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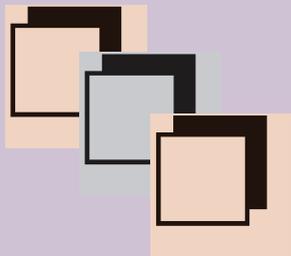
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# THE FABRICATOR

## Comment

I read recently that in spite of leaving the EU the economy is going great guns. Manufacturing is up and unemployment down (nobody is getting a decent wage but hey-ho it's not about that). It seems the idiots are still at it: we are still in the EU. I must admit I didn't read past the headline and to be fair the author of the piece would not have written that but he is someone I do regard as an idiot so I would probably have ended up tearing the newspaper into bits out of total exasperation.

On the Brexit front this is a nerve-racking time for both sides. The glimmers of hope which we remainers keep seeing must be exasperating the hard-core leavers. Will there be a transition period where every thing remains normal? Will it extend to 2020? If Mrs May doesn't do anything else stupid – like hold another general election and can hang on that long – it will be time for a general election any way, so Brexit gets kicked nicely into touch. Your problem Jeremy!

I read recently that a Caribbean island I had never heard of, but which is part of the UK, relies totally on its neighbouring island, a part of the EU, for, well, just about everything. Its government is talking about having its own trade deal and even Shenken agreement with its neighbour so it can survive Brexit.

On a totally different subject a recent poll, of 2,000 UK adults, commissioned by Market Financial Solutions, discovered that the majority (81%) would not buy a new build house, preferring refurbished traditional homes instead. In fact 60% regard new build houses as unattractive and poorly built while 23% would only consider buying a newly built house to let.

It rather drives a coach and horses though the present government's strategy to solve the housing shortage by building 1.5 million new homes by 2022. (There they go again: *bang*, another policy, straight into touch.) And what will they do with them if nobody wants them?

What I like is the 79% who think the Conservative Government should focus more on supporting the refurbishment of run-down properties to meet housing demand. Well that would be good news for the window industry. While they are at it perhaps the government could re-visit the idea of reducing VAT on replacement windows to 5%. The excuse that they could not do this because rates are set centrally by 'Brussels' will very soon be gone. Post Brexit we will control our own tax regimes – so that's sorted then; target date, April 2019 VAT on replacement windows, down to 5%.

No excuses.

*John Roper*

