

Let's face the music and vote

Published: January 16, 2026, 2:46 am

The election campaign is nearly over. I cannot be alone in feeling some relief.

This election was unnecessary. It was called by May for three reasons. The first was because she thought Labour was weak and she wanted to exploit that at cost to the country as a whole.

Second, she felt she was weak in the face of EU negotiations because other UK parties had the temerity to suggest her approach might be wrong and she wanted to turn her back on them.

Third, she felt that she was weak within the Conservative Party and wanted to hold them at bay.

Her assumption was she would get a landslide win. All her problems would be solved, she thought.

She may still get a big win; equally there's a chance she might not. What we do know is her problems will not be solved.

Labour is resurgent: no one doubts this. If there has been a campaign winner it is Labour.

May's own weaknesses have been horribly exposed. The EU are facing a person who has no plan, no apparent negotiating skills, a flawed team of advisers and an inability to exploit the skills of others. It's a disastrous combination.

There can be no doubt the Tory party will be deeply alienated by the way she has run this campaign, keeping it as much as possible out of the limelight whilst treating her Cabinet colleagues with contempt.

May has had a disastrous campaign.

In eleven days she will, supposedly, be leading the UK in EU negotiations. It's a deeply

worrying prospect.

If she does not win it will be as worrying: then what would undoubtedly be a minority administration would be undertaking the task.

Let's be blunt: whatever happens we will be worse off in economic terms after Brexit. I strongly suspect that the economic harm will not be all we suffer: the social consequences of Brexit remain extraordinarily serious.

That there may be trouble ahead is, I think, to understate the immediate prospects for this country. The scale of the issue has hardly been touched upon in the election campaign.

There is just one thing to do in the face of that. Please vote. Anything but Conservative (ABC) is the suggestion on how to do so. The right option depends upon where you are.

And then follow Fred Astaire's advice.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c08wiEyVuak>