



LEFT TO RIGHT: LESLEY, NOLA, DIANNE, LOIS, AMANDA, MAIA AND GAI DISCUSS THE MORNING'S PROJECTS.

## The quilt

The whole lot of them tried to tell the story

**Maia:** The center of our raffle quilt was donated to Braidwood Quilters by Christine Piper. Earlier in the year while we were starting to think about what to do for a raffle quilt for this year's 25th quilt event, we came across the center that, in the shuffle of everyday life, had been put to one side.

Gai had a number of pieces of fabric that very closely



worked with Christine's centrepiece. Gai discussed each additional row that she was doing with our president, Lesley, and with our secretary, Dianne, until eventually the whole quilt top was done.

The job then went to Dianne, who had to do the quilting and also the binding — and now we have our finished quilt top. I would guess that originally it was going to be a medallion quilt, which is what that's called, because it's got a medallion in the center. And that's as far as they got. That is not unusual.

**Lesley:** We're all hoarders. You have to be a hoarder.

**Maia:** I'm a curator of an extensive fabric collection. Stash Accumulated Beyond Life Expectancy equals SABLE syndrome, from which all quilters end up suffering.

**Lesley:** The quilt will be displayed possibly in the Braidwood Community Bank. It will also be on show everywhere we can get it to sell some raffle tickets for it. The winner will be drawn on the Sunday afternoon of the quilt event, which is the 24th of November at 3:00 and the winner notified.

I'd also like talk about the 25th Airing of the Quilts, because it's pretty much a milestone. It's becoming more difficult to organise things, because there are so many more organizations, and everybody is busy. It's hard to put a group together that can cope with all the management stuff that's required to get the quilt event up and going. We're going to manage it this year with a lot of help, and we're still asking for help. I'm amazed at the number of people that come up to me in the street and say, "You need some help with the quilt event?" And yes, it's alive and well.

We're always looking for new members. This is an open show. Any quilter anywhere is eligible to attend, to compete, or just display their quilts. It's a good place to display their quilts and sell them if they wish. Because it's an open show, we have quite a lot of top quality quilters from New South Wales and even outside New South Wales. We get top quality quilts from all over.

Contact Lesley Horn on 04 0305 6379 for more info. ■

GIVE THEM ENOUGH EUROPE

# Don't mention the 'B word'

but John Tuckwell is going to say it anyway

**B**rexit has more than dominated the political situation in the UK since it voted to leave the European Union - it has paralysed the UK. The result is that there have been virtually no other domestic policy initiatives since the vote, and most people are fed up to the back teeth with Brexit, and it has become even more divisive under PM Boris Johnson.

To recap, on 23 June 2016, some 51.7% of those voting in the referendum voted to leave the EU, with a turnout of 72.2% of eligible voters. Voters in England and Wales voted in favour of Brexit (with counties within England and Wales divided), while Scotland and Northern Ireland voted to remain.

Looking at the referendum from an Australian perspective, just 2 out of the 4 countries in the UK voted to leave the EU (in Australia 4 out of 6 states must vote in favour for a referendum to pass); while just 37.4% of those able to vote expressed the view that they wanted to leave the EU (with compulsory voting, 50% is effectively required). In other words, if such a referendum was held in Australia, it would have clearly failed.

The referendum has not only split the UK geographically, it also split it between old and young (old voted to leave, young voted to remain); and between those engaged in the globalised economy and those left behind.

Essentially, as we have seen elsewhere, the Brexit vote was a cry-out against, and rejection of, the political establishment and political and economic orthodoxy.

Theresa May inherited a poisoned chalice and endeavoured to get an orderly Brexit, while minimising the pain. She of course failed, with Parliament paralysed, and in the end she had to fall on her sword.

During a trip to England in July to visit family and friends it was clear that few wanted to discuss Brexit, and most just wanted it all over and done with and move on. However, they knew they couldn't get away that lightly with me.



As someone who had worked for the European Union and its previous incarnations, in its Diplomatic Mission in Canberra (yes there is one) for 25 years and also someone who went to school with Theresa May for years 11 and 12 (we did the same A levels), I wanted real answers.

Here are some anecdotal observations from those we had substantive discussions with:

The first friends we stayed with were a classic example of this and refused to speak about the "B word" as Brexit is commonly known. However, a following weekend with other university friends it turns out that our mild-mannered friend had had a stand-up shouting argument with other friends living in France after they announced that, despite enjoying all the benefits of the EU, they had voted in favour of Brexit. Another friend in that same group of six couples was an ardent remainer and

very active in the ongoing remain campaign, having formed and is coordinating an independent Mid Sussex Remain in the EU group, which has booths in shopping centres, knocks on doors to raise awareness and argues for a second referendum. His motivations being that he could not forgive himself if he just stood idle and let Brexit happen through apathy. He even gave all the other couples a 'Mid Sussex for a people's vote' coffee mug. After all this, no-one else was brave enough to say whether they were in favour of Brexit, although I suspect that they were all remainers.

This is not to say this was the case with all our friends. Two couples we caught up with on different occasions voted for Brexit and are still strongly in favour of it. Their justification appeared to be more about concerns over immigration, which will still be there in the future regardless of the final outcome.

My middle brother was a strong remainer before the referendum, but his attitude was that the people had spoken and that the government should ensure the UK leaves the European Union ASAP.

My oldest brother, a farmer, had always been a bit coy about his views, although expressed his concerns about the impact of Brexit on British farmers. Some think that UK agriculture can take on the world, while others are not so sure. He was not happy to hear that Australia would be seeking significant agricultural access as part of any Free Trade Agreement with the UK to make up

for the raw deal it received when the UK joined the EEC back in 1973. He was also unhappy to be informed that Australia has a very experienced team of trade negotiators, while the UK team is extremely inexperienced, since currently all British trade negotiators work for the European Commission (which is responsible for all EU trade agreements) and are highly unlikely to return to the UK to work for the British government.

My little sister and her husband live in Scotland and are also remainers. However, my brother-in-law was not forthcoming about a possible split of Scotland from the rest of the UK in the future to join the EU as a separate country. Previously though, he was a vocal advocate for Scotland remaining part of the UK.

Another friend, a small businessman, was of the view that it would be tough, but that after around 5 years the UK economy would be even stronger. There was no justification given for