

## ***‘Brexit Down Under with your CIBUK’***

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across the world*



### **Dear Subscribers**

We are delighted to kick off 2024 with a trans-global interview between our Chairman Leigh Evans and Steven Tripp, journalist for the *Australian Spectator* and host of the podcast *‘Commanding the Narrative’*.

### ***A common malaise***

The first thing that strikes one after listening to this [fascinating exchange](#), is the astonishingly unrepresentative nature of the UK and Australian parliamentary systems.

Both appear remote and cut off from the people they are supposed to represent and worse still, seem not to realise it or to show the least inclination to change.

This is profoundly worrying for democratic politics in the West and across the Anglosphere in particular. We simply cannot go on being represented by people whose views and values are quite different from the people who elect them to office. A fundamental re-set is required.

### ***Tribute to the late Sir Christopher Meyer***

As a precursor to the wider discussion which followed, both Leigh and Steven offered up a much-merited tribute to the late Sir Christopher Meyer, former British Ambassador in Washington whose novel, *Survivors*, has been posthumously published and promoted by his widow Lady Catherine.

Based on the real-life story of Lady Catherine’s own family this sweeping saga follows their fortunes from the Russian Civil War to exile in Manchuria and then China. Further details about the book and how to purchase it can be found [here](#).

### ***‘Largest democratic vote in UK History’***

For the benefit of our Australian audience, our Chairman provided an outstanding summary of the tortuous tale of Brexit from the date of the Referendum result in 2016 to the General Election of 2019 that followed, right up to the present day.

## ***Brexit Benefits?***

Our Chairman also cited the recent trade deal between our two countries, paying fulsome tribute to Australia which has led by example in lowering or dropping almost all tariffs in marked contrast to the UK government who continue to maintain tariffs to protect our farmers for up to 15 years in a blatant breach of the Brexit promise made to the British people that leaving the EU would bring down the cost of food for those least able to pay for it.

In other areas too, notably Northern Ireland, the British government has failed to act on its mandate to free the entire United Kingdom from the clutches of the European Union. Unbeknownst to most Australians, Northern Ireland still resides within the EU orbit and its devolved government has not sat in two years.

## ***Are there any advantages of being inside the EU? 'No!'***

Playing devil's advocate Steven wondered whether there was any upside to being inside the European Union. Our Chairman put him straight on that.

## ***'Project Fear'***

Well known to all of us, it might come as something of a shock to overseas audiences to discover the extent to which the UK Government used its considerable power during the Brexit debate to scare the living daylights out of the British people for even daring to vote to leave. We were told economic Armageddon would ensue and unemployment would immediately rise by over 800,000. Such nonsense has long since been exposed but nonetheless provides a chilling example of the State's power to scare the population when it sees fit.

## ***Covid***

Interestingly, it turns out that similar tactics were used by both British and Australian governments in their response to the Covid pandemic where dissenting voices were simply crushed or ignored.

## ***Blame the Parties not the System***

Overall it appears political disaffection with the status quo is as widespread down under as it is in the UK. In describing the Australian political class as cut off and indifferent to the people they are supposed to represent, Steven Tripp could be describing the state of play in Westminster.

But both commentators agreed it isn't democracy that needs overhauling, it's the parties themselves which are in urgent need of reform. Such drastic action appears to be as overdue in Australia as it is over here.

## ***Conviction***

Another common factor running through the minds of many leaders in the free world, is the sheer terror they have of upsetting their own people. Instead of taking the tough and necessary measures needed to address a crisis, they would rather follow the public than lead them.

## ***Don't listen to Social Media***

Paralysed by what people may be saying about them on X (formerly Twitter), is it any wonder we are so badly led? Policy is therefore being made on the basis of emotion rather than reason and on myths rather than facts.

## ***Culture Wars and Australia Day***

UK readers may be interested to know that the assault on our heritage is not unique to Britain. Steven informed us that measures were being taken by leading authorities to denounce or at least not celebrate Australia Day, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, the same day as this Newsletter's publication.

Again, the agenda is being set by a vocal minority while the silent majority wish to continue to celebrate it as before. Let us be very clear - CIBUK and its affiliates [stand right behind](#) them in this endeavour.

## ***A Brexit Government with a Brexit Manifesto***

Put on the spot by his host, our Chairman was asked to name his fantasy government. Without wishing to steal his thunder, it only seems right to invite viewers and listeners to tune into the podcast itself to find out.

On behalf of us all, CIBUK we would like to extend particular thanks to Steven Tripp and his colleagues for providing us with the opportunity to tell our story and promote our mission overseas. Building on this first encounter, we look forward to a warm and fruitful relationship going forward.

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## ***‘Survivors’ Book Launch, Bonhams***

Closer to home, it was your correspondent’s privilege to attend the late Sir Christopher’s book launch, courtesy of Bonham’s who hosted the event. We pay homage to an outstanding ambassador and true patriot.

The event took place amidst the stunning backdrop of *The Crown* Auction, where the TV drama’s finest garments and objects were on full display, including a replica of the Gold State Coach and the Coronation Ceremonial Garments. It seemed the perfect setting for such a well-attended and popular event.

Lady Catherine proved to be the consummate hostess, charming, graceful and most interesting as she outlined the real history of her family to CNN correspondent Christiane Amanpour.

Most of Fleet Street’s finest were in attendance including Chris ‘Chopper’ Hope and Julia Hartley-Brewer wearing a bright green jacket and high heels which set her head and shoulders above most others in the room.

Your correspondent exchanged encouraging words with Lord David Frost and Lord Peter Lilley. Both agreed that Brexit is not yet complete and much still needs to be done to get it over the line. ‘Keep up the fight’ urged Lord Lilley and we must certainly do so.

Among *The Crown*’s many stage props lining the walls was a replica of the door of Number 10 Downing Street. Past and present politicians lined up to be photographed in front of the famous black door, no doubt wondering what might have been, had the cards fallen differently.

Among those on the porch were Sir Bill Cash, David Jones MP and Baroness Kate Hoey.

How much more might we have achieved had any of them been in charge of Brexit when it mattered?

It just remains for me to thank the Baroness Meyer and her family for their outstanding hospitality. Judging by the flow of wine and enthusiastic conversations taking place, this was an enormously popular and successful launch and a privilege to be there.

*With all best wishes,*



**Ben Philips**

Communications Director, [CIBUK.org](http://CIBUK.org)

Email: [ben.philips@cibuk.org](mailto:ben.philips@cibuk.org)