

POLITICAL LIFE

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Stay 'In Touch' with the
Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS LUNCH



60 MEMBERS ENJOYED THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH HELD AT CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB IN DECEMBER WHEN THE GUEST SPEAKER WAS RT HON OWEN PATERSON, MP FOR NORTH SHROPSHIRE. OUR OWN MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, TOM PURSGLOVE AND OUR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER, STEVEN MOLD, ALSO GAVE A TALK ON THEIR WORK.

READ THE PRIME MINISTER'S FULL SPEECH ON BREXIT INSIDE:

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Jan 2017

Happy New Year! I hope you have all had a fantastic Christmas and managed to have a relaxing break over the festive period. We had a really successful year last year and the New Year brings us new challenges! I think it is fair to say that the hard work will not stop in 2017!

As you will all know, we have a number of crucial elections coming up in the next few months. Our *Listening Campaign* team was out in full force over the Christmas break, and will continue to work tirelessly in the run-up to these hard-fought contests. Many thanks to all of you who helped out, you've got us off to a flying start and put us in a really strong position.

First up, on Thursday 9th February, we have a by-election in Corby, in the Kingswood and Hazel Leys ward, which has been triggered by the non-attendance of the former Labour councillor. Although it is unfortunate that the people of Kingswood and Hazel Leys have been let down by their representative, and that taxpayer money must be spent on a by-election, we have a fantastic candidate in Stan Heggs, and are well prepared for a fight! This is a great opportunity to show Labour what an impact we can make in Kingswood, and I know that the *Listening Campaign* team would be grateful for any support that members could provide – regular canvassing sessions are happening every week and everyone is welcome!

Of course, it is not just the Corby by-election that approaches in the next few months. In May, we have the incredibly important elections for County Council. These elections will come around before we know it, which is why it is so important that we hit the ground running with our campaign. Leaflets are already being delivered, and weekly Task Force meetings have been scheduled for every Saturday morning until Polling Day – again, all are very welcome and it would be wonderful to see some new faces.



Needless to say, Conservative control of the County Council is key, and this election will be as challenging as any other – we therefore have a tough fight on our hands to retain control

So, in 2017 the fight continues, and I have every faith in our fantastic teams of helpers, and every confidence that we will be able to deliver what is best for our country

– namely, more Conservative seats. I look forward to seeing many of you out on the campaign trail!

In closing, I am delighted to inform you that Tom Pursglove was re-selected as our Parliamentary candidate for the next General Election, whenever that might be, at our Executive Council meeting on Friday 25th November.

Tom is a really hardworking MP who works equally hard in Parliament and here in the constituency. When we were out canvassing in Corby several people told me how impressed they were with Tom's handling of the steel crisis and how much they appreciate his advocacy for Corby steel in Parliament. The local campaigns are having a really big impact, many of them amongst communities that don't traditionally vote for us. All these campaigns, and Tom's excellent handling of individual constituent's issues, are creating up an excellent incumbency factor which is building Tom's/our voting base.

I think we are really lucky to have someone with Tom's boundless energy and enthusiasm, it's great working alongside him! Although it can be a bit exhausting at times! I think we are in a great place to face a General Election whether that is in a few months time or in 2020. I will be working with Tom to get prepared in case we do have a snap election to make sure that we can hit the ground running.

I'm sure you will all want to join me in congratulating Tom on his re-selection and to wish him the best as we look to the future.

Helen

TOM PURSGLOVE



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST NORTHANTS

Happy New Year! I hope that all members had a fantastic Christmas and managed to have a relaxing break over the festive period. The New Year brings with it a chance to reflect and look forward to the year ahead, and in Corby and East Northamptonshire, as well as across the country, we certainly have our fair share of challenges before us – the hard work both locally and nationally will not stop in 2017!

Something that has been a key theme throughout my time in Parliament, and which is the lifeblood of our community, is the UK steel industry. As members will know, one of the very first things that I did after the election was to become the Vice Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Steel and Metal-Related Industries. This group is, crucially, cross-party, and we meet on a regular basis to discuss Government policy, liaise with local authorities and unions, meet with industry representatives, and campaign on its behalf. During the height of the steel crisis, the group worked constructively, bringing everyone together, and helping to shape policy.

Building on that work, more recently, the APPG has released the 'Steel 2020' report, which was published a few days ago. This comprehensive report reflects hours of evidence and interviews with key steel industry stakeholders, and sets out a vision for a reinvigorated future for steel in this country: one based on sustainable business, innovation and high quality jobs. It is a positive, forward looking vision, that stresses that the industry's best days can, and should be, ahead of it. In particular, we have recommended:

1. A radical reshaping of the energy market to reduce uncompetitive energy costs faced by the steel industry, improving energy efficiency and spreading out the burden of decarbonisation policies.
2. Ensuring free and fair international trade by developing a clear UK post-Brexit trade strategy to

minimise uncertainty. This should include trade defence instruments against Chinese dumping, as well as securing market access vital to steel and related sectors such as automotive

3.. A positive procurement policy to ensure domestic steel is used as far as possible in public projects, including enforceable rules and greater use of the 'Kite Mark' certification system.

4. A national review of business rates, removing the perverse incentives that punish investment in capital by steel producers, while compensating local authorities to ensure no loss of income.

5. Supporting supply and value chains within steel and the wider manufacturing sector. The Government should take a more strategic view, incentivising key areas of supply chains to re-shore in the UK, so fewer steel products are exported abroad for final processing.

6. For advanced economies like the UK, industry needs constant innovation to improve productivity and remain competitive. The Government must take a strategic role in supporting R&D and upskilling of the workforce, while also ensuring support for skills retention and "short time working" tied to training and up skilling, enabling companies to respond to fluctuations in the market without cutting jobs. A Steel Catapult is also considered to be essential to provide a base for new ideas.

7. A more collaborative relationship between industry and the trade unions, working together to develop a national Industrial Strategy. The report also calls on the Government to consider providing financial support for mothballing in incidents of plant closure and for the workers made redundant, to ensure skills are not lost.

Indeed, the other day, I had the opportunity to raise the report, and the vital work of the APPG, in the Chamber of the House of Commons during a Statement from the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Rt. Hon Greg Clark MP.

I commended the report to him, and said that I hope it will be useful in informing ongoing discussions within Government. Clearly, with the development of the Government's Industrial Strategy - something we long campaigned for as an APPG -

Continued>>>

Tom Pursglove, continued

this presents a unique opportunity, and we must work hard to ensure it is as good as it can possibly be for steel production in this country.

For example, I hope it will build on the new guidelines for public sector procurement published just before Christmas, which are a huge step forward, and, as I said to the Secretary of State, it would be greatly encouraging to see some of these principles being taken forward into the private sector too. I maintain that we should be promoting the use of British steel at every opportunity - particularly on national infrastructure projects. Indeed, with these opportunities within our reach, there has rarely been a more crucial time for cross-party working on the steel issue, and I expect the APPG to play a full part in this work.

So, although the UK steel industry is by no means home and dry after a very challenging eighteen months, and it will certainly face more challenges in the years ahead, I think it is fair to say that the decisive action taken by the Government, as well as the hugely productive and collaborative work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Steel and Metal-Related Industries, has brought us significantly closer to the level playing field that the industry needs. But, there is much more still to do and through partnership working involving the industry, Government, the unions and the APPG, I have every confidence that the steel industry, both in Corby and across the country, can indeed have a very positive future ahead of it.

Sincerely

Tom Pursglove MP

How to get in touch with Tom

London phone number:
0207 219 8043

Write to him at Tom Pursglove MP,
House of Commons, LONDON SW1A 0AA
Follow on Twitter
@VotePursglove

Tom is also on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/VotePursglove>.

You can email Tom direct at:
pursglovett@parliament.uk

*Phone or email to make an appointment to see
Tom at one of his regular surgeries.*

Tom Pursglove, MP's Weekly Advice Surgeries

As your local MP, I believe it is extremely important to be as accessible as possible, in order to be able to best help with any problems or concerns that my constituents have. As such, unlike most MPs, I hold weekly advice surgeries, both in Corby and in East Northamptonshire. The venues for my surgeries are:

Corby: Corby VCS, The TA Building, Elizabeth Street, Corby, NN17 1PN

Irthlingborough: Irthlingborough Children's Centre, Scarborough St.,
Irthlingborough, NN9 5TT

Raunds: Raunds Library, High Street, Raunds, NN9 6LT

Oundle: Oundle Baptist Church, 1 St Osyth's Lane, Oundle, PE8 4BG

Thrapston: Thrapston Library, High Street, Thrapston, NN14 4JJ

To book an appointment, please telephone 020 7219 8043, as I have decided to operate my surgeries on an appointments basis, in order to ensure that my constituents do not have to rush through their concerns. This approach also allows me to provide immediate help - I often make a start on casework matters prior to an appointment, to try and resolve concerns more quickly, whilst it also allows me to seek any appropriate advice, or obtain clarification on technical points, in advance of the meeting.

Our 'Political Life'

Our magazine is available as a small printed booklet. For some time now issues have also been made available in a format suitable for reading on ipads and this version is emailed to members. Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members. Non-members who would like to receive our magazine regularly will need to join the Association. Please contact Ann at our office by email at office@cenga.co.uk or telephone 01536 200255. Our address is CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby NN17 1SZ

POPULARISM



17 Jan 2017

As I have written before, Sunderland's decision to leave the EU was a shock to me. I had set up and run a new business in the North East in 1965 during the period

when shipyards were closing and low wages and unemployment prevailed. When later I read that Nissan was going to make cars there, I felt it was the best industrial news for the area since the launching of the first steamship.

The vote for Brexit in Sunderland was absolutely incredible; good sensible people, friends, risking losing a business which had sustained them for almost a generation. On reflection I now realise I had failed to grasp one of the subtleties. More important than the stability of employment and decent living standards was the desire to break free from the discipline of bureaucrats in Brussels, which ignored the strong, local and traditional attitudes of freedom and choice of life styles, the right to be an individual. London and Brussels were choking them; Globalisation of manufacturing gave rise to all sorts of uncertainty. Brexit was a chance, perhaps the last chance, to avoid becoming industrial robots.

The threat of control by remote and faceless forces such as 'market forces' or 'economic imperatives' had many forms of expression, the local one which made me particularly indignant was the wish to give David Cameron a 'good smacking'. I think this wish for control was widespread through our country and most of the western world. There is a rejection of all the signs and symbols of all the remote forces demanding conformity whether in London, Brussels or Tokyo. There had to be resistance.

Opposition is at present being expressed in many different ways. Donald Trump who bestrides a very wide stage, promises to repatriate

manufacturing and get his fellow countrymen in the 'steel belt', back to work. Presumably the manufacturing efficiencies of producing in Mexico, low land, power, transport and labour costs will be lost and added to the price of American vehicles made by American workers who are now back in work. Imports from China will stop, being replaced by more expensive home made products, possibly of lower quality. The purpose of the change is to repatriate control; the consequence, a waste of resources.

Internationally NATO should be scrapped and the US relieved of its expensive leadership of the free world, which includes being directed to fight battles for indolent member countries which do not pay their agreed contributions and have often messed up their foreign policies.

These expressions of protest are quick and easy to make off the cuff, and with Twitter and mass communication become memorable soundbites effective by their audacity to some and stimulating the wilder imaginations of others.

Of course a quiet period of serious contemplation can easily challenge this Popularism. What do we do when we have got rid of Nissan? Can we find someone to replace David Cameron with the same clarity of mind and ambition for his country? How do we deal with raids by 1,000 cheap drones carrying toxins attacking one of our cities without NATO? If we nuke North Korea can we be sure there will not be any retaliation? Should we really reject all those refugees seeking our aid and compassion?

In our democracies 'Popularism' spreads like wildfire and can be quickly endorsed by majorities. Are we politically strong enough to find and articulate solutions to these popular proposals which restore freedom and remain responsible?

Ray Jackson

If you would like to comment on Ray's thoughts you can email the magazine editor and your email will be forwarded on to him

Report from Cllr Rob McKellar on Corby Borough Council

Conservatives Call for Action over 'Death Trap' Road

Jan 2017

The Conservatives in Weldon are calling for "urgent and lifesaving action" to tackle speeding on a major road running through the village.

Local councillors Rob Mckellar, Bridget Watts and Kevin Watt are working with Conservative County Council candidate Sandra Naden-Horley to lobby for traffic calming measures on Weldon's Stamford Road and High Street where a pensioner was airlifted to hospital following a collision two years ago.

In the two years since the collision the Conservatives have undertaken an evidence gathering campaign and say that their findings show a "clear and compelling need" for traffic through the village to be slowed. Among the group's research was a door to door 'speed survey' in which residents were asked their views, speed monitoring 'twin wires' to collect data, and the erection of a temporary speed recording sign.

Leader of the Corby Conservatives, Cllr Rob McKellar said, "Virtually every local resident

Cllr Kevin Watt (L) and Cllr Rob McKellar at the data-gathering Temporary Vehicle Activated Sign in Weldon.



we have spoken to as part of our door knocking campaign has cited Stamford Road as a major issue. The speed recording systems that we have put in place have even recorded some vehicles doing more than 60mph despite Stamford Road being a 30mph zone.



Cllr Kevin Watt (L) and Cllr Rob McKellar at Stamford Road in Weldon.

There has never been a more compelling case for traffic calming measures.

We have held discussions with the Highways Authority and with the Parish Council, and our local MP Tom Pursglove has raised the matter with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport.

We have built a strong case for action to be taken and we are determined to see some positive results very soon."

Last year local residents were left shocked after a speeding vehicle left the road and crashed through the front wall of a family home and the Conservatives say this is further evidence of an urgent need for action.

Conservative County Council candidate, Sandra Naden-Horley, who will stand for election in May this year, said, "Weldon is used by motorists as a rat-run in the morning and evening rush hours. Rather than using the bypass they come hurtling through Weldon at some very high speeds. The residents of the village feel that if something isn't done to alleviate the situation there could be a fatal accident. This comes from personal experience crossing the road outside the shop."

In addition to the Stamford Road campaign, the Conservatives are exploring options for Church Road, Oundle Road and Kettering Road in Weldon which also scored highly on their speed survey.

**Cllr Rob McKellar LLB (Hons) Barrister-at-Law FCILEx
Leader of the Opposition
Corby Borough Council**

Tel: 07810 176 147

NORTHANTS COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Jan 2017

Northamptonshire County Council continues to face enormous financial pressures from social care. These pressures are the same in every upper tier authority as demands on health and social care escalate.



Cllr Heather Smith

Reluctantly I have had to agree to propose an increase in council tax in line with Government advice for 2017/18 by just under 5%. The final decision will be put to councillors in February. This would not have been my choice as I believe central taxation should support social care rather than local tax payers. However we are where we are and cannot afford to keep the Council tax as low as we would wish. We are nevertheless the lowest County Council tax authority in the Country and will remain so as other authorities are putting similar increases through.

Our Children in Care pressure remains with the figure breaking the 1,000 under-18s in our care for the first time. We have had considerable success recruiting more foster carers but there will never be enough to meet all the demands.

Our highway teams have been really busy over the past few weeks keeping our main network open even though we have had many icy days. The gritters have worked tirelessly to make sure we can all get to work. The extreme temperature changes unfortunately do impact on the road surface and we plan to have a blitz on the highway network at the end of the winter which should be March. Any significant holes must be reported to street doctor when they are seen. This can be done by telephone or online through Northamptonshire.gov.uk .

There should be news soon on phase 3 of the superfast broadband project which will see our most isolated villages covered. It should be some really good news.

Our street lighting replacement programme is also well ahead of schedule so there is some more good news.

Heather

*Cllr Heather Smith, Chartered MCIPD
Leader of the Council
Northamptonshire County Council*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Members will need to have renewed prior to the next AGM in order to be able to attend that meeting. If any member is in doubt as to whether their membership is up to date please contact the office. Members can contact the office for a printable pdf form as an attachment to be sent to them via email. Forms are also available by post.

A form for payment by S.O. can also be supplied on request.

Anyone who is interested In joining the Association is invited to contact the Association Office and request a membership form.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON BREXIT

17 Jan 2017

Today I set out the Government's 12 negotiating objectives for leaving the European Union - part of our plan for Britain, which aims to get the right deal abroad while ensuring a better deal for ordinary working people here at home – and I wanted you to be one of the first to know about it.

The referendum last June was a vote to leave the European Union. But it was also a vote for change – to shape a brighter future for our country, to make it stronger and fairer, and to embrace the world. And it is the job of this Conservative Government to deliver it and to get the right deal for Britain as we do.

We seek a new and equal partnership – between an independent, self-governing Global Britain and our friends and allies in the European Union. We are leaving the EU, not Europe.

That means taking the opportunity of this great moment of national change to step back and ask ourselves what kind of country we want to be. To pursue 12 objectives that amount to one goal: a new, positive and constructive partnership between Britain and the European Union.

1. Certainty: whenever we can, we will provide it. And we can confirm today that the Government will put the final deal that is agreed between the UK and EU to a vote in both Houses of Parliament.

2. Control of our own laws: we will bring an end to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in Britain. Because we will not have truly left the European Union if we are not in control of our own laws.

3. Strengthen the Union: we must strengthen the precious Union between the four nations of the United Kingdom. We will work very carefully to ensure that – as powers are repatriated back to Britain – the right powers are returned to Westminster and the right powers are passed to the devolved administrations. We will make sure that no new barriers to living and doing business within our Union are created.

4. Maintain the Common Travel Area with Ireland: we will work to deliver a practical solution that allows the maintenance of the Common Travel Area with the Republic of Ireland, while protecting the integrity of the United Kingdom's immigration system.

5. Control of immigration: the message from the public before and during the referendum campaign was clear: Brexit must mean control of the number of people who come to Britain from Europe. We will continue to attract the brightest and the best to work or study in Britain but there must be control.

6. Rights for EU nationals in Britain, and British nationals in the EU: we want to guarantee these rights as early as we can. We have told other EU leaders that we can offer EU nationals here this certainty, as long as this is reciprocated for British citizens in EU countries.

7. Protect workers' rights: as we translate the body of European law into our domestic regulations, we will ensure that workers' rights are fully protected and maintained.

8. Free trade with European markets: as a priority we will pursue a bold and ambitious Free Trade Agreement with the European Union. This agreement should allow for the freest possible trade in goods and services between Britain and EU member states. It cannot mean membership of the EU's Single Market. That would mean complying with European Court of Justice rulings, free movement and other EU rules and regulations without having a vote on what those rules and regulations are. And because we will no longer be members of the Single Market, we will not be required to contribute huge sums to the EU budget. If we contribute to some specific EU programmes that we wish to participate in, it will be for us to decide.

9. New trade agreements with other countries: it is time for Britain to become a global trading nation, striking trade agreements around the world. Through the Common Commercial Policy and the Common External Tariff, full Customs Union membership prevents us from doing this – but we do want to have a customs agreement with the EU and have an open mind on how we achieve this end.

10. The best place for science and innovation: we will continue to collaborate with our European partners on major science, research and technology initiatives.

11. Co-operation in the fight against crime and terrorism: we want our future relationship with the EU to include practical arrangements on matters of law enforcement and intelligence.

12. A smooth, orderly Brexit: we want to have reached an agreement about our future partnership by the time the two year Article 50 process has concluded. From that point onwards, we expect a phased process of implementation. We will work to avoid a disruptive cliff-edge.

These are our objectives for Brexit. A truly Global Britain – the best friend and neighbour to our European partners, but also a country that reaches beyond the borders of Europe and embraces the world. A country that gets out into the world to build relationships with old friends and new allies alike – a great, global trading nation that is respected around the world and strong, confident and united at home.



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD

Jan 2017

Next month will see the publication of my new Police and Crime Plan. This five year document will set out the strategic direction for Northamptonshire Police and my Office and reflects the key policies I was elected to implement last May.

It is important to note that this is not just a plan for the police, as many of the issues that affect how safe we feel can be prevented or dealt with by other agencies. I particularly believe that early intervention to prevent young people from becoming the victims and perpetrators of the future has a big role to play. This plan inevitably produces a list of priorities and I have been clear that this does not mean that the Police will not continue to deal with a wide variety of crimes. This is rather about trying to prioritise where resources are placed if there is a choice to be made about where they can be utilised

It is also important to me that not only do public sector agencies work together to make Northamptonshire safer but that we also deliver those services in the right way.

Everything that I commission will seek to adhere to the following values:

Honesty: Your public servants should always act with honesty.

Integrity: I will ensure that things are always developed with probity and are morally - as well as legally - correct.



Approachable: Those providing service to the public should always be considered approachable.

Reliable: If someone says they will do something for you then they deliver on this promise.

Fair: Everyone should be treated as an individual and treated with respect.

Continuously learning: Every member of the public sector should be developing all the time and this should be built into the culture of the organisations that serve you.

Ensuring staff wellbeing: I want to ensure that not only do we look after members of the public but also staff who are delivering my plan are looked after and treated with the respect and fairness they deserve.

Preventative rather

reactive: I want to ensure that everything we do as organisations to deliver this plan seeks to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour and their causes rather than reacting after the event.



At a time of scarce resources it is important that I focus attention on the issues that matter most and will have the greatest impact on the communities of the county. I need to balance issues of public concern with the challenges that are emerging and will continue into the future. These range from tightened public finances to the emergence of cyber-crime and heightened emphasis on previously 'hidden' crimes such as child sexual abuse and modern day slavery.

Making Northamptonshire Police more efficient and effective is central to my role. However I will also ensure that the public feel safe and thrive in Northamptonshire with fewer people involved in the criminal justice system, whether as a victim or as an offender by following my four key priorities:

Keeping children and young people safe;
Community partnerships;
Protecting people from harm; and
Putting Victims at the heart of justice.

This is not just my plan or that of my Office, it is very much our plan. A large number of residents, local groups and organisations, police officers and staff responded to our draft police and crime plan consultation which reached over 120,000 people and we received almost 2,000 responses from residents. This has been excellent feedback and ensures that local needs and concerns will be reflected in the final Police and Crime Plan.

The challenges and issues facing our police force are forever changing and evolving, however I am confident that the new Police and Crime Plan will help support our force to meet these challenges head on. It is also important that we all work together to assist the work the force undertakes and I am always happy to provide any help or assistance. I can be contacted at

Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk

Stephen Mold
Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

A recent scare-mongering leaflet distributed by the Labour Party prompted a member to pen the following: (By the way—the publisher and printer seem so ashamed of this sordid publication that they made the imprint almost unreadable.)

Caritas

1983 saw me begin nurse training at Sheffield's Royal Hallamshire School of Nursing with either postgraduates at loose ends in a recession. A surprised dad (with memories of child Bryony aghast at the gory pages in Mum's anatomy books) awaited my imminent departure. Yet nursing was in my genes, as my mother and her sister had trained at Dudley Hospital, Birmingham, so it turned out well in the end. The infant NHS was still unbelievable to its early patients; people would grab my hand to question my motives: "Why do you want to look after me?" The inference being I spoke too posh to carry their bodily waste away. Humility of spirit that today's bling world has lost; I remember characters who lionised my caring efforts: notably model Jackie who wasted her insides with laxatives in order to be part of London's Twiggy culture.

As a prospective theatre nurse I followed the intricate surgery to correct her misjudgement and was affected by her generous gratitude in return. Then there was the diabetic robust Mayor of Dronfield, whom we could not turn over (to avoid bed sores) without mechanical help, which levitations prompted waves of good humoured asides from the gentleman and three male patients in the same unit. Years later I moved on to research the very problem that cripples state services today.

Labour = ScarefortheNHS

The word caring stems from Latin's 'Caritas' meaning charity in the Biblical sense of loving our neighbours. Unfortunately, I learned the caring issue is unsolvable without funds that our post 2008 recession world may not justify.

What happened? All are familiar with trends to remodel the decades of life previously associated with becoming frail and elderly; slogans like 'your 70s are your new 50s'. A biological revolution that is happening now.

First, a spurting population growth: After the Second World War the call to reproduce the nation brought additional air raids, but this time storks bringing today's baby boomers generation. Second, Post War NHS offered free health care for all, promoting equality of life's chances (in terms of disease risks, improved healing and therapy) via modern biomedical technology - noting that Halsey 1988 views the ageing revolution as a historical phenomenon, with roots from centuries ago as lifestyle improved over generations.

Consequently, "people of the UK (and elsewhere in the Western world) are seeing absolute increases in population for each cohort over 60+ for the first time in the biological history of the species" (Elliott 1995). So more care of increasing complexity, as medical innovations assist to extend longevity.

UNDER THE TORIES OUR NHS IS UNDERFUNDED AND UNDERSTAFFED.

- Worst NHS deficits on record - £2.45 billion
- Around 3.9 million people now wait longer than 18 weeks for treatment
- 1.5 million people waited four or more hours last year - up over 400 per cent since 2010
- One in four patients have to wait a week or more appointment at all

Labor created the NHS to care for us all, now it's time to scare for the NHS.

#ScarefortheNHS



The large number Baby Boomers is unfortunately relative to falling numbers of subsequent generations, the fewer carers to care for the frail, elderly and vulnerable. People wrongly assume to care is a labour of love, thereby vanishing the monetary cost of what some think of as dirty work necessary to maintain the human body. Years later the so called demographic time bomb has caught us out twice: shortage of carers and shortage of monetary resources - regardless of who is running the country.

Are we on the cusp of re-evaluating caring work as indispensable to civilised survival? The superbug scare certainly reminded us that hospital laundry, cleaning, and hand washing by agency incomers require scrupulous attention that contracts eclipsed. Caritas cannot be bought.

Apparently, Lloyd George famously greeted the first World War as an opportunity (in the Queen's Hall speech, 09.09.1914) - here is ours - to motivate citizens to either do the caring or pay for it.

Bryony Elliott - Member)

**CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE FOR
CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB AT**

WWW.CORBYCONSERVATIVECLUB.NET



Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands

Jan 2017

We live in extraordinary times.

On both sides of the Atlantic, we have experienced a seismic shift in political thinking. We have seen what many are calling a revolution inside the political game.

All bets are off and there are new rules to the game, which many of us – politicians included, are trying to figure out. The Media were wrong, the commentators were wrong, the pollsters outfoxed. 2016 was the year politics became unpredictable.

This happened in the UK with our Referendum and then with the recent election of Donald Trump.

And as much as these two events may raise concerns due to the perceived uncertainty they bring, I am very optimistic about our future as a county and see this as an opportunity to forge a renewed strong and dynamic transatlantic relationship.

This month I will travel to the US for the Presidential inauguration and finally we will begin to see just how the new President's administration will work.

Despite the misgivings many have about Trump I believe everyone should be given a chance to prove themselves and hope that his Republican Conservative team will begin to implement conservative policies that we can identify with.

I believe we have a chance to renew the special relationship between our countries to our mutual benefit. Now Obama is gone we are no longer at the back of the queue!

The US is our biggest exporter both for the East Midlands and for the UK, with our bilateral trade worth over £80 billion annually.

British businesses employ around one million people in the US, and American businesses the same.

These numbers cannot be underestimated, and in a period of growing instability and distrust in trade, we must strike anew and ensure our partners in Washington that we are open for business and that the UK stands together with the US on a number of issues such as security, trade and digital cooperation.

When it comes to trade, we should be looking at the US as our premier business location. It is the world's largest economy with a GDP of over £12 trillion and a consumer market of 320 million people. Alike Britain, it is an open and stable market, with a transparent political and legal system which offers a wealth of



opportunities to foreign entrepreneurs and established businesses. It is also the world leader in information technology and Intellectual Property Rights, with strong supply chains and investment incentives to attract foreign investors. In all, very good reasons to bring a possible UK-US trade deal discussions to the table.

With the European Union's growing reticence on finalising the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the US, always finding a million reasons to disrupt and delay the current negotiations, it is not surprising that the Americans are becoming more and more reluctant themselves in continuing talks with the EU.

Therefore, I believe we can work closely with our old allies in the US outside the EU, and a UK-US deal is something we could negotiate more comprehensively and quickly.

Regulatory cooperation will also be easier with likeminded legal frameworks and business culture, as in both sides of the Atlantic the similar liberal mind-set tends to avoid over-burdensome regulation.

The election of Donald Trump opens up options that were until now not on table. The President-elect himself and members of his transition team have recently commented on their willingness to launch talks for a possible UK-US trade deal.

The Foreign Secretary has now travelled to the US to meet with the transition team, and our Prime-Minister Theresa May is expected to meet with Mr Trump soon after he takes post. This is the time to get the conversation and the momentum going, and be positive about the out chances of thriving economically and independently.

I am doing my part in building up those key relations so we can build a stronger, prosperous and more secure future for both our countries.

**Emma McClarkin MEP
for the East Midlands**

An article by Tim Martin, Chairman of Wetherspoons

The evidence of history is that undemocratic organisations, like the EU, eventually make a hash of it

The UK's electoral reform society, dedicated to improving democracy and accountability, was neutral on whether the UK should stay in, or leave, the EU. However, its investigation of the EU system concluded that there was a 'serious democratic deficit' in the EU institutions. It made several recommendations, none of which appears to have been implemented.

The EU lives on, with its five unelected presidents, helped by 28 unelected commissioners. Even the EU parliament is dysfunctional, since it cannot instigate its own legislation, a key democratic prerequisite - legislation can be instigated by commissioners only, believe it or not.

Another example relates to decisions of the EU supreme court which overrides the laws of national parliaments, including our own, for which there is no democratic redress.

If the democratically elected UK parliament dislikes a decision of our own courts, it can legislate to change the law. No such mechanism exists for correcting decisions of the EU court.

Now, economic chaos reigns in Southern Europe, with Greece, Portugal and Spain labouring under youth unemployment of up to 50 per cent, with an adult level of 20 per cent or more. Greece, for example, has lost control of its budget, as well as its interest rates - the main economic levers of any democratic government.

Democratic accountability in the EU is woefully poor in other economic spheres too. For example, EU finances have not been properly audited for over 20 years, an unthinkable and chaotic state of affairs for any responsible organisation.

As we all know, the UK parliament voted by an overwhelming majority of 6 to 1 to empower electorate to decide in a referendum whether the UK should remain in the EU.

"The government will implement what you decide," promised a pro-remain document sent by the government, in April 2016, to every household in the land.

(This article has been abridged from the leader in Wetherspoon News Magazine of Winter 2016/17)

NATIONAL DRAW WINNERS

Prize	Name	Address
£10,000	C Cutler	Enfield
£100	Mrs M Woodward	Wellingborough
£100	M Phillips	Cottingham
£100	Christine Arthur	Nottingham
£100	M Carter	Market Drayton

There were also 250 £10 winners, including some from Rushden (3), Leicester, Lutterworth, Kettering, Corby Glen, Market Harborough, and Northampton.

Thanks to everyone who distributed the tickets and to those who purchased them.

How Members Can Help the Party

1. Join the Patrons' Club
2. Join the 200 Club
3. Support our functions

The Patrons' Club costs £120 p.a. for single membership or £180 p.a. for joint membership.

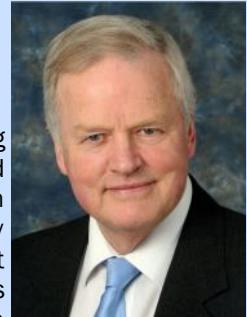
The 200 Club costs £15 per number p.a. The monthly draw is for £30 and the annual draw has three prizes of £200, £100 and £50. One or two luncheons are also held with discounted rates.

Full details available from the office

TOM PURSGLOVE'S LUNCH OVER THE EASTER RECESS

Our Guest Speaker will be Colonel Bob Stewart, DSO.
Member of Parliament for Beckenham

Bob has been involved in politics, in one way or another, for a long time, having met and/or briefed every prime minister since Ted Heath in the early 1970s. In the Army all his staff jobs were either in the Ministry of Defence or at NATO headquarters where day-to-day life was highly political. After the Army he was a political consultant dealing with Westminster for three years. He has spoken five times at various Conservative Party conferences - including opening the main Defence debate. In 2005 he spent some time helping his friend, Adam Holloway MP, in his successful bid to take Gravesham constituency from the Labour Party. Bob was also a 'Talking Head' for the Ministry of Defence for seven years. He is known to be an interesting and amusing speaker and members are guaranteed they will get their money's worth. All members will be notified of the date of the lunch as soon as it is finalised.



COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017

In December the brilliant Task Force Team were out delivering leaflets for our County Council candidates right up to the Christmas holiday period. The 2017 campaign kicked off on 4th January! We need as much help as possible if we are to retain control of the County Council and all members are asked to assist with deliveries, even if they only do their local streets. Please don't leave it to the dedicated campaigners.



County Council elections aside, we now have a by-election for the **Kingswood & Hazel Leys Ward** in Corby. The by-election will be on Thursday 9th February. This has been caused by the non-attendance at Council meetings of a former Labour Councillor.

It has long been said that if you put a monkey with a red sticker up for election in certain parts of Corby they would get elected and the last local election bears this out. So let's prove the old adage wrong and show that 'times they are a-changing' and Conservatives can win in these areas.

The people of Kingswood deserve better than Labour Councillors who have no interest in showing up and representing their constituents; it is unfortunate that taxpayers' money has to be spent on a by-election due to Labour's incompetence.

We are fortunate in having a well-known campaigner who has offered to step in and fight this ward for us and we need everyone to get behind him to win another seat on Corby Council. Although he knows it will be a tough fight he says: '*Wouldn't it be great to give Labour a bloody nose right before the County Council elections.*' A good result here will mean they spend less time campaigning against us in Raunds, Irthingborough, Weldon, or anywhere we want to win big in May.

Let's start the fight now to make Corby a 'no-go' area for Labour.

A READER WRITES:

SPEEDBUMPS, DEVELOPMENT & SECRECY

Jan 2017

In response to a recent article in the Magazine I am prompted to raise the following points:

Speed bumps are obviously useful measures when used sensibly, i.e. at school entrances or known accident spots, but there certainly seems to be some overkill in Corby. They seem to have been placed almost randomly on some roads whereas similar areas have been ignored.

Many speedbumps simply slow down the cars every few yards which then accelerate until the next one, or worse weave rapidly from left to right to straddle or avoid them. Pollution is increased by this fast/slow process and I wonder how many motorists make damage claims to the local council.

Other towns have removed a lot of these speed bumps, so maybe, they have much more democratic councils who realise that they cause more problems than solve.

The maintenance of these speedbumps must add considerably

to costs as they seem to break up the road surface very quickly.

On a related point, I wonder why no measures are taken by the police to stop motorists ignoring the ban on through traffic outside the Cube. In just ten minutes over 30 cars were seen to drive through. A small fine would rapidly repay the cost of monitoring this road either manually or preferably with in/out ANPR cameras.

Our Town Centre has a much more modern look now thanks to the previous owners, Helical Bar, and is a nice place to shop but I wonder what is happening for the future.

The old Crown House site is still derelict, although I have detected quite a bit of movement amongst the piles of rubble lately. Elizabeth Street, apart from the splendid makeover completed by Wetherspoons on the old Westgate building, is a throwback to the 1950s.

The Police Station is almost defunct now and needs tearing down to make way for modern buildings.

I know all this is not down to the Council but surely some discussions



with the new Town Centre owners would be beneficial.

And Corby's residents need to know what is happening. In this age of austerity councils can no longer afford to self-publicise themselves in glossy magazines but press releases provide free publicity. Don't keep everything secret Corby Council.

People of Corby are concerned about these things, but the Labour Council do not listen to their complaints, in fact, as I know personally, they are dismissive enough to laugh about their concerns.

Dee Sellars - Member

We love to receive letters or articles for the magazine, complimentary or otherwise. Just send them in Word format to the office. Photos are good too. Contributions may be edited or abridged slightly as necessary.

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB
01536 203711

**LUNCHTIME BAR SNACKS FOR UNDER SIX
POUNDS AVAILABLE FROM WEDNESDAY TO
SUNDAY.**

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME IN OUR RESTAURANT



Just a thought:

'This year will be harder than last year. On the other hand, it will be easier than next year.' Enver Hoxha, the communist who was leader of Albania for 41 years.

THE NEW CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM



It is a privilege to write to you as the new Chairman of the Conservative Policy Forum, and as Chairman of the Prime Minister's Policy Board.

The Prime Minister set up the new Board to allow greater input for Conservative MPs, peers, councillors, and members on the frontline of key policy areas to help shape the policymaking process at the heart of Government. The Prime Minister is determined to make sure, as she and the Government tackle the range of challenging domestic and international issues we face, that Conservative values and thinking on key policy issues from grassroots members as well as from Parliamentary colleagues have a conduit to the heart of Government.

A lot of work has been done to constitute the Board properly in No10/Cabinet Office and it is now meeting regularly.

As well as supporting Ministers on live policy areas, the new Policy Board will particularly focus on:

- policies which go beyond a single Department or Minister and require a cross-Government approach (e.g. mental health);
- societal, technological and other changes beyond Whitehall, and their impact on policy;
- the aggregate policy impact on people and places, which no Department currently considers, but which will be essential to our future political and policy success: making sure we connect with the voters who feel 'left behind' and have a strong post-Brexit policy programme to ensure we win well in 2020.

The intention is that the Board will invite, collate and process new thinking in thematic policy areas of particular interest, and, depending on the level of response, potentially commission Working Groups to help develop proposals in specific areas. I'm determined that through the new Board the CPF will have a direct line into Ministers.

I wanted to write to let you know how you can help us with the next steps.

In the Autumn Statement, the Chancellor set out our plan for continuing our programme of economic reforms to improve productivity, boost Britain's long-term competitiveness, and build an economy that works for everyone. At the same time, we are continuing our social reforms to build a country that works for everyone and demonstrate that the Conservative Party is on the side of people who, as the PM said in her inspiring words on entering No10, have too often been left behind by Whitehall and Westminster politics.

In this spirit, throughout the course of 2017 we would like you to help us feed in, through your discussions, your ideas, reflections and thoughts on policy areas that will be vital over the months and years ahead.

In total the CPF is aiming to publish five national Policy Papers next year. The management team in CCHQ are planning to send out a new topic for discussion in January, March, May, September and November.

The Policy Board has now set out a forward work programme for 2017 policy development in three key areas:

- Globalisation and economic competitiveness
- Social reform and social justice
- Reconnecting with disconnected voters

After some discussion, we have decided that the first three CPF papers of 2017 will examine the following:

1. **Cost of Living** – how to ease the cost of living for those who have seen their cost of living rise faster than their income.
2. **Adult Social Care** – how, as a society, we should fund and provide 21st century adult social care and better alignment of health and care for an ageing population.
3. **Skills and Training for a 21st Century Workforce** – how to make sure we make the necessary skills step-up to improve UK productivity and create opportunities for more UK workers to benefit from globalisation and technology and the rapidly changing workplace.

The CPF team will be in touch shortly with the framework and background for the first paper on the Cost of Living. We very much look forward to receiving your thoughts via the usual CPF network and procedures.

As well as these identified themes, please feel free to forward your own ideas for additional policy themes or specific policy Proposals should be brought to the attention of your local CPF Chairman for discussion and they can then be forwarded to me for consideration.

We will be in touch again in due course with more information on the January paper on Cost of Living.

I very much look forward to working with you on this next exciting chapter.

**YOU CAN TAKE PART IN
THESE DISCUSSIONS -
PLEASE CONTACT ANN AT
THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF
MEETINGS AND TOPICS. IF
YOU WOULD LIKE TO
SUGGEST A TOPIC FOR A
MEETING JUST LET ANN
KNOW**

**George Freeman MP
Chairman, Conservative Policy Forum
Chair, The Prime Minister's Policy Board
Member of Parliament for Mid-Norfolk**

Members will be advised by email of the next CPF meeting. All members and other interested persons are invited to attend these meetings to discuss Conservative Policy

ANDREW I LEWER, MBE MEP for the East Midlands

Jan 2017

Freedom of Speech and EU Law

In my time as an MEP, even coming into post with a sceptical inclination, it has frequently come as a surprise to me how so many EU regulations affect so much in public policy, business and people's daily lives. (And will continue to do so: All the new EU laws passed while we are still members - even after Article 50 is invoked - go straight into UK law.) The names that EU regulations and directives have often help to disguise their significance. It is at this point that I must urge you to read beyond the name of the one I am reflecting upon in this article: The Audio Visual Media Services Directive ('AVMS'). Not interesting? Hold on!

Control of videos on social media. The future of commercial television. How many advertisements you are allowed to watch. What percentage of European content must be on your television channels (and indeed - potentially - anything you watch on demand). Maybe even the nature of free speech online. That is what we are talking about with AVMS and potential large scale changes to it are currently being debated at the European Parliament. As Lead Member for the Conservatives on this I am doing my best to influence the outcome.

For all his many achievements, one of the things RA 'Rab' Butler is best known for is his description of politics as 'the art of the possible'; it was indeed the title of his autobiography. I found positive examples of this in my time as a County Council Leader but feel I encounter less positive ones as an MEP. On-going work on the AVMS illustrates this well

I could state my principles on the subjects AVMS covers (and those colleagues seek to extend it into), I could only put in amendments that exactly reflect those principles. I could go on to only vote in favour of those parts of the legislation that wholly match my and my Group's views (likely to be small in number). As a result of this I could then vote against the proposals as a whole.

Or: I could attempt to trim and ameliorate the current proposals and accept parts I am not

entirely happy with in return for getting rid of - or toning down significantly - elements that would be detrimental to British interests or contrary (in my view) to British values.



Unless the debate in the Culture and Education Committee goes seriously off course I shall incline to the latter course, because at least that way some of our problems with the legislation can be snipped off, rather than none (but with me feeling righteous for not having had anything to do with it).

I am conscious of breaking the epigram often (incorrectly actually, but no matter) attributed to Bismarck in my describing the legislative procedure above, "... the making of laws is like the making of sausages - the less you know about the process the more you respect the result".

However, some of the issues at stake are sufficiently important - some commercially, some on principle - to merit it. We need to bear in mind, furthermore, that although post-Brexit we could simply repeal elements of AVMS we do not like, in reality it will not be that simple. With so many other reforms and repeals clamouring for attention we could find a revised AVMS being, to coin a phrase, at the back of the queue; we could thus be stuck with it for many years.

There are technical concerns about the revisions to AVMS to be considered, such as:

- Product placement and sponsorship
- Advertisement break limits
- Whether embedded videos in non-television channels (like on-line newspapers) should be regulated by AVMS
- Whether a required percentage of 'European content' in our television programming (currently 50% for linear television) should also apply to on-demand services like Netflix, and to what extent
- The ability of Member States to charge non-home broadcasters levies

Continued>>>

Andrew Lewer continued>>>

All are significant. All could merit further discussion here. Beyond them, however, is a deeper concern and that is the desire of many MEPs to define and regulate 'hate speech' in AVMS, which I am concerned not to see get out of hand. Wider still, they illustrate a danger in British society generally, regardless of Brexit.

Being against 'hate speech' sounds laudable, indeed incontestable, but it can lead - inadvertently or otherwise - to censorship. It leads to questions about who determines what 'hate speech' is. There are those in public life who would proscribe all manner of jokes, non-'PC' comments and certain opinions that they affect to find 'offensive' to such an extent that we would struggle to feel that free speech really still existed. Free speech is essentially accepting that people are free to say things we do not like, not merely 'free' to say the things we do like. Should these be 'offensive' then they can be tackled via forthright debate. Indeed, debating ideas in a public forum makes it harder for those ideas to be formed as an individual insult and a public debate provides the target of offence with a rebuttal.

To me the British way is not to ban the burka but neither is it a ban on people saying they wished others did not wear it or even that in their view doing so is detrimental to a cohesive society. To me the British way is not to ban racists, it is to allow them to appear on television and be challenged. Look what happened to Nick Griffin and the BNP after he went on 'Question Time'.

I fear we are veering towards placing the freedom not to be offended (or at least for certain people not to be offended) above freedom of speech. Vigilance against the 'offendotrons' is needed, as brilliantly described by Australian writer Helen Dale recently - www.spectator.com.au/2017/01/attack-of-the-offendotrons.

Notwithstanding AVMS, if we are moving away from European concepts of the law defining what you ARE allowed to say then it is my hope that we do not replace them with excessive control of our own. That instead we seek inspiration from the first amendment of the constitution of the United States, a document itself inspired by our 1689 Bill of Rights and our Magna Carta of 1215.

Regards,

Andrew Lewer MBE MP for the East Midlands

DOES 'IMPRESS' STAND FOR HATRED OF A FREE PRESS?

Section 40 of the Crime and Courts Act has the potential to bankrupt newspapers who refuse to sign up to a State-controlled regulator. Under its provisions, papers who fail to register with an outfit called Impress will be liable to pay the legal costs of anyone who brings a libel action against them – win or lose.

Not only is this an outrageous inversion of justice, it is an open invitation to malevolents, malcontents and assorted chancers to sue the Press at no risk to themselves. Have no doubt that an avalanche of vexatious and unwarranted lawsuits will be launched immediately the clause passes into law.

Most newspapers are members of the independent regulator IPSO, which is free of State control.

Does Theresa May really want to be Prime Minister of a country where a Left-wing rabble of Press-haters has the final say on what appears in our newspapers? The public consultation ended on 10th January.

Adapted from Richard Littlejohn (The Daily Mail)

Perhaps the most pertinent quote reference the proposed legislation came from Alfred Harmsworth, the first Viscount Northcliffe and founding father of the Daily Mail. In 1903 he wrote: 'It is part of the business of newspapers to get news and print it. It is part of the business of a politician to prevent certain news being printed.'

The full list of 89 MPs who voted AGAINST Brexit in the Article 50 Commons debate in December

MPs overwhelmingly voted to back Theresa May's plans to trigger Article 50 by the end of March last night.

A total of 461 MPs voted to back Theresa May's Brexit timetable.

But 89 elected representatives defied the will of the people and voted against the Government and Brexit in the Commons debate on Wed. 8th December in an attempt to delay or even stop Britain leaving the European Union.

Ken Clarke, MP, voted against but explains his decision in the panel at the right. Was he right to take the local views of 58% who voted Remain or should he have respected the national vote of 52% to Leave?

Here is the complete list of those who voted against



"Fifty eight percent of my constituents voted to remain. "I'm trying to represent to the best of my abilities all of my constituents, always have. I use my judgement as to what is in the national interest. Then I go back and I'm accountable for it and if they don't like it, they can throw me out." "That's called parliamentary democracy. That's how we've been governed for years."

CONSERVATIVE: 1

Ken Clarke (Rushcliffe)

LABOUR: 23

Rushanara Ali (Bethnal Green and Bow)

Graham Allen (Nottingham North)

Ben Bradshaw (Exeter)

Ann Coffey (Stockport)

Neil Coyle (Bermondsey and Old Southwark)

Stella Creasy (Walthamstow)

Geraint Davies (Swansea West)

Jim Dowd (Lewisham West and Penge)

Louise Ellman (Liverpool Riverside)

Chris Evans (Islwyn)

Paul Farrelly (Newcastle-under-Lyme)

Mike Gapes (Ilford South)

Helen Hayes (Dulwich and West Norwood)

Meg Hillier (Hackney South and Shoreditch)

Peter Kyle (Hove)

David Lammy (Tottenham)

Chris Leslie (Nottingham East)

Ian Murray (Edinburgh South)

Barry Sheerman (Huddersfield)

Tulip Siddiq (Hampstead and Kilburn)

Angela Smith (Penistone and Stocksbridge)

Catherine West (Hornsey and Wood Green)

Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge)

LIBERAL DEMOCRAT: 5

Alistair Carmichael (Orkney and Shetland)

Nick Clegg (Sheffield Hallam)

Tim Farron (Westmorland and Lonsdale)

Sarah Olney (Richmond Park)

Mark Williams (Ceredigion)

GREEN PARTY: 1

Caroline Lucas (Brighton Pavilion)

SDLP: 3

Mark Durkam (Foyle)

Alasdair McDonnell (Belfast South)

Margaret Ritchie (South Down)

INDEPENDENT: 2

Natalie McGarry (Glasgow East)

Michelle Thomson (Edinburgh West)

PLAID CYMRU: 3

Jonathan Edwards (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr)

Liz Saville Roberts (Dwyfor Meirionnydd)

Hywel Williams (Arfon)

SNP: 51

Tasmina Ahmed-Sheikh (Ochil and South Perthshire)

Hannah Bardell (Livingston)

Mhairi Black (Paisley and Renfrewshire South)

Ian Blackford (Ross, Skye and Lochaber)

Kirsty Blackman (Aberdeen North)

Philip Boswell (Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill)

Deidre Brock (Edinburgh North and Leith)

Alan Brown (Kilmarnock and Loudoun)

Lisa Cameron (East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow)

Douglas Chapman (Dunfermline and West Fife)

Joanna Cherry (Edinburgh South West)

Ronnie Cowan (Inverclyde)

Angela Crawley (Lanark and Hamilton East)

Martyn Day (Linlithgow and East Falkirk)

Martin Docherty-Hughes (West Dunbartonshire)

Stuart Blair Donaldson (West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine)

Marion Fellows (Motherwell and Wishaw)

Margaret Ferrier (Rutherglen and Hamilton West)

Stephen Gethins (North East Fife)

Patricia Gibson (North Ayrshire and Arran)

Patrick Grady (Glasgow North)

Peter Grant (Glenrothes)

Neil Gray (Airdrie and Shotts)

Drew Hendry (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)

Stewart Hosie (Dundee East)

George Kerevan (East Lothian)

Calum Kerr (Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk)

Chris Law (Dundee West)

Angus Brendan MacNeil (Na h-Eileanan an lar)

John McNally (Falkirk)

Callum McCaig (Aberdeen South)

Stuart McDonald (Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East)

Anne McLaughlin (Glasgow North East)

Carol Monaghan (Glasgow North West)

Paul Monaghan (Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross)

Roger Mullin (Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath)

Gavin Newlands (Paisley and Renfrewshire North)

John Nicolson (East Dunbartonshire)

Brendan O'Hara (Argyll and Bute)

Kirsten Oswald (East Renfrewshire)

Steven Paterson (Stirling)

Angus Robertson (Moray)

Alex Salmond (Gordon)

Tommy Sheppard (Edinburgh East)

Chris Stephens (Glasgow South West)

Alison Thewliss (Glasgow Central)

Mike Weir (Angus)

Eilidh Whitford (Banff and Buchan)

Corri Wilson (Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock)

Pete Wishart (Perth and North Perthshire)

With acknowledgements
to the Daily Express

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - TEN YEARS TO LEAVE THE EU !!!

Leaving for my Christmas break in the West Country on 19th December I listened to the early morning radio 4 interview of Lord O'Donnell. I was astounded to hear Lord O'Donnell, who served as cabinet secretary to Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and David Cameron, say "there's not a chance" of sorting out a final deal on Europe in two years.

He said. "We certainly won't have come to any final arrangement in two years' time. We might well get to a point where we can symbolically leave, but all sorts of details will still remain to be sorted out."

"I can imagine it taking at least five years to get through all of the details, and I imagine some of the transition arrangements may be longer than that."

Lord O'Donnell warned the UK faces "very negative" negotiations in Brussels as the remaining major EU states try to put others off leaving the union by showing it "has cost us something". He said the scale of the task should not be underestimated.

And he warned that leaders seeking election in France and Germany are likely to give the UK a tough time in talks.

He said: "I think initially it will be very negative because if you are incumbent governments in say France or Germany, you want to prove that leaving the EU is not a good idea, you'll want to show that leaving has cost us something."

He is probably right about the non-negotiation but my feeling is we should cut and run, and let them get on with it.

And now on my return from break I read we have the resignation of Britain's ambassador to the EU, Sir Ivan Rogers (every inch the Foreign Office mandarin and Brussels insider) viewed the Brexit vote as a disaster and Brexiteers with barely disguised contempt.

David Cameron never had a chance with the likes of this pair 'advising' him to ask for so little – especially on immigration – from the EU. Is it any wonder his renegotiation finished as a total sham. Given Sir Ivan's prominent role in that debacle, he should have been dumped immediately after 23rd June. The final nail in his coffin was the revelation he was telling ministers a trade deal with the remaining 27 states could take ten years to negotiate.

His undignified behaviour and his departure was followed by the leaking of a disgraceful email he sent his staff.

Perhaps this was his final political act designed to damage the cause of Brexit. All it did was to show that

he was a Remainer through and through.

He has been swiftly replaced with a more moderate ambassador and our PM then kicked Sir Ivan into the long grass.



It was good to hear the government response to all these shenanigans:

"As the Prime Minister has said, the Government is calmly and carefully getting on with the job of preparing for the forthcoming negotiations.

"Departments are already working closely together to ensure the best possible outcome for the British people."

Theresa May is determined to be tough and wants to do the best for the UK; I have great faith in her. But, let's face it, she is up against it when she gets to Brussels and tries to hammer out a deal on Europe. My opinion is, for what it is worth – it is not going to happen, no matter how much she concedes. They want to make an example of us and are not going to give an inch (or a centimetre). Even with Brexit and the warning of the rise of the far-right in many of the European countries the unelected dictators who run the EU will not give up their power without a fight; they will not budge.

Europe as we know it will be ultimately destroyed but those at the top will cling on to their dream of a Euro-state with one currency and one government until the only those destitute little members who are unable to leave the EU remain, relying as they do on constant handouts from what will be a dwindling pot of euros.

Russia must be loving this.

MOG

Addendum: I was absolutely delighted to hear the Prime Minister's speech on 17th January. I always thought she was a tough cookie and, boy, has she shown what she is made of. The EU delegates pointedly ignored her at the gathering in Brussels on 15th December and I don't believe she has forgotten or forgiven that insulting behaviour.

Well done, Theresa.

An internet poll of 2,591 people in January showed that 63% would be very angry if it did take 10 years to extricate ourselves from Brussels.

Your Association contact details:

Tickets for all events can be ordered through the Conservative Association Office (Ann)
Phone: 01536 200255
Email: office@cenca.co.uk
Mail: CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ
Web: www.cenca.co.uk

Our webpage is at www.cenca.co.uk and contains the latest news about our Association.

Our MP, Tom Pursglove, has his own website: www.votepursglove.co.uk and you can catch up on his latest news directly on his pages.

Thank you for watching.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A COUNCILLOR?

Whether at local or county level being a councillor can be an interesting and useful way to fill your spare time and make a difference to your local community. If you would like to learn more then just contact Ann at the office and she will put you in touch with the Management Team.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th March please. Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor.

You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at ray.boyd@talktalk.net
All emails will be acknowledged.

HAVE I GOT (BIASED) NEWS FOR YOU

Gary Lineker has been accused of “mocking the elderly” and “promoting anti-Brexit propaganda” after making a joke while presenting a recent ‘Have I Got News For You’.

The footballing legend(!) was hosting the programme, clearly billed for 26 years as a satirical comedy show, when he made a jibe about comments made by Britain’s ambassador to the EU.

He said: *“The ambassador to the EU, Sir Ivan Rogers, has announced a Brexit deal could take 10 years.*

He continued, *“That’s not fair, most of the people who voted for it will be dead by then.”*

Oh, that is so hilarious, implying as it does that it was all the old folk who voted for Brexit.

This was not the only nasty element of the show which also thought it was extremely funny to show a short clip of our Prime Minister, Theresa May, being totally ignored by those ill-mannered people in Brussels. Hopefully this has hardened her thoughts on Brexit.

The BBC clearly thinks that the referendum result was wrong and is doing all it can to delay the process. Surely there is enough hate in this country following the vote without the publicly-funded BBC adding fuel to the fire.

He should get back to what he does best – playing the fool while promoting crisps!

Five Days of Labour Chaos

During the week (9th to 13th January) Labour proved they can’t deliver and have shown just how out of touch, chaotic and incompetent they are.

- On Monday 9th January, Labour said Jeremy Corbyn would give a speech in favour of controlling immigration.
- On Tuesday 10th January, the Labour leader U-turned, saying that Labour will not take control over immigration; then told millions of strike-affected commuters he would stand with his union paymasters on the picket lines rather than stand up for them.
- On Wednesday 11th January, Labour’s former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith told Corbyn’s team to “get your a***s in gear and stop embarrassing our party.”
- On Thursday 12th January, Labour suggested that NATO should stop protecting Estonia from Russian aggression.
- And on Friday 13th January, Tristram Hunt - Labour MP and former shadow Education Secretary - announced he will quit Parliament.

The British people need a party who will speak for the ordinary working people of Britain and build a country that works for everyone. Labour can’t do it.

Only the Conservatives will.