





QUATUOR A CORDES DANS LE PAYS DE FAYENCE FESTIVAL 12 – 15 September

Not too much happening in September except of course the annual string quarter festival all around and about Fayence, featuring quartets from all over Europe. Enjoy!

Thursday 12 September– 19h30 EGLISE/CONCERT EN APARTE – TOURRETTES - **Quatuor Enesco** DVORAK-JANACEK-ENESCO

Friday 13 September– 18h15 - CHAPELLE DES PENITENTS CALLIAN - Concert en Aparté **Scène ouverte aux jeunes quatuors**

Friday 13 September – 20h30 – EGLISE CALLIAN - **Quatuor Varèse** BARTOK-BEETHOVEN-PUCCINI

Saturday 14 September – 11h30 – EGLISE SAINT-PAUL-EN-FORET -**Scène ouverte aux jeunes quatuors**

Saturday 14 September – 16h00 – EGLISE MONS - **Quatuor Schuppanzigh** HAYDN- RIES- MENDELSSOHN

Saturday 14 September – 21h00 – EGLISE SEILLANS - **Quatuor Modigliani** HAYDN- WEBERN-KORNGOLD

Sunday 15 September – 09h30 - CHAPELLE DIOR -

MONTAUROUX **Lauréat Concours Quatuors à Bordeaux**

Sunday 15 September – 16h00 – EGLISE MONTAUROUX - **Quatuor Béla** CHOSTAKOVICH-STROPPAPROKOVIEV-SCHULHOFF

Sunday 15 September – 20h30 - EGLISE MONTAUROUX - **Quatuor Arod** SCHUBERT-BARTOK-ZEMLINSKY

<http://quatuors-fayence.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/FestivalQuatuorFayence-2019-programme.pdf>



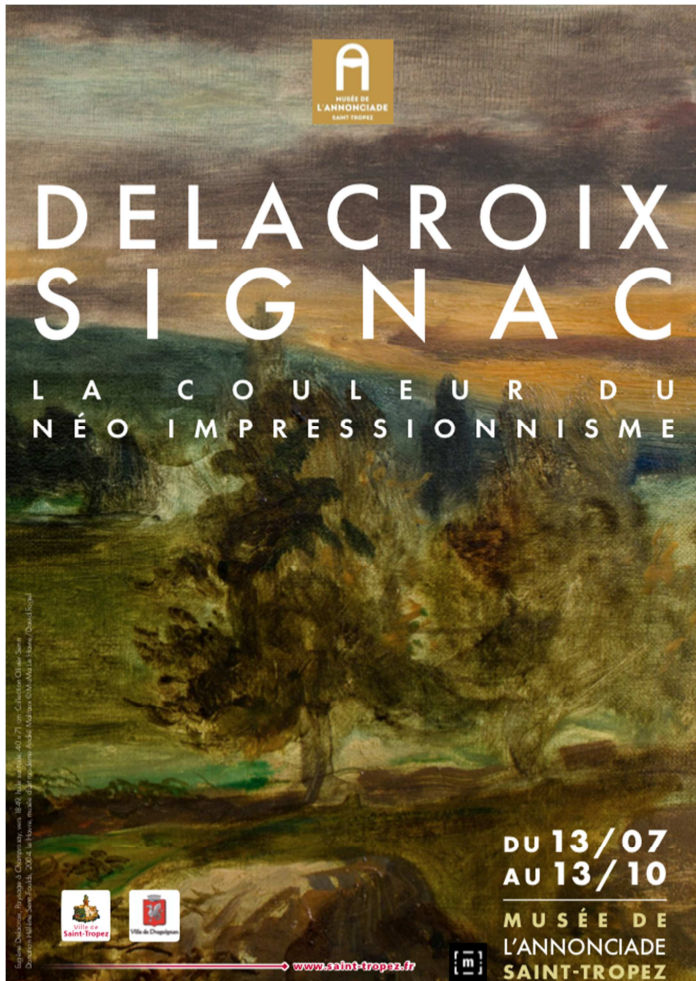
JOURNEES EUROPEENNES DU PATRIMOINE 21 & 22 SEPTEMBER

The time to visit all museums, lots of art galleries, historic monuments – all for free, have a look at the website, to see if there are any special events.

<https://journeesdupatrimoine.culture.gouv.fr/>

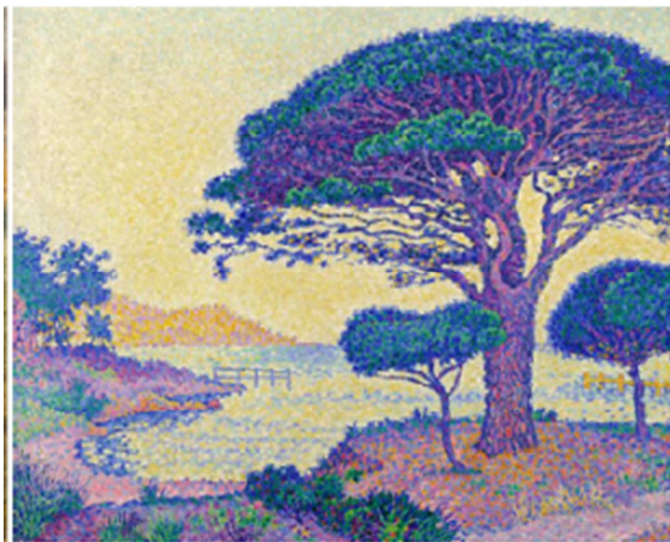
TRAVELLING BOOK SWAP - 18 SEPTEMBER

Chez Shiona & Brian Anderson, 1594 route des Arcs, 83510 Lorgues 04 94 99 64 63 - Follow the balloons! 10h00-12h00. Contact Mim Kay on mimi4opp@gmail.com or 04 94 04 78 94 for further directions.



MUSEE DE L'ANNONCIADE – ST TROPEZ – NEW EXHIBITION – 13 JULY – 13 OCTOBER

Eugène Delacroix et Paul Signac (1798-1863) (1863-1935)



The Annonciade Museum has a new exhibition starting 13 July devoted to Eugene Delacroix and Paul Signac. Signac was the artist who first discovered the delights of the coast and brought many painters to share in his joys. The Museum has a wonderful and wide collection of paintings by Signac donated by his family. A show well worth going out of one's way to see.



NEW EXPO – LES CARRIERES – LES BAUX – 1 March 2019 – January 2020
An immersion in Van Gogh's finest masterpieces!

Since March 2019 (to January 2020), the Carrières de Lumières are exhibiting the work of the genius painter Vincent Van Gogh (1853–1890), who only achieved fame after his death. Spanning the 7,000 m² of the Carrières, a visual and musical production retraces the intense life of the tormented artist, who, during the last ten years of his life, painted more than 2,000 pictures, which are now held in collections around the world.

Van Gogh's immense oeuvre—which radically evolved over the years, from the Mangeurs de pommes de terre (The Potato Eaters, 1885) to the Nuit étoilée (Starry Night, 1889), Les Tournesols (Sunflowers, 1888), and La Chambre à coucher (The Bedroom, 1889)—will be projected onto the giant stone walls of the Carrières.



The clouds, suns, and portraits, represented in the artist's unique style, come to life on walls that are more than fifteen metres high, evoking the artist's boundless, chaotic, and poetic interior world. Via a thematic itinerary relating to the various phases of his life—his time spent in Arles, Paris, and Saint-Rémy-de-Provence—visitors will be immersed in his first works and those of his later years, from his sunny landscapes and night scenes, to his portraits and still lifes.

The Dutch painter's expressive and powerful brushstrokes produced works with bold colours and an unrivalled style that highlight a permanent dialogue between light and shadow. The visual and musical experience produced by Culturespaces and created by Gianfranco Iannuzzi, Renato Gatto, and Massimiliano Siccardi, highlights this chromatic richness, as well as the power of the artist's drawings and impasto.



Plus – DREAMED JAPAN – an Immersive journey



ART EXHIBITION - HOTEL CAUMONT – AIX EN PROVENCE

1 May- 29 September

Masterpieces from the Guggenheim - Monet to Picasso

The Hôtel de Caumont Art Centre will be presenting masterpieces from the Justin K. Thannhauser Collection, bequeathed in 1963 to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York.



For the first time, around fifty major works from this prestigious collection will be presented in Europe in an itinerant exhibition that began in the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum: paintings and sculptures by the masters of Impressionism and post-Impressionism, as well as the major figures of modern art, from

Manet to Picasso, and Degas, Gauguin, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Braque, and Matisse.

Justin K. Thannhauser (1892–1976), a leading figure in the dissemination of European modern art, was the sponsor, friend, and promoter of innovative artists who transformed Western art at the end of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century. In his youth, he helped his father, Heinrich Thannhauser, to run the famous Moderne Galerie, which was founded in Munich in 1909. Father and son developed a remarkable programme of exhibitions that featured the work of French Impressionists and post-Impressionists, as well as contemporary German artists. The gallery also held one of the first major retrospectives of Picasso's oeuvre in 1913, and this helped to forge a long and close friendship between Justin Thannhauser and the artist.

In 1941, Justin Thannhauser moved to New York and soon established himself as an art dealer in the United States. As he had no successor, he bequeathed the major works in his collection to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in New York. They have since become some of the most important works in this major museum, where they are displayed in a gallery that bears the name of their legatee. This bequest considerably enriched the body of works by Cézanne in the New York museum, which until that point only had a single work by the artist: *l'Homme aux bras croisés* (*Man with Crossed Arms*, circa 1889). The collection of works by Cézanne owned by Thannhauser will be displayed at the Hôtel de Caumont, and includes the work *Bibémus* (*Bibémus Quarries*), which will return for the first time to Aix-in-Provence, where it was painted circa 1894–1895.



The exhibition brings together other emblematic works: major paintings by Picasso such as *Le Moulin de la Galette* (1900), an exceptional loan from the Guggenheim Museum, as well as masterpieces by Van Gogh and Manet, which have been restored to their former splendour, thanks to a recent restoration campaign that was conducted specifically for this exhibition. The exhibition also gives visitors a chance to retrace the history of the galleries and the Thannhauser Collection via photographs, inventory books, and other archive documents held in the gallery's collection, which illustrate the relations between the Thannhauser family and the avant-garde artists, collectors, and dealers of the time.

This exhibition must be a real feather in the cap for the Caumont, the insurance costs must be sky high! So enjoy



And of course one can make a visit to this Museum a complete day's outing, housing as it does a very sophisticated collection of 18th c artefacts, pictures, furniture, tapestries, everything that complimented life in that era, plus there is a charming courtyard, gardens, and café cum restaurant serving appetising snacks lunches an immersive experience, total culture.



Musée Bonnard – Le Cannet

Another lovely Museum to visit not too far away is the Bonnard Museum in Le Cannet, just up from Cannes, housing as it does a fine collection of Bonnard works.

Pierre Bonnard lived in le Cannet from 1922 to 1947, eventually acquiring the villa Le Bosquet, up on the heights of the town.

The Bonnard is having an interesting new Exhibition from October, keep your eyes peeled.



THREE THINGS BETTER THAT BEATEN BE - A WIFE, A DOG AND A WALNUT TREE

by TRENCHMAN

That was the ancient piece of doggerel running through my mind as we set off one damp and cloudy summer's day from Herefordshire across the border to Abergavenny to The Walnut Tree, a Michelin starred restaurant of long standing and great repute.

Founded in 1963 it was owned and run by Franco Taruschio under whose guidance it started to build its reputation. A good friend of mine who is known to love good food, claims that in the day, Taruschio produced a pasta dish 'Vincigrassi' that was without doubt the best pasta ever. My friend being half Italian knows a thing or two about this.

We arrived in the carpark just as the rain was beginning and fled to the stone flagged bar for a few moments of refreshment and a perusal of the menu.

Glasses of a fresh New Zealand sauvignon blanc removed all thought of the rain and the serious job of choosing our lunch began. We were shown through to our table, and this was 12.30 and the restaurant was already half full. Our table was next to one occupied by a saraband to the 60's; flower children straight from the summer of love, flowers in their hair and big smiles on their faces. A wedding breakfast or rehearsals for Mid Summer Nights Dream perhaps?

There is a set menu at £25 for two or £30 for three, courses that is, and a daily changing à la carte menu.

The set menu has choices 2,2 and 2 and there was something to delight everyone, including she who was entranced by being there.

I chose from the à la carte and ordered veal kidneys with Irish potato bread and in a cassis sauce, the best veal kidneys I have ever eaten, and I eat a lot of them. The micro second attention required to produce perfect kidneys is all about paying close attention, and that is what they did. I had tender local lamb as a main course and a sweet sweet for desert. The meal was washed down with the least expensive Amarone I have ever ordered in a restaurant and wonderful it was, my desert was washed away with a glass of Barossa Botrytis, but nothing could wipe the smile off my face. The service was charming and discreet and the atmosphere was of a full restaurant full of happy people. And you only have to go to Wales to get it. Parking is free.

We had crossed the country from one side to the other enjoying great, indeed, magical opera at Glyndebourne with a feast in the Green room, great friends and wonderful cooking in the

Cotswolds and more great friends in the borders eating their rare breed sheep, it is different, and goat from a local farmer.

We returned home feeble but fêted and were asked by some other good friends to join them for lunch at a new establishment called UP (it stands for Ultimate Provence). There seems to be a new trend to turn Vineyards into restaurants and even hotels, to improve their footfall and sell more wine. A splendid idea if the services are good.

A large amount of money has been spent on UP and it shows, it is a place worth a visit even if just to admire.

We were seated outside in the courtyard at a table with splendid view across a plateau des Maures. The local white wine as an apero was fine and the menu quite extensive and it seemed to be quite adventurous. We started with well priced Sashimi, one of salmon and one of tuna. It arrived well presented and it was so good that more was ordered.

For a main course I ordered a burger, something I never do but I had espied burger in a huge bun being delivered to another table and a sense of greed overtook me.

I had ordered a bottle of Cairanne from their wine list, something hearty to wash down a giant burger (on the menu it was described as a big UP burger). The waiter could not understand the wine order, my French is not great but ordering wine is something I am practised at, so he sent another member of staff who also did not understand and so I asked again for the wine list and pointed to the Cairanne. They still did not understand and so a charming lady who I took to be the restaurant manager, arrived and with one glance at the list announced they did not have any.

It had taken ten minutes during which time I had ordered my mega burger à point; when it arrived the mega limp bun was lifted to expose a mini burger (smaller than a Mac) over cooked. For once I was pleased that the wine had not arrived.

If you want a raw deal the UP could be the place to go down to. Pip, pip



THE UK HAS MOST TO GAIN FROM A NO DEAL - & THE EU HAS THE MOST TO LOSE - & THE EU KNOW IT!

Well hooray for Boris Johnson, again!

Not only has Boris turbo charged his Government, he also has turbo charged the civil service into actively and feverishly preparing for a No Deal scenario come 31 October. And finally, finally the EU have seemingly come out of their permanent self-delusional state of mind, to realise that perhaps Boris means

what he says, and what is more has the power and clout to make it happen.

What was lovely to observe this weekend, was to see Boris breeze into the G7 meeting in Biarritz, and say what he had to say, and get listened to, what a difference a Prime Minister makes. Previously, at EU Summits, Conferences, Theresa May was ignored, cold shouldered, and comprehensively intimidated. Thank goodness we have finally emerged from the hopelessness of the three year T. May Gulag!

Not our Boris. He flew into Berlin, dinner with Merkel, then Paris for lunch with Macron, ostensibly to have semi serious pre talks re Brexit, but possibly to "make nice" to the two EU leaders.

After all, after three years of resolute no-negotiation, no deals, no offers, EU leaders are going to have a hard time back tracking to achieve some sort, any sort of deal, so Boris listened and 'made nice', but they are finally aware he has the whip hand in the UK Parliament, and that push cum shove and a General Election, he would likely win in a landslide. So no matter what has been politicians like Tony Blair, and Heseltine, plus Major and dreary remainers try to persuade the EU they can stop the Brexit movement, they are just not in the running.

And Brave old Boris, who braved the Biarritz waves to go swimming, twice! One wonders whether any other G7 leaders took the plunge – the imagination boggles!



TRADE DEFICITS

The UK had an overall **trade deficit** of -£64 billion with the EU in 2018. ... The UK had a **trade surplus** of £44 billion with non-EU countries. Which means that even if there are disruptions to trade between the UK and the EU, the results are likely to be far more far reaching and harmful for the EU, than the UK, despite all the incredibly stupid Project Fear Mark 3 & 4 recent announcements.

The Irish prime Minister Varadkar has painted himself into a neat little corner – having quite deliberately weaponised the Irish backstop in the utterly vain hope that it would convince the UK to stay in the EU – fat chance – bearing in mind, notwithstanding the Irish border question, that the Irish economy was about to take the worst hit from the all the too possible No Deal scenario. 50% of Irish exports come to the UK, cattle, agricultural products etc, on which they would have to pay tariffs, and not only that, but 40% of their other exports to the EU, instead of taking off from Dublin, landing at Liverpool and then thundering through the UK to Dover, Felixstowe, Immingham etc for onward journeys to the EU, they will have to ship, via the Irish sea and the Channel to Europe, very possibly more expensive and time consuming. Consolation for the UK, who likely don't get a

penny from this traffic to support the upkeep of roads and infrastructure.

And it's not just the Irish who will feel the pain first of a No Deal scenario, the German economy stands to take the worst hit, not just from falling car and automotive part sales to the UK which since 2015 and diesel scandal have plummeted- and German car companies make many of their exports for China at US plants. IHS estimates that BMW shipped 85,000 US-made vehicles to China last year. Mercedes shipped 65,000. These sales are now caught up in Chinese counter-tariffs.

Around 14 per cent of major food and drink imports into Britain come from Germany. In 2016 the UK imported £75 billion in goods and services from Germany but sold only £49 billion to the country, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Germany is one of the major food exporters to Britain selling more than £635 million (€700m) of meat plus the same amount of fruit and vegetables every year. More products enter the UK from Germany than anywhere else, amounting to around \$92bn in 2018. That total is higher than the value of goods arriving from France, Italy and Ireland combined. The UK is a huge market for German businesses, being their third-most important in Europe and fifth globally.

The German economy is fast sliding into recession, as recent figures show, with the eurozone's German "engine room" struggling, the EU is playing with fire by refusing to budge in Brexit talks. German Mittelstand, small and medium sized companies are all breathing down Chancellor Merkel's neck over the possibility of No Deal Brexit.



Plus a hard Brexit would cost the EU 1.7 million jobs, nearly 300,000 of which would be in Germany, according to a new study published by the University of Leuven in Belgium, nearly as many job losses in France and even more job losses in Ireland! Yes, job losses also in the UK, but nothing like as bad, and the UK creates jobs far more efficiently than the the EU.

PROJECT FEAR

Meantime the Project Fear Doomsters and remainiacs forecast log jams at Channel ports, supply chains breaking down, etc, most of which is patent rubbish, particularly the recent YellowHammer Port report, which one writer totally dismissed as pure slapstick. Not only the UK ports, Dover, Felixstowe, Immingham etc have been tooling up, streamlining procedures, computer systems, but also the French (Calais Boulogne) and Dutch ports (Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Zeebrugge, etc), heavily dependent on such business, have also been tooling up.



Calais' port chief Jean-Marc Puissesseau

C'EST LE BULLSH*T

The head of the French channel ports has dismissed warnings of Brexit chaos on the Dover-Calais trade route as irresponsible scare-mongering by political agitators. "The British authorities have been doing a great deal to prepare. People say they are asleep but I can assure you that they are highly professional and they are ready," said Jean-Marc Puissesseau, president of Port Boulogne Calais.

"There are certain individuals in the UK who are whipping up this catastrophism for their own reasons. This has provoked a lot of concern but basically 'c'est la bullsh*t'. Nothing is going to happen the day after Brexit," "Britain will be a third country, that's all, and there is no reason why this should lead to any problems. If both sides do their homework traffic will be completely fluid," he said.

Mr Puissesseau, an anglophile and horse-race aficionado, said alarmist stories of thirteen-mile lorry jams across Kent are based on twisted assumptions by people who do not know what they are talking about, or in some cases the result of distortion by particular interests with an axe to grind.

To anyone who keeps up with computer technology developments etc, it is pretty obvious that streamlined computer technology solves most problems. For example your local supermarket keeps abreast of its needs to reorder stocks, via their cash tills, and bar codes. And bar codes are the answer, together with hand held computers.

An example of this sort of high level technology was seen in an episode of a TV series McMafia, which featured a drug heist from an Indian container port, the criminals, hacked the necessary computer codes, the truck driver held up his mini computer featuring bar codes, manifest, and permissions, which was read by the equivalent hand held computer by the security guard, and off the load went.

Mr Puissesseau interestingly said "I have just received a delegation of Polish hauliers - and they are the most important in Europe - and I can tell you that they are perfectly up to speed on everything that has to be done," said Mr Puissesseau.

The vital and very significant point about Polish Hauliers is that they control and operate over 70% of the haulage traffic throughout the EU- and therefore have every reason to have all their computer systems streamlined - a fact that is a bit of a thorn in the side of President Macron, who had been battling this imbalance due to lower wages in Poland.

And due to the huge imbalance of exports/imports, nearly half of the trucks entering the UK, depart **EMPTY!**

One can hardly imagine the pragmatic Dutch not dealing with a situation which could wipe out large swathes of their cut flower industry, for the Dutch export something like 80% of their fresh

cut flowers to UK flower markets, a business which must entail a hugely streamlined time sensitive overnight haulage operation, so that flowers are at their peak in the UK markets, together with vegetables, and other agricultural produce. The same goes for all the vegetables coming in from Wallonia, Belgium, France, Spain, Supermarkets won't want to pay for spoilt, dead goods. The extra steps for freight transport in a WTO-Brexit are not as complicated as critics claim. "Look, if you want to travel as a passenger to the UK you already need a passport. That's completely normal. Travellers do this all the time. This is what will happen with customs declarations," he said.

And Boris turbo charging his new Government quickly bore results, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, plus Lynn Truss, were over the Atlantic in a trice to start trade talks with the USA, see more about such a deal in later article.

Andrea Leadsom, Industry Secretary has been carolling the delights of a Brexit exit to UK industries, large and small up and down the country, saying triumphantly – "We auto-enrolled nearly 90,000 VAT-registered businesses with an essential EORI trading number to enable (customs etc declarations) to happen." It's all happening.

PLAYING SILLY BUGGERS

News that the UK has attracted over £14 billion of foreign direct investment into new tech start-ups in the last six years – more than Germany and France combined – will give the lie that the UK is beleaguered and compliant in accepting a bad deal. The UK economy is booming, unemployment at its lowest level, it's leading the field in the EU in computer technology, starts ups and AI, so why should the UK go cap in hand to a failing EU spiralling into recession

As one correspondent remarked -

Germany was readmitted back into the western political family within five years of the Nazi Holocaust. Its debts were forgiven in 1954 at the London Conference, and rightly so.

Yet Britain must be cast into eternal purgatory for the sin of wanting to restore democratic sovereign self-government unless it accepts an EU veto over release from the backstop – (which Mr Macron has already said he intends to misuse for other purposes).

Yes, Jean Claude Juncker and other EU Politicians might want to "play silly buggers", as Juncker at one point remarked, "we have torture instruments in our basement" they can try, but so far it looks as if any such spiteful retaliatory reactions look likely only to have a reverse effect, biting the EU in the bum, and the truth of this is starting, finally, to hit home in the EU. They tried it on Switzerland, whipping them into line over stocks and shares sales, but it didn't work!

Yes, a No Deal come 31 October might be a bit bumpy, rock and roll, but it will even out, and my god it will be worth it, to be free of the EU Dictators.



Chlorinated chickens are not to everybody's taste but they are much less likely to have salmonella or campylobacter. Let the consumer decide

Trump is offering a trade deal, the EU is not. Let us dance with the Americans

By Ambrose Evans-Pritchard

Turn the telescope around on Brexit. Look back across La Manche. Three years after the Referendum the EU has failed to secure a trade deal or political arrangement with its nearest neighbour.

It has failed to lock in a partnership with a country that is arguably Western Europe's leading defence and intelligence power.

It has failed to secure unfettered access to a market that absorbs €400bn of EU exports each year and which could be cut in half by a no-deal Brexit - according to a study by the IW Institute in Cologne. Europe's supply chains are left dangling. Relations with the UK are terrible. Brilliant.

As night follows day, the US is swooping into the vacuum, tempting Britain with a sweetheart offer, or a "phenomenal trade deal" in the superlatives of Donald Trump. Such an embrace would draw the UK deep into the American strategic, scientific, and economic orbit, with large consequences for Europe over the next half century.

Has there been any self-criticism in EU governing circles for "losing Britain"? Not much. The European Policy Centre in Brussels says Michel Barnier's handling of Brexit was so successful - the acme of "inter-institution governance" - that it should be a model for all future EU negotiations.

The Barnier method preserved unity. It "strengthened the Union's negotiating position". It delivered a "result that respected the EU's red lines". It headed off the "Brexit domino effect". All this led to a "an improved negotiation outcome". Except that there is no outcome. The EU presented Parliament with terms that it could not accept. **Mr Barnier succeeded only if you think the chief objective was to manage the EU's internal tensions and deter other escapees.** Such is the mindset of the EU Curia. It looks deranged to the rest of the world.

I let others dissect British responsibility for this state of affairs. That angle receives ample coverage every day in the British and EU media. There is a larger point. For Brussels to argue that

Britain is entirely to blame and will suffer the greater damage from trade rupture does not constitute coherent diplomacy. The EU has no margin for strategic and economic error. It has already lost Turkey to the Erdogan dictatorship and the Ankara-Moscow alliance. It is looking straight down the barrel of US trade sanctions.

The eurozone is in a deflation trap with no monetary tools left to fight the next global slowdown. My presumption - sticking my neck out a long way - is that recessionary forces will engulf the world economy this winter. Central bank tightening has already baked this into the pie. Citigroup has already issued its recession call for December based on credit dynamics and the inversion of the yield curve.

Yields on 10-year German Bunds have just crashed to an all-time low of minus 0.23pc. The distortion can no longer be blamed on quantitative easing. The European Central Bank has stopped buying bonds. Europe's debt markets are pricing in a Dark Age. Bank of America says investors no longer believe that the ECB is capable of stopping the spiral into deflation under its legal mandate. Policy rates are already at rock-bottom level of minus 0.4pc. Its credibility is shot.

There is no Deus Ex Machina in the wings. Germany has vetoed fiscal union, joint debt issuance, or Keynesian reflation. The EU's fiscal police are doubling down on contractionary policies deemed utter folly by the Nobel fraternity. They are telling Italy to tighten budget policy drastically into recession. These people are unhinged.

What Donald Trump is offering the UK is a fast-track free trade deal. Talks will be tough. Washington has preponderant power. But a US deal does not entail a customs union or the legal subordination of a single market, or accepting the writ of the US Supreme Court over swathes of UK domestic policy.

What the EU wants is a different animal. It is not a trade deal. It is legal capture. Under the Political Declaration - the minimum starting point, before Emmanuel Macron has done his worst - the UK must accept chunks of the EU Acquis in perpetuity. It stipulates "level-playing field clauses" over state aid, competition, the environment, social policy, employment, climate change, and 'relevant tax matters'. The state aid clause, *nota bene*, means the EU will be able to set Britain's farm support policies. We will not get agriculture back after all.

The UK must accept the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights "as an essential prerequisite" for talks even though this Roman text is incompatible with English Common Law practice. This has nothing to do with trade. What it does do is give the European Court reach over anything.

The Political Declaration locks in the customs territory through cross linkages to the Withdrawal Agreement. As EU negotiator Sabine Weyand told ambassadors, it "requires the customs union as the basis of the future relationship".

The point is that the EU retains a lockhold over how this country governs itself. It intrudes on intimate matters of national policy and law. The structure blocks radical reform by Left or Right. It is in fact the vassal relationship so widely decried.

Nor is the EU Acquis benign. The EU's 'precautionary principle' and its risk-averse approach to innovation - which we would have to accept - is a key reason why Europe has been left behind in the hi-tech revolution of the last quarter century.

It is why the EU has no great digital companies. It is why Europe has become the 'museum of world farming', to borrow

from Owen Paterson MP, and why it is about to repeat the same mistakes with gene editing.

"Just look at artificial intelligence right now. Europe is a spectator while America and China dominate everything," said Emma Marcegaglia, ex-head of the pan-EU business federation, when we chatted in Davos this year.

"We have a cultural problem in Europe: You cannot embrace new technology unless you accept risk, and the EU is afraid of risk," she said.

The precautionary principle is a potent tool for vested interests. It allows them to game the regulatory committees in Brussels and shut out competition. The EU ban on beef hormones and GMO crops is closer to protectionism than evidence-based science.

Note that EU lost both cases at the WTO. Note too that it refused to comply.

Does it worry me that US companies might gain access to NHS contracts? Of course not. Matt Hancock's disqualified himself from the Tory leadership with his tub-thumping warning that "the NHS is not for sale".

Mr Hancock, the NHS already is for sale. Private firms secure 70pc of NHS clinical contracts. They run hospitals. European companies bid under EU procurement law - which recently forced an Oxford NHS trust to farm out its PET-CT imaging for cancer to a sub-contractor against the vehement protest of doctors. Europe's 'big pharma' are not exactly pussy cats. What is the ground - other than visceral anti-Americanism - for preventing US companies from also bidding for work, and bringing world-class competition? It does not undermine the NHS as a social welfare institution to put this tendering process on the table - which is what Donald Trump surely meant after correcting himself - any more than it is already being undermined. The Government can still regulate prices and the quality of service as it does now.

Chlorinated chickens do not bother me either, perhaps because I ate so many during a large stretch of my life in the US. The EU's food safety regulator EFSA says there are "no safety concerns" at relevant doses. **I happily eat Spanish salad leaves from supermarkets soaked in the same "pathogen reduction" rinsing.**

Personally I prefer Europe's "farm to fork" philosophy, with its greater emphasis on animal husbandry, than the US sledgehammer of chemical treatment. **But be wary of the refrain that Americans have lower standards or fewer safeguards on health. The rate of campylobacter poisoning is three times higher in the EU. An average 67 people die each year in France from salmonella.** Unrinsed chickens are the chief culprit. That is why the US rinses them.

Americans eat nine billion chickens each year and thrive on them. Prices are 79pc of EU levels. The proper compromise is to let this meat be sold in this country with a label of origin and let consumers decide. If the real concern is the fate of British farming when faced with an onslaught of highly competitive food imports, it can best be addressed by other mechanisms.

My two sticking points on a US trade deal are 1) if Mr Trump tries to impose a poison clause giving Washington a *droit de regard* or veto on any future deal with China - as it has imposed on Canada in the revamped NAFTA talks - we should resist. 2) If he demands changes in UK domestic law under a unilateral enforcement mechanism - as he is demanding from China - it becomes an "unequal treaty" of Qing dynasty character that we cannot accept.

So long as America deals on terms of sovereign respect and mutual recognition, everything can and should be on the table. The EU has told us in categorical terms that it will not negotiate with us on such a footing. The choice we should make as a self-governing liberal democracy is therefore ineluctable. The Americans are wooing us. So let us dance with the one who brings flowers.

WELCOME TO LONDON

BY TRENCHMAN

Considering how far away London is, I am a fairly regular visitor and almost always, in my car.

Recently a funeral was the reason for our visit, and as it was close family, relations arrived from many parts including our daughter from New York.

She had work to do but we arranged to meet for lunch on the Wednesday at the Tate Britain wherein there is an excellent restaurant and parking is usually easy.

So I arrived found a convenient parking spot, telephoned the parking number, coded in my registration number, they knew the car, make and model, I then punched in my credit card number and the deed was done.

I then thought I should pay the congestion charge and so dialled the appropriate number, went through the interminable options, pressed the required key and the entered my registration number. The computer did not recognise it as a registration number and asked me to do it again. I did, the phone then started ringing and eventually a human answered, I was quite taken aback!

Could I please give my registration number? Of course I said and did so; is this a foreign car sir? Yes, it is a Mercedes. Is this a foreign registration number? Yes it is French. And you wish to pay the congestion charge? Yes. Well sir it is £12.50 plus the low emission charge of £11.50 so that will be £224 sir. I failed to understand where another £200 had appeared from. Well sir, we don't know what kind of car you are driving, it could be a Pantechnicon! It is an estate car, why don't you talk to the people who just sold me my parking? We can't do that sir. I don't want to pay £224 but I will pay £24. OK sir, then you will receive a penalty charge which you can appeal against sir.

OK let me give you my card number. I am not authorised to take your card number sir, I will connect you with the computer. I was then transferred to the computer and entered the same credit card I had used for parking and was told it was not a valid credit card, please enter it again (no sir this time), I did so only to be told again that it was not a valid credit card. I hung up. I guess this is a scheme backed by the Mayor of London to get foreigners out of the capital and I have to tell you, it is working.

Major Richard Hargreaves, Para officer who led an uphill assault, with fixed bayonets, against fortified enemy positions in Italy – obituary



Telegraph Obituaries

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***I met Major Richard Hargreaves briefly at the 70th Anniversary of the Debarquement in the South of France in 1944, held at Le Muy in 2014, where he had led the parachute jump 70 years before. The Paras led the invasion, their task to hold the bridge at le Muy for the sea borne allied invading forces – Operation Dragoon.. A gentler, kinder man you could not imagine. One of the last of our Heros. ARS*

Major Richard Hargreaves, who has died aged 99, won an MC in Italy in 1943 while serving with the Parachute Regiment and subsequently had a successful career in business.

On the night of September 15/16 1943, Hargreaves was in command of "B" Company 4th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (4 Para). His orders were to capture the Laterza Bridge, some 20 miles north-west of Taranto, which was vital to 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade's advance from the beachhead. A long night approach march over difficult terrain was followed by an uphill assault on well-prepared and strongly defended German positions. Despite heavy mortar and machine-gun fire, B Company fixed bayonets and the attack, led by Hargreaves, was pressed home with great dash and courage.

The enemy, driven from its position, abandoned heavy weapons and equipment and sustained considerable casualties. "B" Company lost four men in the action. Hargreaves was awarded a Military Cross for his bravery and inspirational leadership.

Richard Strachan Hargreaves was born at Port Weld, Malaysia, on September 26 1919. His father owned a rubber plantation and had been one of the original officers in the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War.

The family returned to Cornwall in the 1920s. He and his brother went to Amesbury Preparatory School, Hindhead, where the headmaster had served alongside their father in the First World War. Young Richard went on to Dauntsey's School, Wiltshire. Always known as Dick, he joined the 12th Bn Royal Fusiliers in May 1939. He was commissioned in December but his unit became a reinforcement battalion and, determined to see action, he volunteered to join the Parachute Regiment.

In May 1943, 4 Para embarked for North Africa. They disembarked at Oran, Algeria, and, after rigorous training, they landed at Taranto on September 9 as part of 2nd Independent Parachute Brigade. Hargreaves witnessed the sinking of the minelayer Abdiel in Taranto harbour after it had struck a

magnetic mine. It sank within a few minutes with considerable loss of life.

He and 4 Para fought to the River Sangro and deployed fighting patrols from Casoli, in the Abruzzo region, into the Majella mountain range. In July 1944, they moved up to Rome to practise the airborne assault for Operation Dragoon, the Allied invasion of southern France. On August 15 at 0100 hours, they flew from Rome and jumped near Draguignan, Provence.

There was a heavy ground mist and many of the men in Hargreaves's stick feared that they were jumping into the sea. Hargreaves collected two of his platoons and, having assembled at the battalion rendezvous at 0620 hours, he moved off to capture the high ground overlooking Le Muy. He was hit while trying to carry a wounded American paratrooper back to the British lines. The casualty was shot and killed during the rescue attempt.



Major 'Dick Hargreaves', with Lord Astor of Hever (MOD) at the 70th Anniversary celebrations of Operation Dragoon.

After three weeks in France, 4 Para returned to Italy where Hargreaves was treated for his wounds. The Germans were pulling out of the Peloponnese and it was decided to deploy to Greece and speed their departure.

In October 1944, elements of 4 Para parachuted in daylight on to Megara airfield, west of Athens. They landed in an olive grove and high winds and large boulders on the ground caused many casualties. Hargreaves commandeered several fishing caiques to get "B" Company into the city quickly.

After 10 days in Athens, Pomforce was formed. Its main elements were "B" and "C" Companies from 4 Para and two squadrons of the Special Boat Service. Pomforce was commanded by Lt Col Lord Jellicoe and its role was to harass the retreating Germans.

They travelled north in jeeps equipped with Bren guns, blowing up bridges and attacking troop trains until they were recalled by HQ Cairo after the decision was made to leave further pursuit to the Russians.

In December, Hargreaves left 4 Para for the Staff College at Haifa. At the end of the course, he returned to Greece to take up a posting to 10th Infantry Brigade as brigade major.

He was demobilised in 1946 and for 12 years he was a main board director of Gallaghers, the tobacco manufacturers.

He worked for the Savoy Hotel Group for 18 years, mostly as a main board director.

Concurrently, he was a non-executive director of Reids Hotel, Madeira, and chairman of the Lygon Arms Hotel in the Cotswolds. For 10 years, he was chairman of JA Devenish, the West Country brewers.

Hargreaves was a City of Westminster councillor for four years and Deputy Lord Mayor in 1977. The following year, he was Master of the Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Tobacco Blenders' Livery Company. He was a special constable from 1958 to 1970 and finished as a chief inspector on the Surrey force.

While living in Dorset he was a founder member of the Joseph Weld Hospice, responsible for raising £3.5 million and for the design and building of the hospice. He was chairman for 12 years and the Prince of Wales became Patron.

In 2005 he was appointed a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur. He relished his commemorative visits to La Motte and Le Muy, the two towns that he had helped to liberate, and was always deeply touched by the warm welcome he received.

In an episode of BBC One's Who Do You Think You Are? programme the Star Trek actor Patrick Stewart flew over Le Muy with Hargreaves pointing out to him the battlefield in which Stewart's father, HQ company sergeant major, had fought.

In retirement, Hargreaves travelled widely and his adventures included climbing up to the Everest base camp. He sailed and skied until he was in his eighties and was still travelling to Africa and Cambodia when he was 96.

Dick Hargreaves married, in 1945, Kathleen (Kay) Nightingale who was an officer in the WRNS. She predeceased him and he is survived by their three daughters and a son.

Major Richard Hargreaves, born September 26 1919, died August 10 2019

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RUGBY NEWS

By TOM EVELEIGH

Perfect Start for the "Rouge et Noir"

As the World Cup looms and the Top 14 gets underway the last few weeks have been jam packed with rugby for everyone. Be it domestic or international, there is plenty to talk about.

With the international test matches in full swing and the World Cup less than a month away, the curtain raiser for the French Top 14 went somewhat under the radar. The first weekend in France's domestic league, however, didn't disappoint with a number of thrilling encounters. Champions Toulouse losing to Bordeaux, newly promoted Bayonne toppling Racing in the

capital and Castres picking up an impressive win against Montpellier were probably the standout performances and if the first weekend is anything to go by we are in for a cracking season.

After last year's poor display, Toulon were keen to put on a show for their loyal supporters. The opposition on the opening day were Agen, a team that finished just above the relegation zone last year but who beat the side from the "Rade" on their last outing.

Conditions were perfect and a win was the bare minimum requirement for a club that is desperate to reach the heights of a few years ago when a certain Mr Wilkinson was still orchestrating things. In a high scoring game the red and blacks ran out 44-25 winners, bagging themselves a bonus point in the process. The perfect start to settle the nerves.

Man of the match Julien Hériveau, who scored two tries against his former club, is confident for the upcoming season, stating that "The squad have put previous results behind them and a top 6 finish is fully in our sights."

Along with their impressive win it was also a busy week off the pitch, with two signings confirmed by the club. South African prop Wilco Louw arrives from the Stormers and English centre Ben Te'o makes the move from Worcester to the Top 14. Two experienced players who are looking to strengthen the squad during the World Cup period.

Te'o saw his hopes of making the English World Cup squad dashed as he was kicked out of the training camp following a spat with team mate Mike Brown. The Samoan born international therefore took up a different kind of challenge in France.

The two recent additions to the team are joined by some big names, with president Mourad Boudjellal splashing the cash during the summer break.

Hooker Cristopher Tolofua arrives from Saracens, French international Baptiste Serin from Bordeaux, Italian legend Sergio Parisse from Stade Français, South African man mountain Eben Etzebeth makes the move from the Stormers in Super rugby, Nehe Milner-Skudder swaps Wellington and the Hurricanes for the south of France and New Zealander Bryce Heem ends his time with the Queensland Reds for a new European adventure. Even with some of these big transfers, Toulon will have to make do without a fair few of their stars.

Former captain Guirado has made the move to Montpellier, longstanding club prop Chiocci to Lyon as well as Fijian winger Tuisova, Fekitoa to Wasps, Trinh-Duc to Racing and JP Pietersen and Juandre Kruger who are moving back to South Africa.

Out of all these names leaving the club, maybe the biggest of them all is Mathieu Bastareaud. The French centre has made the move to New York joining the ever growing American League in December. His transfer was supposed to happen post World Cup, but following his selection snub he found himself a free agent for the following couple of months. Lyon were quick to pounce on the opportunity where he fills in as a World Cup "joker", playing him at number 8, a position he is not familiar with but seems to be adapting to well after a couple of games for his new club.

Same old France

With the Rugby World Cup kicking off on September 20th, everyone is busy putting the finishing touches to their preparations and whilst it is true that the only things that matters is what goes on in Japan, certain conclusions can be drawn from what we have seen so far. After a big win in Nice against a

second string Scottish team, France arrived in Edinburgh with a point to prove. Up against a strong Scotland outfit with the likes of Finn Russell and Greig Laidlaw back in the starting 15 France wanted to show the world that the 32-3 win the weekend before was not a one-off, but was a sign of better things to come.

The afternoon got off to a good start from a French perspective with Damian Penaud running under the sticks for the first of his two tries after just 2 minutes. His second came on the half hour and fullback Thomas Ramos slotted the conversion to put his side 14-3 in front.

Sean Maitland replied with a try of his own on the stroke of half time, but the home team were still 14-10 down at the break.

The second half, on the other hand, was all Scotland and a Chris Harris try just after an hour of play put them in front for the first time in the match, a lead they held on to until the final whistle, giving them an important win for the morale heading into Japan. For the French it's the same old story. Yet another disappointment after such a promising result the week before.

They will be looking to bounce back against Italy in Paris (a result which you will know by the time you read this) before heading to Japan where they will face England and Argentina in what has been dubbed "the pool of death"



Mathieu Bastareaud officially a New York player

England and Wales impress, Ireland wounded

Elsewhere in Europe, the same day as the Murrayfield clash, at Twickenham England took on Ireland with more than pride up for grabs. An English win would take them to 3rd in the world Rankings and Ireland could move above Wales and New Zealand and take the first spot if they got the better of their English counterparts.

A quick paced game got off to a good start with impressive scores from either side in the first 15 minutes. Ireland found themselves 10-8 up but a Daly try at the half hour mark was the start of a long afternoon for the men in green. England would finish up with 8 tries and 57 points on the board whereas Ireland got the mere two tries, Bundee Aki scoring the second 3 minutes from time.

Centre, Manu Tuilagi, put in a man of the match performance and the English back line look sharp ahead of their World Cup campaign. Their final friendly will come against Italy on 6th September. As for Ireland they will prepare for a double header against Wales. The first in Cardiff, before meeting again in Dublin on 7th of September.

Wales will be wanting to end their preparations on a high after sealing a victory over England in Cardiff. The English and Welsh met each other in two consecutive weeks but the games were far from similar. The first test, held in a sunny

Twickenham stadium, saw England run out with a 33-19 win. An impressive result considering the line-ups. Eddie Jones gave some precious game time to players such as Piers Francis, Jonathan Joseph, Luke Cowan-Dickie or Willi Heinz. Lewis Ludlam also enjoyed his first international cap. These are players who most probably won't be in England's starting 15 come World Cup time, but will need to be match fit when called upon.

As for Wales, Warren Gatland decided to go big in both of the tests. A strategy that could prove costly with Gareth Anscombe (fly half) limping off in the first match and being forced to give up on his World Cup dreams.

After the disappointing afternoon out in London for the Wales squad they found their home ground the week after in a rather cagey affair. A proper "Northern Hemisphere encounter" as the Kiwis would say. A low scoring game that only saw the one try. After a controversial decision made by referee Pascal Gauzère, Dan Biggar produced some magic to put George North over in the corner. The Welsh defence held strong throughout the 80 minutes, an admirable achievement especially seeing the ease with which England scored against Ireland the week after.

The day finished with a 13-6 score in an overall successful afternoon with no considerable injuries and good game time under their belts for both parties involved.

With that win Wales ended New Zealand's decade long monopoly of the title "Best team in the World". According to the IRB world rankings it is now the Welsh.

End of an Era ?

We had somehow got used to seeing New Zealand win, no matter the team, venue or conditions. But after 10 years at the top they are hurting more than ever. The Kiwis would tell you that the rankings don't mean anything but in truth they reflect perfectly the All Blacks' recent troubles.

The Rugby Championship showed everyone in world rugby that the "Mighty All Blacks" are there for the taking.

The competition got under way on 20th July seeing New Zealand only just scrape past a determined Argentinian team in Buenos Aires. Week two got even harder with the men in black hosting South Africa, who convincingly beat Australia the week before. With only the one try apiece, the match finished up 16-16. This draw in Wellington comes only a year after the defeat suffered to the same Boks. The aura of invincibility around the team is quickly disappearing.

Due to the world Cup, the shortened version of the competition ended after only 3 games. With South Africa, New Zealand and Australia still all in the picture, the tournament was there to be won.

However, the day out in Perth didn't go according to plan for Steve Hansen's men. Australia recorded their highest ever score against the All Blacks as they beat the reigning world champions 47-26, scoring a total of 6 tries. The Scott Barrett red card on the stroke of half time summed up their afternoon.

The World Cup should be one of the tightest we have seen in recent years, with any one of the top 6 in with a genuine chance. Recent results have blown the competition wide open and the team who lifts the Webb Ellis trophy come 2nd November will be whoever turns up when the time comes.

All of that said, New Zealand are still odds on favourites to win and with their recent 36-0 win over the Wallabies to retain the Bledisloe cup you wouldn't put it past them to win their third consecutive World Cup. **Write them off at your peril...**

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