

POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 42**

Our Magazine is published every other month and is freely available to our members

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www.cenca.co.uk

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

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PROMISES

PROMISES

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**REMEMBER THE
LEGACY OF THE
LAST LABOUR
GOVERNMENT?**



HM TREASURY

Dear Chief Secretary,

I'm afraid there is no money.
Kind regards - and good luck!

Liam

**WE SHOULD BE SHOUTING THIS FROM THE
ROOFTOPS TO REMIND EVERYONE OF THE
DISASTERS OF PREVIOUS LABOUR
GOVERNMENTS.
LABOUR CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH THE ECONOMY**

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Jul 2017

These are difficult times! For each of us, and for our Party!

Just before the County Council elections took place, when we were in full campaign mode, and looking forward to taking a rest from it all, a General Election was called.

We were riding high in the polls and we made great gains across the Country in the Council elections a few days later.

I would be lying if I were to claim that I thought the General Election was a bad idea! Exhausted though we were, we were full of confidence, we, the Party in power had just increased our number of Council seats. This is unheard of for a governing party. Surely, we were right to go to the Country?

As a hopeful on the Parliamentary candidates list I went through the, even more tortuous than usual, process of getting selected to fight a seat, and two days after the County election I was selected to fight the 'Beast of Bolsover'.

I'm sorry that, as a result, I was not there at the County election count. Huge congratulations to all our winning candidates and commiserations to those who didn't make it.

We fought a ferocious campaign and left no stone unturned. We had a brilliant result and should all be incredibly proud of what we achieved on 4th May 2017.



We took our campaign to every part of our constituency no matter how hopeless it may have seemed. We talked a good talk on winning in central Corby and scared the living daylight out of the local Labour party, forcing them to focus their efforts on their safest divisions.

It was a great result for us, gaining more Conservative votes in every division! And, it was this effort that enabled us to keep our seat at the General Election with a slightly increased majority when people in far safer seats were losing theirs.

When I arrived in Bolsover and started canvassing, the results were astonishing, we were definitely in with a chance of winning.

Tom Pursglove's canvass returns here showed him to have an unassailable lead. The Party made Bolsover a Target seat, decided Tom was safe and told him to help my campaign along with Peter Bone MP.

As we all now know, the campaign started to go wrong with the manifesto launch and got worse as the Presidential style of campaign unravelled. But, even in the last few days of the campaign, there was no indication of how badly things were going. Our canvass returns were still good, not quite so good, but still good. All indications were for the Party achieving a larger majority. Then that exit poll came out!

The Party is now reviewing the campaign, a post-mortem is in full swing. Some things, I think, are immediately clear. The manifesto was written by four people with no consultation, even with Cabinet.

continued>>>

Chairman's Report— continued>>>

It spectacularly backfired. The Presidential style campaign was not liked and became an impediment as the PM failed to perform. We don't have a big enough group of willing foot soldiers. We didn't have the ability to respond to Labour's phenomenal social media operation, in fact, I don't think we were even aware of most of it.

We now have to move on as an Association.

More than ever, we need to recruit new members and campaigners, we need to raise funds, we need to keep campaigning! We don't know when the next election will be. I hope it won't be soon, but I also think it unlikely that this Parliament will last the full five years.

I'm sure you are all fed up, exhausted and asking yourselves why we do this, I know I am! However, the alternative is Jeremy Corbyn as Prime Minister.

On a more positive note, don't forget, we increased Tom's majority and I got the second biggest swing (7.7%) from Labour to Conservative in the Country. I halved Dennis Skinnners majority and increased our vote share from 24.5% to 40.5%, normally enough to win the seat! Let's be proud of what we have achieved and know that when we work hard and work together, we win!

Sincerely

Helen

TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES

As your local MP, Tom believes it is extremely important to be as accessible as possible, in order to be able to best help with any problems or concerns that constituents have. As such, unlike most MPs, he holds weekly advice surgeries, both in Corby and in East Northamptonshire. The venues for his 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 Tom has decided to operate his surgeries on an appointments basis, in order to ensure that constituents do not have to rush through their concerns. This approach also allows Tom to provide immediate help - he often makes a start on casework matters prior to an appointment, to try and resolve concerns more quickly, whilst it also allows him to seek any appropriate advice, or obtain clarification on technical points, in advance of the meeting.

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.

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buttercupcounselling@yahoo.com



DO YOU HAVE A COMPUTER PROBLEM?

For genuine help pop along and see Bart at LaptopLabs in the Courtyard, The Jamb, Corby, NN17 1AY.

Go into the old village from the station end and turn immediately sharp left at the first roundabout. Free parking. 01536 601557
Let Bart know that you saw his details in this magazine

EARLY WARNING

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Friday 1st December
12 for 12.30pm
Churchill Suite
Corby Conservative Club

Guest Speaker and costs to follow in the next issue of the magazine.

THE NEW £10 NOTE IS COMING



As it is made of polymer, the new £10 note is cleaner, safer and stronger. It joins the Churchill £5 in the first family of polymer Bank of England banknotes and a new £20 note featuring J.M.W Turner will follow in 2020. The £10 note contains sophisticated security features which make it very difficult to counterfeit. It is expected to last at least 2.5 times longer than the current paper £10 notes – around 5 years in total – and stay in better condition during day to day use.

The new tactile feature on this note is a series of raised dots in the top left-hand corner and has been developed in conjunction with the RNIB. This is in addition to the elements already incorporated in Bank of England banknotes for vision impaired people; the tiered sizing, bold numerals, raised print and differing colour palettes.

The new £10 note will be issued on 14 September 2017 and the public will begin to see them in the following days and weeks as the notes leave cash centres around the country and enter general circulation. The public can continue to spend paper £10 notes as usual and these will be gradually withdrawn as they are banked by retailers and the public. Legal tender status of the paper £10 featuring Charles Darwin will be withdrawn in Spring 2018 with the exact date being announced at least three months in advance.

Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands

July 2017

Now that the dust has settled on the election, we must turn our attention to the Brexit negotiations. Regardless of the events of 8 June that shocked the political world, one simple fact remains: the Conservative Party are the only party that have a plan for Britain outside the EU.

Other parties do not have a vision for an outward facing, globally engaged United Kingdom. The Labour Party under Jeremy Corbyn have resigned to their old ways of ineffectual leadership and complacency on the biggest issues that we face. The Conservatives are approaching the negotiations with conviction and the confidence in our ability to strike a historic and unprecedented deal with the EU. We are clear that a bespoke trade agreement is required, providing open access to Europe for our businesses.

Work has been undertaken to maintain co-operation in important sectors like services and the digital economy. Theresa May's pragmatic approach to Brexit has been welcomed in the European Parliament and she has spent the last 12 months preparing for the negotiations ahead.

David Davis and his team pay regular visits to Brussels, meeting key EU figures and building relationships. This is not a zero-sum game.

Our goal is to secure a deal that delivers prosperity for both the UK and the EU. But that is only the beginning. Conservatives envisage a global Britain signing trade deals around the world and which is a leader in science and innovation.



Only the Conservatives are strong enough to fight for the best outcome for Britain.

Whilst the Conservative Government takes this action, I along with my Conservative colleagues in the European Parliament are continuing to put the interests of the UK and its citizens at the heart of what we do. We are meeting colleagues from across the continent to discuss the need for a sensible and mutually beneficial agreement that provides stability to business and reassurance to its citizens. And regardless of what you may read in the media, these discussions are warm and are met with welcome determination to strike an agreement that reaps the rewards of Brexit.

Developments in the trade world have picked up this year and we are finally seeing negotiations with the largest and emerging economies picking up the pace.

The announcement of the EU-Japan political agreement in July marked an important step in negotiations, but there is still a long way to go. And as we contribute and support these negotiations whilst Members of the EU, I am supporting our Department for International Trade by building relations with our future trading partners and our post-Brexit trade agenda.

Debates in the International Trade Committee have been robust and have touched on a range of significant topics.

Continued>>>>

Emma McClarkin— continued>>>

I have made clear that the delay until the autumn in negotiations being initiated with Australia and New Zealand is not good enough. We Conservatives in the committee have been making the case for a bold trade agreement with Australia and New Zealand, not only because they are close allies, but because they are trailblazers of 21st trade agreements that set a high bar.

As such, the UK has much to learn from Australia and New Zealand and the goodwill between our countries is evidenced by the secondment of negotiators from both countries to the UK.

Digital trade is accelerating up the global trade agenda and I am leading on behalf of the Conservatives in a debate on the need for a digital trade strategy and I will strive to extol the virtues that digital trade can bring to consumers by increasing variety and reducing prices.

As we begin the process to extricate ourselves from the EU, my work will continue. I will represent the UK in debates on the big issues of our time and I will do everything I can to ensure the UK succeeds and prospers outside of the EU.

Emma McClarkin



I want to personally thank you all on behalf of myself and the Party for all your support over the last few weeks.

I am incredibly grateful for all of the hard work that you, and many supporters like you, put in across the country over the course of the campaign. I know that many of you will be disappointed with the result; I feel particularly sorry for those MPs, and their teams, who have contributed so much to our country who have lost their seats.

Whilst the result is not the one we had hoped for and worked so hard to achieve, it in no way reflects the immense effort that was put in by supporters like you up and down the country. Thank you for every door-knocked, phone call made, leaflet delivered, social media graphic shared and conversation held with a voter – we could not have delivered the campaign without your dedication.

But let us not forget that thanks to you we secured 42.4 per cent of the vote – the highest share for the Conservative Party since 1983.

More strikingly for me we also won a string of seats we've never held before – such as Mansfield, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, and Stoke-on-Trent South as well as seats like North East Derbyshire, which was last held by a Conservative in 1931.



As we reflect on the result over the coming weeks, it is important that we remember that thanks to you, it is our Party, the Conservative Party, which will continue to provide the country with the certainty it needs over the next 5 years.

Kind regards

Patrick McLoughlin

Patrick McLoughlin
Chairman of the Conservative Party

A NOTE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

Some members may have received renewal notices or new membership cards from Conservative Central Office this year.

Details were in the Magazine some time ago but just to remind everyone, please note that administration of membership is being transferred from our Association to Central Office. This will happen with all Associations but our area has been chosen as a trial area. Up to this point some records have been maintained in the office and others, particularly those members who joined through a national campaign, have been administered by CCHQ.

There will obviously be some teething problems as there always are with new computer systems but once these have been resolved centralised membership should make administration and record keeping much easier with all records being in the one place.

We will, of course, accept and maintain our list of members and will still communicate with everyone as we do now, either by mail, phone or email.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A COUNCILLOR?

Although the County elections have just ended we still need volunteers to stand as councillors for the next elections.

It is likely that a number of Wards may become vacant due to retirement or relocation and it is very important that we have good members, who are able to act as part of a team, to step in to these wards.

The Conservative Councillors Association holds regular training sessions to keep councillors updated on current events and they even give assistance in learning public speaking.

It can be very rewarding to be a councillor. You will take part in making decisions which will affect your community as well and you can help local people with their problems.

Numerous surveys taken over many years mean that we have an extensive data-base of likely supporters in all wards ready for the next election campaign.

We know that there are places where Labour have dominated for many years but the County elections and the General Election showed us that support is growing for our Party - we are gradually gaining a foothold in those hard-to-win areas.

Councillors receive remuneration to cover their expenses.

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.

Just a thought: "Trust is like virginity, you lose it once and you never get it back".

Anon

TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

PPS to the Secretary of State for International Trade and
President of the Board of Trade



After a long and hard-fought General Election campaign, I am hugely honoured to have been re-elected as the local Member of Parliament, here in Corby & East Northamptonshire. I am enormously grateful to local people for again putting their trust in me and allowing me the opportunity to continue to work tirelessly on behalf of our community, week in, week out, all year round. I am also very grateful to all those who have sent in kind messages of congratulations.

Obviously, I know we are all hugely disappointed by the result nationally. This was not the result that we wanted and, in due course, we need to reflect on what went wrong, and I am pleased that the Party has announced a review, led by my former colleague, Sir Eric Pickles. However, our first priority must be to continue to focus on governing both competently and effectively in the national interest, and backing the Prime Minister to the hilt. What the country needs more than ever is certainty, and having secured the greatest number of votes and the greatest number of seats in the General Election, it is clear that the Conservative Party won this election – despite what Jeremy Corbyn and the media might lead people to believe – and only we have the legitimacy and the ability to provide it.

Our stunning result locally, however, wouldn't have been possible without the incredible efforts of so many people – whether it be knocking on doors, telling, delivering letters, stuffing, or donating to help fund the campaign.

As ever, our focus on knocking on doors, getting out there and

finding out what issues matter most, and then campaigning hard on those issues, through my 'Listening to Corby & East Northamptonshire Campaign', made all the difference. In the end, we increased our majority to 2,690, whilst dramatically increasing our vote share to nearly 50%.

In fact, a couple of weeks ago, I received a lovely letter from William Powell – our former, well respected, Member of Parliament – congratulating me on achieving the highest share of the vote for any Conservative candidate in the seat's history, although pointing out that I haven't (I hope yet!) outscored his highest majority. We must not forget that the magic 50% of the vote is the holy grail for any candidate in any election, and we got so agonisingly near. So, whilst we did brilliantly in the circumstances, on both the share, and the majority, we have a challenge for next time!

As I say, I know that we all feel a mixture of emotions at the moment about the outcome nationally – tiredness, disappointment, frustration – certainly all spring to mind. We do, however, have much to celebrate here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, as we look to the future and build towards the next electoral challenge – namely, the District and Borough Elections in 2019.

Tom Pursglove, MP—continued>>>

They will be a key test, and we should fully prepare ourselves for the fact that the coming weeks, months and years are likely to be challenging and I suspect that we will once again be engaged in a full-scale 'battle of ideas', for the future of our country.

Ultimately, we must triumph in that battle once more, as the alternative doesn't bear thinking about: a hard-left, Marxist government, which would destroy this great country, and led by a man who looks to the catastrophe in Venezuela for his inspiration.

As such, we must redouble our efforts, keep putting in the hard yards, continue to listen carefully to local people and campaign hard on the issues that matter, all year round, not just at election time - exactly as we are doing on the vitally important Corby Urgent Care Centre issue, at present.

I am also delighted to announce that I have been appointed as the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt. Hon Dr Liam Fox MP, Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade, in the post-election reshuffle.

I am greatly looking forward to being able to support the Secretary of State in his parliamentary activities at such an important time, and on what is an increasingly relevant aspect of the Government's work, as we chart our future course in the world - clearly, the international trade brief is vital as we begin the process of leaving the European Union, and as we work to secure existing trading links and foster new, exciting, ones. For jobs, investment and prosperity, I am determined to do everything I can to help the Government establish lucrative trade deals right across the world, and to help play a role in securing the best deal for the UK.

It really is the greatest honour and privilege of my life to be your Member of Parliament and I feel hugely humbled to have been re-elected. As I say, there is much work to do in the weeks, months and years ahead - both locally and nationally - and I look forward to working tirelessly alongside you in that important endeavour, but for now: a very big 'thank you'!

Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby & East Northamptonshire

How Members Can Help the Party

- 1. Join the Patrons' Club**
- 2. Join the 200 Club**
- 3. Support our functions**
- 4. Stand for Council**
- 5. Volunteer to help**

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.

Full details available from the office

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

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

July 2017

I am delighted to report that following our successful County elections we have some great new councillors who are all currently going through their induction programme.

I was reselected as Group Leader and Council Leader during May.

County funding pressures continue but prior to the general election we were awarded additional funding for social care and also received the highest financial award from the DfE of any upper tier authority to assist with the costs of moving to a Children's Company. Work is in progress which will free that part of the council service to operate with a charitable arm as well as being free to determine its own terms and conditions for staff.

Unaccompanied asylum seeking children continue to arrive in Northamptonshire with a large arrival during June which has pushed our total numbers in our care to an unacceptably high level. I will be again contacting the LGA and the Home Office about our situation.

We continue to make progress working with Health over closer integration of our services but both Health and Social care in Northamptonshire has been historically underfunded and that situation continues today with huge increases in demand for services as the County grows.

In June the County again hosted the International Women's Cycle Tour which passed through parts of Corby and East Northamptonshire. Again there was a huge turnout to support the cyclists and we expect the economic benefit to the County to be in the region of £2 million for the day.

Many of you will have noticed the volume of repair work being undertaken on the highway. This has meant many road closures both day time and night.



Cllr Heather Smith

There have been many planned works though impacted by both heavy rain and by the exceptionally hot weather which has caused works needing to be redone and delaying other works. I am pleased to report though that the work to repair the damage to the bridge near Fotheringhay was completed earlier than originally forecast.

We have now successfully completed the move into the new County building called Angel Square in the centre of Northampton having vacated 12 other rather old and costly to run properties in the town. All premises we have vacated have either been sold or leases have been terminated. The project came in under budget and 2500 staff are now located in one place. The rest of our staff remain located in offices in other parts of the county

An issue has recently arisen where the Academy Trust that runs Easton Garford School in Easton on the Hill has told parents that their children are to be moved to another of their schools in Lincolnshire. The County does not agree with the action taken and believes parents are entitled to more notice and be given the opportunity to choose which school their child should attend. The Easton Garford School is very small but we believe the Academy Trust has no right to do what they are planning without more extensive consultation and more notice.

We expect funding to remain incredibly tight as demands on our services absorb the majority of our funding so more difficult decisions on what services we can continue to afford will have to be made.

Heather

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

EAST NORTHANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Steven North, Leader

If you will be very much aware there has been a general election. Congratulations goes to Tom and the council and I very much look forward to continuing to work together.

But you may have noticed before, during, and after the campaign there was little mention of local government. Prior to snap elections some bills are rushed through. The local government finance bill was not one of them. More alarming was that it was not in the recent Queen's speech. This means it's been dropped

Why am I mentioning this in my report? Within the bill was the programme to reform NNDR business rates. As you know for some time it has been planned to give the 'local government family' 100% retention of business rates. This effectively was replacing the rate support grant which is reducing year on year. This is the money the government gives us to help run local services. It was six million pounds when I became leader. This year it was £750,000 and it will be zero for us within three years. There has been no statement at all from the government on what is going to happen to address. We have raised this with both our MP's who are taking forward our concerns and have asked questions on what is a very important matter.

However, one of the reasons councils have financial plans is so we can look at future risks. This is something we have always done well at ENDC. To this end nothing has changed. Due to the whole uncertainty around NNDR the forecast 100% retention was not factored into our forecasting.

So, we can still progress our corporate plan, provide services, and still use the New Homes Bonus as planned. To this end we have just launched a Round 5 of the Community Facilities Fund. As you know we have invested over one million pounds in community products up and down the district in the last few years, many in the north of the district. This has made such a difference.

The final thing I wanted to mention is Rushden lakes. I think we are finally there, which is a fantastic achievement we can all be proud of. It has been 5 years since we granted this development, and for those of you who have not seen it you may be astonished by what has actually been achieved.

We now have a unique development unlike any other in Europe. Not only do we have top rate retailers but also a fantastic link to the is not to mention the other leisure facilities that have been granted, such as the cinema.

I have always said it will benefit all of East Northants. For some of you it may seem far away but not only will it provide all the things mentioned above but there will be many job opportunities. There will also be a knock on effect that should work in our favour, whether it be more economic opportunities elsewhere in the district, or improved tourism, for example. This is very much deserved for our residents

Cllr Steven North
Leader East Northants District Council

CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM (CPF)

Some members have pointed out that nothing has been heard of the proposed meetings of the CPF for a long time. They also wonder, in the light of the recent revelations regarding the 4 person manifesto, whether the CPF submissions are taken into account at all.

Our CPF Chairman did write to the organisation about this but has received only a fairly non-committal reply.

We will continue to pursue this issue on behalf of members.

Issue 39 of our Magazine carried details of many promises and plans by George Freeman, MP but unfortunately these don't seem to have seen the light of day, particularly where the General Election manifesto is concerned.

However a late email from the CPF has been received, too late for this issue. Details will be in the next magazine. But it appears that new plans are in hand to ensure the grassroots input via the CPF **will** be considered properly by the Cabinet.

RAY JACKSON - TO THE AID OF THE PARTY

July 2017

What a challenge! A weaker government than we anticipated: a Prime Minister under attack from all sides and being blamed for everything: Brexit discussions about to start: hints of civil unrest: an overload of work. And being good Conservatives, we coolly accept our natural role as the government and begin to show our true metal. Now indeed is the time to come to the aid of the Party and in a spirit of sincere cooperation, help to share the burden.

Although we had thought about 'Populism' I for one never really expected an experienced politician like Jeremy to risk stirring up memories of the last years of Old Labour when the country became almost unmanageable. Nationalise the Railways, double the public sector and the fire service whether or not there are fires to put out. (Remember Arthur's exhortation to dig coal whether anyone wants it or not?). Make university education free. Don't make any provision for your social care in your declining years,

but the government pay for you giving you the opportunity to pass on any assets to your children. A free ride from cradle to grave, courtesy of the other JC. If you were writing a manifesto and any of these ideas crossed your mind, you would immediately reject them as daydreams which you would not dare to put before an intelligent electorate.

We have to remember the Iron Lady and try to be as firm.

We have made a pretty good job of restoring our finances and with luck a couple of years should see us more or less solvent, at least with a stronger pound.



Ray Jackson

We have hacked away a lot of waste and seem to be enjoying improvements like more and better roads, better street lighting, tax exemptions for those earning less than £11,500, overfull employment,

We need to shift some income from the well-off elderly (and yes I will moan, but pay no attention) to Theresa's 'Just About Managing Group'. It must be tough raising a couple of children at the moment, working nearer to 50 hours a week because you are holding a responsible job and worrying that Jeremy could destroy your ambitions.

If we can stop wingeing for a bit, think hard about where the dreamers want to lead us, hang on to the small amount of money in the national coffers and hopefully watch it grow over the next couple of years, we should be able to demonstrate that we are responsible and our policies will win us back our friends.

Ray Jackson

RUPERT MATTHEWS

MEP for the East Midlands

July 2017

Home News from Abroad

And so to Strasbourg and the European Parliament.

But what, you may reasonably ask, was I doing in the European Parliament? It is, after all, a long way from the streets of Corby West where I was canvassing in the County Elections earlier this year - alongside Harriet Pentland, our top class candidate there.

Well, the answer lies with our recent General Election.

Here in Corby, Tom Pursglove stormed ahead, taking his share of the vote from 42% to 49.2% - a quite extraordinary achievement in a seat that only a couple of years ago was held by Labour. But nationally we didn't get the results we hoped for and sadly lost some exceptionally talented and dedicated MPs in the East Midlands. Though knowing Amanda Solloway, Andrew Bingham and Karl McCartney as I do, I am sure this isn't the last we will see of them. On a more positive note, we took Mansfield and Northeast Derbyshire off Labour.

Not only that but just down the road in Northampton South Andrew Lewer MBE was elected MP. That meant that Andrew had to step down as an MEP, which means that I have been given the great honour of representing the East Midlands in the European Parliament.

And there is still a surprising amount of work to do here. Britain has not yet left the European Union, so we in the East Midlands are still subject to the laws that are proposed, debated and passed in the EU. Not only does all of this affect us now, but since we do not know how the Brexit negotiations will go we cannot be certain to what extent these new EU laws might impact in the future. Businesses exporting to the EU will not thank us for allowing burdensome regulations to pass.

To be fair, most of this first week has been taken up with meeting a host of new people, locating my designated seat in the main chamber

and trying to navigate my way around the five buildings and 13 floors that make up the European Parliament complex in Strasbourg.

One man that I was keen to meet was Jean Claude Juncker, the President of the European Commission. He is, understandably given his position, not too keen on the British Conservatives, nor our colleagues in the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group, most of whom are every bit as wary of a centralised superstate as we are. I was rather lucky, therefore, that Juncker attended and took questions from the ECR Group during my first week.

He turned out to crack the only real joke that I have heard in this generally very serious place. About half way through the meeting his phone rang. He peered at the screen then announced. "Ah. It is my wife". A very quick exchange followed before he hung up. Juncker smiled rather shamefacedly at the assembled ECR folks. "I'm sorry," he said. "I had not told her where I would be this evening. She would not have believed me."

I have no doubt that the next couple of years will be a challenge but I aim to make sure the voices of those in the East Midlands are heard, whilst seeking to make positive changes and make a success of Brexit. This is our opportunity to reach out into the world, fight for free trade agreements across the globe and build on our foreign relations both in and outside the EU.

Busy times ahead.



We are Wonky Vegetables - and we're free from the EU at last!

Given the measly selection available in most supermarkets, it may come as a surprise to learn that Britain once produced the most apple varieties in the world. There were some 2,300 types to choose from – many with poetic names such as Knobby Russet and Hoary Morning. But we now opt for a small selection of boring varieties, 70 per cent of which are imported. And all these varieties approved by the EU are exactly the same size, shape, colour and taste. Our own varieties do not conform and are therefore *not recognised as apples*.

Up till now, the British apple has been under threat: two-thirds of our orchards have been lost since 1960, having been dug up to plant cereal crops or build housing.

Each loss is a tragedy. Gone are traditional apple varieties – some British apple varieties are completely extinct, which is bad news for growers, who lose the specific genetic information that can be used to breed better varieties in the future.

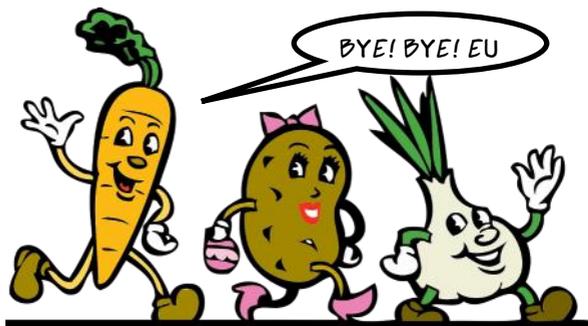
But it is not only apples that have been culled. EU rules apply to almost every type of fruit and vegetable you can think of and the regulations lay down exactly what they must look like.

Funnily enough, if you visit Spain (which is presumably still in the EU) just have a look around the local markets. There you will find fruit and veg of every conceivable shape and size. Sadly as soon as the EU makes a regulation you can be sure that someone in this country will be employed to enforce it. We are just too law-abiding.

But now, have you noticed the reappearance of misshapen fruit and veg, even in supermarkets?

The description is now 'Wonky fruit or wonky vegetables' but they are just like those we knew 30 years ago. And cheaper. One small benefit of leaving.

So, welcome back, Wonky.



Annual Canvass Forms hit the doorsteps.

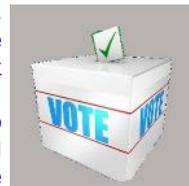
People of Corby and East Northants will have started seeing Electoral Registration Forms hitting doormats asking them to check if the details displayed are correct. Corby Borough Council wants to remind residents that responding to the form could not be easier.

As of Thursday 14th July, the forms otherwise known as Household Enquiry Forms, should have reached every property in the Borough and we need to confirm if the names of every person residing in the property is listed on the form and if there are any changes required to your details.

Whether you respond by phone, online, text or even the traditional paper form, it couldn't be simpler!

Any person aged 16 or over who is not listed on the Household Enquiry Form will need to be added and will be sent an invitation to register to vote, unless they go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Residents must be reminded that once invited to register to vote, you are legally bound to do so and failure to register could result in an £80 fine. Follow up visits will be made from mid September, so please return your form promptly if you do not wish to have a personal visit from an official of the council.

You will find listed on the form, all the methods in how you can return the information. It is quick and easy to register on the internet.



**IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU RENEW
YOUR REGISTRATION OR YOU WILL LOSE YOUR
VOTE IN FUTURE ELECTIONS**

A MEMBER ASKS: 'COULD GRENFELL BE REPEATED HERE?'

After the very recent Grenfell Tower fire, is any one else concerned as to how many homes in Corby have been clad or are in the process of having cladding done using similar combustible materials as Grenfell?

In the Shire area alone there are a number of council properties currently being clad, I would also think that overall in Corby so are many other homes being treated to this upgrade.

Yes most people are concerned with high rise blocks, but homes, be they semi detached or flats not as high as Grenfell still house families that could be at risk from being at the very least homeless should fire break out if the correct materials are not used because of cost cutting measures.

Lets face it every council is told to cut back on their expenses so it is quite possible that cheaper options in re-furbishing homes could be a short cut to that end. It is a well known fact that it's actually more likely to be smoke that kills people first in the case of fire . Maybe it is the moment now for C.B.C to send away samples of the cladding currently being used to laboratories to be tested to get 100% surety that what C.B.C is using on cladding these buildings are safe ?

The Government has informed all councils to do this.

I have written to Tom Pursglove about this concern and he has requested a reply from Norman Stronach regarding this matter with hopefully a truthful reply from the chief executive that the current building regulations are/have been adhered to. We will of course have to await for a reply for some weeks yet !

It seems that many things are wrong with too many high rise building across the UK as apart

from the cladding, fire sprinklers were not installed or thought necessary, air ducts and electrics were not done to building regulations either - what is there to say that Corby's homes are safe ?

The Cube may look as though it is mainly glass but I assure people that there is an awful lot of timber used in its construction, also cladding on interior walls are present in most rooms. It is not a high rise on the Grenfell scale but Corby people are in and out of there all the time using certain facilities, let alone all the people that work in the Cube.

The Core Theatre has always concerned me as it is in the deep basement, I have never thought the fire escapes good enough should fire break out. The timber that is in there is prevalent in a huge amount, smoke would certainly collect inside rapidly. What chance would people have to get out easily let alone the infirm, disabled people who may be in wheelchairs. If smoke should quickly fill the Core then able bodied people would not be able to even see the infirm or disabled once they need to concentrate their efforts on getting their loved ones out alongside themselves.

Whatever is asked from the Government re cost cutting from councils, people's safety should never be put in doubt when asking for tenders for work to be carried out, but, most I would suggest would always look at the cheaper option, i.e. 'Lets see where we can cut corners in the costings of all these upgrades.'

I do so hope that C.B.C do send off samples to the laboratories to be checked very soon, or will they just sit back and think ' We will be fine '

Dee Sellars-----Member
Corby

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. Email contributions to ray.boyd@talktalk.net

JEREMY CORBYN'S DREAM IS MORE LIKE A NIGHTMARE

Once a Latin American success story, Venezuela is now bankrupt with the world's fastest-growing inflation rate and severe shortages, the legacy of 15 years of **socialism** under Chavez and successor Nicolas Maduro. Inflation for staples such as chicken is rising to 700 per cent and the value of its largest banknote is just 2p.

After Chavez's death in 2013, **Jeremy Corbyn** paid tribute, saying: "He showed us there is a different and a better way of doing things. It's called socialism, it's called social justice."

Now the **Labour** leader's manifesto shows the same markers to economic destruction, with its anti-enterprise agenda and promises of a class-led "reckoning".

Some of the plans "could have been written for Chavez", warned former MP and Latin American expert Jacques Arnold.

He said: "I was in Venezuela when Chavez was elected. The public was sick to death with their corrupt old parties and he promised reform."

The trouble with Chavez was that he didn't face up to the realities – like Corbyn".

"His flat-out hostility to enterprise is a total parallel with **Jeremy Corbyn** with his plans to re-nationalise regardless of where he's going to get the capital to pay for it and spending money twice with the vague idea of increasing taxes on the rich."

The Labour leader admired other Latin American leaders such as Chile's Salvador Allende, whose socialist agenda led to soaring unemployment and Soviet-style bread queues.

Jacques Arnold said: "Corbyn seems determined to emulate his socialist heroes. He's a dreamer. But his comments about a reckoning against the elite suggest there's a nasty streak underneath it all. "While he dreams his dreams, he's put in place people who are very determined and very ruthless. And he will give them free rein.

As of 2005 Venezuela still had the highest per-capita gross domestic product in Latin America (adjusted for purchasing-power parity), and no trouble paying its bills.

Chavez supporters could even point to some indicators that poverty and malnutrition were on the decline.



THE POOR SHOULD HELP THEMSELVES,
SO VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU ALL: 'OPEN YOUR WALLETS AND LET ALL HELP THEMSELVES'
J.C.

Now, of course, Venezuela's economy is a disaster. The government stopped releasing regular economic statistics in December, but one official said the annual inflation rate is 150 percent. However the latest estimate from the Troubled Currencies Project run by Steve H. Hanke of the Cato Institute and Johns Hopkins, meanwhile, is that inflation is really 808 percent. Food shortages have become a problem, a debt default seems almost certain, and a complete economic collapse isn't out of the question.

Chavez isn't around anymore, but this is clearly his crisis. He took a country that was muddling along, and put it on course to become a basket case. There are worse kinds of rulers than that – those who massacre their own people or lead their nations into hopeless wars. But in terms of basic macroeconomic management Hugo Chavez has to go down as one of the most disastrous leaders the world has seen quite in a while.

And this is where Jeremy Corby wants to take us.

Just one simple example:

The Guardian

21 May 2017 'New university *students* will be freed from paying £9,000 in *tuition fees* as early as this autumn if Labour wins the election, Jeremy Corbyn will say on Monday. The Labour leader and Angela Rayner, his shadow education secretary, will say *tuition fees* will be completely *abolished* ...'

The Independent

9 July 2017 'It will cost £100bn to fulfil Jeremy Corbyn's aim of scrapping current student debt, Labour's Shadow Education Secretary has admitted.

Angela Rayner said the policy remained an "ambition" because Labour does not know how it could be funded.'



COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



July 2017

This month saw the launch of a public consultation on proposals that would see the governance of the county's Fire and Rescue Service move from Northamptonshire County Council to the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.

The plans – which if adopted would come in to effect from April 2018 – have been drawn-up following recent changes in legislation as part of the government's desire to create more collaboration between emergency services at local levels. This builds on successful work already undertaken between Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service.



As part of these proposals, I have set out my plans to increase investment in to the frontline of both the Police and Fire services. Importantly however, both organisations would stay separate and keep their separate uniforms, and carry on delivering separate skills.

The Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer would continue to be operationally independent and solely responsible for the day-to-day running of their own specific services.

If accepted, the new arrangement would see the PCC become the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for the County, a role which would involve the Commissioner holding the Chief Constable of Northamptonshire Police and Chief Fire Officer of the Fire and Rescue Service to account on behalf of the public, for the performance of their respective organisations.

However, both organisations would work more closely together in common areas to help keep the people of Northamptonshire safer. The Police and the Fire and Rescue Service would have more aligned strategic plans that would help shape a safer county. Where it made sense to do so, premises would be shared and administration functions combined to save money that would be released back to front-line services.

Police and Fire and Rescue Service budgets would be ring-fenced and would be collected as part of each household's council tax, in line with current arrangements.

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold – continued>>>

However, the Fire and Rescue Service precept would be shown separately from the total council tax, just as the Police precept currently is, to ensure transparency for tax payers. The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner would then allocate a budget to the Chief Fire Officer to run the organisation, as he currently does for the Police and Chief Constable.

It has always been my ambition to increase investment in to the frontline of our emergency services and creating a single governance model for the Police and Fire and Rescue Service will allow us to make that goal a reality.

It will save significant amounts of public money which we will reinvest in to frontline services. It will enable us to increase our preventative work across both police and fire areas while giving the public a level of transparency when it comes to spending by the Fire and Rescue Service that hasn't been available under the previous governance model.

Northamptonshire has led the way in demonstrating how emergency service collaboration can help to increase efficiency and effectiveness, and I'm determined that we build on this work to continue to create a safer county through enhancing the resources available to the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer.

All our emergency services share the goal of keeping the people of Northamptonshire safe and through further integration with the fire service, we will increase our shared abilities to deliver a safer county for those who live and work here.

Having reviewed the business case for this proposal, I'm confident that a change in governance is in the best interests of everyone in Northamptonshire.

However, we want to hear from as many people as possible in the county around their views and concerns, to ensure they are accurately represented as we move forward."

Public consultation on the plans – which is available to take part in at www.northantsfireproposals.co.uk – will run from Tuesday, 20th June until Tuesday, 1st August and is open to all residents of the county.

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

If you are in Corby shopping and looking for somewhere to eat why not try the Conservative Club. Lunchtime snacks available from Wednesday to Sunday for under £7. Non-members welcome. Phone 01536 203711 for details.

FAREWELL

It is sad to have to report that the following members have passed away:

**Albert Campbell
Eleanor McGibbon**

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'ALL HAIL COMRADE CORBYN'

Jul 2017 - *MOG* is on holiday so has asked Toby Young of *The Spectator* to step in this month.

I recognise greatness when I see it

Comrades. I'm going to tell you why I think Jeremy Corbyn is the right person to lead this country. First of all, I like the fact that he's not a typical politician. There's something refreshing about his refusal to play the media's game. Ordinary politicians are ready with a quote when a big story breaks, but not our Jeremy. He thinks nothing of switching off his phone and spending the day working on his allotment. Instead of talking to journalists on his way into meetings, he runs them over. When he does do interviews, his refusal to be interrupted speaks of a bold, confident leader who's comfortable in his own skin. I particularly like his catchphrase and the way his voice goes all high-pitched when he says it: 'Can I finish?'

Secondly, he's a man of principle. He has stuck doggedly to his brand of hard-left politics for more than 50 years. The fact that this credo has been an unmitigated disaster in every country in which it has been tried, leading to the suppression of free speech, the imprisonment of political dissidents and mass starvation, hasn't led to the slightest sliver of doubt or one jot of revision. John Maynard Keynes said: 'When the facts change, I change my mind', but not Jeremy. He is as steadfast and reliable as a stopped clock. That's the kind of man I want as the head of our government in a fast-moving world.

Thirdly, his grasp of international affairs is second to none. He has been on the right side of every major foreign policy issue, starting with the Falklands War, which he correctly identified as a 'Tory plot'. He opposed the Nato intervention in Kosovo and dismissed as a 'fabrication' the absurd claim that the war crimes committed by Slobodan Milosevic amounted to genocide. Indeed, he believes Nato should have been 'wound up' after the end of the Cold War, which, like his chief of staff Seumas Milne, he thinks was won by the wrong side. He isn't so weak-minded that he imagines Nato has any useful role to play in containing Russian aggression and has condemned Britain's plans to send 800 troops to Estonia as a 'provocation'.

Whether it's Vladimir Putin or General Galtieri, Corbyn can always be relied upon to side with Britain's enemies, never allowing his judgment to be clouded by jingoism. He is particularly sound when it comes to so-called 'terror' groups, which he sees through the lens of the anti-imperialist 'liberation' movements of the 1960s and 1970s. In this context, it is perfectly

understandable that he invited representatives of the IRA to have tea at the House of Commons a few days after it tried to kill Maggie Thatcher in the Brighton bombing.



And we shouldn't hold it against him that he was on the editorial board of a socialist newspaper when it mocked Norman Tebbit, who had to be dug out of the rubble, saying: 'Try riding your bike now, Norman.' Brilliant! No one can accuse Jezza of not having a sense of humour.

When it comes to Islamist groups, he is a breath of fresh air. Don't expect the usual, knee-jerk response to the cold-blooded murder of innocent women and children from him. He courageously decided to appear on Iranian state television, for which he was paid several thousand pounds, to condemn the killing of Osama bin Laden as a 'tragedy' and has frequently expressed his solidarity with Hamas and Hezbollah in their 'armed struggle' against Israeli 'colonialism'. As for Isis, he told Andrew Marr he thinks 'dialogue' is the best way forward. 'I think there has to be some understanding of where their strong points are,' he explained.

Which brings me to my fourth and final reason for hailing Jeremy Corbyn as the greatest political leader this country has ever seen: security. As his close colleague John McDonnell says, the way to keep Britain's streets safe from knife-wielding Islamo-fascist psychopaths is to disarm the police. After all, we know just how much harm the police can do when they're allowed to shoot to kill. As for the policy of nuclear deterrence, Jeremy is quite right to reject it. In an increasingly dangerous world, we should do whatever we can to lower the temperature, including disbanding MI5 and MI6.

Comrades, I urge you to recognise greatness when you see it. This 68-year-old manhole enthusiast is the prophet we've been waiting for. Our children will judge us according to how we judged Jeremy Corbyn.

TOBY YOUNG

Toby Young is associate editor of *The Spectator*.

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Toby Young is not a member of our Association and his comments are obviously his own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of our members, Association or its management.

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