I just wanted to make a comparison between the cost of tourism here in the UK and, say, Germany as I have been there recently and in the past.

- Air fares (easy jet) are slightly more to Berlin than Belfast or Scotland.
- Hotels are about twice the price in London compared with Berlin.
- Visitor attractions are cheaper in Germany eg Arundel Castle £16, Marksburg Castle £6.
- Travel by road/rail is cheaper and easier in Germany. Just look at the absolute chaos on Southern Rail currently, what does this do for tourism here? Just listen to the traffic reports for SE England where I live; the M25 is often at a crawl, as are many places on other major trunk routes. And then there’s the parking issue too; £5 to park on a field at Land’s End and even more at St Ives.
- Eating out is cheaper there too.

It’s well known that tourists get ripped off in the UK and it’s easy to see why but they still come. It’s a real shame as there is so much on offer, we ought to be able to make the necessary improvements (= an investment in UK plc), and this will be even more important post Brexit.

The current exchange rate will encourage some visitors to the UK and deter some Brits from travelling abroad; market forces will determine visitor numbers of course.

Personally, there are lots of places I’d like to visit now I’m retired, I’m an NT member, but I think twice because of the cost and travelling, it’s easier to stay at home.

*September 2016*