

*EU Election special - vote this Thursday*



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Hello again,

I hope you will vote in Thursday's EU elections. I have links to a number of web sites which give details of how the voting works (basically you vote for a political party) and where you can vote. The polls open from 7am until 10pm, the count is on Sunday and we will return 5 MEP's to represent the East Midlands.

Here's my take on the choice facing voters given I am one of those Tories who believes Britain should stay in the EU. I do not share the view of both Labour and the Lib Dems that the EU doesn't need reforming. It certainly does - it's too costly, overly bureaucratic, gets involved in stuff which is beyond its remit and is not particularly democratic. I also believe there is a growing movement of similarly minded people in other member states.

So like it or not the EU is going to have to change and I want Britain to lead the way.

To date, led by David Cameron, the Government has cut the EU budget saving British taxpayers over £85 billion, we are now out of the EU bailouts and we haven't flinched from using our veto to defend British businesses.

I also believe we should have a referendum on whether we should stay in or leave the EU. I would like that referendum after we have renegotiated our relationship with the EU. I voted for a Bill which would have laid the foundations for a referendum in 2017 - that Bill was opposed by Labour and the Lib Dems. There is a large part of the population who have never had a say on our membership of the EU (at 57 I remember the last referendum!). I also believe we need to settle the matter for at least another generation!

But - what if you disagree with me and you want out of the EU? Well you won't be voting Labour or Lib Dem but you may well be tempted by UKIP. But they don't have the power to give you what you want.

And I would like to add one last thought. I appreciate that some people think the EU elections are not really very important and let's be honest you probably don't know the names of the East Midlands MEP's. Some people will undoubtedly use Thursday's elections to express their frustrations with all three main parties and to send a message that they are pretty pickled off. "OK" i say "I hear you" but you know, I actually think we should all care about who represents our country in the European Parliament. I don't want to be ashamed of our East Midlands MEP's; I want them to be a credible, pleasant, hard working bunch of people, who turn up to vote, have a sensible contribution to make and who treat all people whatever their race, colour of skin, sexuality or religion with respect and without prejudice.

As ever,  
Anna

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### Some useful web sites

The BBC's web site has some good information on the elections, why they matter, the voting system etc etc. Click [here](#) for more .....

Broxtowe Borough Council's web site has details of all the polling stations and some changes to the usual arrangements - worth checking your polling card! Click [here](#) for the home page and follow the links.

Finally I have found a web site which lists all the candidates standing in the East Midlands. Click [here](#) for more ....

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### And finally .....

Apologies if I've missed someone, but the only candidate to my knowledge who lives in Broxtowe is Kimberley's Kat Boettge, who heads the Green Party list.