



## May-June 2017

It is with some pleasure that we read that the Economist Newspaper has put its weight behind the Liberal Democrats; with the General Election looming it is vital that the correct choice be made. Remember that the damage done (if damage be done) at an election can be undone a few years later. However the damage being done by this and commenced by the previous, Conservative government cannot be undone quite so easily. Having said this there is hope that common sense (divorced from party politics) can prevail on the basis that what governments do can always be undone.

We understand, to a sense of enormous relief, that the person who drafted Article 50 believes that there is no legal impediment to cancelling the act of withdrawal by agreement «if momentous events warrant a change of heart». The momentous event would be a crashing defeat for the Conservative Party. Let us hasten to say we are not hopeful for a Labour victory but rather that the Liberal Democrats, despite their rather indifferent leadership, will gain sufficient seats that with the Scottish and the Northern Irish they will have effective control of the House. In any event that rather decent man Mr Clegg and his party suffered very unfairly in the last election; imagine what damage a Conservative Party would have wrought. We all ought to vote Liberal Democrat therefore!

Although Chesham came into being in the 1960s with the encouragement of the then Prime Minister Harold MacMillan we cannot today side with the party which is in effect endorsing the destruction of the economy and the social fabric of the country by pandering to public bar politics for narrow party political reasons. As for sovereignty; a particularly emotive argument often put forward by the Brexit camp the position is surely that Her Majesty is still our sovereign and that the comings and goings within the political class really have little effect other than to shine the bright light of notoriety on the current incumbent at N° 10 which, to quote Omar Khayyam is “Like Snow upon the Desert's dusty Face Lighting a little Hour or two--is gone”.

The EU was founded for very good reasons indeed. Millions of young people lost their lives in two grisly and ghastly mechanised World Wars and we owe an inestimable debt of gratitude to those thinkers who proposed the creation of a system whereby we would be so intertwined as to make war quasi-impossible. The fact that it has lost its way is extremely regrettable but the political class in the UK also bears responsibility for this failure; it should have been working to improve the operation of the EU. Instead the EU has been the butt of clever leg-pulling in amusing programmes such as “Yes Minister”! We ought to be and need to be whole-hearted Europeans not side-liners.

Last month we mentioned that one of our clients who depends on highly specialised steels from Germany is finding not only that prices have gone up as sterling sinks but that delivery times have lengthened as the supplier (presumably) preferentially meets orders from other European customers.

Time and Tide wait for no man people will reach a time in life where a sale of their business must be contemplated. Whereas 50 years ago 60 seemed to be a sensible time in life to consider a sale now 70 seems to be the threshold and how marvellous is that? Nonetheless when a sale is considered it is sensible to speak to an experienced and knowledgeable broker; companies are not sold on a push-button basis, talk to Chesham because you only sell your business once!