

BUSINESS EYE

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We must not look for shortcuts

WRITTEN BY

ALEX PRATT



Founder of Serious Readers in Birtton and Regional Chairman for the Institute of Directors

@ www.bucksherald.co.uk
@HJBjournalist

This week's rabbit caught in the glare of the Brexit headlights comes to you from our Brexit bunker where we are all huddled in the corner awaiting certain impact, a bit like my grandfather in the Tube during the bombing of London in World War Two, although with less obvious immediate destruction and loss of life.

That said, we should not underestimate the immense cost of Brexit to our country in financial terms, in terms of the union, in terms of our relationships and in terms of

our reputation and Brexit's impact around the world.

It is colossal.

It is small comfort in the midst of a crisis to remember that the great leaders remembered as having improved the course of history are the ones who dealt in hope and possibilities, not in blame and fear.

Martin Luther King Junior had a dream, not a threat to deselect anyone who disagreed with him.

JFK, Nelson Mandela, Gandhi; they all dealt in hope.

Putin, Trump and Farage all trade on fear and blame, as too, sadly, it seems does Boris.

These are the modern-day visigoths and vandals, come to destroy our civilisation and those who stand against them.

They are setting the course of human progress back by decades as they breathe their poisonous venom of blame and xenophobia.

So, while London burns, what should we do?

If even Parliament is no longer allowed to be involved in a project that we were told was about returning democratic sovereignty to err.... Parliament, we may as well just get on with our lives and deal with the serious issues we will face when the ports close.

A friend sent me a message last week which helps - stop chasing shortcuts!

We all seem these days to want to believe there to be a magical shortcut to our difficult destinations that the other numpies can't see and that will give us an unfair edge; the lazy man's ways to fitness.

It could be in weight loss, our careers, beating the traffic, our relationships, education - you name it, every issue that matters to large numbers of people is always swamped with heavily promoted shortcuts as an alternative to doing the hard yards.

Fast, risk-free, near effortless secrets that magically work, often at someone else's

expense seem too good to be true; and they always are.

If the shortcuts worked as promised, they wouldn't be shortcuts, would they?

They'd be the norm - we'd all be taking that road.

A shortcut is not an innovation.

It's not a more direct path to your goal.

These two strategies actually work, but they require effort, risk, insight and focus.

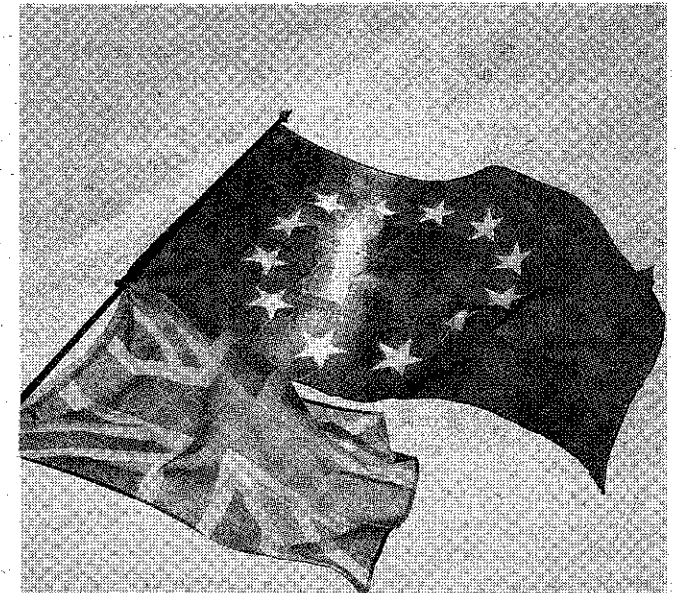
If you can't afford the time and effort to do it right, you probably can't afford to do it over and over again after you realise that the shortcut you took was into the cul de sac.

If we want to go to bed with satisfaction, we all need to wake up with determination, not laziness.

The truth is, if we seek real change, we always have to change our habits.

Motivation gets us started but it's our habits that keep us going without a loss of momentum.

Successful people are those



with a habit of doing what the unsuccessful don't do.

Start the day thinking of your positive purpose.

Get up early - move your body and do the worst thing on your list first.

We all have to become

cause in the matter of our own lives, take responsibility for everything in them, and stop blaming others.

This is the only road to happiness and is why Brexit is a painful road to hell paved with blame, fear and division.