



Opposing opinions on staying in the EU

What causes trade? Could we use the cash we give to the European Union better if we chose how to spend it ourselves? How will we control our own borders if we stay in the EU? Why is our Parliament one of the most famous buildings in the world? And what does this say about how we should be governed? These questions should be at the centre of the debate about the European Union and whether Britain should remain or leave.

It may surprise some people, but trade doesn't take place because – high above your parish and district and county councils, and Whitehall departments – there is yet another layer of government called the European Union. Actually, trade occurs when sellers provide goods and services that others want to buy at prices they are prepared to pay. Governments often just get in the way.

We send over £350m every week to Brussels – enough money to build a brand new hospital every week. Some of it comes back, but not nearly as much as we send. What if we decided for ourselves how it should be spent? Better rural broadband in Norfolk rather than Portuguese motorways, perhaps. Or larger investments in scientific research. There would

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be more for the NHS and for young people looking for their first home.

The migration crisis exposes the flimsy foundations of the 'Schengen Area' where neighbouring countries with so-called 'free movement of people' are putting up barbed-wire fences between one another. The EU has failed and Nato is having to step in to deal with the mess.

Our population is growing by 323,000 annually, or two cities the size of Norwich. That's three million extra people over the next decade, in addition to the extra five million we have already seen since 2004. These people will need housing, health services and schools for their children, adding immense pressure to a system already at breaking point. The issue is not whether we have any migration but how much and who decides who comes. We can only decide for ourselves if we are outside the EU.

Our Parliament is famous because it is one of humanity's most powerful known symbols for democracy.

We should say yes to freedom while we still can. Vote to leave.

With voters set to go to the polls on June 23 to say whether or not we should remain in the European Union, two prominent Norfolk figures provide their views on the burning question

We can all expect the next four months to be full of sound and fury as the media and politicians generate sound bites, column inches and a sea of blogs around the respective campaigns for the remain or leave camps in the EU referendum.

As individual citizens we'll all have to make our own decisions as to whether we chose remain or leave, but where do we stand as a university? I believe we need to consider the vital role the EU plays in supporting our world-class universities. My view is that inside the EU, we are better able to collaborate with partners from across Europe to carry out research.

In the EU, the UK is a more attractive destination for global talent, ensuring that our students are taught by the best minds from across Europe. This has a direct impact on our economy, driving growth, generating jobs and ultimately improving people's lives.

On the Norwich Research Park our partners include the John Innes Centre, the Institute of Food Research, the Genome Analysis Centre, the Sainsbury Laboratory and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital and together we have one of the highest concentrations of researchers in food, health and the environment in

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Europe. The EU has played a hugely important part in this success, through direct funding and through supporting the mobility of researchers.

This enables us to take a trans-national approach to addressing major global challenges including climate change, food security, water security and energy security.

At present the UEA has over 70 partners in 22 countries across the EU. This gives us huge reach across Europe.

The benefits of the freedom of exchange and collaboration amongst our UK and EU researchers, lecturers and students cannot be underestimated in ensuring UEA and other UK higher education institutes remain retain our enviable positions as globally significant and agenda setting institutions.

While no-one is suggesting that UK universities couldn't survive outside the EU, leaving would mean cutting ourselves off from unique support and established networks and would undermine the UK's position as a global leader in science, arts and innovation.

THE GREAT EU DEBATE
IN or OUT?

Eastern Daily Press **ARCHANT**