

Costa remainers march in London

Local campaigners joined the last anti-Brexit march before Boris Johnson became PM

By Catherine Dolan

ANTI-BREXIT campaigners from across the Valencia region joined crowds in central London at the 'No to Boris, yes to Europe' rally and march on Saturday (20th July).

The event, awash with blue flags, was peaceful with no arrests and a friendly atmosphere. It brought together many organisations from different walks of life and different generations. There was chanting, singing and even the EU anthem ode to joy played on a recorder could be heard. Despite their different political leanings and backgrounds, the marchers had one desire in common, to remain in the European Union.

There were no politicians at the event, just grassroots supporters. Before the march began, campaigners saw the

ment Square, alongside other anti-Brexit and citizens' rights groups from across Europe. In a rousing speech, Sue (65), who lives in Alcossebre, told the crowd: "Over the past three years, British citizens in the EU and European citizens in the UK have been cruelly denied a voice on matters that affect them significantly. That's why it's important to take every opportunity to be seen and heard in Westminster. The EU will also be playing close attention."

She continued: "We're here because a serial liar, largely responsible for getting us in this mess, is about to blag his way into number 10. However, Boris's days are numbered – he's about to become the shortest serving prime minister in British history. Parliament is going to burst the Boris blimp, re-



Bremain in Spain campaigners in Green Park London, before the march (John Moffat third from left; Ken Abard second from right)

People's Vote referendum, and it's key that the Remain voice roars, to show we're still here and are not giving up."

Hilary Wass (71) who lives in Moraira, flew back with her husband specially to attend the march. She said "We care deeply and passionately about what's happening to our country and we'll do whatever we can to stop this madness that's happening."

Asked what impact the march could have, she said: "I think it has a cumulative effect, together with lobbying our MPs and writing letters."

Hilary, who has lived abroad for more than 15 years and was therefore unable to vote in the referendum, added: "I'm proud to be here."

Ken Ablard (70) who lives in Jesús Pobre, near Denia, had also come over to march with his family. He said: "We are

here to get people to realise that there are more people now who want to remain in the EU. It's not the 'will of the people'. It never has been. The politicians convinced people that it was the will of the people. When you think 80% of the press were behind Brexit. They talk about a free press but it's a press that spreads right-wing views.

"What Boris says isn't necessarily what will happen. I don't believe Parliament will let him leave the EU on October 31. The guy's a compulsive liar. I don't think he'll carry his threats out. He's going to tell the right-wing

what they want to hear.

"On a personal level, the worst thing for me, if there was no deal, would be losing access to the health service in Spain.

"For my children the worst thing is that they aren't going to have the same opportunities we had. My daughter went to university in Spain. Now she's going to teach in Hong Kong for a year but wants to come back and go to live in Barcelona. The next generation are going to be badly affected by this."

He added: "A lot of the British expats are very worried about the future."

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Griselda Mussett from Faversham, an avid Bremain supporter, pictured with journalist Catherine Dolan

launch of a specially-commissioned Boris blimp, an idea following on from the earlier success of the Trump baby blimp. Event organisers said: "We all know Boris Johnson's infamous promise of £350 million a week for the NHS was just a load of hot air. And yet he's about to float into the most powerful position in the land, based on nothing more than his over-inflated ego."

Brits living in the Valencia region travelled back to the capital to add their voices to the crowds.

Bremain in Spain chair, Sue Wilson, was at the head of the march and addressed the 100,000 strong crowd in Parli-

ment Square, alongside other anti-Brexit and citizens' rights groups from across Europe. In a rousing speech, Sue (65), who lives in Alcossebre, told the crowd: "Over the past three years, British citizens in the EU and European citizens in the UK have been cruelly denied a voice on matters that affect them significantly. That's why it's important to take every opportunity to be seen and heard in Westminster. The EU will also be playing close attention."

She continued: "We're here because a serial liar, largely responsible for getting us in this mess, is about to blag his way into number 10. However, Boris's days are numbered – he's about to become the shortest serving prime minister in British history. Parliament is going to burst the Boris blimp, re-

lease the hot air and set his unicorns free."

Sue concluded: "This event is very special as it was organised by the grassroots for the grassroots, with not a politician in sight. We work best when we work together, and on today we were a family, a large, vocal and very determined one!"

John Moffett, vice chair of Bremain, and another regular marcher, said: "With the immediate prospect of a new, populist prime minister, it's more important than ever to take to the streets and demonstrate the benefits of EU membership. We're on the verge of either a general election or a



Hilary Wass



Sue Wilson at the head of the march