal Prime Minister](#) would not be able to command a majority in the House of Commons at the moment.' Parliamentary convention dictates that a departing prime minister has to advise the Queen on a successor based on one criterion: the ability to command a majority in parliament. If the next Tory leader is a Brexiteer committed to a No Deal Brexit - Theresa May will struggle to give the Queen clear advice

Other News

- [UKIP's controversial candidate Carl Benjamin](#) not only has the police investigating his rape comment. Benjamin has caused Robert McNeil-Wilson, a candidate on UKIP's Welsh list - to hand in his party resignation - giving Benjamin and fellow YouTuber Mark Meechan's presence as UKIP candidates as the reason
- [MPs have given themselves an 11 day holiday 'the Whitsun recess'](#) which will begin on May 23rd, the day of the European elections. Parliament will not resume until June 4th
- [The UK's chief Brexit negotiator with the](#) European Commission, Olly Robbins, reportedly asked the European Parliament Brexit co-ordinator, Guy Verhofstadt, whether he could apply for Belgian citizenship at one stage
- [UK Justice Secretary David Gauke said](#) the 'wishful thinking of my pro-Brexit colleagues during the EU referendum fuelled voter anger across the country.' Gauke said 'their claims that leaving the EU bloc would be easy and not cause any problem has not survived the collision with reality.' he warned his fellow Tories that 'over-simplifying and failing to deliver will only encourage further disenchantment among the public'

Economic Impact

'Customs Union Brexit' will hit us by £80 billion a year, says new research

There would be an £80 billion hit to national income and a £13 billion cut to money for public services even if we leave the EU with a customs union deal, a report has claimed. The report by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) says that a customs union deal with the EU would only halve the impact of a no-deal Brexit. All regions of the UK would end up poorer than if we had simply remained in the EU, said the report. A customs union deal would still leave people worse off by an average of £800 a year, and could reduce the treasury's tax revenue by £26 billion.

<https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/report-from-peoples-vote-campaign-into-brexit-customs-union-impact-1-6040365>

Additional sources: (Daily Mirror)

Brexit would cost us £800 each every year if we stay in the Customs Union

Labour's plans for a customs union with the EU after Brexit would leave each person £800 a year worse off, according to respected economists. Keeping the UK tied to the trading bloc would deliver an £80 billion hit to the UK's national income the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (Niesr) has warned. Taxes would have to rise or public services be cut to make up the shortfall, a new report has warned. The issue is at the heart of the flailing Brexit talks between Theresa May's

government and the opposition. Jeremy Corbyn is pushing to keep the UK in the customs union while leaving was always something Mrs May would not reconsider. Staying in the customs union has been referred to as a 'compromise deal' as the UK would be able to do frictionless trade with the rest of the EU.

<https://metro.co.uk/2019/05/09/brexit-cost-us-800-every-year-stay-customs-union-9463571/>

Administrative Fall Out

Tata denies it is trying to sell Jaguar Land Rover to France's PSA

Jaguar Land Rover owner Tata Motors has been forced to deny that it is on the verge of selling the British luxury car brand to the French owner of Peugeot. Britain's biggest carmaker has been mooted as a potential target for PSA Group - the owner of brands including Peugeot, Citroën and Vauxhall - for months amid reports that India's Tata was growing frustrated with JLR's struggles. A "post-sale integration document" has been passed around senior executives at the companies, detailing the potential benefits of a tie-up, the Press Association reported on Thursday. However, both carmakers denied a sale is in the offing.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/may/09/tata-denies-it-is-trying-to-sell-jaguar-land-rover-to-frances-psa>

Polish mother says Brexit abuse forced her from UK

A Polish mother says abuse she has suffered since the Brexit referendum has forced her to leave the UK after 10 years. Magdalena Howlett, whose daughters were both born in the UK, has sold her home in Nottingham and returned to Eastern Europe because of concern for their safety. She said the abuse started two days before the referendum in June 2016 when a stranger swore at her in the street. But through concerns it would escalate she has not reported it to police. A 2018 study by charity Nottingham Citizens found about a third of 4,000 respondents had experienced a hate crime in the city, with Brexit identified as one of the major drivers.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-nottinghamshire-48203199/polish-mother-says-brexit-abuse-forced-her-from-uk>

Political Shenanigans

Lib Dems tell those offended by 'Bollocks to Brexit' messaging to get a sense of humour | Latest Brexit news and top stories

Liberal Democrat leader Sir Vince Cable has defended adopting the "Bollocks to Brexit" message for the European elections as the party's pro-Remain agenda becomes a talking point in the news. The message, which has been used by anti-Brexit campaigners including The New European, has been used to tap into the anger of those that want to Remain in the EU. Now Sir Vince Cable is hoping that the message will have more cut-through with the voters than rival Remain parties like Greens and Change UK. Explaining the rationale behind the messaging, Sir Vince said: "We are unambiguous, we argue we should stop Brexit, we've argued for a people's vote, we're not apologetic about it. "Some people may not like that, but I think others admire the honesty and clarity of our position."

<https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/top-stories/lib-dems-defend-bollocks-to-brexit-message-on-good-morning-britain-1-6040670>

Brexit: Vince Cable stakes Lib Dems' claim as torch carriers for remain

Vince Cable has staked the Liberal Democrats' claim to be the leading remain party in the European elections, as he unveiled a forthright new slogan for the campaign: "Bollocks to Brexit." The phrase, previously plastered on stickers and T-shirts by ardent remain supporters, is now emblazoned across the Lib Dem manifesto for the 23 May poll - though more squeamish candidates will have the option of one that just says "Stop Brexit". Buoyed by strong results in last week's local council elections, and unencumbered by the nuance of Labour's position, Cable insisted the Lib Dems were the best-equipped party to challenge the message of Nigel Farage at the poll later this month.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/09/vince-cable-stakes-lib-dems-claim-as-torch-carriers-for-remain>

Swearing by the EU - UK's anti-Brexit Lib Dems opt for earthy election slogan

Britain's pro-EU Liberal Democrats are showcasing their European election campaign with a down-to-earth slogan they hope will attract frustrated voters who want to remain in the bloc: "Bollocks to Brexit". Fresh from a strong showing in local council elections, the opposition party posted a photograph on Twitter of its leader Vince Cable with a "special edition" of its manifesto for the May 23 European parliament vote. The document will be launched on Thursday evening.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-eu-liberaldemocrats/swearing-by-the-eu-uks-anti-brexit-lib-dems-opt-for-earthy-election-slogan-idUSKCN1SF1LR>

The Lib Dems' 'Bollocks to Brexit' is crass, but it might just work

The colourful language has at least marked out the Lib Dems as a party with a bit of fight in them. On the back of encouraging results in the local elections, Vince Cable's team has recovered some energy and momentum. The contrast with the less distinct and at times rather confused-sounding interventions of Change UK - who also want to stop Brexit, but without swearing - is stark. In addition, the slogan has the virtue of sincerity. The Lib Dems are unequivocal remainers who want to stop Brexit from happening. They think it's all bollocks and are prepared to say so. Direct language can be effective. Matt Kelly, editor of the New European newspaper, tells me that since offering new subscribers a free "Bollocks to Brexit" mug if they sign up to receive the paper, subscription rates have trebled.

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/may/09/liberal-democrats-bollocks-to-brexit-party-slogan?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Tweet

Can Jeremy Corbyn heal the Brexit divide?

Jeremy Corbyn wants to ditch the labels of Leave and Remain, to stop worrying about the "48" and the "52" and to concentrate on the country as a whole. He says only Labour can bring the two warring sides together. In other words - time to move on. The idea of turning the page will be tantalising to millions, but peeling those labels off our politics is, for now at least, probably wishful thinking. In his own party, the most fevered question is over whether to allow, even help Brexit on its way, or to have another referendum to try to stop it - that's an issue of Leave or Remain. Just after he gave his speech in Kent, launching Labour's European election campaign, two party activists expressed the difference precisely. One of them told us they were "disappointed with the party's half-and-half" approach to Brexit, and keen for another referendum to stay in.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48217654>

What's in Labour's EU election manifesto? Corbyn unveils policies for 2019 poll

"Some people seem to look at the issue the wrong way around. They tend to think the first question is Leave or Remain as if either is an end in itself. "I think they're wrong. The first question is: what kind of society do we want to be?" As a result, Labour's manifesto is a wide-ranging document, which reads more like a general election manifesto that you might expect.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/whats-labours-eu-election-manifesto-15020979>

Jeremy Corbyn says second EU referendum could be 'healing process' for Britain's Brexit splits

Jeremy Corbyn has said that a second EU referendum could be seen as a "healing process" for the country that brings the Brexit impasse to a conclusion. Speaking at the party's EU election launch in Kent the Labour leader said there should be an option of a public vote on the outcome of talks and negotiations, and that it could "bring people together". Mr Corbyn said: "The view we put forward, the party conference put this forward, the national executive agreed this, [was] that we should include the option of having a ballot on a public vote on the outcome of the talks and negotiations on what we're putting forward.

<https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/political-parties/labour-party/jeremy-corbyn/news/103766/jeremy-corbyn-says>

[-second-eu](#)

Jeremy Corbyn rejects calls for Labour to become an anti-Brexit party

Jeremy Corbyn has rejected growing calls for Labour to become an explicitly anti-Brexit party, at the launch of his party's European elections campaign on Thursday. Corbyn has been under intense pressure from Labour Party members and Members of Parliament to make a firmer commitment to a backing a new referendum and campaign for Remain in any new public vote. However, speaking in Medway in Kent, Corbyn said he would only back the "option" of a new referendum if either forcing a general election or changing Theresa May's "bad" Brexit deal were not possible outcomes.

<https://www.businessinsider.com/jeremy-corbyn-rejects-calls-for-labour-to-become-an-anti-brexit-party-2019-5?r=US&IR=T>

European elections 2019: Labour can unite our country, says Corbyn

Labour can "unite our country" and heal the divisions caused by Brexit, Jeremy Corbyn said, as he launched his European elections campaign. Mr Corbyn said the party backed "the option of a public vote" if a "sensible" Brexit deal cannot be agreed and there is not a general election. He said cross-party talks on Brexit were "difficult" as the government's "red lines remain in place". The European elections take place in the UK on 23 May.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48208846>

European elections 2019: Labour can unite our country, says Corbyn

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<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48208846>

Jeremy Corbyn urges voters to discard labels of leave and remain

Jeremy Corbyn has again rebuffed the demands of many of his own activists for Labour to become the party of remain at the European elections later this month, insisting he will stand on the "common ground". Launching his party's manifesto for the European elections in Chatham, Kent, the Labour leader said voters should resist being defined simply as leavers or remainers. "We could allow ourselves to be defined only as 'remainers' or 'leavers' labels that meant nothing to us only a few years ago. But where would that take us? Who wants to live in a country stuck in this endless loop?" he asked.

https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/09/brexit-leave-remain-labour-jeremy-corbyn-campaign-launch-european-elections?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Tweet

@BBCNormanSmith Jeremy Corbyn confirms Labour will seek to deliver on Brexit. Cannot ignore 17m who backed leave, he says

Jeremy Corbyn confirms Labour will seek to deliver on Brexit. Cannot ignore 17m who backed leave, he says

<https://twitter.com/BBCNormanS/status/1126430832951009280>

Amber Rudd to set out Tory leadership credentials with vision of 21st century Conservative Party

Tory leadership contender Amber Rudd will today set out her vision of a modern-day Conservative Party, saying it must support workers of all backgrounds. Ms Rudd, seen by many as a prime candidate in the race to succeed Theresa May, is expected to use a major speech in London to set out her ambition for the Tories to be the party for 21st century workers. She will become the latest Cabinet member to set out her credentials, following in the recent footsteps of the likes of Sajid

Javid, Jeremy Hunt and Andrea Leadsom. The work and pensions secretary will say: "As Conservatives, we want every person, no matter their background, to progress in the workplace and outperform what society says they should be able to do.

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/amber-rudd-to-set-out-tory-leadership-credentials-with-vision-of-21st-century-conservative-party-a4137751.html>

Rudd: A no-deal PM would not command majority

The candidate who wins the Conservative leadership contest could fail to become prime minister if they back a no-deal Brexit, Amber Rudd has said. The work and pensions secretary told BBC Newsnight "a no deal prime minister would not be able to command a majority in the House". Convention dictates that a departing prime minister has to advise the Queen on a successor based on one criterion: an ability to command a majority in parliament. The convention is designed to protect the monarch from political turmoil. If the next Tory leader is a Brexiteer committed to no deal, Theresa May may struggle to offer clear advice to the Queen.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-48218741>

Esther McVey throws hat into the ring for Conservative leadership contest

Former work and pensions secretary Esther McVey has announced that she will stand for the Conservative leadership when Theresa May steps down. Ms McVey, who quit the Cabinet in November in protest at Mrs May's Brexit deal, became the third Tory openly to declare her ambition to be Prime Minister, after Andrea Leadsom and Rory Stewart.

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/17628805.esther-mcvey-throws-hat-into-the-ring-for-conservative-leadership-contest/>

Additional sources: (Sky News)

@SkyNewsPolitics "At the moment, momentum is behind @Nigel_Farage, we want to stop that momentum." Lib Dem leader, @vincecable tells #Sunrise voters should get behind his party if they want to remain in the European Union

"At the moment, momentum is behind @Nigel_Farage, we want to stop that momentum." Lib Dem leader, @vincecable tells #Sunrise voters should get behind his party if they want to remain in the European Union. For all the latest political updates, visit: <https://news.sky.com/politics>

<https://twitter.com/SkyNewsPolitics/status/1126398985625907200>

Ex-Sheffield councillor claims calls are growing 'louder and louder' for second EU referendum

An ex-councillor has claimed the calls for a second referendum to be held on leaving the European Union are growing 'louder and louder'. Former East Ecclesfield ward member Steve Wilson quit the Labour Party earlier this year and joined his wife, Penistone and Stocksbridge MP Angela Smith, in joining the newly formed 'Change UK - The Independent Group'. The party is in favour of the People's Vote campaign for a second referendum on the UK's membership of the EU. The group has six candidates standing in the forthcoming European elections later this month and they were due to stage a public meeting at The Mowbray in Kelham Island this evening to make their case.

<https://www.southyorkshiretimes.co.uk/news/politics/ex-sheffield-councillor-claims-calls-are-growing-louder-and-louder-for-second-eu-referendum-1-9759847>

Sturgeon steps up call for pro-EU voters to shun Scottish Labour

Nicola Sturgeon has stepped up her appeals to pro-European voters in Scotland to abandon Labour, describing Jeremy Corbyn's party as pro-Brexit and dishonest. Launching her European election campaign, the Scottish National party leader said voters needed to treat both Labour and the Conservatives as pro-Brexit parties, despite Corbyn's attempt to "face both ways" on Europe. Describing the vote on 23 May as the most important European election in Scotland's history, Sturgeon also reiterated her call for a fresh referendum on Scottish independence before 2021,

regardless of whether Brexit happens. "It is striking, I would say depressingly so, just how close together Labour and the Tories are on Brexit. On this defining issue of our time, Jeremy Corbyn and Theresa May have so much more in common than they like to pretend. They both want to take Scotland and the UK out of the European Union," she said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/09/sturgeon-steps-up-call-for-pro-eu-voters-to-shun-scottish-labour>

European elections: I'm pro-remain, how should I vote?

From Change UK to the Lib Dems, there's more than one party looking to overturn Brexit - guidance and advice for the tactical European Elections voter

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/09/european-elections-im-pro-remain-how-should-i-vote>

Attempt to form pro-remain Peterborough byelection alliance fails

An attempt to form an alliance of pro-remain parties to support a single candidate in a byelection in Peterborough has collapsed, raising concerns the failure will hinder cooperation in the future. Representatives of the Liberal Democrats, the Green party, Renew and Change UK spent several hours unsuccessfully trying to reach an agreement on a single independent candidate before a 4pm deadline for nominations for the Cambridgeshire seat. It leaves the Lib Dems and the Greens supporting their own candidates. Change UK would support Renew's candidate, sources said.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2019/may/09/remain-parties-peterborough-byelection-single-candidate-lib-dems-greens-change-uk>

@AdamBienkov Comres finds the Lib Dems are the leading Remain party in every region apart from Scotland and Wales

Comres finds the Lib Dems are the leading Remain party in every region apart from Scotland and Wales. Brexit Party doing worst in Scotland (13%) and London (18%). Best in Eastern region (32%).

<https://twitter.com/AdamBienkov/status/1126510458460971008>

Tories reveal obsession as leaflet mentions indyref2 more than Brexit

Ruth Davidson's obsession with independence was laid bare yesterday when social media images emerged of a Tory leaflet which mentions either independence, Nicola Sturgeon, indyref2 or the SNP an astonishing 28 times in one page. The leaflet put out by the party mentions Brexit once. Sturgeon said this proved they were a "one-trick pony which is now really limping".

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/17627240.tories-reveal-obsession-as-leaflet-mentions-indyref2-more-than-brexit/>

What failure to agree a Remain candidate in Peterborough means for Change UK

The withdrawal of second referendum campaigner Femi Oluwole means Liberal Democrats and Greens will run their own candidates, but Change won't stand at all. A spokesperson said "senior Labour figures, including senior figures campaigning for a People's Vote, made it clear that they would strenuously disrupt the campaign and obstruct an independent Candidate, driven by fears that it would harm their party in Peterborough."

<https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/uk/2019/05/what-failure-agree-remain-candidate-peterborough-means-change-uk>

@BBCNewsnight "We're not going to walk away from these talks lightly because we didn't enter into these talks lightly" - Shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon on the cross-party Brexit talks

"We're not going to walk away from these talks lightly because we didn't enter into these talks lightly" - Shadow Justice Secretary Richard Burgon on the cross-party Brexit talks @Emmabarnett | @RichardBurgon | #newsnight

<https://twitter.com/BBCNewsnight/status/1126604335117291520>

The Tories can only survive now if they become the party of no deal

The Spectator Editor Fraser Nelson calls on the Conservative Party to rebrand under a new leader and actively push an identity as the No Deal Brexit party.

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2019/05/09/tories-can-survive-now-become-party-no-deal/>

@TNewtonDunn May's mid ranks reshuffle is finally done - 4 loyalists promoted: Robert Buckland to Prisons Minister (next one into the Cabinet) Lucy Frazer to Solicitor General (talked of as a future PM one day)

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<https://twitter.com/tnewtondunn/status/1126537180212604928>

May earns reprieve from Tories as talks with Labour gain new life

The government and the opposition Labour Party put out statements indicating progress in their talks to forge a consensus on Brexit. May's office said both parties are acting "with seriousness" and plan to exchange documents, while Labour said in a statement "the negotiating teams are working to establish scope for agreement."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-05-08/may-wins-reprieve-from-tories-amid-difficult-talks-with-labour>

U.K. an Outsider at the EU Summit, Hinting at Post-Brexit Future

May's absence did not mean there was no British representation in the bucolic Transylvanian setting. A few hours before leaders talked about Iran, nationalism and their own democratic failings, Stephen Barclay, the U.K. Brexit secretary, spoke about Britain's place in the world at a conference close to the summit. Barclay lamented the "narrative within Europe on Brexit," which ignores the view that it's "an opportunity of confidence, of optimism, a desire to be more global." Referring to one of the most vocal campaigners for the U.K.'s departure from the EU, he added that the U.K.'s decision to leave the club "certainly wasn't the Nigel Farage, little-Englander portrayal of Brexit."

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-05-09/u-k-an-outsider-at-the-eu-summit-hinting-at-post-brexit-future>

Additional sources: (The Independent)

Political Setbacks

UKIP EU election candidate QUILTS over Carl Benjamin as police probe rape remarks

A UKIP EU election candidate has quit the party in protest at rape 'joke' furore candidate Carl Benjamin. Robert McNeil-Wilson - a candidate on UKIP's Welsh list - handed in his resignation just weeks before the May 23 poll. In an e-mail seen by the Mirror, he told party chiefs using Mr Benjamin and fellow YouTuber Mark Meehan as candidates showed UKIP was no longer a "serious, reasonable, responsible and credible party". It is too late for him to be taken off UKIP's slate, so he has vowed to quit the EU Parliament immediately if he is elected.

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/politics/ukip-eu-election-candidate-quits-15020781>

Additional sources: (Yahoo!)

@Peston Femi Oluwole, of our Our Future Our Choice, or @OFOCBrexit, the influential young campaigner for a people's vote, came within a whisker of being the single pro-referendum candidate in the Peterborough by-election

Femi Oluwole, of our Our Future Our Choice, or @OFOCBrexit, the influential young campaigner for a people's vote, came within a whisker of being the single pro-referendum candidate in the Peterborough by-election. He was a candidate until just two hours before the official...

<https://twitter.com/Peston/status/1126537699203137537>

@BBCThisWeek "You have dragged your party into the gutter and created a new opening for Nigel Farage?" @afneil "I don't agree with that, I have not done that"

"You have dragged your party into the gutter and created a new opening for Nigel Farage?" @afneil

"I don't agree with that, I have not done that" @GerardBattenMEP who says UKIP membership is going up under his leadership - And he challenges claims from @leicesterliz #bbctw
<https://twitter.com/bbcthisweek/status/1126627541249191936>

Who needs policies? Jeremy the bearded messiah is back

After Jeremy Corbyn's arrival had been greeted with a standing ovation from a sizeable crowd that had turned up for the occasion, Jayne Maxwell, one of Labour's prospective MEPs in Scotland - presumably all the candidates in the south-east had reckoned their chances might be improved by not being seen in public with the Labour leader - set the tone. Labour was on a roll, she said. And she knew this because the party had made massive gains in last week's local elections. No one had bothered to tell her Labour had actually lost more than 60 seats.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/09/who-needs-policies-jeremy-the-bearded-messiah-was-back>

MPs give themselves ANOTHER holiday amid Brexit crisis

MPs will desert Westminster on an 11-day break at the end of the month despite the ongoing Brexit crisis, it was revealed today. Commons' Leader Andrea Leadsom confirmed that the Whitsun recess will begin on May 23 - the day of the European Elections - with MPs not due to return until June 4. The announcement came amid an ongoing crisis over the UK's departure from the EU and Theresa May's premiership.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7011245/MPs-holiday-amid-Brexit-crisis.html>

May buys time with hints at new withdrawal bill vote and exit date

Theresa May has bought herself another week's grace as prime minister, hinting she will bring the EU withdrawal bill to parliament before the European elections and promising to meet a powerful backbench committee who have demanded that she set out her timetable for stepping down. After a fortnight of furious demands by Tory MPs that she give a firm date for her departure, Sir Graham Brady, the chair of the 1922 Committee, said May had agreed to meet him and the 13-strong executive of Tory backbenchers next week. He gave no indication that May intended to provide a firm departure date at the meeting, but the promise will buy the prime minister an extra week to continue cross-party Brexit talks with Labour, before the Conservatives could consider changing leadership rules to force her exit.

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/brexit/may-buys-time-with-hints-at-new-withdrawal-bill-vote-and-exit-date/ar-AAB5NHX>

Britain's chief negotiator Olly Robbins 'asked to become Belgian'

Britain's chief Brexit negotiator told his counterparts in Brussels that he wanted to become an EU citizen after Brexit, behind-the-scenes footage for a BBC documentary reveals. Olly Robbins, Theresa May's chief EU advisor, said that he would like to take EU citizenship after Brexit, Guy Verhofstadt, Brexit co-ordinator of the European parliament, told the BBC documentary Brexit: Behind Closed Doors, which continues tonight. "Olly Robbins came to me and said 'Guy, can I become a Belgium citizen after this whole thing because I don't think I will return,'" Mr Verhofstadt is recorded telling the programme.

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/ef5bf056-71ed-11e9-a116-49ac88679a93>

Additional sources: ([The Independent](#)) ([Express.co.uk](#))

The Brexit party is a post-politics entity

No matter how long you research, you'll never find any content in the Brexit party. There is no manifesto. Its website is a politics-free zone. This is a product made entirely of packaging. It's not even really clear what its Brexit policy is. There's a reference to "WTO Brexit" in Leave Means Leave boss Richard Tice's Twitter feed, and "clean Brexit" - whatever that is - from party leader Nigel Farage. Do they mean no aviation treaties between Britain and Europe? No equivalence arrangements for financial services? No cooperation on border processes? Presumably not. And if

not, they are talking about some kind of deal, just a different one. But even to go into that kind of very basic detail is to exceed what they have to offer. There have no ideas at all. And they're not supposed to. Their retail offer is emotional.

<http://www.politics.co.uk/blogs/2019/05/09/the-brexit-party-is-a-post-politics-entity>

'There are two types of Boris Johnson': Former chancellor George Osborne takes a dig at ex-mayor

Former chancellor George Osborne has said there are two different versions of Boris Johnson and he isn't sure which one will turn up to a potential future Conservative leadership contest. Speaking to ITV News Political Editor Robert Peston, Mr Osborne claimed one version is "hard Brexit Boris" and the other "the mayor who won Tory victories in a city that previously always voted Labour". He said he doesn't see how she can continue as PM and claimed the sooner the Conservative Party can move on, the better. "She can't pass the Brexit deal, she's tried, she's been trying since December, she's not relying on Jeremy Corbyn to save her, despite at the same time saying he's unfit for office. "That's not a sustainable position for a prime minister."

<https://www.itv.com/news/2019-05-08/george-osborne-nigel-farage-robert-peston/>

ASTROTURFERS OF BRITAIN the Brexit Party's Artificial Grass Roots

Astroturfing is the process of masking the sponsors of an entity by making it appear that an organization has emerged from the grassroots. While there is little doubt that many of the "Leavers of" groups are run by genuine and dedicated Brexiters the fact that Leavers of Britain is registered to an address with links to both Vote Leave and John Mills should raise legitimate questions about the authenticity of this movement. The people of Yorkshire, where Lucy Harris is standing as an MEP will no doubt want to know. And frankly, so do I.

<https://bylinetimes.com/2019/05/09/astroturfers-of-britain-the-brexit-partys-artificial-grass-roots-part-one/>

Tories could come sixth in European elections, officials fear

Conservative officials fear the party could come sixth in the European elections, with their support plummeting to single digits. Candidates running in the election said the party was "almost in denial" that the poll was happening and continued to insist they would not need to take up their seats in the European parliament, despite fading prospects for a cross-party deal with Labour that would enable Brexit to happen before 2 July. The fears of a dismal performance have been stoked by the fact that the party plans to spend no money on candidate campaigning, will not publish a manifesto and is refusing to hold a launch. One MEP said candidates were funding their campaigns out of their own pockets, unlike previous years when there was a central pot of funding available. They have been told they are allowed to have their own regional manifestos, but many are not bothering, and there will be no central party manifesto.

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/may/09/tories-fear-dismal-results-in-european-elections-meps-say>

David Gauke says 'wishful thinking' of pro-Brexit colleagues has fuelled voter anger

David Gauke has blamed the "wishful thinking" of his pro-Brexit colleagues during the EU referendum for fuelling voter anger across the country. In a major speech, the Justice Secretary said their claims that leaving the bloc would be easy and not cause any problems "has not survived the collision with reality". He also warned his fellow Tories that "over-simplifying and failing to deliver will only encourage further disenchantment" among the public.

<https://www.politicshome.com/news/uk/foreign-affairs/brexit/news/103759/david-gauke-says-wishful-thinking-pro-brexit-colleagues>

Tory MP Nicky Morgan installed CCTV and panic alarms as unemployed pro-Brexit troll, 44, who lives with his parents threatened to 'send her to the burns unit'

Tory MP Nicky Morgan was threatened by a pro-Brexit troll who said he would send her 'to the burns unit' and leave her 'scarred for life' if she knocked on his door. Lee Hickling, 44, using the alias Ray

Brendon Smith, said that the Remain-backing Loughborough MP had done nothing for the town and 'needs a good kicking' in a series of threatening Facebook posts.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7006917/Pro-Brexit-troll-threatened-send-Tory-MP-Nicky-Morgan-burns-unit.html>

Meet The Brexit Party's Climate Science Deniers

While it might seem like a single-issue party, there's something striking about the list of candidates we've been gradually drip-fed since its formal launch on 12 April: the sheer number who still can't accept the science on climate change or just don't think it's worth the effort of doing anything about.

<https://www.desmog.co.uk/2019/05/01/brexit-party-climate-science-deniers?amp>