

# POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 45**

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

**Feb - Mar  
2018**

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Stay 'In Touch' with the

**Corby & E Northants Conservative Association**

Published by RM Boyd on behalf of Corby & E Northants Conservative Association and Tom Pursglove, all at CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ Printed by Contract Printing Services Ltd., Unit J, Cavendish Courtyard, Sallow Road, Weldon North Industrial Estate, Corby, NN17 5DZ

## Summer Garden Party

at Three Mill Bills, 63 Church Street, Nassington

**Sunday 27 May 2018**

Full Afternoon Tea and fizz with musical entertainment.

This will be a celebration of the Royal Wedding. Families warmly welcomed.

Ticket price and time will be notified later.



Photo: Pixabay



## ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER

Friday 20th April in  
the Churchill Suite,  
Corby Conservative Club  
7 for 7.30 pm

**Guest Speaker**

**Robert Courts MP, Member of Parliament  
for Witney & West Oxfordshire**

**Ticket price to follow**

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# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Jan 2018

Happy New Year!

I hope you are all well refreshed and ready to take on the challenges that 2018 is going to bring!

We already have our first challenge and need your help.



We have had teams of over 20 activists each weekend, knocking on doors and finding our voters. Please come and join us if you can. We meet at Peter Bone MP's office at 9am on Saturday (unless otherwise advised) 21a High Street, Wellingborough. It has been great to see so many of our Councillors coming out and lots of new faces too.

Sadly, at the end of last year, our good friend and excellent Councillor, Glenn Harwood died, and our hearts go out to his family and friends.

Glenn served as an East Northants District Councillor, a Northamptonshire County Councillor, and as the Deputy Leader at East Northants Council. On Thursday, the Conservative Group at East Northants Council will elect a new Deputy Leader. I wish that person the very, very best. I know that all the candidates are of the highest calibre and we will be well served by whoever wins that contest. They will be filling big shoes!

We also have the task of getting two excellent candidates elected to the District and County seats in by-elections that will take place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

Our candidates are Harriet Pentland (our fantastic Deputy Chairman – Political), who is fighting the District Council Higham Ferrers Lancaster Ward and Jason Smithers who is fighting the County Council Higham Ferrers Division.

Turn out at the Joint Task Force sessions has, so far, been absolutely brilliant despite the cold weather.

Once the by-elections are over – and WON – my attention will turn to the Approval interviews for our local Candidates list. At the end of February we will start by interviewing all sitting Councillors. Once that is done, we will move on to those of you who are not yet elected Councillors. If you want to put yourself forward for selection to stand for election, please do let me know.

I am really pleased to say that we are well ahead in recruiting great speakers for our Association events this year. We have Robert Courts MP coming to speak at a St George's Day event, Robert Goodwill MP to speak at a lunch time event set at the beautiful Deene House, the Rt. Hon Esther McVey MP will join us later in the year and we have the Rt. Hon Liam Fox MP to speak at our black-tie dinner in November.

I hope you will join me on the campaign trail and at our wonderful fundraising events.

Happy 2018 to you all.

Sincerely

*Helen*

# 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



Jan 2018

Happy New Year to everyone across Corby and East Northamptonshire!

2017, although eventful in so many ways, seemed to go by in the blink of an eye, but at this time of year, we have no doubt all reflected upon what has happened in the past twelve months - both good and bad - the lessons we've learned and our aspirations and hopes for the year ahead. Amongst many others, one particular highlight of 2017 that stood out for me was Corby being awarded the Academy of Urbanism's 'Town of the Year' for 2018 - a richly deserved accolade, fighting off stiff competition from both Coventry and Milton Keynes.

Personally, this award came as no surprise to me and is a timely focus for my first article of 2018, and something I have given great thought to over the festive period. Even in its own right, the regeneration we have seen in the past twenty years has been nothing short of astonishing, with the new International Swimming Pool, the Corby Cube and Willow Place redevelopment, to name just a few, all putting us in the frame to be very worthy winners.

But in addition, we have also seen significant housing growth, and although that brings great challenges with it, we have seized the opportunity with both hands - not just building new homes, but delivering flagship developments such as Priors Hall

and securing significant new investment in our schools, in our transport links, such as the highly successful railway station, and in employment opportunities, with Corby rapidly becoming the destination of choice for many global-reaching firms looking to start or expand. In fact, as the Academy noted, over the last 20 years, Corby has seen the highest proportion of new home sales anywhere in the UK - context to the challenges we have stepped up to address and testament to the success we have seen.

That said, we can never be complacent and we must continue to champion a forward looking vision. As your local MP, I am determined that throughout 2018, I continue to unashamedly shout from the rooftops for more new investment in the infrastructure needed to support that growth and the challenges it presents - such as continuing to fight for a new Enterprise Zone for the town, to attract further new jobs and investment, and provide more new opportunities for our young people. I am also determined that these new developments are not just housing estates, but communities that are as integral to Corby as the very core from which it first grew.

*continued>>>*

*Tom Pursglove, MP—continued>>>*

But more than anything else, perhaps the single biggest reason why this prestigious award is so deserved, is the fact that our town has a big heart. Day in, day out, we see local people coming together to support those in need, or who find themselves in difficult situations - I for one never cease to be amazed by the generosity of local people in digging deep and helping others. Brilliant charitable organisations like Corby NightLight, Lakelands Hospice and Corby Home Start all spring to mind, as does the superb VCS in the old drill hall on Elizabeth Street and the annual efforts of our local Poppy Appeal collectors; all of whom, along with so many other groups, individuals, and organisations, that are too numerous to mention here, do so much to enrich our community for the better. There really is nowhere quite like Corby for its generosity of spirit - something which cannot have failed to pass the judges by. Corby people really do maketh the town.

When reaching its decision, the Academy particularly noted the “phoenix-like” rise Corby has seen in recent years - something that is beyond any doubt and of which we are all rightly proud. 2018 will be a big year for our town and we should maximise the additional exposure this award lends to us, go after new and exciting opportunities, and redouble our efforts to work together to make even more good things happen - that is my New Year’s Resolution and I hope you will join me in that endeavour.

Here’s to a hugely successful 2018 as the UK’s ‘Town of the Year’ and all the very best to you, your family, and our Party, for the year ahead.

**Tom**

***Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby & East Northamptonshire***

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## **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:** The Hall, Thorpe St, 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.

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Jan 2018

The work on the A605 to carry out road surface improvements had to be suspended during December due to the extreme weather conditions. The work will be finished in the spring, hopefully in March. There will be no overnight and weekend closures before the end of February. Highway teams have been active this winter gritting the roads and using large quantities of grit and salt. This has meant a lot of overnight working for the teams.



**Cllr Heather Smith**

The library consultation that started last October has drawn to a close at the weekend so it will now be for the County Council to analyse the consultation responses before Cabinet recommends to Full Council on 22 February what is to be done. It is fair to say that every library impacted by the proposals has made strong representation to keep their individual library open. Everyone feels their circumstances warrant special treatment and the passion shown by both children and library users is very clear.

At the beginning of January I went to visit an inspiring community library in Lincolnshire with 2 friends of Oundle Library and the Town Mayor so we could see first hand how a community library operates.

As far as Northamptonshire libraries are concerned I cannot prejudge the outcome of the consultation as there will be lengthy discussions to take place first.

The continuing financial pressures on the Council have been well publicised and the latest settlement figures from Government have not helped us other than to encourage sales of all capital assets that the Council owns.

The huge demand on all our social care services continue to be a challenge. Winter pressures hit our social care teams in the same way as in hospitals and

the additional costs continue to absorb a large percentage of our budget. We remain the 4th highest in the country for unaccompanied asylum seeking children arrivals.

An Inspector is due to arrive imminently appointed by Government to do his own independent report on our finances and I welcome this. Northamptonshire as a fast growing County deserves its fair share of funding which has never been the case. It will be mid March before the independent report is published.

A final decision has not yet been made on whether to accept the Governments guide that we can increase Council Tax by a further 1%. However I do expect that we will follow what other councils responsible for social care intend to do.

It is a highly pressured time for all County Councils.

***Heather***

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



COMMUNITY JUSTICE SECURITY

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



Jan 2018

As the Police and Crime Commissioner, I have been extremely encouraged by how partners and communities are keen to work with us to protect people from harm and make Northamptonshire safer, something that is a key strand on the Police and Crime plan for county. We want to continue this and empower communities that are able to help us further with initiatives such as our **'Sponsor a PCSO'** scheme.

As part of our joint working and empowering community's initiatives, partners can now sponsor a PCSO who will be dedicated to their area and will work within the local policing team and will be directly accountable to the local policing Sergeant. The local Sergeant will work with the sponsor to identify local priorities and will meet with them on a regular basis to ensure the community's needs are being met.

Sponsoring a PCSO will not reduce the service a community receives from the core policing team - it will supplement and enhance the work of Northamptonshire Police. Sponsored PCSOs would only be deployed to other duties in exceptional circumstances - for example, a major critical incident.

Northamptonshire Police will pay for all training, uniform and equipment for a sponsored PCSO - a sponsor simply covers their salary and on-costs. For 2017/18, this means the cost of a sponsored PCSO dedicated to an area is just £37,245.00.

I hope that communities and partners across the county will recognise this fantastic opportunity to work collaboratively with both my office and the force to help make our county a safer place.

As we look ahead, the next financial year will undoubtedly be a challenging one, but I am confident we can get our message across to central government to ensure they recognise the growth of our county and the pressure this is putting on all public services. Following the recent police budget announcement it would appear that the government is starting to listen to the concerns raised by Police and Crime Commissioners from across the country about the funding issues we're facing.

It was announced that more money is available for counter terrorism and public protection in the 2018/19 police grant settlement, but police forces across the country are told to expect a flat cash budget. However, PCCs have now been given more flexibility to raise funds locally following an increase in the amount they can raise through the council tax precept.

We are currently working through the details to establish exactly how much our budget will be for 2018/19,- but the government has made it clear that it's a flat cash budget - which basically means that we won't be getting any extra money from central government. However, I do feel the government is starting to listen to the concerns we have shared about funding pressures.

I recognise that there is only a finite amount available from central funds, and although I'm not completely satisfied with our budget allocation, I do welcome the extra flexibility we've been given locally for the option to increase the money raised through the council tax precept, which we didn't have before.

Although we've been advised of the police grant for 2018/19, I am now looking forward to a conclusion of the fairer funding formula review too.

Continued>>>>



Stephen Mold— continued>>>

I am very hopeful this will yield a better outcome for Northamptonshire in the long term. We currently get a raw deal for money per head of population in comparison to other police forces of a similar size – who receive more cash per person than we do. This definitely needs to be looked at.

Over the coming weeks, I will work closely with the Chief Constable to discuss the future priorities for the Force, how we can best meet demands, and manage the increasing year on year costs to run the Force, as well as pay for any future police pay rises from our existing budget.

2018 promises to be an interesting and challenging year, however, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at:

[Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk)

**Stephen**

**Stephen Mold**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire**

## Dr. Busker

**An evening to remember with the madman of musical mayhem.  
Whether you've heard him before or never seen him in your life, you'll  
never forget the music and hilarity.**

The Chairman of Northamptonshire County Council invites you to a delectable, delightful & slightly bawdy evening at:

**Rounds Saxon Hall, NN9 6LT  
on February 17th at 7:30 pm.**

A Fish & Chip Supper will be included & there will be a bar.  
Please indicate if you would prefer a vegetarian option. At only £15  
a ticket, this is going to be a great evening!

Tickets from: Karen Firminger, Northamptonshire County Council,  
Cabinet Office, One Angel Square, Northampton, NN1 1ED.  
email: [kfirminger@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:kfirminger@northamptonshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01604 368969  
Supporting: Nene Valley Care Trust & Macmillan Cancer Care



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



## CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

At the time of publication we had no news of the next CPF meeting. Councillor Helen Howell is Chairman of this group and as soon as she is able to arrange a meeting all members and supporters will be notified by email.

### EARLY WARNING

There will be a Black Tie event in the Great Hall, Oundle School at the end of November  
The Guest Speaker will be  
The Rt. Hon. Dr Liam Fox MP, Member of Parliament for North Somerset,  
Secretary of State for International Trade and President of the Board of Trade.

Tom Pursglove, MP will also be in attendance.

Further details will be notified when arrangements are finalised

## 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. All Councillors must be members of the CCA once they are elected to office.

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.

The 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 so you will not be out of pocket.

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.

***We have already had a number of names submitted and all of these plus any further names are being examined by the selection committee. All will be advised of the process in due course .***

Our webpage is at [www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)  
and contains the latest news about our Party.  
Our Member of Parliament, Tom Pursglove, has his own website:  
[www.voteursglove.co.uk](http://www.voteursglove.co.uk)

## Champagne and Canapés Reception

Friday 8th June 2018 at Deene Park,  
Deene,  
NN17 3EW

by kind permission of Mr  
Robert and Mrs Charlotte  
Brudenell

Guest Speaker:  
Robert Goodwill MP,  
Member of Parliament for  
Scarborough & Whitby

Also attending  
Tom Pursglove MP.

12 for 12.30 pm until 3 pm

Tickets - £30 pp or 2 for £50



## Association Annual Christmas Lunch

Friday 14th December Churchill  
Suite, Corby  
Conservative Club, 12 for 12.30 pm  
speaker and ticket price to follow

### WOULD FRANCE HAVE VOTED FOR FREXIT?

The French President, Emmanuel Macron, said frustration at Brussels across the Channel could have boiled over to a Leave vote if they were offered a choice.

He said he opposes offering the public an 'in/out' choice on their relationship with the bloc.

In a wide-ranging interview with the BBC Andrew's Marr Show recently he was asked directly if his country would have backed 'Frexit' if offered the choice.

He said: 'Probably, in a similar context. But our context was very different.

'I definitely would have fought very hard to win - but I think it is a mistake if you just ask "yes or no".

But Mr Macron added that he would not want to place 'a bet' on the outcome of an EU referendum vote in France.

He also made it plain that France is trying to swoop in on the lucrative business in the City of London and lure them across the Channel because of Brexit.

### THE GREATEST RISK TO THE UK

Michael Heseltine naively believes that a Labour government would be better than Brexit. Michael is a complete Europhile but is blinkered to the damage a Corbyn\McDonnell Labour government would do to the UK.

We're not talking about the Blair\Brown Tory Lite governments or even Ed Milliband's leftward lurch in 2015 complete with Ed Stone.

Corbyn\McDonnell want to take us back to the 1970's and a time when nationalisation was all the rage. How many of those Nationalised industries remain and flourish? We can remember the extended wait for a telephone line from the Post Office and the quality of cars from British Leyland (when the workers were actually working).

As well as nationalising companies Corby Council wants to repeal the trades union acts to allow all the bad practices of; no secret ballots, strikes without votes and secondary picketing.

Now consider the Socialist Workers Party infiltration into the Labour party ranks and Unions. What havoc will they cause without the law to contain them. The UK lost over 128 million days to strikes in the 1970s - compared to the last 10 years of only 5.2 million days having been lost to strikes. This is the time Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell want to take us back to.

Never mind the union chaos, McDonnell wants the UK to borrow more billions in the naïve belief that if you borrow a billion then you get back a billion in tax. Set this against a background of constant Labour criticism of our debt to GDP levels. The conversation goes like this: 'Look you've borrowed to much' 'Okay what would you do?' 'Well we're going to borrow even more'.

Michael are you really sure what poses a greater threat to the UK?

**Cllr Kevin Watt**

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

# RAY JACKSON - CPF

Jan 2018

The Corby Forum of the Conservative Policy Forum discussed and reported on a great many topics before the last Parliament. Topics were submitted by Central Office to forums all over the country. They came with all the background notes, statistics and relevant acts of Parliament. Regular attenders became quite expert about certain issues. There were of course projects which, until the Policy Forum, had been treated with utmost prejudice, members not wanting to be troubled by the facts. We knew already where we stood. These caused the loudest reactions and we only came to some sort of conclusion once we had work carefully through all the available evidence.

Occasionally elected members joined the discussion group and were listened to with some respect because of their status. But once fiction overcame fact, the debate became more relaxed and open.

It was generally agreed I think that the CPF broadened the participants' knowledge of between 12 - 20 subjects which were of major political interest at the time, or at least they were to Central Office. Additionally, of course they gave the debaters the chance and courage to develop their debating skills. Behind all the arguments there was good will and friendship. At times I was able to find outside experts who could explain what happened in practice. The difference between theory and practice really enlivened debate.

In retrospect it could have been a good training course for councillors, giving them a better chance to appear to know their stuff when challenged on the doorstep. There are times when we select candidates

for election because they have a good presence, confidence, clarity of expression, a sense of humour, a history of personal success and so on, but often very little knowledge of the range of practical issues which are important on the doorstep. Wouldn't it be a good idea to discuss the future of the NHS in the setting of the CPF I have just described?

Unfortunately, we cannot get hold of a fact pack on the NHS from Central Office. It probably does not exist. We have lots of personal experience especially if like me you have reached some maturity. Your experience is selective, loaded with emotion. The chances are that if you were a patient then your treatment is remembered as being first class and you cannot praise the NHS enough. On the other hand, if a relative or friend were a recent patient then the chances are there was something to criticize; something you would have like to have seen done better. High emotion, high expectations.

All this could be very relevant because sooner or later we are going to have this great debate on the future of the NHS. To keep it going we are going to have to sacrifice some other part of our national budget or find extra income from taxation. A secondary reason for me is that I would like to see an end to the blame which is loaded on our Party, on the Prime Minister and Health Secretary. Every news broadcast, every newspaper shovels the blame for failure around. The junior doctors have so far been the worst for suspending their loyalty to the NHS but there is an amazing number of organisations,



*Ray Jackson*

*Continued>>>>*

*Ray Jackson continued>>>*

(many with 'Royal' in their title) which constantly blame the government for perceived failures. The constant demand for more money is expressed so strongly you would think they are seeking extra cash for themselves. You hear of young scientists who have found ways of keeping us going for many years more, but you do not hear how the flu jab has reduced the numbers at A&E during the winter. Admittedly I did not get my invitation to have a jab this year and had to chase it up myself so perhaps it was not for general application this year. I am told the injection we had was aimed at the wrong virus so the claim that A&Es are overwhelmed by people with flu are probably right. It's this negativity about the NHS, the constant moaning about cash by so many organisations, about drunks on Saturday nights which we seem unable to deal with.

We are going to have to clear our minds of all the muck and mysticism before we can get a good national debate on the future of the NHS. We will not be able to vote with our hearts again. If we thought we were misled by the facts in the EU referendum we shall have to try to be doubly sure we understand the debate on the future of the NHS.

Start debating now.

*Ray Jackson*

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

**THE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING WILL BE  
HELD ON**

**FRIDAY 2nd MARCH 2018  
AT 7.30pm**

**It will be held in the Churchill Suite  
of Corby Conservative Club,  
Cottingham Road, Corby NN17  
1SZ.**

**The notice of meeting and  
nomination papers will be sent out  
during the  
w/e 5th February.**

**Candidates for office should note  
that they must have paid their  
Association membership prior to  
the AGM.**

**Only paid-up members may attend  
the AGM**

**OUNDLÉ BRANCH  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**This will be held on  
Tuesday 13th March 2018  
at 10.30am**

**at Fletton House,  
Glaphorpe Road, Oundle**

**Contact the office for further details**

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

**[WWW.CORBYCONSERVATIVECLUB.NET](http://WWW.CORBYCONSERVATIVECLUB.NET)**

# Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands

Jan 2018

## Global Britain - Ready to Trade with the World

As we begin to think about our future relationship with the European Union, the UK must do some radical thinking. We can focus, almost entirely, on our future relationship with Europe or we can broaden our horizons and build the UK's reputation as a truly global, free-trading nation; ready to trade with the world. These are not mutually exclusive options, but we must put an equal amount of energy into our trade outside of the EU.

In my experience as a Member of the International Trade Committee, despite the rhetoric, I have found the EU to be too often plagued by protectionism and hindered by sluggish decision-making. Trade negotiations with the US have failed to get off the ground and it took 7 years to negotiate a Free Trade Agreement with Canada, grossly missing its two-year deadline. In November last year, the EU announced that it would commence negotiations with Australia for a Free Trade Agreement, three years after the idea was first proposed.

Meanwhile the EU's Chief Negotiator, Michel Barnier, ruled out the prospect of any trade deal with the UK that specifically includes financial services. Such a deal would isolate over 7.2% of the UK economy and would have mutually damaging ramifications for both the UK and the EU.



We could and should ask for more. Both David Davis and Liam Fox want a deep and comprehensive Trade deal with the EU. As do many of my MEP colleagues here in Brussels from across the EU, but we should not settle for anything less than a modern trade agreement that will be beneficial to both parties.

This is the opportunity we have outside of the EU. To set out our vision of modern trade relationships in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

In a trade delegation visit to Australia last autumn I was delighted to meet officials and colleagues who anticipated that the UK will negotiate, sign and implement a free trade agreement with Australia long before the EU does. Indeed, the Australian Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, has since affirmed Australia desires to conclude a speedy and comprehensive trade agreement with the UK. Justin Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister has also called for a seamless transition in UK-Canada Trade, tailoring the CETA Agreement to enhance the benefits experienced in both Canada and the UK.

Finally, far from former President of the United States, Barack Obama's, assertion that the UK will join "the back of the queue", the US and the UK are already building on their considerable bilateral partnership.

In summary, the Department for International Trade estimates that the UK will sign up to 50 free trade agreements by the time we leave the EU, many of which will be with some of the most powerful economies in the world.

Thus, while a free trade agreement with the EU is of course desirable, it is not our only option. Nor is it the most exciting. In only 10 years' time, 90% of economic growth will come from outside of the EU. The UK has the opportunity to recognise this and take advantage of strengthening our trade relationships.

I plan to play my part to ensure we take this step of self-confidence into the global marketplace.

As well as maintaining prosperous relations with the EU, the British people made clear their wishes to chart a new course. To build a global Britain with strong commercial and cultural relations with nations the world over.

So as we contemplate the future of our nation, it is with great passion and confidence that I say: the UK must look beyond the borders of Europe to trade with the world.

## **Emma**

*Emma McClarkin, MEP for the East Midlands, is ECR Coordinator for the International Trade Committee, Committed Brexitier and Chair of the Commonwealth Forum in Brussels.*

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS**

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

**Anyone who is interested in joining the Association is invited to contact the Association Office and request a membership form or go to the Conservative Party website and join via their pages.**

**Please note that as the changeover to CCHQ administration of membership takes over members will begin to receive renewal notices from that office. If you still have a paper membership card you should contact the office regarding payment.**

## **200 Club Annual Draw**

**The draw for the big Annual Prizes was made at the Christmas Lunch**

Prize	Name
£100	David George
£50	Ray Jackson

## **EMAILS—NEW LEGISLATION**

Under new government regulations we will no longer be permitted to contact non-members by email unless they have specifically opted-in to receive them.

We have a large list of supporters who will need to let us know if they wish to continue to be contacted by email. Unless they do so, over the next months they will be removed from our mailing lists. They will receive a final email before being removed.

## A READER WRITES

The last issue of CENCA magazine was very interesting but I just would like a few more members to write as well, some of you must have things to get off your chest? I am sure the editor would like more people to take part too.

I must say Christmas Lunch on 1<sup>st</sup> December was up to the usual great standard again fantastic meal and service, but quite noticeable that many familiar faces were absent this year. Always a pleasure to see Tom once again doing his meeting and greeting to everyone, after all Tom has done for us and all his constituents he hopefully had a good rest over Christmas.

A lot has been spoken about but not a lot done about CPFs so let's keep fingers crossed that Cllr Helen Howell will get meetings on track again, they were important and still are, all members should have a voice and what better way than locally.

The details given in the magazine about the NHS in England not losing EU Nationals from its staff since the referendum was interesting, unfortunately it didn't give how many English speaking NHS nursing staff have **left** since then. If you had read my piece in the last issue you would have read that 8 nursing staff had left in the one area I was last treated in, so probably the question should be how many English speaking NHS. medical staff have we lost in the last 3/5 years?

Ray Jackson was quite right in some of his remarks in the last issue especially about us increasing our activities, talking about, but not doing. Also, we need more young members, we all know Corbyn has talked the young around to Labour, but if only those young people listened a little more carefully to what Corbyn was actually saying. They tend to ignore some little words that Corbyn uses but those can nullify his promises/aspirations - little words like: *could/may/possibly/perhaps* etc. These tiny words make all the difference in actual spoken context.

We really should try to get our younger people interested in politics generally but not by preaching or making hollow promises but by involving them inside the Conservative Party We will not do that by trying to outdo Labour or Facebook, Twitter and other social media, we will just be following like sheep - direct contact meetings will be the only way. As our membership ages we should really try and show that we are an extended **fun family** rather than just a **political one**. Let's arrange a few functions which young people may come to, small scale local music events or the like? Start small and then grow.

Now I come to the Academy of Urbanism Awards – Great we beat others and what is said about Corby I almost agree with, but, 'improved infrastructure and public facilities?' A revamped town centre, pedestrian-friendly? NOT in George Street where traffic still comes and goes through and bikes still being ridden in the centre? Pity they didn't look closer at Elizabeth Street, what an eye-sore. Still Labour councillors will be thrilled with the award!

Lakeside Surgery is under so much pressure as it is so difficult to see a doctor unless attending the late till 8 Urgent Care Centre, which is under threat.

Most of these problems are a result of no visible policing in Corby and I have never for some years seen Town Centre Security, let alone them doing anything about cyclists riding in/through town centre - in fact their staff are often seen doing just that!

In conclusion, congratulations to Cllr Kevin Watt, super person and I am sure he will do his utmost for the town.

Time for me to wish every one of our members and families a brilliant 2018, also of course our Club staff and Ann in the office for jobs so very well done all year.

Dee Sellars—CENCA Member

The writer's comments and those of all our contributors are obviously their own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of other members, the Association or its management.

### Your Association contact details:

Tickets for all events can be ordered through the Conservative Association Office (Ann)  
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# TOM PURSGLOVE MP

*Member of Parliament  
for Corby & East  
Northamptonshire*



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I also produce a fortnightly electronic Westminster Report, outlining my work both locally and in Parliament – please email me if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

*I hold weekly advice surgeries  
in both Corby, and in  
East Northamptonshire in  
Irthlingborough, Raunds,  
Thrapston and Oundle, offering  
help and support to local people.*

*To arrange an appointment,  
please email me, or call:*

**020 7219 8043**



# Conservatives

Dear Member,

May I first wish you a very Happy New Year and best wishes for 2018.

I am greatly honoured to have been appointed as Chairman of the Conservative Party by the Prime Minister. I look forward to working with our dedicated members, volunteers across the country, and the excellent team in CCHQ as we look ahead to local elections this year.

I want to thank Sir Patrick McLoughlin for his commitment to the Party. Serving on the front bench under the last seven consecutive Leaders of our Party is testament to his dedication to both the country and to the Conservative cause.

I'm delighted to be joined by a talented group of colleagues who will be working with me to make our Party the best campaigning force in this country. James Cleverly, the Member of Parliament for Braintree, will be working very closely with me as Deputy Chairman.

James and I will be supported by colleagues from across the Party:

- **Kemi Badenoch**, MP for Saffron Walden (Vice Chairman, Candidates)
- **Ben Bradley**, MP for Mansfield (Vice Chairman, Youth)
- **Maria Caulfield**, MP for Lewes (Vice Chairman, Women)
- **Rehman Chishti**, MP for Gillingham and Rainham (Vice Chairman, Communities)
- **Helen Grant**, MP for Maidstone and The Weald (Vice Chairman, Communities)
- **Andrew Jones**, MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough (Vice Chairman, Business Engagement)
- **Marcus Jones**, MP for Nuneaton (Vice Chairman, Local Government)
- **James Morris**, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis (Vice Chairman, Training and Development)
- **Chris Skidmore**, MP for Kingswood (Vice Chairman, Policy)
- **Paul Scully**, MP for Sutton and Cheam (Vice Chairman, London)
- **Alec Shelbrooke**, MP for Elmet and Rothwell (Vice Chairman, International)
- **David Brownlow** (Vice Chairman, Campaigning)
- **Dominic Johnson** (Vice Chairman, Finance)

I am excited for the challenges ahead and look forward to seeing many of you on the campaign trail.

With best wishes,

**The Rt. Hon. Brandon Lewis MP**

Chairman of the Conservative Party

## BREXIT OR BREMAIN ?

A month before the Referendum, and it should not be forgotten, a Treasury paper signed by George Osborne forecast that *'a vote to leave would cause an immediate and profound economic shock'*, causing a recession with half a million more on the dole. Instead, employment has risen by almost 400,000 - and a lack of workers has become one of the UK economy's biggest problems. Britain's biggest jobs website says vacancies are up 20 per cent year-on-year, while unemployment sits at a 40-year low.

Shadow Home Secretary Diane Abbott, who famously got into a terrible muddle over policing figures and costs in a memorable interview during the last election campaign, said recently: *'There is a 50 per cent chance of a second referendum on Brexit and a 60 per cent chance against.'*

But seriously, overheard in the primary school playground: *'My grandad is quite naïve. He still thinks Brexit is going to happen.'*

In his New Year message, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said he was on the brink of ousting Mrs May from No 10.

*'We are a government in waiting,'* he said. *'The hope of a new Britain is closer than ever.'*\*

Mr Corbyn added: *'Now the Establishment's secret is out: they're not as strong as they appear. Let's face it, they have no idea how to fix their broken system or upgrade our stagnant economy.'*

*'In 2018, Labour's mission is to give our people support and security and use their talents, unleash their creativity and fulfil their hopes.'*

Astonishingly, this statement is taken entirely seriously.

\*Or did he mean 'a new Venezuela'.

## 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**
6. **Attend our Task Force meetings**
7. **Spread the truth about Corbyn**

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 two prizes of £100 and £50.

Full details available from the office

The Task Force meets regularly with Tom Pursglove, MP who gives Westminster and local updates followed by campaigning

## LABOUR'S SECRET PLAN

Labour has sacked frontbencher Chris Williamson for revealing the secret plan that Labour have should they get in government.

His idea is for massive council tax rises - it isn't Labour policy - yet. But it should scare the hell out of everyone who owns a comfortable, middle-class home as they would pay many thousands more.

Corbyn's militant mob are desperate to look moderate to get elected. But it is just a con.

Ruinous property taxes would be just the start of the nightmare they would unleash.

Never forget that it was the moronic Brown who was planning to introduce the 'nice-view' tax. And he and the war-criminal were the ones who massively used the PFI system which meant that private companies built hospitals, etc and then leased them back at a huge cost to the taxpayer. It was a disaster then and as Carillion shows it is a disaster now.

Labour condemns this idea now but conveniently forgets that they thought it was great when they made use of it under Brown and put the country in debt for years to come.

# This £50 billion EU 'divorce bill' is more like a ransom

Lionel Shriver The Spectator 2 December 2017

A 'bill' is not commonly subject to negotiation. It arrives after a customer has contracted for the purchase of goods or services, whose price has been established in advance. For the average upstanding Briton, a bill is not a starting point, subject to haggling. It is something you pay.

The Lisbon Treaty's Article 50 makes no mention of paying financial liabilities in order to leave the EU. Once the post-referendum conversation turned immediately to the 'divorce bill', the May government's big mistake from the off was bickering about its size. A better opening strategy would run not 'How much?' but 'What divorce bill?'

First of all, we're not talking about a marriage, but a membership. The dissolution of a marriage can be fraught, and entails a division of assets often unfairly. The cancellation of a membership is more straightforward. You no longer enjoy the benefits of the association; you no longer have to obey the rules of the organisation or pay its dues.

Fiscally, that is straightforward: the UK obviously continues to pay its EU contributions while still a member. Should a further transition period involve UK participation in the single market and customs union beyond the spring of 2018, the UK should clearly pay its dues for such a de facto membership. It is also sensible and just for the UK to assume the pension obligations of its own former EU employees — and only 4 per cent of EU staff are UK nationals.

Beyond that, the 'divorce bill' is baloney. The very fact that the amounts under discussion have been bouncing around from €20 billion to €100 billion exposes the arbitrary, snatched-from-the-air character of this apocryphal 'bill'

The UK should feel under no obligation to finance a chunk of EU pension obligations beyond those of its own nationals. Further, this notion that the UK has made 'commitments' to a host of projects it is now compelled to finance to their completion — until at least 2023 — is rubbish. If you quit membership of a tennis club that's voted to build a new court, you don't keep getting bills for a court you'll never play on.

Theresa May has already made a concession too far by guaranteeing that none of the other 27 countries in the EU will be so much as 10p out of pocket by the end of the financial period ending in 2020. If anything, such generosity only whets the EU appetite for more. Anyone who's bought a scarf in a Middle Eastern souk knows that you begin with a lowball bid.

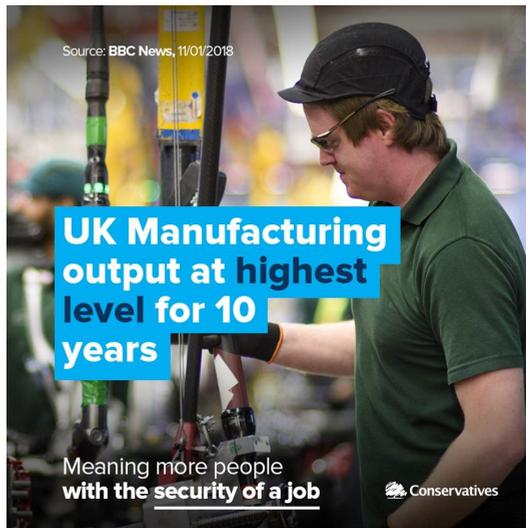
And EU negotiators are fearsomely motivated to squeeze the UK, which currently supplies 15 per cent of the EU budget, for every sou they can get.

Since the referendum, the incessant EU focus on how much money the bloc can bully out of Britain has made for an ugly spectacle of greed and desperation. European leaders are making up the rules on the hoof, to the UK's dramatic disadvantage. In so doing, they make a mockery of the morass of niggling treaties, laws and regulations in which the membership is strangling.

A Norway option might be on the table; at least that way the EU could get its mitts on British money. But if the UK truly leave-leaves, I'm doubtful the EU has the slightest intention of delivering a trade deal any more generous than it has with the US or China. While the government may be emptying the piggy banks on to the bedspread in order to amass a ransom or a bribe, in the end the demand will in all likelihood revert to a 'bill'.

As May is apt to get little in return should the PM already have conceded that the UK 'owes' the EU 'X' billion euros — regardless of what uncompromisingly hostile terms of departure we're offered — she'll still send the cheque.

*(This article has been slightly condensed due to space limitations)*



**Just a thought:** Britain is incapable of managing Brexit and calamity will follow. The UK government has failed to prepare for any of the necessary compromises  
*Martin Wolff FT 14 July 2017*

## THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'HOW THE MIGHTY FALL.....'

Hello everyone,

If you travel about 35 miles north west from your constituency you will find one of the best examples of a carillon of bells in a tower and museum at Loughborough. it is truly worth hearing and I had the pleasure of hearing this when I was very young. I have never forgotten it.....

Add the letter i and something else has occurred which will never be forgotten! Who could have imagined that the provider of all sorts of services to our Governments past and present could have failed so spectacularly? Who could imagine (in business) handing out huge contracts to a Company which had just issued three successive profit warnings? Who could imagine (again in business) not being able to spot the poor Management of one of its biggest suppliers? Well it appears that no one who is responsible for spending our money was able to spot the signs.....How can this be?

The Westminster bubble is to blame. The politicians of all parties do not have the plain common sense and ability to "smell a rat" which most of us in business would have recognised. And what a rat! Surely when the dust has settled somehow we can stop the future pay of £680,000 being paid to the last CEO of this failed operation. But I suspect that will not happen. It will be "contractual" I hear them and their lawyers say. Why then were these contracts signed with no clause of redress following failure?

Hey ho - this happens and there's nothing that we the common people can do to stop this. I have another question.....

Should it not be possible to cover these forms of expenditure and services in-house like we used to do. I remember a time when old people were cared for in their later life in very pleasant and very tastefully appointed homes run by the local authorities. these were assets owned by the local authority and were proud beacons of the NHS at the time when old persons needed care. Look also what's happened to prisons in the private domain. They are unsafe, not fit for purpose and drugs havens.



What is going on ? I could also mention the sale of the Council House assets but maybe I'll keep that for another rant. We are told that we live in prosperous times but there are more families living in near or actual poverty than at any other time since the seventies.

Another rant for the future. We need to take a sharp look at where our money goes and it should not be to 'fat cats' and shareholders

Never mind, we've just exchanged over £40 million for a three week look at an ancient tapestry which shows our defeat a millennium ago..... you could visit it as many times as you like via Ryanair for £19.99 !!!! (And there is already a full-size replica in the Museum of Reading).

And of course - America is shutting down.....again.

Goodbye for now

**MOG**

MOG 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.

LABOUR'S SHADOW CHANCELLOR  
JOHN McDONNELL:

**"It would be cost free because it pays for itself."**



**LABOUR'S PLANS WOULD ADD**

**£350 BILLION**

**TO THE NATIONAL DEBT**

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

You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net)

All emails will be acknowledged.

## The Association of Conservative Clubs



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### 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.

A copy of the last few magazines is also available on our website at

[www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)

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](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk) or telephone 01536 200255.

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