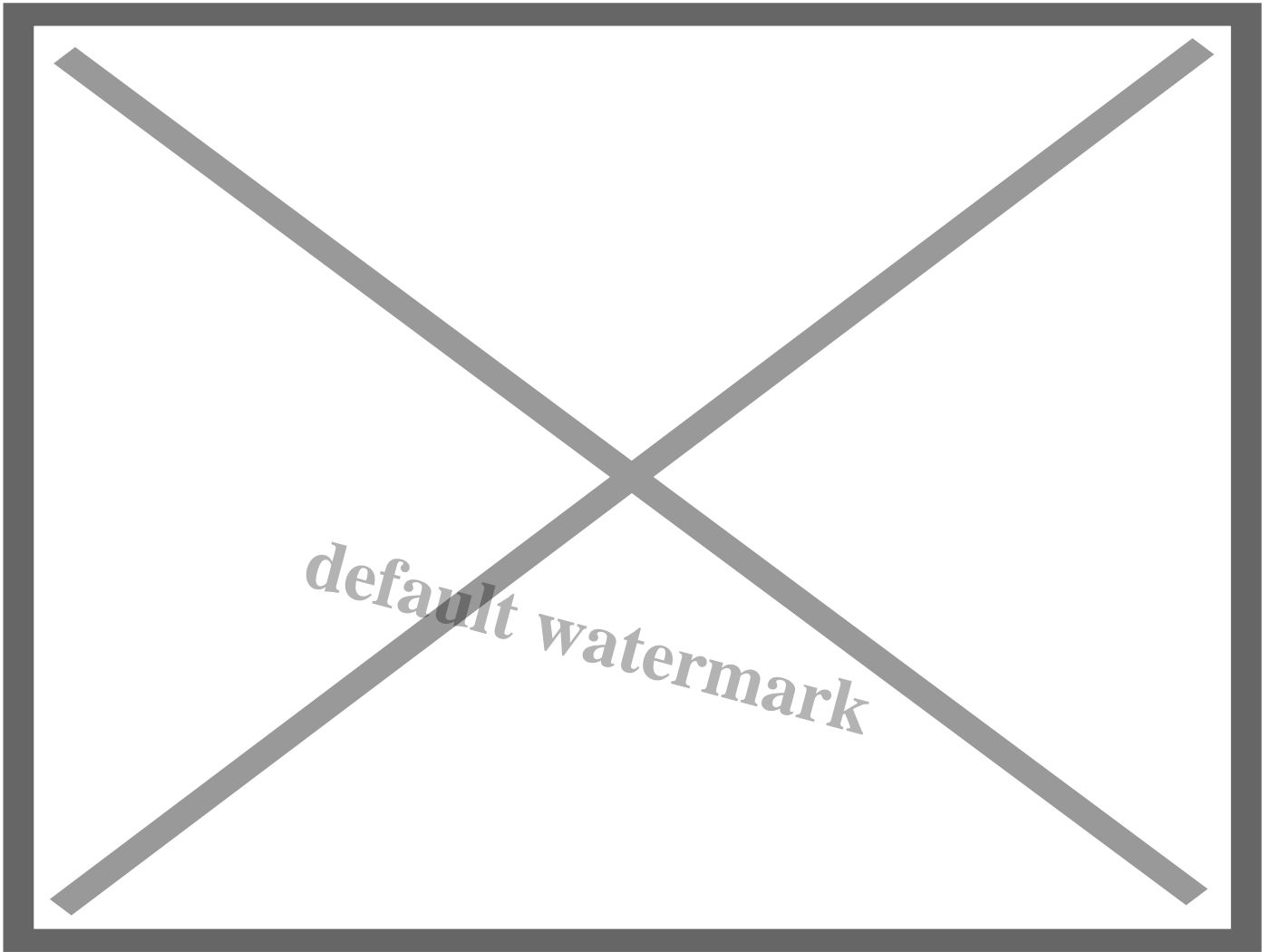




The Duke of Norfolk is set to host a dinner for Reform donors at Arundel Castle

Description

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On 29 May, Edward Fitzalan-Howard – the Duke of Norfolk – [will host Reform UK donors](#) for lunch at Arundel Castle. Because, you know, nothing says “man of the people” like hobnobbing with the aristocracy in your Duke mate’s 11th-century family fort.

Of course, Fitzalan-Howard isn’t the only member of the UK’s aristos who’s been getting pally with Farage of late. Strap in, folks – we’re taking a quick tour of Britain’s – noble-born – bigots, and there’s more double-barreled names than you can shake a stick at.

Farage’s host, the Duke of Norfolk

Fitzalan-Howard himself fits in great alongside the rest of Reform’s assorted, undeserving toffs. He’s an unaffiliated crossbench peer, and one of the last generation to inherit a seat in the Lords.

In spite of the UK (finally) having [eliminated hereditary peerages](#), Fitzalan-Howard won a concession to keep his ceremonial role because he’s [useful for organising the bigwigs’ parties](#). However, he no longer gets to sit in the House of Lords. (We shed a tear, we really do.)

In response to questioning by the [Financial Times](#) Fitzalan-Howard insisted that he's not a Reform supporter. In fact, he's also hosting a party for the Tories in June, with the stated aim of drawing attention to insect collapse and other environmental causes.

He [told](#) the *Financial Times* that, in the news outlet's phrasing, he'd:

be interested in supporting any party that championed protection of nature.

We guess Fitzalan-Howard must have [missed Reform's climate-change denialism](#) and support for fracking. That's before we get to the party's repeated [attacks on the global effort to limit carbon emissions to a Net Zero](#). Do you think maybe his castle doesn't take newspaper deliveries?

In any case, Farage is [scheduled to speak at the luncheon](#) at Arundel on 29 May. Let's hope he doesn't mention [plans to scrap](#) EU-legacy protections for the UK's fragile ecosystem, hey?

A who's who of Reform donors

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OK, so that's Fitzalan-Howard out the way. What about the rest of the gentry who're keeping Farage in their families' pockets?

First up, Fiona Cottrell is the [daughter of the third Baron Manton](#). She's donated £750,000 to Reform over the last couple of years.

Oh, and her son, 'Posh George' Cottrell, happens to be Farage's far-right-hand man. As to the exact nature of his work as a political aide, [one Reform staffer told](#) the *Spectator* that:

There is one rule: don't ask what George does.

Not that this really matters, given that Posh George is:

ever-present, well-connected and willing to spend large amounts of money.

Next up [Frederick Hatton Fermor-Hesketh](#) of the Hesketh baronetcy, don't you know he gave Farage's party £11,500 last October.

Likewise, Robin Birley son of Lady Annabel Goldsmith, nee Vane-Tempest-Stewart [donated](#) £25,000 to Reform. He also [puts on events for the far-right party](#) at one of his Mayfair clubs.

Last but not least [Claudia Caroline Harmsworth](#) the Viscountess Rothermere handed Reform some £50,000. [Harmsworth's husband](#) Jonathan Harold Esmond Vere Harmsworth, owns the *Daily Mail*, the *i Newspaper*, and the *Metro*. Nothing to see there, we're sure.

Voice of which people, exactly?

Christ, try saying those names five times fast. Include their titles too, if you fancy a real challenge.

Reform UK [loves to sell itself](#) as the "voice of the people". Well, they're certainly the voice of some people - particularly, it seems, if they have claims to a baronetcy, a lordship, maybe even a castle or two.

But Farage poses with a pint and a cigarette in the pub, so he's definitely on the side of the ordinary worker, right?

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