

## BUSINESS EYE

# Join the Hope team!

WRITTEN BY

ALEX PRATT



Founder of Serious Readers in Birtton and chairman of Institute of Directors South

www.bucksherald.co.uk  
@bucks\_herald

**T**his week's gibberish masquerading as insight comes to you from Los Angeles, California, from which vantage point the world looks quite different from Blighty.

The sun shines 330 days a year and I am surrounded by hopeful innovators energised at the new possibilities we might create as a species, despite the childish antics of Mr Trump.

We saw a lot of news last week, not least of which in-

cluded the reminder that the planet has lost more than 60 per cent of its wildlife in less than 50 years, meaning we need to think, behave and imagine life differently.

Much of our national dialogue is centred around blame, envy and celebrity; all the destructive stuff that is mainly fodder for gossip and poor mental health.

It squanders valuable time and resources that could be applied to hope, new technol-

ogies and creating new possibilities.

It seems the worlds of news and politics now obsess equally about populist, consumerist twaddle that moans on incessantly.

It would appear that hope, good news, new ideas and kindness are not worth talking about.

Is there any wonder we are in such a mess? We are drowning in the lowest common denominators of fear, blame and

small mindedness.

The true costs of Brexit are becoming apparent, surely event to zealots.

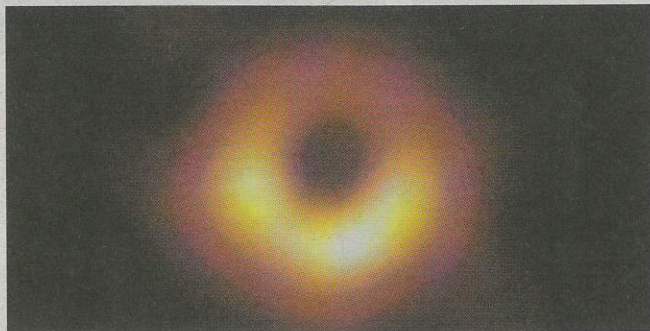
Forget the clear economic disaster if you want to, but you'd need to be in total denial not to see the damage it has done to our relationships with each other and with our neighbours, or to miss the huge toll taken on issues that really matter to people like knife crime, housing shortages, the blighting of an entire generation and a poor health tsunami.

And to think we have at least another decade of this to come. Sorry, it just is, even if it means you throwing Theresa May out with the bath water, grow up. You are our problem; yes, you laddie, not her.

Last week, a team of 200 astronomers captured the first ever direct image of a black hole (pictured above).

This remarkable feat was achieved by the Event Horizon

PHOTO BY NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION VIA GETTY IMAGES



Telescope, an Earth-sized array comprising eight radio telescopes on four continents; each positioned in a remote, high-altitude environment, including the mountaintops of Hawaii, Spain's Sierra Nevada, the Chilean desert and the Antarctic.

The team revealed four images of the super-massive black hole, located at the heart of galaxy Messier 87, which is 55 million light years away.

Each telescope took in one petabyte of data and recorded it onto ultrafast data recorders. These precious hard drives were then flown to Massachusetts and Germany – the sheer volume rendering air transport faster than electronic transfer.

The collated data was released to four separate teams around the world, each generating an image using their own techniques to avoid any bias.

All four teams tentatively congregated at the Black Hole

Initiative at Harvard University to compare images, to find that they had all produced the same, lopsided, ring-like structure – the first ever direct image of a black hole.

Thankfully, every day somewhere close to your desk, or I hope at your desk, there is someone focusing hard on researching what matters, creating new possibilities for others to enjoy, or engaged in acts of wonderful kindness.

It reminds me of my favourite quote from age-old Wendover MP Edmund Burke, who said: "Because half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, whilst thousands of great cattle, reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field."

Why not be more cow and less grasshopper today?