

# Notes from the campaign trail

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Margaret Thatcher famously said, 'You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.' That's pretty much what this European election campaign felt like. A battle one which by rights we had already won but were having to fight all over again.

It was frustrating having to fight an election campaign that should not even have been taking place. Theresa May stated over one hundred times that we would leave the EU on 29 March 2019. But that promise now lay in tatters, just the latest in a long line of promises broken by the prime minister.

Strikingly, this was also the main motivation for almost all of the other Brexit Party candidates I met. We were a diverse lot, covering a huge variety of professions, social backgrounds and ethnic groups – a fact conveniently ignored by those who disgustingly try to brand us racist or fascist. Most of us had never dreamt of standing as a candidate in a national election before. But we had all been motivated by a sense of duty that we couldn't just stand by and watch while career politicians rode roughshod over our democracy.

The thing that struck me most about the campaign was its positivity, something that other candidates also commented on. We did not need to badmouth our opponents – the public was already thoroughly disgusted with the traditional parties. Our platform was simple and positive: to implement the result of the 2016 referendum to leave the EU, and to begin the process of shaking up our political system by breaking the existing cartel of career politicians.

To say that there was an appetite for change among the public would be a huge understatement. Even we were overwhelmed by the response. People flocked to our stalls to express their support. I've lost count of the number of times we were asked for standing as candidates. My fellow East Midlands candidate Annunziata Rees-Mogg assured me that this was not a normal occurrence when standing for election!

A phrase that many people used when thanking us was 'putting your head above the parapet'. I heard it countless times, and it struck me as sad that simply advocating implementing the result of a democratic referendum should be considered as 'putting one's head above the parapet'. And yet, thanks to the intolerance and abuse from an unpleasant minority of Remainers, this is exactly how it is.

Many people I spoke to expressed their wholehearted support for us, yet felt unable to display a poster or car sticker for fear of abuse or vandalism (a brick through the window was a

common fear). No wonder there are so many secret Brexiteers (see [this excellent article](#) by new Brexit Party MEP Claire Fox) grateful that someone is prepared to represent them. And as another Brexit Party MEP, [Martin Daubney explains](#)