Longing for home – but not while the Tories run us down

Paul Benneworth

A FRIEND flying to Newcastle yesterday sent me a couple of aerial photos as she came in to land. She’d captured the piers at Tynemouth and Blyth perfectly, and immediately feelings of homesickness welled up in me.

I’ll be back on Thursday for a few weeks in the region I still call my ‘home’. I’m looking forward to an intense burst of my favourite things, a week in a Northumberland cottage, a Shikara curry, a pint of Hughie’s Bass at Tynemouth Lodge and watching a new-look Whitley Bay FC kick off the season at Hillheads.

But seeing the photo and feeling the homesickness reminds me that I’d never intended to be away for so long.

I moved to Holland in 2009 because I could see dark clouds of triumphalist Tory austerity gathering on the horizon and I sought temporary shelter from the impending storm. I thought back then that British voters would quickly see through the Oxford posh boys’ vindictive antics and kick them out of office.

But when we chose for stability and strong Government under David Cameron rather than the chaos of Ed Miliband, I was already mentally extending my stay.

Since uttering those fateful words in May 2015, Cameron’s Tories have lurched from crisis to crisis. They seem incapable of making any plans, let alone of delivering them. They are reduced to crisis management, resorting to low tricks to compensate for their lack of legitimacy or competence.

The Government has descended into this bunco booth hucksterism. ‘Just sign on the dotted line and all will be better’ we are told, whilst ministerial hands hover over the contractual small print that will rip us off. Nurses consistently poll as the most trusted public profession, regarded by the public five times more highly than government ministers.

And that casts Theresa May’s government as an election-winning success story. It’s a disgrace that this government of none of the talents has descended into this buccaneering.”

The calculations made by the Not In My Backyard’ers, the ‘have-nots’, the ‘never Willing’ and the ‘have-nots’ have landed us in a hole, and we are all to blame.

The Government has plumbed a new depth recently with the recent talk about Brexit’s ‘minimal disruption’ and ‘adequate food’ in a whole new light. Maybe it’ll all be fine for her and Hunt, but for the rest of us, we’re just suckers waiting patiently for a jackpot that’s never arriving.

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