



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

GOLLIWOGS

For those unfamiliar with what a golliwog is, they are rag dolls that were once considered to be suitable to give to children, like teddy bears. That was a few decades ago. Now they are considered a closeted sign of racism and used only to cause offense. Bill Etheridge might not have had that in mind when in 2011 he posed with a golliwog for his Facebook page but the British Conservative Party promptly threw him out and before you could whistle Dixie he wrote a book celebrating golliwogs and joined the UK Independence Party (UKIP). He's currently a UKIP MEP for the West Midlands and living large in Brussels.

In 2014 he doubled down on his dumbness and, during a seminar for the Young Independence Conference in Birmingham, he exhorted his audience to emulate the style of Hitler when speaking in public. The *Mail on Sunday* newspaper quoted him as saying: 'look back to the most magnetic and forceful public speaker possibly in history' and that the Nazi 'achieved a great deal'. The newspaper further quotes him as saying, 'when Hitler gave speeches, and many of the famous ones were at rallies, at the start he walks, back and forth . . . looked at people – there was a silence. He waited minutes just looking out at people, fixing them with his gaze.'

Etheridge himself says he's a simple guy with three stepchildren and a dog named Bruce. Etheridge also organises the Black Country branch of the Campaign Against Political Correctness. In his own words he says, 'I know that being skint doesn't mean only 2 holidays abroad this year! It means watching the pennies and bargain hunting, deciding which red demand to pay first whilst still keeping your family fed and your heads above water.' Now with a monthly salary of €7,957 plus €4,299 in expenses and a daily allowance of €304, the Hitler-admiring Etheridge won't have to hunt for bargains anymore.

