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Your View

TWEETS
AND EMAILS**A question of governance**

A desire to be governed by our elected politicians rather than faceless Eurocrats has been cited as one of the main reasons for leaving the EU. We have the chief Brexiters, who disappeared when the going got tough, the Prime Minister, who has little support for her one possible solution and Jeremy Corbyn – a man who does not seem to be able to mount a credible opposition. Throughout the negotiations, the EU has run rings round our representatives. Who would we prefer to be governed by?

GERRY RADFORD
CAMBRIDGE

Language on the move

I'm afraid that Neil Cairns (Your View, 3 January) is mistaken in his interpretation of English words. In the UK, "stations" are where passengers wait for their trains, buses and trams; a "depot" is where buses are parked and serviced, while a "shed" is where trams and railway locomotives are parked.

DAVID R WILLIAMS
LLANDUDNO, CONWY

I agree entirely with Ken Smith and Neil Cairns' comments about the misuse of English words. The most annoying phrase I hear is "See you later" when parting from temporary company, especially when there is no chance of the speaker and oneself ever meeting "later"! It may seem friendly but it is a pointless remark.

One other word which is, to me, disrespectful is the word "cops" instead of police.

DAVID CULM
LITTLEOVER,
DERBYSHIRE

Can I briefly add two more Americanisms

that I have noticed a lot lately: "rookie" and "zero-sum-game"?

ROBERT BOSTON
KINGS HILL, KENT

My two least favourite examples of Americanisms are "from the get-go" in place of the simpler "from the start", and worst of all "stepping up to the plate", a baseball-related term. We are a cricketing nation – we "step up to the crease" surely?

DAVID DAY
ANDOVER, HAMPSHIRE

It's not an Americanism (or is it?) but can someone explain the term "hike" as in "rail fare hike"? Is it different in some way to "rail fare increase"? It's beginning to be irritating.

KATHY WEBSTER
LEAMINGTON SPA,
WARWICKSHIRE

Could I ask why the word "cupcake" appears to have replaced "bun"? "Bun" is shorter than "cake", thus signifying the fact that buns are smaller than cakes, whereas "cupcake" is almost twice as big and has no logical connection with cups.

T J HONEYBONE
DONCASTER,
YORKSHIRE

Translator required

Reading Chris Green's run-down of Scots' phrases (1, 2 January) reminded me very much of the first time I took my English wife to meet with my relatives in Stonehaven, near Aberdeen.

She found it very disorientating since she could hardly follow any conversation. She expressed some surprise and alarm that many of the "white-haired old ladies" took to swearing a lot of the time. She found the expressions of "fits this, fas that" hard to fathom and assumed the "f" word



What have cupcakes got to do with cups, asks one reader
AFPI/GETTY

was more common than in England. She was palpably relieved when I explained they meant "what's this" and "where's that", thereby easing her mind that she had not married into a culture of coarse swearers!

JIM WOOD
OTTERY ST MARY,
DEVON

Good clean fun on the beach

It's not just the Australians who can celebrate without leaving masses of litter. On holiday in the South of France last summer, we were among thousands who filled the beach and streets at Valras-Plage to watch a spectacular firework display celebrating le 14 Juillet. When everyone left, the beach was spotless!

LYNNE PEMBERTON
ABBOTS MORTON,
WORCESTERSHIRE

Slow driving is not dangerous

It is a scandal that it is an offence to drive below the minimum speed limit (1, 2 January). In my opinion, no accidents are caused by slow drivers on motorways.

The accident is caused by others' impatience, inattention, or loss of control.

M FOSTER
SHROPSHIRE

Setters getting sneakier

I have been a moderately successful tackler of cryptic crosswords for many years, but I am finding them increasingly challenging. Occasionally, even after seeing the solution, I still don't get it. Is this a sign that my 87-year-old brain is not quite up to the job or are the setters simply becoming more and more sneaky?

GEOFF IVORY
FRINTON-ON-SEA,
ESSEX

No-show GP charges unfair

Concerned about people missing doctors'

appointments, Stuart Ackland suggests (Your View, 3 January) that patients have to make an advance credit/debit card "booking", with a charge deducted for a no-show.

But what about people like me who don't have any such cards? With my GP practice, it is hard to get through on the telephone to make an appointment, and I regularly hang up after being kept on hold for ages. Might people similarly be calling to make a cancellation but are unable to get a response?

TIM MICKLEBURGH
GRIMSBY,
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

Unfair certainly but not racist

I completely agree with Deborah Orr (My View, 3 January) that the imposition of repatriation costs on women escaping from

forced marriages abroad is unworthy of our government. However, I feel that her charge of racism on the part of the Foreign Office is unfounded. I am sure that any white British woman repatriated in similar circumstances would be presented with the same bill.

ROBERT BAYNHAM
EXMOUTH, DEVON

Stoking the fires of debate

I was interested to read Alan MacDonald's good humoured take on Stoke-on Trent's location (Your View, 3 January). However confusion still reigns. He refers to Stoke-on-Trent as being undoubtedly the capital of the Potteries. Stoke-on-Trent is the Potteries – a city of six towns of which Stoke is only one. I guess one could argue that the town of Stoke is the capital – but most people who live there give primacy to Hanley.

PHIL MANN
HARROW, MIDDLESEX

We need more than seatbelts

According to government apologists, such as Amber Rudd, preparing for a "no deal Brexit" is a sensible precaution, just like wearing a seatbelt. This is transparently fallacious. Car travel is a necessary everyday activity, but threatening a "no deal Brexit" is a reckless game of chicken. Parliament should already have declared itself ready to reject any such option.

TERRY JOHNSON
WIRRAL

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IN MONDAY'S
i**ARTS**

Sheila Atim, the Olivier-winning star of Bob Dylan musical 'Girl from the North Country', on her new musical

Plus
LIFE**Running away from cancer**

After a shock diagnosis, Tim Buynon hit the road to find mental and physical solace

TRAVEL

Rory Boland of Which? on why he hates Ryanair