Man Over-Bored

Generally I limit myself to griping about one issue at a time. Today, I am making an exception because I feel overwhelmed by some of the chaos around me, or if not the chaos then let’s just say the ‘unexplained’. Ranting about them can’t wait until tomorrow or another future date. So let me rant, please.

Brexiteers! God help us, it's a stupid word to apply to those who seem obsessed with taking us out of the EU no matter what the cost. Yes, maybe we could do some better trading deals with other nations if we weren’t restricted by EU rules and regulations, but we haven’t done too badly out of it, surely? Aren’t we the fifth richest country in the world? Surely there are more pressing issues facing us as a nation than leaving the EU. Homelessness, poverty, social care, the ‘Trumpkin' in the White House, just to mention a few!

What has the world come to, god help us, when the man in charge of the most powerful country on earth (that’s the USA and not England, although some Brexiteers would disagree) spends most of his time ‘tweeting’ about what’s annoying him, (usually anything getting more attention than he is) or who’s annoying him (usually anybody getting more attention that he is). Not only has he made it acceptable to run a country from Twitter but he has also made it acceptable to tweet or say on a world stage just about anything disrespectful about any individual, nation, race, creed or culture of people.

In an age when the rest of civilisation seems to have gone PC mad, the President of the USA seems to be above such national and international behaviour. What’s more, this unacceptable face of capitalism is spreading. In the UK, for example, we now have another blonde with ambition, Boris Johnston. Don’t even mention Nigel Farage.

Indeed, politics as we have known it is apparently breaking down into tribes rather than parties. It seems that Frankie Goes to Hollywood 'were right all along when they sang about ‘when two tribes go to war, money is all they can score’. In the UK, Labour and Conservatives fighting it out for power has now, apparently, been replaced by Leavers and Remainers, so obsessed have we become with leaving or remaining in the EU. Does it really matter? Chances are we will inevitably join it again, or some new form of it, in a couple of decades time, stressing to all those sceptics who warned us against leaving in the first place, that what we are now rejoining is not really the same thing.

Thinking of arrogant, all for themselves, individuals, takes me to another bugbear of mine, magpies. Yes, I am jumping around here but they do display the same arrogant strutting around, thinking they are god’s gift to planet earth, not caring whether they wipe out all forms of life other than their own ‘tribe’.  Not much different from politicians really? My outside spaces seem to be alive with ‘tribes’ of these black and white menaces. They eat anything and everything they come into contact with; plants, grass, topsoil, anything really. This explains the decline in the other bird life in the area, as they apparently also have a fondness for the eggs of other birds and eat them as if a delicacy. Again, not much different from politicians!

Talking about being outside, and all things black and white, where are all the white vans coming from? There seems to be a long line of them in every garage in the neighbourhood, in fact there are garages and other open spaces that seem to have been commandeered by them. Row upon row of white vans in all different shapes and sizes and prices. I know the concept of the ‘white van man’ has been around for some time now, but how many can there be and where are they living. There seems to be a whole ‘tribe’ of them, almost a new race or creed. So who’s buying them? Are we becoming the world capital for white vans? Will Brexit wipe out the market for white vans and in doing so cripple our local economy?

Talking about the economy; how come there is so much money sloshing around the digital or ‘big tech’ firms? Almost daily I read about some new ‘big tech’ company I have never heard of that’s now worth billions, or is the subject if a takeover bid worth billions from another ‘big tech’ company I have never heard of. Even more infuriating is the, so-called ‘influencers’ now making millions from their online blog or instagram account. Millions are following these ‘influencers’ and apparently hanging on their every word, buying what they are promoting, drawing more customers to their sites and the sites of those providing them with free goodies to promote, which allows them to influence even more......you get the picture. It’s a money-go-round and we are the ones keeping it going.

Surely, it’s only a matter if times until the bubble bursts and those being influenced realise that they need a mind if their own and not one being programmed by big tech. When those who spend all their free time posting drivel about drivel on their Facebook accounts realise that it’s a game and they can’t win, that there is always someone who can persuade you that they, apparently, have a more prefect life than you.  When they finally switch off, will we be left to ponder what we were thinking of getting drawn in by all this, will we realise that our ‘big data’ was all that they really wanted. Trouble is, once it’s in we can’t get out.

A bit like the political parties we are witnessing at the moment; arguing over anything and everything and in the end influencing no one of real importance.

Tom Kelly

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