

POLITICAL LIFE

ISSUE 46

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

**Apr—May
2018**

www.cenca.co.uk

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

ST. GEORGE'S DAY DINNER

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

**Guest Speaker:
Robert Courts, Member
of Parliament for
Witney & West Oxfordshire**



**Tom Pursglove,
Member of Parliament
for Corby & East Northants
will also be in attendance
Tickets £25 pp.**

PLEASE TELEPHONE 01536 200255 TO BOOK AND SELECT MENU

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Ollr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Mar 2018

The last few weeks have been difficult for us politically and personally, and emotions have been running high.

The Best Value Inspection report into the running of Northamptonshire County Council makes for difficult reading. The recommendations are stark. The inspector has recommended that Commissioners are brought in to take over the running of all areas of Council except planning, and that the County Council should be abolished and two new Unitary Authorities established.

That means the abolition of all the District and Borough Councils too!

If the inspector's recommendations are carried out, which is likely, that will mean a North Northamptonshire Unitary Authority being set up in our area. It will cover the area of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and East Northants.

Town Councils will become more important, as they take on more responsibilities and control of larger budgets. New Town Councils will have to be formed in Wellingborough, Corby and Kettering.



The District and Borough elections of 2019 will not now take place, current Councillors terms will be extended by a year. The elections for the new Unitary Authority will take place in 2020.

Now is the time for us to come together and be proactive about shaping the future Unitary and Town Councils. There are many questions to be answered, from the

number of Councillors, to area Committees, to Committee or Cabinet structure, who will be appointed to the Shadow Authority, and so on.

I know it is difficult, but we now need to stop thinking in terms of East Northants, Corby, Wellingborough and Kettering. We must start thinking about ourselves in terms of the whole of the new North Northamptonshire area.

If we sit back and do nothing, a new structure of local government will be imposed on us from Whitehall. Let's work together to get the best for our residents and our area.

Sincerely

Helen

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A COUNCILLOR ?

Dissolving the various district and borough councils and creating the new Unitary Authority is going to make for an interesting mix of representatives on the new body, particular the one covering our area. It will be important that we are fully represented and we will still need volunteers to stand as councillors.

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 and you can help local people with their problems.

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.

There is an approvals process and all potential candidates meet our selection panel.

TOM PURSGLOVE MP

*Member of Parliament
for Corby & East
Northamptonshire*



CONTACT TOM

Write to me:

Tom Pursglove MP
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London, SW1A 0AA

t: 020 7219 8043

e: pursglovet@parliament.uk

f: [fb.com/TomPursgloveMP](https://www.facebook.com/TomPursgloveMP)

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

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

Mar 2018

Later this year, on the 22nd April, I will be running the London Marathon for the first time. This has been something that I have thought about doing for a while and, despite the nerves and the sore feet from the training, I am really looking forward to the challenge - *he says now!*

The London Marathon is like no other - it is essentially a very British celebration and raises millions of pounds each and every year for good causes across the country. I will be running in aid of two fantastic local charities - Corby Nightlight and Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal - which do so much for people in our area.

I have seen the work that Corby Nightlight does first hand, as well as raised their important efforts to support homeless people in our community in the House of Commons and with Ministers, and I am currently actively supporting their bid to secure new, fit-for-purpose premises, in which to operate, and I hope that the money I raise will help with this important work. Crazy Hats Breast Cancer Appeal is also a charity that I have long supported, and which supports all aspects of breast cancer care, here in Northamptonshire. Crazy Hats was founded in 2001 by the remarkable Glennis Hooper, and has since raised over £2 million for breast cancer care, and given £900,000 to Kettering General Hospital, and I am so pleased to be able to play my part in supporting their work once again. I can't think of anyone more inspirational than Glennis and the thought of letting her and the charity down will help to focus the mind in the latter stages on the day - I'll have to keep going!

One of the lesser-known things about being a Member of Parliament is that you are granted



automatic entry into the London Marathon by the organisers, without having to be drawn in the ballot - something which can take years! This is all organised with the help of the London Marathon team and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Running, of which I recently became the Chairman. The Running APPG is a cross-party group to encourage running as a sport, and to inspire more people to take it up across the country, and the Marathon is unsurprisingly one of the biggest events in the calendar. This year, there have been a record number of MPs sign up to run the London Marathon - the count currently stands at 21, including me, and fingers crossed everyone will make it to the start line without injury!

It has been a bit of a challenge to fit marathon training around my parliamentary commitments - often squeezing in a quick run either early in the morning, or late at night - but with a practice half marathon coming up this weekend, my training feels like it is going according to plan. It would be great to hear from any of my constituents who are also running the London Marathon, and to hear how your training is going, and to everyone taking part in our area, "good luck"!

Tom

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



CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

www.conservativepolicyforum.com

Councillor Helen Howell is Chairman of this group and a meeting was held on 20th February 2018 at which 8 people attended. The analysis, which has been sent to CCHQ, is reproduced below:

Q1. Whose responsibility should training be: the citizen, schools and universities, the employer, the state, or all of them?

A2. **Training** should start in schools but with more emphasis placed on desirable business skills and specialist career advice. The military model was considered to be a good one as it gave opportunities to individuals in return for service, which as a model is mutually beneficial. A similar model for businesses could involve companies sponsoring degrees in return for learners making a time commitment to the sponsor with repayment of fees should they leave. The government could encourage sponsorship from specific sectors that have a shortage of skills with incentive such as tax breaks. Universities and colleges should condense their courses and offer on the job training such as sandwich years. There should be a smart recruitment process to encourage students to remain in the sector with a paid trial period prior to commencement of the sponsorship over the summer period. There should be more involvement with the schools by employers from the start.

Q2. How might a Conservative Government seek to boost productivity across the UK?

A2. **Productivity** can be boosted with further improvements to the

country's infrastructure, road, rail etc to improve access to materials, buyers, sellers and employment. There needs to be the right pay for the right job and employers need to encourage employees with job opportunities, responsibilities, training opportunities and motivation by investing in people. This in turn will attract people to those sectors; the government can encourage sectors where we need skills with tax breaks for investing in those people through training or getting involved with sponsorship.

Q3. In what ways could the UK build on its world-class reputation for training and expand opportunities for lifelong vocational education and training?

A3. We definitely need a **sector led bottom up approach** to a national skills programme. Training needs analysis of individual sectors can be carried out by a body such as The Sector Skills Council - where there is one specific specialised body representing each sector. Importantly these Sector Skills Councils should represent the business within their sector, rather than simply be commercial membership organisations that need to sell to their members to survive.

Q4. In what ways does training need to catch up with the changing skill requirements of modern technology? Are there any new and innovative models of training in your area that could be used elsewhere?

A4. There should be targeted teacher training with **more focussed teacher training days led by experts**, and training days should be held during school holiday time NOT during school term time. There should be more new technology used in the classroom and students should be shown new technology as

it is introduced. There should be a Training Board with courses for teachers to attend and upskill themselves in new technology. Again we need to engage with the Sector Skills Councils to gain advice. Educators need to look at other forms of training such as e-learning to form a blended learning solution. We need the right training with the right method. Investment in new technology for schools is vital. We need to engage with employers to get involved and advise schools.

Q5. How should a Conservative Government deal with possible widening income gaps arising from increased automation?

A5: **An analysis for future needs in training** should be conducted to enable us to be ready for the future. Opportunities for the workforce to re-train for alternative positions within the sector or new skills should be encouraged. Re-training / further training should be offered as part of all redundancy packages. To encourage training and advancement we should reduce money for nothing.

Q6. What policies should a Conservative Government adopt to balance the need for improved training and productivity in the UK with any desire to reduce our reliance on skilled technical expertise from abroad? How might these be paid for?

A6. There needs to be tax breaks for training to keep it in house, providing opportunities in this country, improve our trainers and training opportunities. Invest in 'train the trainers' in schools, colleges, universities and the business sector. **We need to import knowledge not people.** We are already paying for training in this country, we need to ensure the funding is directed in the right way.

This was our first CPF meeting since before the last election and everyone attending said that it was a really good event and they are looking forward to the next. We plan to alternate the meetings between the Raunds and the Corby Conservative Clubs.

ALL HAIL THE COBFATHER



**FOR THE FEW—NOT
THE MANY**

Daily Mail 4 Feb 2018

Jeremy Corbyn has been branded a hypocrite after it emerged he goes to work in a chauffeur-driven gas guzzling diesel car - despite proclaiming himself an environmentalist.

The Labour leader takes the seven-seater people carrier to work in Parliament even though it is just a short tube journey away from his Islington home.

The revelation comes after his own Labour-run council last week called for diesel cars to be banned because they pump out deadly toxins.

And it has been claimed the Labour leader left the Ford Galaxy waiting on a double yellow line outside his north London home for 40 minutes on Tuesday before making the six-mile journey to Westminster.

Mr Corbyn eventually left home just after 9.32am, but headed off towards the shops before coming back to the car five minutes later, it was reported.

Mr Corbyn was offered a chauffeur-driven car by the Government Car Service when he became Leader of the Opposition in 2015.

But he is not obliged to use it and ministers have turned down using their cars previously.

Former Tory MP Andrew Percy criticised the move at the time, saying: 'Jeremy Corbyn's supporters on Twitter are trolling people about privilege but at the first sniff of a perk, Jeremy Corbyn succumbs to a taxpayer-funded car. He should do what the rest of us do - get a standard rail ticket or walk.'

Tory MP Andrew Bridgen last night accused the Labour leader of 'breathtaking hypocrisy'.

He told The Sunday Express: 'He's like one of the old Soviet leaders, riding around in his Zil while the rest of his comrades are on bicycles,' he said.

'Once again it's a case of do as I say, not as I do. It's clear Mr Corbyn is one of the few not the many whom he lectures.'

Last week Islington Borough Council and the neighbouring Labour-run authority Hackney, proposed a ban on diesel cars with drivers flouting the air pollution crackdown facing £130 fines.

Mr Corbyn has spoken out against polluting diesel cars which he warns are creating air pollution which is killing children.

The DVLA database reveals Mr Corbyn's mode of transport emits a hefty 189g of carbon dioxide, putting it in the fourth highest vehicle tax band.

If you crave the job security of Venezuela, and the living standards of North Korea then vote for Jeremy Corbyn (Russian codename 'COB')

'A Red Brexit? Would it really be that much worse?' they say to themselves, hopefully.

Yes. It would. And if Jeremy Corbyn ever gets his way, it will.

Corbyn does not look to Berlin or Brussels for inspiration, he looks to Moscow and Caracas. And he sees a Red Brexit as the golden opportunity for letting his principles rip.

Wholesale renationalisation. Vast state aid subsidies. Penal rates of business taxation. 'Progressive' isolationism and a jungle of fresh environmental, workplace and media regulation.

Corbyn is not going to let Angela Merkel or Emmanuel Macron or any of the EU's other free-market disciples stand in the way of this neo-Marxist utopia.

Sir Robin Wales, who led Newham Council in east London for 23 years, will no longer stand in May's local government elections. He will be replaced as a candidate by councillor Rokhsana Fiaz, who is backed by Momentum. She voted for Mr Corbyn twice in the leadership elections.

The move will strengthen fears of a hard-Left purge of Labour moderates, with the influence of Momentum increasing in recent months.

Sir Robin recently criticised Mr Corbyn's leadership, saying the party should be ahead of the Conservatives in the polls.

It is incredible that a Seventies Marxist throwback, who sides instinctively with Britain's enemies, and his IRA stooge Shadow Chancellor, might be within a whisker of taking power.

And come on - thousands of gormless, well-off, middle-class, middle-aged professionals standing in a field at Glastonbury, chanting 'Oooh, Jeremy Corbyn'. You couldn't make it up.

RAY JACKSON - MOMENTUM

Mar 2018

Are we as ready as Labour for the next General Election?

Even the greatest optimist amongst us – probably me – would have to admit the next election is unlikely if declared today to result in a Conservative victory. The Brexit negotiations will result in a more than competent bit of work, but there are unlikely to be any really outstanding successes to enlighten the public imagination: nothing we will be able to claim will benefit the country significantly. The electorate will if we are lucky ‘gently moan’.

We do seem to be starting to address some other important issues which have perhaps been blocked by the Brexit work. It’s a good idea to reduce bureaucracy in the teaching profession. We must do it and then point out to teachers examples where they have definitely been able to swap paperwork for leisure time. The Defence Debate is coming up and is likely to be very controversial. Any further cuts would surely threaten the existence of the training battalions, postpone updates of equipment for the RAF and reduce the number of Royal Marines. In the Brexit negotiations we can emphasise how we intend to support NATO even more strongly and help under-paying countries to meet their financial promises and sketch out how NATO could look in five year’s time. We ought as Corby people always do stress ‘Deeds not Words’. All this positive news needs to be put before our supporters until they feel really confident we mean it.

Of course the real challenge to us is the Labour Party extremists led by ‘Momentum’ and people like Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonald. They seem to control the social media in ways we who probably regard it as an attempt to encroach on our privacy

would never want to. Do you remember what we said when we learned Louise Bagshawe had 7000 Facebook followers. But we were wrong. Telex and email are yesterday. There is an argument that the Labour Left will drift so far to the Left, it will become unelectable. Faint chance! Would we in such a position not learn quickly when to draw in? So will they.

Then there is the issue of ‘Populism’. ‘Make America Great’ means solving many socio-political problems which almost anyone can see are long standing. Free housing to all citizens, transport at nominal fares, free health and free education, re-nationalisation of half a dozen key industries are all matters young students should be talking about, but will they consider paying for climate change? Statements on the social media which have an aura of promise about them quickly become to be seen as party policy although they have a snowball’s chance in hell of becoming law.

At present there a few people who in the eyes of the young can be trusted. Listen to the howling on ‘Any Questions’ when a senior politician i tries to explain the history of trying to deal with an issue. People no longer trust Politicians, Bankers, University Teachers, Military Leaders, Civil Servants and Business People. Politicians are going through a difficult time because many of them are fairly new to the trade. Some, as we well know, of course are keen and are learning fast but many like the new intake of SNP members have narrower interests than we would like. (in one case, so narrow



Ray Jackson

Continued>>>>

she has already resigned?). So silly nonsense can be peddled and there is no one to challenge it. Don't trouble me with facts.

If this is genuinely the scene facing us as we prepare for an election, it seems we have to quickly accept social media and out-do Momentum. Can we find two or three people who know Facebook, who could build a network and feed positive information about what the Conservatives are doing directly to our younger members – or potential members. There would have to be a couple of editors and salaries would have to be paid. This has been recognised by Central Office who wish us to appoint two salaried Campaign Managers.

I believe we have to do this fairly quickly. I also believe we have a lot of talented people around us who, after this raw scheme has got started would see many other ways of improving this communication problem.

It's their Momentum we want - not the other Momentum.

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

Association Annual Christmas Lunch

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

**FOLLOWING TOM PURSGLOVE'S
SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO KEEP THE
URGENT CARE UNIT OPEN IT WILL SOON BE
NECESSARY TO PHONE BEFORE
ATTENDING.**

**THE TELEPHONE NUMBER WHICH WAS
PUBLISHED IN THE CORBY TRADER IS
NOT YET ACTIVE AND YOU WILL STILL
NEED TO VISIT THE UNIT FIRST**

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.

Rupert Matthews

Conservative MEP for the East Midlands



I have been your MEP since June 2017, when Andrew Lewer became a Member of Parliament, meaning that I was then the next person on the list to take their seat at the European Parliament.



Since joining, I have been working hard to firstly understand the complexities of the Parliament and its workings, but more importantly to ensure that I am properly representing constituents across the East Midlands.

I have been leading on several campaigns which cover Brexit, trade and culture.

I launched Projekt Hansa in January, which is a group of MEPs from across Northern Europe, looking at our trade, tourism and cultural links and seeing how best we can all work together. This will be vital following Brexit and the group is based on the old Hansiatic League. You can follow Projekt Hansa on; www.projekthansa.org or on twitter @HansaProjekt

My War Memorials campaign will be launching in May. I am encouraging local communities across the East Midlands to apply for funding to repair their memorials.

This is especially important this year, as it is the centenary of World War One and November also marks the end of the funding for such repairs.

Finally, I have been working with local food producers across the East Midlands to discuss protected foods once we leave the EU. I shall be working with the Government to ensure that those foods that have protected status will continue to do so after Brexit, as well as championing the producers of quality foods and drinks across the East Midlands. We have many fantastic producers here in the region.

If you would like to get involved with any of my campaigns, or just want to get in touch, I can be contacted at the following. I also send out a monthly newsletter, which you can sign up for through my website:

www.rupertmatthews.org.uk
Rupert.matthews@europarl.europa.eu
Twitter: @RMatthewsMEP

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rupert'.

BREXIT MOVES FORWARD

'David Davis and Michel Barnier today (19/3/2018) shook hands and declared they have made a 'decisive' step in sealing a Brexit transition deal. The EU chief

negotiator and Mr Davis announced the dramatic breakthrough at a press conference in Brussels. Under the terms, the transition period will end in December 2020, while the UK has also given ground on free

movement rights and fishing quota rules. However, Britain will be free to negotiate and sign trade agreements after the formal exit date next March. Gibraltar was also explicitly included in the scope of the deal.'

A READER WRITES

Feb 2018

Roy & myself went to Raunds Conservative Club last night for the first C.P.F for years, the only representatives from Corby We couldn't not go as we have been beating the drum for so long to get C.P.F's again. In total 8 including Chair attended and it was very informative with each and all from differing areas of life able to put forward our views on issues raised by Central Office.

Important issues were discussed and questions were answered in straightforward ways, (although most of the questions were somewhat convoluted!). We came up with superb ideas to present to Central Office. It was not just a question/reply session which can sound tedious but we had a lot of laughs as well so it was an interesting 2 hours and a social event.

***Please,please now we have them up and running again can others attend our next ones if possible; what we have to say is important at this time when we need to push our Party forward, otherwise Corbyn will be the next one in at Number 10.

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.

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

HIGHAM FERRERS BY-ELECTION RESULT



The result for East Northants Higham Ferrers Lancaster ward by-election:

Suzanna Austin (Lib Dem) 244

William Cross (UKIP) 22

Harriet Pentland (Conservative) 611

Mark Smith (Labour) 189

Simon Turner (Green) 33

The result for the Northants County Council by-election for Higham Ferrers:

Suzanna Austin (Lib Dem) - 336

Bill Cross (UKIP) - 109

Gary Day (Labour) - 557

Jason Smithers (Conservative) - 1414

Simon Turner (Green) - 81

spoiled papers 6

Our two hard-working candidates and their teams are congratulated on a great result. And sincere thanks too, to all our supporters who turned out to ensure a Conservative victory.

Well done everybody.

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

Tom Purglove MP on the NCC

16 Mar 2018

Yesterday, the Inspector published the findings of his 'best value' inspection of Northamptonshire County Council, which was instigated by the Secretary of State, not least following significant concerns having been raised by the seven Northamptonshire Members of Parliament. As such, I thought it would be helpful to share our joint response here, issued in light of this news:

"We welcome and endorse the Max Caller inspection report on the County Council. It was thorough, hard hitting and sometimes made uncomfortable reading, but it was badly needed and it has come to the right conclusion. The County Council was hit by a perfect storm of poor leadership in a financially challenging environment. Now is not the time to keep scrabbling around. The days of complex two tier local government in the County are at an end. We need to strike whilst the iron is hot for two unitaries as the solution set out by the report. We MPs were quick and direct in calling for this inspection and demanding action. The County Council ultimately ran out of time fuelled by poor management and indecision. It is imperative that we do not make the same mistake again. Time needs to be used wisely. For the sake of our constituents, who rely on local services, the County Council needs to be abolished and a new local government model created in its place."

Moving forward, the issue of local government reform locally will undoubtedly be at the fore and as I have emphasised for some time, I want to see local councillors and the communities they represent, work constructively and innovatively to get the detail of the future model the best it can be for our area.

For some months I have suspected that there will be a move towards local government reform and have raised, including on the floor of the House, a number of key points, that I believe must be carefully considered as part of this process. In particular, we should focus on making the case that the reserves diligently and responsibly accrued by the existing districts and boroughs should be spent to the benefit of the communities where they were generated. Second, that the model should ideally revolve around a committee system rather than a cabinet model - recognising the flaws that have happened under the current model at County Hall, and given it is more inclusive and does not concentrate power in the hands of just a small handful of senior councillors. Finally, that the model enshrines strong area representation; making sure, for example, that wherever possible, Corby people take decisions that directly affect Corby, and likewise in East Northamptonshire.

As I say, these are all points I have been making for some time, having foreseen the potential need for reform, and I will continue to engage proactively with all local councillors - regardless of party - and local people, to make sure we shape the future model of local government for our area, so it best meets local needs, and respects the unique identities of our communities.

EARLY WARNING

There will be a Black Tie event in the Great Hall, Oundle School on 24th 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 Purglove, MP will also be in attendance.

Further details will be notified when arrangements are finalised



Conservative Home - On BREXIT

Daniel Hannah, MEP

Mar 2018 - .

I keep trying to move on from Brexit. Twenty-seven years is more than enough time to spend on any issue, whatever its importance. But, just at the moment that the question should have been definitively settled, everyone else is becoming obsessed with it.

Everything – everything – is seen through the prism of the 2016 referendum. The debates we ought to be having about regulation, tax, agriculture, fisheries, regional policy, public spending and the rest are cribbed, cabined, confined by the parameters of Brexit. The argument about where to draw the line between competitiveness and employment rights is measured solely by the yardstick of divergence from EU standards. The issue of farm subsidies is judged, not on its merits, but by whether scrapping the CAP is advantageous. The unexpected budget surplus has not led to a measured debate about the level of public spending, but to a predictable chorus of “Where’s our £350 million a week, Brexit liars?” Both sides are to blame for the polarisation.

People who couldn’t have told you what the Customs Union was last year now insist that staying in it is the single most important issue in politics.

Continuity Remainers are not simply lamenting the result. They are encouraging the EU to offer bad terms in the hope of triggering a second referendum – often with shocking flagrancy. When Michel Barnier welcomed the clarity of Theresa May’s detailed speech on the ideal exit terms last month, Lord Adonis tweeted as follows: “Dear M. Barnier, it’s increasingly likely that the British people will hold a referendum on Mrs May’s Brexit deal & many of us look forward to Britain playing a leading role in the EU long after 2019.” In other words, if you’re hardline enough, we might just drop the whole idea of Brexit. Alastair Campbell was even more explicit, telling the Irish Taoiseach to “Play hardball, Leo”.

It’s odd to watch Campbell, the spin doctor’s spin doctor, pursuing a policy that he would surely advise any client against. About the worst look in politics is to be seen to be siding against your own country – especially if you are going out of your way to define a negotiation as confrontational when your government wishes it to be friendly. It is unwise to insult 17.4 million people, to call them old and ignorant and bigoted, to wish for their deaths so as to change the demographic balance. It is unwise to be photographed with the people on the other side of the table. It is unwise, above all, to be seen to be hoping for an economic collapse. Remainers have broken every one of these rules, which is why they would struggle to win a second referendum.

But that’s not how it is seen in Brussels. Even now, many Eurocrats believe that, if they make Brexit painful enough, we might drop the whole idea. That, after all, has been their experience with previous referendums in the Netherlands, France, Denmark and Ireland. Their demand that we should accept most of the burdens of membership with no veto rights is not a serious negotiating position. It’s not even a serious opening bid. It’s an attempt to browbeat us into changing our minds.

The trouble is that, as long as a chunk of our politicians and pundits are set on overturning the referendum, and as long as they keep telling Brussels to hang tough, the EU has little incentive to discuss a mutually beneficial outcome. This makes the process of extrication, if not the eventual outcome, more fraught and costly than it need be.

The notion that we might be worn down is an odd one. I know that people tend to believe what they want, and Brussels officials understandably like to listen to Nick Clegg and Tony Blair and all the others who have so far been unremittingly wrong. But if they think we can be bullied into changing our votes, they really don’t understand us at all.

(Daniel Hannah is an MEP for South-East England, and a journalist, author and broadcaster. His most recent book is ‘What Next: How to Get the Best from Brexit’)

Just a thought: “Much overseas aid is a subsidy from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries”. *Peter Bauer*

Summer Garden Party

at Three Mill Bills, 63 Church Street, Nassington

Sunday 3rd June 2018

Full Afternoon Tea from 2 to 4pm

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

Adults £15. Children £5.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE HAS BEEN

CHANGED FROM THAT PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED



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

TOM SUPPORTING LOCAL COMPANIES

In today's (21/3/18) Prime Minister's Questions, I raised the issue of disposable paper coffee cups, millions of which tragically go to landfill worldwide every minute - an issue which has attracted very significant media attention in recent months, and something a considerable number of constituents have contacted me about, raising their concerns and urging government to take action. As such, I was delighted, when I visited Amaray, a Corby based company a few weeks ago, when they told me they had developed a 100% reusable, 100% recyclable, and cost effective, plastic alternative to these paper cups, that are far easier to recycle and can be recycled through standard curb-side recycling schemes, rather than going to landfill. Not only is it very pleasing to see a local business taking the industry lead in finding a solution, but I wanted to help generate greater awareness of their work and the product, and I am also encouraging the parliamentary authorities to commission these cups from Amaray, rather than continuing to use the paper alternative. And, I will certainly ensure that the Prime Minister has one of these cups to use in Number 10.

I really do believe that this is a great product that could do so much to help tackle this global problem, as it is obscene that millions of paper cups go into landfill every minute at present - but to stop it, we need industry, government and consumers to work together. I know that Amaray are looking to go into production and distribution during Q2 and if you would like to learn more about the product, please feel free to give them a call and speak to 'Business Development' on 01536 274800. A big well done to all involved!

Our webpage is at www.cenca.co.uk and contains the latest news about our Party. Our Member of Parliament, Tom Pursglove, has his own website: www.vote Pursglove.co.uk

BERLIN TIME MAY BE COMING (from the Mail on Sunday)

The proposed EU rule change would end the ritual of moving clocks forward by an hour in March and back again in October – which happens all over Europe on the same day.

It is being debated by MEPs after an 'impact assessment' indicated 'the existence of negative effects on human health, agriculture and road traffic safety'.

Although the Government would be able to block the move through the European Council up until the moment of Brexit in March 2019, 'Berlin Time' could theoretically be imposed on the UK during the following transition period if the negotiated terms for that period oblige us to accept Brussels rules with no power to veto.

And even post-transition, it would leave the UK having to decide whether to scrap the biannual clock change anyway – in order to keep the same hour's time difference with the rest of Europe – in effect, Greenwich Mean Time all year round.

Otherwise, for six months each year, London would find itself on the same time zone as Berlin. I.e, Central European Time.

The EU move comes seven years after The Mail on Sunday mounted a successful campaign against an attempt by British MPs to move our clocks forward by an hour. The doomed plan triggered a furious debate about the pros and cons of the change in terms of stress, mental illness, pollution, road accidents and energy consumption.

The new European Parliament resolution says that 'numerous scientific studies... have failed to provide proof of any positive effects of the biannual clock change'.

Research cited in the resolution, tabled by French MEP Karima Delli, claims that in the days after the clocks are changed, elderly people face an increased danger of heart problems, while road accidents increase by up to a third. The academic performance of children, it says, is also affected because 'the human body is made for a steady biorhythm'.

The practice of changing the clocks has already been ditched in some countries, including Iceland, Belarus and Turkey.



Another option being discussed to retain long summer evenings is to move to EU Summertime – GMT plus In February. Ukip MEP Nathan Gill warned: 'If the EU decides to scrap daylight-saving time, it would leave Britain with a major question post-Brexit.'

'If legislation happens during transition, we could be lumbered with whatever the EU decides to pass, despite what our farmers or accident prevention organisations think.'

'There is also the risk that the EU could force Britain to change its time to an hour ahead of GMT to align with the Continent before we Brexit, when this should be a national debate.'

ASSOCIATION DINNER

Friday 19th October

Guest Speaker:

Rt Hon Esther McVey

Member of Parliament for Tatton,
Secretary of State for Work and
Pensions

Further details to follow

So what do you think? Should the whole of Europe from East to West be on the same time line and should BST be abolished? The time was synchronised in this country when the Railways found that the clocks of Cornish and other remote areas did not correspond to London time so the complete country adopted GMT. But would we be happy with having the same time zone as say, Latvia? Write and let us know your opinion.



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



Mar 2018

Setting the annual budget for any public service is a complex and challenging undertaking. With the growing pressures on public services across our country, setting this year's budget has been no exception. Having spoken to people in the county personally and having heard from over a thousand residents as part of our Public Perceptions Survey, I know that people in Northamptonshire are happy to contribute to help create a first-class policing service and a safer county.

An extra £1.00 per month for those in a Band D property will deliver an extra £3.97million for the policing budget, which will allow Northamptonshire Police extra resources for areas such as proactive



intelligence and domestic and sexual abuse investigations. I will also set aside money to tackle rural crime, invest in road safety and prevent crime at its root through early intervention initiatives.

Policing resources have been cut, cut and cut again in recent times but it is vital that

this isn't allowed to continue, for the safety of our people and our communities. I have been heartened by people's attitudes to understanding the value behind policing and being prepared to contribute more to ensure we start to reverse this trend.

I have been extremely vocal in saying that as a county we do not receive a fair funding settlement from central government when you consider the size of our population and our geographical area. In addition to this, we were told late last year that there would be no increase in funding for policing coming from the Home Office. Achieving a fair funding award for Northamptonshire is a battle I will continue to fight to ensure that we support our police force with the resources they need to continue to protect people from harm.

I have spent a great deal of time lobbying central government to recognise the weaknesses in the way policing nationally is funded and how Northamptonshire Police has been historically underfunded which has placed real pressures on the delivery of front line policing. When the settlement was announced last year, I was encouraged that the government seemed to be listening to the concerns that we have been putting to them over the last twelve months about the funding issues we have been facing.

The Government's announcement that there will be more money for counter terrorism and public protection is welcome, however it is somewhat disappointing that police forces across the country were told to expect a flat cash budget.

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

In other words, no more money for frontline policing in Northamptonshire. Whilst I recognise that there is only a finite amount available from central government, I am not completely satisfied with our budget allocation.

However, for the first time, the Government have given PCCs more flexibility to raise funds locally following an increase in the amount they can raise through the council tax precept. In the medium term, if I increase the precept by £1 per month in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and the Force find efficiency savings, I can deliver over a balanced budget. However, after that time, at current demand levels, there is a shortfall of over £2.6m on the Medium Term Financial Plan, but we know the demands and challenges will continue to increase further in future years. This year's budget has been a very challenging undertaking and the decision to increase the precept was not taken easily. I do feel as if PCCs have had their hands forced by the government's decision to allocate a flat cash budget which effectively leaves a funding gap for PCCs to fill.

I am now looking forward to the conclusion of the review which is looking at how policing is funded across the England and Wales. I am 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, and patrol smaller geographical areas. This definitely needs to be reviewed.

This year's budget helps to protect frontline policing and provides extra investment in key areas of our work which will help to protect local communities.

As ever, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at: Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.police.uk

Stephen

Stephen Mold

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 23rd March 2018. The following were elected

President: Mrs Eileen Kemp, JP
Chairman: Cllr Helen Harrison
Treasurer: Cllr Richard Levell
Dep Chairman Political: Cllr Harriet Pentland
Dep Chairman Membership: Ray Boyd
200 Club Chairman: Cllr Annabel de Capell-Brooke
CPF Chairman: Cllr Helen Howell

The previous Treasurer, Peter Atchison was sincerely thanked for his outstanding work for the Association over very many years

EMAILS—NEW LEGISLATION

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

Every email sent out from the Association via MailChimp carries instructions on how to delete a subscriber's name from our list. Just one click will remove a name permanently. This action cannot be undone.

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.

Champagne and Canapés Reception



**Friday 8th June 2018
at Deene Park, Deene,
NN17 3EW
by kind permission of
Mr and Mrs Robert Brudenell**

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

**Attending: Tom Pursglove MP
12 for 12.30 pm until 3 pm**

Raffle ** Tickets - £30 pp or 2 for £50**

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'SO MUCH TO MOAN ABOUT.....'

Hello all fellow Conservatives.

I was so pleased when I heard that the old blue passport was being resurrected to celebrate our exit from the EU. I still have one of mine with its corner cut off in the garage. I like the "Her Majesty's Government requests and requires " etc, etc. It reminds me of when we had influence in the world. Then today I hear that the new passport is to be printed in France. What the heck is all that about? Surely our Government has not lost all senses - or has it?

What is the Foreign Secretary doing inflaming the situation between us and Russia. He really does not know when to keep his mouth well and truly shut does he. I know that two people (and an unfortunate policeman) were attacked by a Russian manufactured nerve agent a few weeks ago, but surely after having the tit for tat expulsions of diplomats this should have been an end to it apart from further actions from Nato and the UN. To think that we can act alone is folly and to think that serious action will be taken against the Russian state is also folly.

Another issue not far from my heart as I am a resident of Northamptonshire: what on earth is happening to the County Council? We all know that it has been reported that funding has been dramatically cut and that Central Government is possibly partly to blame for this but I wonder why our seven

Members have decided to speak out about our County Council. Is the enquiry a warning to other County Councils who are in the same boat - and that's most of them - who are blaming Westminster for lack of funding. Perhaps I am being a little cynical here !!!!!



On a further subject, I have just heard that our illustrious Health secretary is once again to resurrect the prospect of capping the amount one may need to spend on healthcare in old age. I sincerely hope that this is resurrected as it was part of a manifesto promise recently. Mr Cameron and his henchman took the decision to renege on this promise and this was wrong. I warn Mr Hunt that to once again fail to include this quickly and take it to its rightful conclusion will result in lost votes and the prospect of Mr Corbyn being our next PM.

Then to cap it all I've just heard from the revenue that in tax year 2016/17 I paid £1512 to service the national Debt. I did not ask to go into debt.....

Cheerio 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.

There is now a furious backlash over the decision to make post-Brexit blue passports overseas. The UK firm set to lose the £490million contract (De La Rue) threatened to take the Government to court unless it changes its mind. MPs from across Parliament called on the Prime Minister and Home

Secretary to intervene, after it was revealed a Franco-Dutch firm will be handed the lucrative deal from October 2019.

And websites and phone-ins were deluged with protests demanding that Amber Rudd 'put the interests of our country first'.

But leaving the EU won't mean that we suddenly stop doing business with them. De La Rue print passports for many other EU countries and that won't stop. We would do better to focus on how open Britain is going to be as a result of leaving the EU; we must move on.

MOMENTUM: WHAT NEW LABOUR IS ALL ABOUT

LABOUR'S SHADOW CHANCELLOR
JOHN McDONNELL:



**"I WANT TO BE IN A SITUATION
WHERE NO TORY MP CAN
TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN THE
COUNTRY OR SHOW THEIR
FACE ANYWHERE WITHOUT
BEING CHALLENGED BY
DIRECT ACTION"**

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

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

The Association of Conservative Clubs



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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

Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members.

Non-members who would like to receive our magazine regularly will need to join the Association. Please contact Ann at our office by email at office@cenca.co.uk or telephone 01536 200255.

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