

GOOD NEWS

MOLDOVA: DEMOCRACY PREVAILS

The democratic president has been re-elected for a second term of office in Moldova, despite massive interference in recent elections. Russia interfered by spreading disinformation and buying of votes.

EU EMISSIONS

The EU Commission has recorded a sharp decline in emissions linked to small industry, waste, agriculture, buildings and domestic transport with a soaring rise in renewable energy.

RED WEDNESDAY

On RED WEDNESDAY in a crowded House of Commons, MP Sir Edward Leigh spoke in members' question time to the deputy prime minister informing her that RED WEDNESDAY is the day on which we remember those persecuted for their faith and beliefs and he mentioned that the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey were lit up in red for this special day. The post of Special Envoy for the Freedom of Religion and Belief has been vacant since the election. Sir Edward asked if this would be filled. The minister replied that this would receive consideration.

CHRISTMAS GOODWILL

It is heartening always at this time of year to perceive how many charities and individuals are spending time and energy to ensure that the the impoverished and lonely are not forgotten at Christmas.

NOT SO GOOD NEWS

COP29

Trump's victory is seen to have a huge negative impact on climate change in the short term as he is a climate sceptic. But the long term impact is less certain as renewable energy is gaining a strong foothold and popular support.

The COP29 gathering concluded with a massive sense of distress and anger at the amount of money pledged by the rich nations to counteract the effect of climate change on those poor countries most affected. £trillions are needed rather than billions.

FRENCH WINES

The Ministry of Agriculture is paying 5418 wine producers to dig up 30,000 hectares to reduce a oversupply of grapes. They will not be allowed to replant vines until 2029. Production of wine outstripped demand by 10%.

WOULD-BE MIGRANTS AT USA/MEXICO BORDER

The number of migrants has quadrupled since 2023 to 58,000. Trump has promised to deport a million immigrants who do not have legal permission to be in USA.

PENSION CREDIT

There are still thousands of pensioners who are eligible to claim pension credit and therefore receive the winter fuel allowance. Processing of new applications is taking 52 days, in spite of 500 new staff being taken on. New applications may thus not be able to have their fuel allowance due to this long delay.

Mary Bradley