



ANNUAL REPORT – BREMAIN IN SPAIN

15 November 2022

MEMBERSHIP (as of 08/11/2022)

Facebook Members: **6,222** (6,062 in October 2021)

Facebook Page Followers: **4,106** (4,073)

Twitter Followers: **26,068** (25,839): Twitter cleared out of bot accounts early in the year, which removed around 300 followers. We did climb again but saw another drop and clear out after Elon Musk purchased Twitter.

Instagram followers **1012**

Mastodon, after one week, **430** followers

AFFILIATIONS

Bremain is a partner of [European Movement UK](#) (we remain the only EU-based group). Vice Chair **Lisa Burton** is Bremain's representative on the National Council of EMUK.

Official partners – [The National Rejoin March](#) – We were among the first to endorse the march. **Sue Wilson** was a guest speaker, and **Valerie Chaplin** now has a permanent seat on the organising committee as their Spain representative.

Members of [Grassroots for Europe](#)

Members of [Make Votes Matter](#) “Alliance for Proportional Representation”

Members and contributors to [The Round Table](#). A non-aligned, shared, safe space for Pro-European organisations to meet, exchange views, facilitate collaboration and create mutually supportive opportunities.

OUR MISSION

- Our mission is to campaign for stronger ties with Europe and to protect the rights of UK nationals.

- We believe in a tolerant, outward-looking and caring society which is best achieved by maintaining close ties with Europe and promoting European values.
- We support the rights of EU citizens who have made a life in the UK, or who may wish to do so in future.
- We believe that freedom of movement is a positive force for the health and wealth of the UK, Spain and the EU, and for their respective citizens, regardless of nationality.
- We are actively campaigning on a number of initiatives and are helped by a team of highly-skilled and dedicated volunteers.

THE BREMAIN YEAR 2021/2022

LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Our Lobby Group has been exceptionally busy in a year of utter political chaos. Here are a few of the topics they have lobbied on: Some ongoing:

- To MPs about the (then) draft legislation to override the Northern Ireland protocol of the Brexit deal.
- To Lords about the NI Protocol Bill, with a great deal of support, some from Tory peers.
- To Tory MPs urging them not to support Boris Johnson in his recent leadership election.
- To opposition MPs regarding the resignation and reappointment of Suella Braverman, and also regarding her stance on immigration. Many responses were received with many saying they would not let the matter drop.
- To MPs about getting our vote back.
- Various congratulatory emails, e.g. to Tobias Ellwood, regarding his statement about rejoining single market
- The next lobbying challenge will be to MPs and Lords on the Public Order Bill. Something that puts all protests and protesters, including us, at risk of arrest and worse.

Lobbying is an essential part of campaigning, and we would encourage all Bremain members to write to their MPs and Lords regularly on topics of concern. Since Johnson resigned, the lobby team has noticed more response for Conservative MPs in the 'Red Wall' constituencies.

COVID

We communicated the latest Covid rules to members and provided all [updates on our website](#). Thankfully, life has slowly returned to a new normal.

THE EMBASSY

We continue supporting the Embassy by having a dedicated Embassy page on our website and sharing their official communications. View that [here](#).

MERCHANDISE AND FUNDRAISING

For the third year running in 2021, we published a Bremain calendar using members' photos with 2022's in design now.

We designed and purchased new flags and t-shirts for the National Rejoin March.

We had a donation drive to help with the expenses around the march, which was well received in which we raised Euros 685.

BREMAINERS ASK

Our popular feature continued with some very impressive guest contributors.

October	Bremain Council members	April	Terry Christian
November	John Danzig	May	Alexandra Hall Hall
January	Revisited: 5 former MEPs Catherine Bearder, Molly Scott Cato, Richard Corbett, Seb Dance, Julie Ward	June	Revisited Anna Bird, Jon Danzig, Lord Andrew Adonis
		August	Jane Morrice
		September	Otto English
		October	Baroness Sarah Ludford
February	Will Hutton	November	Peter Corr National Rejoin March Organiser
March	Gavin Esler		

October 2021 – Bremain held our annual general meeting in Malaga. After being separated by COVID, it was wonderful to get together in person. The event was attended by members and the press, followed by lunch.



Bremain Vice Chair Lisa Burton was elected to sit on the **European Movement UK's** National Council as a group representative for Bremain in Spain.

June 2022 –Bremain Chair **Sue Wilson** and Vice-Chair, **Lisa Burton** were invited to celebrate the **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** at the Ambassador’s residence in Madrid. Council member **Matt Burton** also attended. Most attendees were volunteers of citizens’ rights groups, charities and organisations.

July 2022 – Bremain Chair Sue Wilson was invited to and attended the 101st birthday of fellow campaigner and ‘Votes for Life’ activist **Harry Schindler** in Italy.



September 2022 – Due to the Queen’s death, the **National Rejoin March** planned for 10 September was cancelled two days before. However, as it was too late to cancel flights and accommodation, some Bremain council members travelled to London where they took the opportunity to network with other campaigners, and held the AGM strategy meeting at **Europe House**.

October 2022 – Bremain council and some members again travelled to London for the rescheduled **National Rejoin March** held on 22 October. We had a wonderful day which exceeded all expectations, with around 50k people marching. There was a fantastic lineup of speakers, including our Chair, **Sue Wilson**. More marches and protests to come, and Bremain has a permanent seat on the organising committee. [Photos here](#)



November 2022 – On 8 November, Our Chair, **Sue Wilson**, was finally able to attend her investiture and receive her **MBE** for services to UK citizens in Spain and the European Union at Buckingham Palace, which was presented to her by **Prince William**.

BREMAIN IN THE MEDIA

Our media representation and journalism are now a significant part of Bremain’s activism. Chair **Sue Wilson** has been the leading contributing writer to both **Yorkshire Bylines** and **West England Bylines** and the most quoted person. Other contributors include member **Mike Zollo**, a regular writer for **West Country Bylines**, **Lisa Burton**, Vice Chair, who writes for **Yorkshire Bylines**, and council member **Michael Phillips** contributes to **Kent Bylines**.

- 130 articles published by either **Sue Wilson**, members, or council members – Sue is the most significant contributor by far, with **60** articles published
- Multiple quotes in the media
- Bremain tweets picked up by the media several times

You can find all Bremain in the media links, by month, by following [this link](#) to our Google drive.

BREMAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased activism through article writing for the Bylines Network
- Increased membership and followers on our Facebook groups and Twitter
- Launched on Instagram, TikTok and Mastodon social media platforms
- Developing a solid network of political supporters in Westminster and the pro-European movement, including journalists, MPs, and Lords.
- Improved brand recognition within the Remain movement

- Stronger ties with our partners and collaborators, especially European Movement UK, Grassroots for Europe, The Round Table, Make Votes Matter Alliance, and the National Rejoin March organisers
- More and stronger connections with groups across the EU
- Maintained a positive outlook when others have given up and given in!

STRATEGY for 2023

Bremain's overarching goal is reinstating our rights as full EU citizens.

- Rejoin the European Union
- Campaign for single market/customs union membership
- Campaign for closer ties between the UK and the EU
- Hold the Government to account and expose the damage of Brexit
- Campaign for the restoration of our full voting rights
- Campaign to reinstate our rights as full EU citizens
- Strengthen relationships with EU institutions
- Protect the rights of UK nationals at home and abroad
- Campaign for a dedicated MP for UK nationals abroad
- Campaign for proportional representation and a progressive alliance
- Improve awareness of group aims in the UK, Spain and the EU
- Expand our network of EU/UK collaborators
- Increase our membership and followers on social media