

your say...

Send us your views.
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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

Forget scoring points sort debt

BASED on your report re Mr Tim Farron, he states that the Conservatives promise of £350m/week would be spent on the NHS and has quietly abandoned.

I clearly remember Mr Gove saying – and it was on a TV programme – that we pay £350m to the EU each week and if we weren't in they would give £10billion (which equates to £190m approx/week) when the negotiations had been completed which is somewhat different from his statement. He has always when I have listened to him put Britain down.

I believe he ought to address far more important issues which to me are that countries in the EU are suppose to be partners and work together, in reality every country looks after its own interests a good example is the problems of Greece where Germany wouldn't give any help after its own country had substantial help in 1953 for rebuilding its economy.

What will happen with other countries such as Italy, Spain, Portugal even France who are heading to a financial problems if they haven't got them already, would Britain have to dig deeper into our pockets to help them if we stayed in. We are already in a dreadful financial mess with a debt of £1.7 trillion and getting bigger by the day.

I would suggest rather than he trying to score points he should be sorting out the problems his party had a hand in creating, that is make Britain pay its way not make the debt greater.

There are many other issues such as how many criminals are out on the streets because of the ECJ and human rights those are the issues that need attending to.

David Preston
 Tunbridge Wells

Majority going to airport talks

MAY I say that it is enlightening to read that hundreds of people have been turning up to attend RiverOak's informal consultation events for their plans to re-open Manston Airport.

It puts the events run by Stone Hill Park Ltd, of their plans to build at least 2,500 houses and a "mixed-use development" on the site, to shame!

Ralph Allison
 Gillingham.

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Restore home rule to City of Canterbury

THE 1972 Redcliffe-Maud Report on local government reorganisation was a compromise. Government subsequently recognised it did not provide involvement for communities in the cities and towns within the large districts, resulting in the option of Area Member Panels able to be introduced, but only as discussion forums, making recommendations to committees, not decisions.

In March 2013, the Canterbury Area Member Panel unanimously resolved not to implement the Westgate Towers Traffic Trial but were then overruled on Canterbury District Council by the interference of outside Councillors representing Wards in Bridge, Blean, Herne Bay and Whitstable.

In 1448, King Henry VI granted Canterbury a Royal Charter, decreeing the City should be "of one Mayor and one commonalty, wholly corporate for ever". The charter conferred county powers on the city.

"For ever" came at midnight on March 31, 1974, with the implementation of the Local Government Act 1972 abolishing the County of the City of Canterbury, Bridge-Blean Rural District Council, Herne Bay Urban District Council, and Whitstable Urban District Council; replacing them by one larger Canterbury District

Council and ending five hundred and twenty-six years of historically important independence for the County of the City of Canterbury.

County boroughs were the original all-in-one single tier local authority, with both the city council and county council responsibilities fully integrated.

The Canterbury Education Authority of the County of the City of Canterbury was also the paid managing agent for the St Augustine's Division of the Kent Education Authority, demonstrating an effective and efficient use of scarce resources without overlapping layers. Counties corporate became county boroughs under the Local Government Act 1888. Kent had only one county borough. Other towns became boroughs but not with county powers.

At the entrance to the Westgate Gardens next to the Westgate Towers there is a clue to the historical importance of the original City of Canterbury. The signboard serves as a reminder of the importance of the county status granted to the city and removed as part of the arbitrary one-size-fits-all amalgamation of boroughs into larger districts, which took effect forty-two years ago.

Long live restoration of the City of Canterbury as a County Borough!

Richard West
 Canterbury

'Remoaners' still throwing toys...

OH dear, the 'Remoaners' are still

throwing their toys out of the pram! [KoS Letters 24/07].

Going by the gospel according to DR Hodges, most of our general elections have not been democratic and led to dictatorships, as parties

has been elected on less than 40 per cent of the vote!

I'm trying to imagine if the vote had been exactly reversed, whether the 'Remoaners' would be claiming it was unfair, should be rerun, they would be dictating to the other half, etc... etc?

More chance of the Pope getting married!

DR Hodges is living in a dream world if he thinks we can negotiate with them and attempt to return them to sanity. Who found difficulty even agreeing to Dilettante Dave's minor alterations! Who sat back and watched Greece crumble, steadfastly refusing to admit defeat on the Euro! Who watched the appalling problems created by Shenegen, as their indigenous populations suffered and even died for their madness!

Who ensured that GB didn't have any effect over the last 75 EU votes and was ignored on most issues, as Merkel and Hollande run the show, some democracy that DR Hodges thinks is so precious!!

Phil Granger,
 West Malling

'The UK is just the first domino'

A 'SLENDER majority, almost 50/50' in the EU referendum is a 'dictatorship' to be compared, presumably, with the European Commission of twenty eight souls, is it? I take issue with DR Hodges (Letter of the Week, 23/24 July.)

The electorate voted to leave the EU, the majority in favour was in excess of 1.27 million; or to put it another way, more than fourteen full capacity Wembley stadiums. Given that a single vote either way won the day, it wasn't even close.

The gap would have been even greater but for Remain's drip, drip Operation Fear designed to frighten us into staying. Inter alia, Fear comprised decimation of the economy, a punishment budget, our very own 'Jungle', the break up of the UK, possible world conflict and interventions by the G20, Obama, and the Bank of England. There was an unexplained two-day extension to online registration because those who were apathetic until ninety minutes before the deadline managed to crash the website.

We are not losing our friendship, trade and cooperation with our European neighbours. We are leaving the EU, a political project which has become a bureaucratic, profligate and dictatorial institution that needs toppling. The UK is just the first domino.

Malcolm Brockman,
 Loose

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.

- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively

criticise.

- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
- 9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
- 10) Champion causes that it feels are