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Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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CORBY & EAST NORTHANTS CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

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TO JOIN HIM FOR LUNCH WITH
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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR BECKENHAM**

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VERY MUCH
APPRECIATED**

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Mar 2017

The time just seems to fly by, I can't quite believe it is time for my next chairman's report and that I have now been chairman of the Association for a year! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our AGM at Raunds Conservative Club on 24th March at 7.30pm,



I think it would be fair to say that the role is a bigger and busier one than I had expected but, also better. Together, with the management team, and with your support we have achieved a huge amount.

We started off with the Police and Crime Commissioner elections last May. Winning that election and installing Steven Mold as Northamptonshire's PCC was helped hugely by our Association. Because we continuously go out knocking on doors and canvassing our electorate, we were able to get our voters out on the day and I know that made a huge difference in getting us over the line in that election.

It would be difficult to talk about this year without mentioning the EU referendum. This was a once in a lifetime political event, a defining moment for our country and, as a party, we rightly allowed everyone to decide for themselves where they stood and how they wanted to campaign. Many of us got involved in the Remain and Leave campaigns and, as you would expect of a group of politically engaged people, we campaigned our hearts out. The result stunned many and delighted others, but as a democracy loving party we have, by and large, come back together to work for our common cause – Conservative success.

In August we fought a by-election in Raunds. We ran a full and professional campaign with strong messages, intense canvassing, full postal vote and polling day GOTV (get out the vote) and knock up on the day. We increased our majority from 50.7% to 77.2%. The following month we took our team into the Wellingborough constituency to help in the Finedon by-election increasing our vote

from 46.9 % to 62.3%, and last month we took the fight into the Labour heartland of Kingswood in Corby and increased our share of the vote from 14.2% to 26.7%.

Our successes are no accident, they are based on our Listening Campaign, run through our Task Force sessions all year round, and on professionally run campaigns.

As you all know, our next challenge is the County Council elections in May. We have been working towards these elections since September. A leaflet went out before Christmas and a second leaflet is going out as we speak. We are about to go into the intense short campaign period of this election. There is a lot to do, election address deliveries, daily canvassing, postal vote letter deliveries and so on. We will need all hands to the deck so please look out for the campaign emails and come and join in as much as you can.

Although we are looking strong nationally, it is very different at local level. Up and down the country Conservative seats are being lost to both Labour and the Liberal Democrats. We cannot afford to be complacent about the County elections as many of our seats are vulnerable, but if we stick to our tried and tested election winning plan I believe, here in Corby and East Northants, we will retain all our seats and gain a new one. Let's not leave anything to chance; a Labour controlled County Council would be a disaster for Northamptonshire!

I make no apology for going on at length about campaigning, Conservative Associations are campaigning organisations. Our sole purpose is to get Conservatives elected to office. Everything we do revolves around that. Building our membership, our activists and our funds, is all to that end. On that basis, I can honestly say that we are doing a great job. Our campaigning team is getting larger by the week, we are winning bigger and better, working as a team is great fun and seeing our success is incredibly rewarding. Don't be shy, please come and get involved!

Helen

TOM PURSGLOVE

**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHANTS**

**PPS to the Minister of State for Immigration
at the Home Office**



14 Mar 2017

In the last edition of *Political Life*, I wrote about the future of the UK steel industry, and the ways in which my colleagues and I, on a cross-party basis, work tirelessly in Parliament to promote it and to shape Government policy affecting the sector. Given the recent positive developments in regard to Tata Steel's commitment to retaining their UK presence, I wanted to provide an update on the situation.

Further to the discussions held before Christmas between senior management and the unions, it has now been announced that thousands of workers at Tata Steel have voted for a new deal on their pensions, as part of the wider package of proposals put forward. This is a hugely significant decision and I associate myself entirely with the comments of Roy Rickhuss, General Secretary of Community, whom I hugely respect and have worked closely with on this issue, who said:

"This result provides a mandate from our members to move forward in our discussions with Tata and find a sustainable solution for the British Steel Pension Scheme.

Steelworkers have taken a tough decision and have shown they are determined to safeguard jobs and secure the long-term

future of steelmaking. Nobody wanted to be in this situation, but as we have always said, it is vital that we now work together to protect the benefits already accrued and prevent the BSPS from free-falling into the PPF.

This ballot involved an extremely personal decision for everyone that voted. Whichever way our members cast their votes, we know they will not have taken that decision lightly and everyone's opinions must be respected.

We now expect Tata to make good on their promises and deliver the investment plan for the whole of their steel business. The UK Government still has an important role to play and we fully expect them to deliver tangible support for steelmaking in the UK."

This has indeed been a very difficult and worrying period for steelworkers and their families - a sense of which has stuck with me after every visit I have made to the Corby works - and in light of this news, we all now expect Tata to make good on their promises and deliver the investment plan for the whole of their steel business, including Corby.

Needless to say, I will also be keeping the pressure up in Westminster to ensure the industry receives the help and support it needs from Government, as clearly set out in the Steel APPG's recent report, which members will be aware of, and which I wrote about in the last edition.

Continued>>>>

In particular, I believe it is vital that we utilise the opportunities that large infrastructure projects present to buy British; make sure the industry has a level playing field to compete on, with robust action on steel unfairly 'dumped' on our market; and ensure that steel is at the heart of the Government's forthcoming flagship Industrial Strategy.

I believe that, with determination, energy and enthusiasm, there is a strong future

within our grasp for our steel industry, but to get there, we must all continue to work together to chart a course - unions, workers, industry and Government. This has to be a genuine partnership, forged through our shared objective: to secure the future of the UK steel industry for generations to come. To my mind, we owe it to all those steelworkers in our community, past and present, who have endured the highs and the lows, to make it a reality.

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:
pursglovet@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@cenca.co.uk or telephone 01536 200255. Our address is CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby NN17 1SZ

ANDREW I LEWER, MBE MEP for the East Midlands

16 Mar 2017

Various Roles of a Conservative MEP

Article 50 will be triggered before the end of March, in line with Theresa May's long stated objective. With it, your Conservative MEPs' roles will continue to evolve and continue to make a positive contribution towards making a success of Brexit.

All law made by the European Institutions between now and 2019 will still apply automatically to the UK. It is therefore in our interests to make them as sensible as possible - or to trim back their worst aspects at least.



Therefore, my pre-Referendum legislative work goes on. In my case laws about broadcasting, copyright and "5G" broadband provision are my current focus.

As Article 50 is triggered a stronger than ever focus is upon making sure that the negotiations between the UK and the EU see us asking for the right things and not wasting energy on things that do not matter. I am offering my advice on what these strategic objectives should be, but am also helping to ensure that the tactics to achieve them are the optimal ones, as regards the European Institutions in general, but obviously with particular regard to the European Parliament (which has a not inconsiderable role in the Brexit process, like it or not).

To that end I have been meeting the Secretaries of State and Ministers most connected to my Committee and Spokesman roles in London and in Brussels with more to come later in the year.

The possibility of the UK still participating in the EU's Erasmus+

student exchange programme, the Horizon 2020 Research and Development programme and in the work of the European Investment Bank are the focus of my attention in this regard.

Finally, but very much 'last but not least', there is my work in the East Midlands Region itself. I am back home here every week and do a lot of school and university visits, Association events and go to businesses and charities as well. At present I am working my way round each county for the Council

elections, which as a former County Council Leader myself, is a particular passion for me. Just last week I was out canvassing with Northamptonshire candidates, including County Leader Heather Smith.

At times of great change like this, when policy positions are not as fixed as they usually are, there exists additional opportunities for those interested to have a say about the direction we take in future. (The welcome change of heart over self-employed National Insurance Contributions does indeed show that this is a listening government.) My latest publication is an attempt to contribute towards these changes and to assist others in doing so, being both a guide to EU funding for rural businesses and a Brexit Options Assessment for the countryside.

Please e-mail me for a copy of the booklet: office@andrewlewer MEP.co.uk or phone me on 01332 841165.



Continued>>>>

Andrew Lewer continued>>>

A quite different area of work that being an MEP has allowed me the opportunity to give fuller voice to is the cause of religious freedom.



Karen Bradley

This is under threat around the world and Christians in particular are suffering high levels of persecution.

One case that I have taken a particular interest in and is a frequent topic at the Freedom of Religion and Belief "Intergroup" (a sort of All Party Parliamentary Group) I am a member of concerns a Pakistani Christian mother of five called Asia Bibi who has been imprisoned now since 2009 on a charge of blasphemy.

She was sentenced to death by hanging for this "crime" in 2010 and so far the sentence has been upheld at several stages. Now only the country's highest court stands between her and the gallows. The injustice of this case is enraging, but in former times I would have not been too worried that she would be killed, even though the years of her life that have been taken away from her are bad enough. However, Pakistan is increasingly unpredictable and Islamic extremism seems to be harder to contain there than ever. It remains a real possibility that Asia will be hanged this year and so any pressure that can be brought to bear will help. If you want to know more about this case and how you can help, please get in touch with me.

Regards,

Andrew Lewer, MBE
MEP for the East Midlands

THE NEW CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM



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

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. OUR NEW
CPF CHAIRMAN IS COUNCILLOR HELEN
HOWELL AND SHE WILL BE CALLING A
MEETING OF THE CPF COMMITTEE SHORTLY

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

The Conservative Policy
Forum develops and
advances Conservative
ideas and policies.

*Have your say on
the challenges facing
our nation!*

**MEMBERS SHOULD CHECK THAT
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MEMBERSHIP CARD OR ENQUIRE
AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE IF
UNSURE.**



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



Mar 2017

In his budget speech, the Chancellor of the Exchequer set out the ongoing fiscal challenges that face those of us charged with delivering public services in Northamptonshire. The scale of the challenge is underlined by the fact that Britain has a debt of nearly £1.7 trillion - almost £62,000 for every household in the country. The impact of this debt means this county now spends around £50 billion on debt interest – more than we spend on Defence and Policing combined.

However, the Government have set out their determination to support the police to become more efficient, and to transform in order to tackle new types of crime and protect the vulnerable and this has been reflected in the budget I have set for 2017-18. Despite the ongoing financial pressures, I am determined to ensure that Northamptonshire Police have all the resources they need to deliver a safer Northamptonshire and protect people from harm.



Policing in Northamptonshire is not a simple undertaking and there are number of requirements that create additional pressure on the policing budget which are outside of the control or influence of individual Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) or Chief Constables.

These can include public sector pay increases, inflation, top slicing of police funding, introduction of national pro-programmes, single year settlements, introduction of national directives and the inclusion of the local precept in the national funding assumptions. These factors, along with longer term capital programme requirements all impact on the ability of PCCs to allocate sufficient funds to Chief Constables.

It is an unavoidable pressure on PCCs to balance the financial challenges facing the Force and the priorities and expectations of local residents for policing in their community. Before our budget was finalised we consulted widely as part of the Police and Crime Plan development which help me to propose an increase of just 1.99% in the policing precept, which equates to 8 pence a week for a Band D property.

In addition to this, a great deal of work has been undertaken to better understand the work of the Police and where the greatest demand is. This work has enabled me to invest an additional £2m into the frontline to help the Force to fight emerging crime types, such as crime online, and to aid prevention through early intervention work.

We are also working to continuously improve productivity, efficiencies and collaboration to maximise every penny we spend and ultimately how we both deliver and allow access to our services. I have also instigated a full and comprehensive review of the capital programme, including police estates and particularly the issue of where Northamptonshire Police Headquarters is based.

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

When I assumed office, I inherited an estate that had not been maintained for over quarter of a century and had no validated or sustainable future. However, I announced recently that we are in advanced negotiations to stay on the Wootton Hall estate and to build on it a modern headquarters that is fit for 21st century policing.

In addition to the funding challenges and the extra investment I have invested in the front line to make Northamptonshire safer, I simply did not have sufficient reach within the budget to maintain and improve the capital programme as I would want. To remain viable moving forwards we must live within our means, therefore, I am exploring all of the options in order to be in a position to make future decisions on our wider estate as part of the capital programme. The police estate has suffered from years of under-investment and I am confident that despite the difficult nature of this situation, we are

formulating a plan that will help to secure the future of police buildings in the county for the next fifty years.

The challenges and issues facing our police force are forever changing and evolving, however I am confident that the budget we have set for this year provides the Force with the resources that will enable them and I to deliver my police and crime plan for Northamptonshire.

As ever, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at

Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk

Stephen Mold
Police and Crime Commissioner for
Northamptonshire

The Corby Conservative Club now has a new website which contains lots of information about what is happening at the Club.

Go to **www.corbyconservativeclub.net** to learn more about the Club. At the website you will find a copy of the Club's magazine 'Club Life'. The magazine has details of forthcoming events and will let you know of other organisations which use the Club such as 'Weight Watchers'.

A copy of the Club magazine is also on our webpage at **www.cenca.co.uk** and you can see a copy by clicking on the tab 'Corby Conservative Club'.

The Club has free wifi. Just ask a member of staff for the login code.

The Club operates a fine restaurant from Wednesday to Sunday - why not pop in and enjoy a good meal or bar snack when in the area? The Restaurant is open to non-members.

Of course, Party members are very welcome to join and support this excellent Club!



Article 50 of the EU Constitution

1. Any Member State may decide to withdraw from the Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements.



2. A Member State which decides to withdraw shall notify the European Council of its intention. In the light of the guidelines provided by the European Council, the Union shall negotiate and conclude an agreement with that State, setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal, taking account of the framework for its future relationship with the Union. That agreement shall be negotiated in accordance with Article 218(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It shall be concluded on behalf of the Union by the Council, acting by a qualified majority, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament. A qualified majority shall be defined in accordance with Article 238(3)(b) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

3. The Treaties shall cease to apply to the State in question from the date of entry into force of the withdrawal agreement or, failing that, two years after the notification referred to in paragraph 2, unless the European Council, in agreement with the Member State concerned, unanimously decides to extend this period.

4. For the purposes of paragraphs 2 and 3, the member of the European Council or of the Council representing the withdrawing Member State shall not participate in the discussions of the European Council or Council or in decisions concerning it.

5. If a State which has withdrawn from the Union asks to rejoin, its request shall be subject to the procedure referred to in Article 49.

**The Prime Minister, Theresa May, MP,
triggered Article 50
on Wednesday 29th March 2017.
A historic day.**

SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Here is a potential timeline of events.

- ✦ **By the end of March** - UK triggers Article 50
- ✦ **April** - European Council president Donald Tusk expected to call an EU summit of the 27 leaders (without the UK) to agree to give the European Commission a mandate to negotiate with the UK
- ✦ **After the EU 27 summit** - European Commission to publish negotiating guidelines based on the mandate the EU leaders give it. The EU might say something about possible parallel negotiation on a future EU-UK trade deal
- ✦ **April/May 2017** - Negotiations begin
- ✦ **23 April and 7 May** - French Presidential elections
- ✦ **24 September** - German parliamentary elections
- ✦ **Autumn 2017** - The UK government is expected to introduce legislation to leave the EU and put all existing EU laws into British law - the Great Repeal bill
- ✦ **October 2018** - Negotiations conclude (The Article 50 negotiations could be extended, but this is subject to the approval of the other 27 EU member states)
- ✦ **Between October 2018 and March 2019** - The Houses of Parliament, European Council and European Parliament vote on any deal
- ✦ **March 2019** - UK formally withdraws from the European Union

Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands

Mar2017



I want to thank all members and supporters for their hard work and continued backing for the Party during the past year and wish you continued success in 2017 – 18.

The Act triggering Article 50 of the EU Treaty has now received the Royal Assent and our Prime Minister, Theresa May, and her Government will begin the historic negotiations that will take our country out of the European Union – as a result of the vote by our people in last year's Referendum.

This will mean hard negotiations in which all MEPs will have an interest. Much of my work in the last year has been involved in building strong relationships with countries not just in the EU but across the world as we strive to maintain alliances, and work towards building and strengthening trading agreements. It is good for them and it is good for us.

We will also be watching what happens in EU nation states holding their own elections during 2017. Diplomacy, standing up for the rights of our citizens wherever they live, and looking forward to a global future will be my touchstones as we negotiate for a strong BREXIT.

I am still fully engaged in the parliamentary process here in Brussels and am touring the region supporting businesses, schools, farmers as well as associations in understanding Brexit and its implications and opportunities.

We will be fighting elections for County Councils across the Region in May. I wish all our candidates every success and I am well aware how hard everyone is working in the run up to Polling Day.

We have an opportunity to take seats and make advances in all our counties.

Good luck and thank you for all you are doing.

***Emma McClarkin MEP
for the East Midlands***

Thursday 23rd February 2016 was an extraordinary day.

Our Conservative candidate Trudy Harrison was elected as MP for Copeland, a seat that has been held by Labour since 1935.

Trudy's brilliant, positive campaign, focusing on protecting local jobs, securing investment and standing up for vital local services has

delivered Copeland an advocate to ensure the area is no longer ignored and forgotten.

It is the first time **since 1878** that there's been a comparable government by-election gain and is an important show of support for the Prime Minister's plan to make a success of Brexit.



Ray Jackson

POPULARISM— CONTINUED

17 Mar 2017

Popularism is an idea which is waiting clear definition. I am beginning to use it a lot as I think of solving migration

problems by building long walls, of Brexit, of restoring economic prosperity by getting people to make steel which nobody now really wants, by stopping any further work on climate change despite all the evidence of scientific research and the witness of people who are coughing their lungs out. It is telling people what you think they want to hear despite evidence ranging from common sense to proven scientific research. How can so many people be persuaded to seek major changes when all the evidence is against them.

We do seem to be prone to persuasion by charismatic people. Hitler was brilliant at it and it now seems that groups of several thousand people put their hearts and souls behind projects which are irrational and unlikely to achieve desired outcomes. To follow them is dangerous because enormous waste can be created and disillusionment and frustration result, perhaps followed by anger and a need for revenge. Of course it suits the demagogues who trade irresponsibility for power. Should we be worried about this phenomenon?

As the statements are often justified by blatant lies, in the short term these can be

denied and where action is involved, like building a wall, there will be major challenges when it is not achieved or its purposes are not attained. That suits rational people, but applauded mobs are not always rational. In our community I think we have an ambience which will protect us.

In CENCA, we have an organisation of Management Committee, Executive, MP, elected councillors, members, CPF, activists and members. We have been coming together for years to do what we joined to do: to keep our eyes on political happenings and take action if we find something objectionable. We have very good working relationships with Tom, our MP and know we can get face to face meetings with him very quickly in a crisis. Most of us recognise him as our representative, not our delegate, in Parliament so we have to watch him and he us to assess developing political thinking. Tom's newsletters demonstrate his commitment to keeping us informed. We have spats over particular issues, but we cannot afford to let a single issue cause a breakdown in trust before the end of the parliament if we want to keep this important channel open. This openness, this sense of mutual wellbeing, the confidence in being members of a well led party would quickly stimulate a reaction from us and nip any demagoguery in the bud.

For a starter, I am definitely against building a wall between us and Kettering!

Ray Jackson

Just a thought: It's easier to fool a man than to convince him that he has been fooled. *Mark Twain.*

TIGHTENING UP THE NHS



If patients are unable to pay, doctors will be told to make a decision, based on their clinical need, as to whether the treatment should go ahead anyway. But many may be instructed to return to their home countries and have the procedure there.

The rules will not apply to maternity care or any treatment considered potentially life-saving or immediately necessary. This includes scans or treatment for cancer or heart conditions as well as operations to remove the appendix. Hospitals are also being told to ask all new patients for passports and utility bills when they first arrive to check they are entitled to NHS care. Those which fail to show they are collecting enough money from patients at the end of the year may be fined.

Last month a damning report from the Commons spending watchdog accused the NHS's billing system for health tourism of being in chaos. The Public Accounts Committee blamed hospital staff and GPs for failing even to identify which patients needed to be charged. It coincided with a hard-hitting BBC documentary which revealed how one Nigerian mother who gave birth to quadruplets had racked up a bill of £500,000. Priscilla, 43, went into early labour at Heathrow after being turned away from the US. Two of the babies have since died. The other two are still being looked after at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital in West London and their mother will not be able to repay even a fraction of their costs.

By law only patients who are ordinarily resident in the UK – here for at least six months – are entitled to free hospital treatment. This excludes A&E, maternity care and GP services which are free for everyone.

Dr Mark Porter, chairman of the British Medical Association council, which represents senior doctors, said: 'It is hard to see how these new proposals will operate in practice.' Government research has estimated that health tourism costs the taxpayer up to £2billion a year. But doctors' leaders are deeply opposed to the new rules and say they should not be obliged to turn away vulnerable patients if they cannot pay up.

They also fear the charges will deter vulnerable patients with potentially life-threatening conditions from seeking help.

Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said the millions of pounds recovered could be reinvested to improve patient care. 'We have no problem with overseas visitors using our NHS – as long as they make a fair contribution, just as the British taxpayer does,' he said. 'So today (14th Feb) we are announcing plans to change the law which means those who aren't eligible for free care will be asked to pay upfront for non-urgent treatment.'

Mr Hunt added that the measures would help the Government get back on track with its target of recovering £500million by 2017/18. The payments will be collected by 'overseas visitor managers' who are administrative staff employed by hospitals to check patients' eligibility and send invoices. They will be urged to present chip and pin machines to patients or collect cash payments before treatment can go ahead. If patients cannot pay, doctors will be told to have sensible discussions in which they urge them to have the procedure in their home country. But it is not yet clear whether doctors will be comfortable sending patients away without treatment, even if their condition is not life-threatening. And many of the highest bills are racked up by patients on intensive care units, kidney dialysis machines or having complex births which are all exempt.

One in 14 people in England are on an NHS hospital waiting list. Some 3.7million are waiting to be admitted for routine treatment – the highest figure for nearly a decade. Nearly one in ten of those – 350,000 people – have been waiting for longer than the official maximum waiting time. Nobody should have to wait more than 18 weeks for a routine operation such as a knee or hip replacement under NHS rules. The numbers waiting longer than the target have grown 163 per cent since 2012.

Clare Marx, president of the Royal College of Surgeons, told the BBC: 'The longer you wait for a hip or knee replacement the less likely you are to have good outcomes.' Richard Murray, from the King's Fund think tank, predicted that the numbers on the waiting list will keep rising.

Waiting lists are the longest they have been since early in 2008. The Department of Health said the number of operations carried out has soared so even though more people are waiting longer, the numbers getting treatment within target time is up.

NHS England said: 'In January more than 1.4million patients started consultant-led treatment and more than nine out of ten patients were waiting less than 18 weeks.'

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT



Cllr Heather Smith

Apr 2017

Our budget was confirmed last month for 2017/18 and I am now delighted to report that following significant lobbying from multiple sources that an additional £11 million has now

been allocated to Northamptonshire County Council for social care. This will help to ease some of the massive pressures being felt as we continue to work closely with our Health partners to integrate our services. We all know that the Government has to reduce the deficit but the pressures of an aging population coupled with a huge number of additional people living in Northamptonshire had placed an unsustainable pressure on our social care service. I am grateful that we have been allocated some relief but we still battle with costs exceeding £200 million for this service.

The new school in Kings Cliffe is now complete and occupied by the pupils and when I attended an open day at the school it was clear from the numerous people who spoke to me just how thrilled everyone is with the quality of the multi million building produced by NCC. All of the primary schools in North East Northamptonshire have now had all their building extension works completed.

The Women's Tour cycle race returns again to Northamptonshire in June with the start being in Daventry. The route for the race is currently being planned and I am hopeful that part of our area will see the race again this year. The race has grown enormously since it was first launched in Oundle 4 years ago and the final stage will be in London with the city centre roads being closed for the event.

Our new organisation **First for Wellbeing** is now moving forward at pace and is accepted in many GP surgeries. Calling a service something different seems to break down barriers.

The County Council staff have been preparing for their final move into the new County Hall building in the centre of Northampton. At last they will move out of 12 buildings that were no longer fit for purpose into a light, bright modern building that will be incredibly cost effective. It will save NCC huge sums of money in running costs and enable more efficiency by everyone working in one building. It should have happened years ago!

Finally, good luck to all our candidates standing for election on May 4th. Lets keep the County blue.

Heather

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

**CHECK OUT THE NEW WEBSITE FOR
CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB AT
WWW.CORBYCONSERVATIVECLUB.NET**



A MEMBER WRITES - THE HOUSE OF LORDS

I had the greatest respect for the Lords, till I heard their recent debate. I was shocked to hear them mention the 3 million Europeans currently in Britain. I could not believe I was hearing right with them saying how unacceptable it is for them not knowing what will happen to them, while not one word mentioned about the Brits in Europe.

Don't they think it is just as worrying for the million Brits living in the EU? Don't they care about our own people? Don't they understand it has to be a commitment that goes both ways?

Can't they see that they are the cause of the unnecessary grief by holding up BREXIT. Even more important, every extra day of their opposition makes it harder for us to get a better deal.

The EU will take advantage of any weakness and will tear us apart. They will end up causing more damage to Britain than Hitler ever did. Whose side are they on? Who needs enemies while we have peers and MP like these miserable lot? If they ignore the nation's will, it's the end of democracy. We are as we are, it's time to re-group and now the only way forward is for all who care for Britain to get behind Theresa May solidly. To give her 100% support that she must have to be able to get the best deal for Britain and for all concerned.

Remember President Bush? You are either with us, or you are against us. there in no half way....

Les von Bujtar

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.

Our PLAN FOR BRITAIN will deliver a country that is stronger, fairer, more united and more outward-looking than ever before:

A Global Britain that is outward-looking. We will forge a new partnership with the European Union that gives us control of our borders and our laws – while also trading beyond Europe, shaping decisions across the globe and working to make the world a safer place.

A stronger economy where everyone plays by the same rules.

We will help people with everyday costs and bills by acting to ensure consumer markets work as they should, crack down on individuals and businesses who abuse the system, deliver a modern industrial strategy that spreads jobs and

prosperity across the country – while continuing to bring the deficit down with a balanced approach so we live within our means.

A fairer society where success is based on merit, not privilege.

We will provide a good school place for every child, deliver more affordable homes, put record investment into the NHS, make sure we have a welfare system that rewards work, and tackle historic injustices like racial and gender discrimination.

A united nation that our children and grandchildren are proud to call home. We will strengthen and protect the precious union of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – while acting for the benefit for all the cities, towns, villages and communities across the country.





Conservatives

THE BUDGET

Nearly seven years ago, we took over an economy on the brink of collapse, with the highest budget deficit in our peacetime history. We took the tough decisions to tackle that deficit, rebuilt Britain's shattered fiscal credibility and created more than 2.7 million new jobs.

The Budget I announced today helps us make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead – keeping our economy strong as we leave the European Union. It builds the foundations of a Britain that is stronger, fairer and more global – a country that works for everyone.

It supports ordinary working families in their aspirations for a better life for themselves and their children. Last year we delivered a pay rise to a million of the lowest paid with the National Living Wage, which will rise again to £7.50 in April – an income boost of over £500 for a full-time worker this year. The personal allowance will rise for the seventh year in a row, benefitting 29 million people and meaning a typical basic rate taxpayer will pay a full £1,000 less income tax than in 2010. But more needs to be done to make ends meet. That's why, we are rolling out our Tax-Free Childcare policy worth £2,000 per child up to the age of 12 and doubling the free childcare amount for working parents with three or four year olds. Together, these are worth up to £5,000 a year.

It ensures that people have the skills that they need to succeed in a global Britain. We have ensured that young people have the skills that they need to get on in life, with 2.4 million apprenticeship starts in the last parliament and 3 million more by 2020. Today, I have announced the most ambitious post-16 education reforms since A-levels were introduced 70 years ago. We will provide funding to increase the training for 16-19-year-old further education students by over 50%, with 15 new technical routes and a work placement for every student. Once this programme is rolled out, we will be investing an additional £500 million a year in our 16-19 year olds, giving them the technical skills they need to succeed in the world of work, and giving businesses the edge they need to compete in a new, global Britain.

It provides help and support to our NHS and social care system. The NHS is an important national institution that helps to bind us together as a country. This budget continues to support our NHS by providing new funding to support our social care system – worth £2 billion to social care in England over the next three years – reducing the pressure on our hospitals.

And it keeps our economy strong – preparing for our future outside the European Union. When we came in to government, we were borrowing £1 in every £5 we spent. This year it is set to be £1 in every £15. We remain committed to returning the country to living within its means, and this Budget makes progress on this by reducing borrowing as set out at the Autumn Statement.

This is a Budget that will build an economy that offers better jobs, with better pay.

As I said at the start, the economy that Labour left us was on the brink of collapse. And, as was demonstrated two weeks ago in Copeland, Labour are out of step with the concerns of ordinary working people. Labour would not control public finances and would crash the economy like they did last time. Labour are too divided and divisive to build a country that works for everyone.

Today as we prepare to begin our negotiation with the European Union, this Budget prepares Britain for a stronger, fairer future.

Thank you for your support.

Philip Hammond
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Oundle & District Branch

Annual Dinner

to be held on Friday 7 April 2017

at The Chequered Skipper, Ashton

The guest speaker is Tom Pursglove MP.

Tickets are £28 pp available from

Cllr Rupert Reichhold on 01832 274315 or e-mail

creichhold@hotmail.co.uk.

Cheques should be made payable to Oundle Branch,
CENCA.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS THURSDAY 4th MAY 2017

The vital Northants County Council elections draw near and we need as much help as possible if we are to retain control. Our local candidates have their election addresses ready but need much assistance in getting these out to the electorate.

So can you help at all?

If you can't do a huge amount of walking could you possibly just do your own street and adjacent roads? It all helps.

And on election day we will be covering all polling stations with volunteer tellers and this is where you can really help if you are not so mobile. You just have to sit there and take the numbers as voters turn up. Not arduous and it can be quite fun to have a chat to people. Once you have done your stint

someone will call and get the numbers from you. So easy - but so important.

If you can help in any way please contact Ann at the office on 01536 200255 to let her know.

But even if you can't help physically then the other most important thing you can do, IS ACTUALLY VOTE !





SHOULD SCOTLAND BE AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY?

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has demanded a second referendum on Scottish independence. Last time, the question was: "Should Scotland be an independent country?" If the same question is asked, while only people in Scotland would actually vote, how would the rest of the UK vote on the Scottish question if they had the opportunity?

Money Saving Expert Martin Lewis recently carried out a survey on his webpage. While the results should be treated only as a bit of fun they do make interesting reading.

Of course, based on the Scottish Poison Dwarf's reasoning maybe London, which voted against Brexit, should also become a separate country? Or let's go further — every constituency that voted against should become independent!

Go to www.moneysavingexpert.com to sign up for Martin Lewis's regular newsletter

Where do you live?	Would vote Yes to Scottish Independence	Would vote No to Scottish Independence	Would Abstain from a vote	Total vote	% Yes/No
England	5,722	10,575	551	16,848	34%/63%
N. Ireland	304	302	15	621	49%/49%
Scotland	7,950	4,945	65	12,960	61%/38%
Wales	520	773	44	1,337	39%/58%
Totals	14,496	16,595	675	31,766	45%/52%

PRESENTATION TO CLLR STAN HEGGS

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Friday 24th March 2017. During the proceedings the Chairman acknowledged the splendid career of Councillor Stan Heggs. Cllr Heggs will be standing down at the next County Elections but although retiring from front line council work he continues with his voluntary work for the Party. The Chairman had received a letter from the Prime Minister in which she acknowledged his work over many years. She particularly mentioned remembering meeting Stan a few years ago.

In recognition of his work the members at the AGM agreed with the recommendation of the Management Committee that he should be made an honorary vice-president of the Association in order that his experience could continue to be utilised and he could continue to be involved in the Executive Committee discussions.



Our photo shows ex-agent Ray Boyd, Cllr Stan Heggs, Tom Pursglove MP, Mrs Fran Heggs, Chairman Helen Harrison

Cllr Rob McKellar reports on the recent By-Election in Corby Kingswood Big Swing Towards Conservatives in Kingswood By-Election

The Conservative group on Corby Borough Council has described a positive swing towards them at the February council by-election as "very promising" for their borough council election prospects in 2019.

At the by-election in Kingswood to replace Labour Councillor Kenneth Carratt, who was expelled from the council for failing to attend any meetings in a six month period, the Conservatives received 27% of the vote, up from 12% in 2015. The Labour share of the vote dropped to 64% from 68% in 2015, representing a swing of 19% towards the Conservatives.

Leader of the Corby Conservative Group, Cllr Rob McKellar, said, *"Kingswood and Hazel Leys is a Labour safe seat and the by-election is not one that we would have expected to win. We are however very pleased to see a swing of 19% towards the Conservatives with our share of the vote increasing by 15% whilst Labour's share*

decreased by 4%. This stands us in very good stead for the upcoming County Council elections in May and for the next round of Borough Council elections in 2019."



A Freedom of Information Request by the Conservatives, released the day prior to the election revealed that the expelled Labour Councillor had failed to pay council tax in the four month period immediately prior to his sustained period of absence.

The Conservatives have called the circumstances surrounding the by-election "highly questionable" and have condemned the council's ruling Labour Group for failing to bring the matter to the public's attention.

The total number of votes cast in the Kingswood and Hazel Leys By-Election on 9 February 2017 was 944. The total number of votes given to each candidate was as follows:

Candidate name	Description (if any)	Votes cast
Heggs, Stan	The Conservative Party Candidate	252
Mahon, Michael	Green Party	82
McNab, Isabel Mary	Labour Party	610

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB
01536 203711

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

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME IN OUR RESTAURANT



THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - A BAD WEEK FOR CONSERVATIVES

Week commencing 12th March 2017 is memorable for three things:

- The Cheltenham Festival which is the greatest celebration of jump racing in the world and attracts global publicity.
- St Patrick's day which is on the 17th and attracts tremendous celebrations with our Irish cousins.

AND a very bad week for Conservatives - why?

Firstly the disastrous U turn by Chancellor Philip Hammond about the increase in National Insurance contributions. Why was this necessary? The budget was on the whole a fairly bland and fair attempt at gaining further finance for our Social care. There was really nothing to criticise.

Then not only did the press get involved and take hold of the only 'bone' they could find but also a selection of Conservative backbenchers who do not believe in working as a team began to agitate against the rise. This crisis would have blown over in two weeks but instead will go on and on and on.....

Then 'Queen Nicola' (as that's the style she would wish to attain) got on her high horse again.....Mrs May acted concisely and clearly but the damage is done.

And, at the time of writing, Brexit has still not begun.....the Lords felt that they had an axe to grind and all this did was hamper the PM at the start.

Since when did a poker player declare their hand at the start of the game?

And finally the Conservative Party was fined £70,000 for a £118,000 misplacing of an election expense. This is the hard earned subscriptions of 2,800 members which represents the Conservative membership of ten constituencies - i.e. the whole of Northants and some of Oxfordshire.



This is tantamount to a dereliction of their remit by CCHQ and should be despised. CCHQ exists for the members and for the election of all candidates whether to Westminster or our local elections and we have been let down badly.

The Police are even involved in what could become a criminal action. What is this party coming to? We expect our 'head office' to be beyond reproach but I for one have not believed that concept for many years. It is staffed by 'egg heads' who have no concept of how hard the minions work out in the constituencies and should be radically shaken up. Mrs May - please hear my plea!!!!

Fortunately I believe that our Prime Minister is capable of getting through these disastrous occurrences and we are darn lucky to have her. Let her now get on with extracting us from the Bureaucratic web called the EEC and let's get back to making Britain GREAT again.

She can do it.....

MOG

**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

**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.

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.vote Pursglove.co.uk and you can catch up on his latest news directly on his pages.

Thank you for watching.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th May 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.

**The Association
of Conservative Clubs**



The ACC takes an active role in

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SOME MEMBERS MAY HAVE WONDERED WHY WE CARRY AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATIVE CLUBS IN OUR MAGAZINE.

WHEN WE STARTED THE MAGAZINE, THE SECRETARY OF THE ACC, PHILIP SMITH (AS HE WAS THEN) KINDLY PROVIDED FUNDS TOWARDS THE PRINTING COSTS.

PHILIP ALSO DONATED FUNDS TO ENABLE US TO BUY OUR LAPTOP COMPUTER IN THE OFFICE.

RECENTLY THE MAGAZINE EDITOR MET PHILIP (NOW LORD SMITH OF HINDHEAD, CBE) WHO HAS ONCE AGAIN OFFERED TO ASSIST WITH THE PRINTING COSTS. WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR HIS SUPPORT.