

# POLITICAL LIFE

**ISSUE 50**

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Stay 'In Touch' with the

**Corby & E Northants Conservative Association**

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Corby & East Northants Conservative Association

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Guest Speaker:

**Nadine Dorries**

Member of Parliament for Mid Bedfordshire

Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby & E Northants will also be in attendance

**Friday 14th December**

in the Churchill Suite  
at Corby Conservative Club,  
Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ  
12 for 12.30pm



Tickets £20.50 pp



**THE SEASON'S  
GREETINGS TO ALL  
OUR MEMBERS  
AND FRIENDS**

**OUR CHAIRMAN, HELEN HARRISON, IS AWAY ON BUSINESS SO FOR THIS ISSUE THE PARTY CHAIRMAN HAS TAKEN OVER THIS PAGE**



**We've made a decisive step forward towards Brexit.**

A draft deal that delivers on the referendum and will see us take back control of our money, laws and borders.

It will end freedom of movement while protecting jobs, security and our precious Union. And it means no hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland. Guaranteed in a way which respects the constitutional and economic integrity of the UK.

This has been a hard-fought breakthrough and, yes, there has been compromise on both sides.

The agreement reached is the best which can be negotiated and is in the national interest. Now the choice is clear.

**We leave the EU with this deal which delivers on the vote of the referendum.**

This has been a hard-fought breakthrough and, yes, there has been compromise on both sides. The agreement reached is the best which can be negotiated and is in the national interest.

Now the choice is clear.

**We leave the EU with this deal which delivers on the vote of the referendum. This deal which brings back control of our money, laws and borders. This deal which ends free movement, while protecting jobs, security and our union. Or leave with no deal. Or risk getting no Brexit at all.**

This deal will allow us to put the divisions of the referendum behind us, honour the referendum result and build a country that truly works for everyone.

Yours,

***Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP***  
Conservative Party Chairman

**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](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk)

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

# TOM PURSGLOVE

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

Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party for Youth



Nov 2018

Last month, I took advantage of the 'Conference Recess' here in Parliament - when the House of Commons was not sitting - to do even more local visits and in particular, go out and meet some of my youngest constituents. As a Member of Parliament I am often asked to go and visit local schools and colleges, and recently this has included going to see the debating society at Prince William School, having a Q&A with Year 5 and 6 pupils at Brigstock Latham's CE Primary School, having a tour of Laxton Junior School, and going to see the students at both Lodge Park Academy and Rockingham Primary School, to name just a few!

It has been fantastic to go into these schools and meet some of my young constituents. I have discussed all manner of topics with them, from the workings of Parliament, to how I decided to become an MP, to some rather serious policy questions, and it is brilliant to see young people with a keen interest in politics. It has also been great to see that in several schools I visited recently, the children

have been learning about democracy, and how government works, and this has obviously sparked off some interest amongst them - judging by the amount of rather tricky questions which were posed to me during these sessions!

When I visited Prince William School in Oundle, I was particularly delighted to be able to unveil a plaque to commemorate the official opening of their new Francis Crick Science Building. It was amazing to have a quick tour of the brand new, state of the art, classrooms which will help to boost the science lessons the school is able to provide - all with the aim of bringing on the next generation of leading scientists!

I am always very keen to visit local schools, to let young people know, in a non-partisan way, more about Parliament and what happens in Westminster, so if there is anyone out

Continued>>>>

Tom Pursglove— continued>>>

there who would be interested in hosting me for a visit, please do get in touch. I really do enjoy these visits, as it was when my own MP came to visit my comprehensive school in Wellingborough, that I really became inspired to get involved and stand for elected office myself, and it undoubtedly set me on the path which I am on now. Equally, if there are local schools who

are interested in coming to Westminster for a tour and for a session in the Education Centre here in Parliament, they are more than welcome to do so - I am always very happy to help get this organised. After all, these young people are the future of our country, our future community representatives, and our future leaders!

Tom

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



In October I was kindly invited by **Rupert Matthews MEP** to visit the European Parliament and the ECR Group in Brussels, at this important point in the negotiations. Fascinating and great to discuss **#Brexit** with MEPs. I have to say it only reconfirmed my vote to leave back in 2016! - **Tom Pursglove, MP**



At the end of October I again visited the Corby Job Centre, and met specifically with the Investigations Team, who look at possible and reported cases of benefit fraud, and talked me through an example case.

This hard-working team save the public purse thousands of pounds each year with their work, and it was very helpful to gain a much better understanding of the work they do.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> January 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.

# Go ahead, unelected 'President' Juncker, make our day

*Leaving the EU without a deal will leave the UK significantly better off than it is today, provided that a sensible free trade approach is adopted*

Tim Martin, Chairman of Wetherspoons, on the BREXIT negotiations

**The long national debate over the euro, about 20 years ago, highlighted a bitter divide as to the future of democracy in the UK.**

The majority of political leaders, the CBI, the Financial Times, Goldman Sachs and most academics and economists were adamant that the UK should join, even though the euro's predecessor, the exchange rate mechanism (ERM), had crashed, causing a deep recession in the UK and Europe.

In spite of dire warnings at the time that the UK economy would 'fall off a cliff', if we didn't join, and that multinational companies would leave our shores, the euro was rejected by the public, who accepted the Eurosceptic argument that a functioning currency needs a government to gather taxes and to redistribute the proceeds – and no government existed in the eurozone which was capable of performing this function. The Eurosceptics were right – it is universally accepted, today, that the adoption of the euro would have been a disaster for Britain, as it has been for much of southern Europe.

Indeed, since the euro was created, the UK has substantially outperformed the eurozone.

**Referendum** In the subsequent referendum debate in 2016, the warnings about dire consequences for the economy, if we voted to leave the EU, echoed those from the era of the euro debate.

The pro-Remain argument from the government, the CBI, the

Treasury and others was that the stock market would collapse, mortgage rates would rise steeply and there would be a rise in unemployment of about half a million in the IMMEDIATE aftermath of a Leave vote, followed by an annual reduction in household income of £4,300. Since the referendum, the economy has confounded the negative view.

Employment has actually increased by about 450,000, mortgage rates have stayed at a record low, household incomes and the stock market are within a whisker of an all-time high and countries like the USA, Australia, India and New Zealand are keen to do trade deals with the UK.

..but a new raft of economic warnings is reaching a crescendo, as Wetherspoon News goes to press. Having made a concerted attempt, following the referendum, to convince the public that food prices would inevitably rise in the aftermath of a 'no-deal' Brexit, the pro-Chequers and pro-Customs Union cohort now warns of food and drug shortages, gridlock at our ports and our motorway system becoming a lorry park.

**Dramatic** For example, a dramatic article (25 July) by Oliver Shah, business editor of the Sunday Times, warned that a supermarket chain was asking "suppliers to plan for the worst", in case the UK "crashes out of the EU with no deal, prompting some to consider stockpiling goods such as tea and coffee". Shah reinforced the warnings by saying: "We are now at a point of

maximum big-business pessimism about Britain's shambolic withdrawal from the EU."

Shah obviously forgot to look at the FTSE 100 index which clearly showed that the stock market was more or less at an all-time peak, plainly contradicting his absurd pessimism.

Meanwhile, the front page of the main section of the same paper had a headline which stated 'Army on Standby for Brexit Emergency'.

In that article, Tim Shipman, the political editor, said that supermarkets were "warning their suppliers to stockpile supplies, such as tea and coffee" and that "the NHS would go on a year-round winter crisis footing, with drugs bought from outside the EU and stockpiled in hospitals".

**Blockages** Shipman reported that "the military would be called in, if blockages at ports led to shortages of food, fuel and medicines".

Shipman also quoted former home secretary and avid Remainer Amber Rudd who "compared Brexiteers to climate change deniers". Short of sending a Dunkirk-style armada to Calais for emergency supplies, the newspaper could not have been more alarmist.

However, the latest manifestation of Project Fear, in the Sunday Times and elsewhere, on closer inspection, amounts only to a threat of temporary disruption. It cannot seriously be argued that leaving the EU will give rise to permanent supply problems as a result of congestion at our borders.

Over half of our imports are from outside the EU and those, it is acknowledged, will be unaffected by any new trading arrangements.

Other countries which trade with the EU, like the USA, China and Australia, do not have gridlocked ports as a result of being outside the bloc – and we won't either, although temporary disruption is always possible.

In weighing up this sort of debate, the public is more adept than the elite realises at stepping back and ignoring the hysteria, in order to make a sober assessment of the facts.

The main point, to which the Oxbridge Orthodoxy who are so powerful in business, politics and the media, seems oblivious, is that the UK will be significantly better off than it is today by leaving the EU without a deal, provided that a sensible 'free trade' approach is adopted.

The EU is actually a protectionist system which charges taxes, also known as 'tariffs', on wine, coffee, oranges, rice and over 12,000 other products which are imported from outside the EU.

These invisible tariffs are, today, paid by shoppers, collected by the UK government and sent to Brussels.

By leaving the EU on 29 March next year without a deal, the UK can take the free trade route and slash these tariffs, reducing shop prices and boosting living standards.

Dynamic countries, like Singapore, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Israel, Australia and New Zealand, have already done so – and their economies have thrived.

**Politicians** A lot of confusion has arisen since many politicians, economists and journalists do not understand World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules, which apply in the absence of a 'deal' with the EU.

By eliminating tariffs on non-EU imports post Brexit, WTO rules state that there can be no tariffs, either, on EU imports – discrimination is not allowed.

Hey presto... so-called 'no deal' really means FREE TRADE and cheaper food, children's clothes and shoes!

The gloomy doomsters at the CBI, the FT and in parliament steer clear of the issue of tariff reduction, which is fatal to their 'deal at any price' case.

The doomsters argue that, even if the UK ends tariffs on imports, the EU will, even so, charge tariffs on our exports to the continent.

These fears are unjustified. An experienced UK negotiator's response to the EU would be: "Go ahead, unelected 'President' Juncker, make our day... charge tariffs to us – and sales of German cars, French wine and a myriad other EU imports will drop to almost zero.

"Not because the government says so, but because British consumers won't buy your stuff.

And remember, Juncker, everything the EU sells can be bought from the UK or the 93% of the world not in the EU."

Another benefit of free trade is that the UK will be better off by £39 billion – that's £600 for every man, woman and child in the UK.

**Desperation** This gigantic sum has been foolishly offered to the EU by our prime minister, in her desperation for a 'deal' which the country doesn't need.

By avoiding a 'deal', the UK can also regain control of its historic fishing grounds, where 60% of fish today are landed by EU boats, providing an enormous boost to coastal communities.

This combination of lower shop and pub prices, the avoidance of a payment to Brussels and the resumption of control of fishing grounds can only have an IMMEDIATE and positive effect on the economy.

So, come on, politicians, take a wise-up pill. We don't want your wretched Chequers deal, a so-called 'transition period' or to pay ransom money to Juncker and his cronies.

The initiatives we suggest don't need the approval of any third party. The only thing you have to fear is fear itself.

**Tim Martin**, Chairman

(reproduced from the Wetherspoon News (Autumn edition)

## SHOULD THERE BE A 2nd REFEREDUM? (ie "A LOSER'S VOTE")

**Just a thought:** Of the 48 referenda on the EU, "not once has there been a re-run when the result was in favour of integration," But when they've gone against, Brussels has "bulldozed its policies" - e.g. Ireland, France, Denmark, Netherlands.

"A 2nd referendum would be a disaster of the first order for democracy."

Lord Lamont.

# A MEMBER WRITES TO US

Once again, for weeks before and after 5<sup>th</sup> November we are again tormenting animals with the enormous sounds and flashing lights. Injuries and nuisance would also be cut if only licensed organised events could use fireworks.

Will she, won't she [Theresa May] still be Prime Minister, this has become every day a 'Ground Hog Day'. At the time of writing this piece Mrs May has survived again as leader of Conservatives. I suppose we should be grateful that we are not having a leadership challenge at this time or worse - a general election, but life is so very uncertain for all just now. We are all fed up with Brexit matters that should have in my personal opinion, if Mrs May had been tougher with the E.U., been sorted 12 months ago. The vote by the people was to leave the E.U. and should be honoured otherwise how can we call Britain a democratic country? I use the term Britain not United Kingdom as we are not united on Brexit. I believe our M.P.'S should be working FOR the people not their own personal wants or their business interests.

Now on a purely local issue we are all aware that criminal gangs/individuals are working in our towns and villages so I was rather angry that Northampton University are taking from our streets a sergeant and 5 constables, yes they are paying for them, but so are we. Not for these 6 individuals but a police force that we no longer see unless in cars, sometimes even passing criminal activities on their way!

M.P.'s state our police forces are so stretched because of cuts they are now irrelevant. Gosh I have seen this for the last 3-4 years, NO surprise.

As a country we are taxed so much higher than most of Europe yet we get less and less having suffered austerity for 10 years. WHY? Our young are financially prevented from buying a home of their own, because of 'buy to let' rampant purchasing of properties by those who can afford to buy them then reap enormous rental incomes from those properties.

All the house building that is deemed to be needed is not for our young people but 'White Flight' from London and other large cities simply because there are too many people there, and let's be honest about it the majority of these houses are 3 or 4 bedrooled homes; those who deny it please look carefully at those new estates going up around you.

Announced Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October  
Even more homes to be built making U.K., especially in Northamptonshire just, a 'concrete jungle' with many people coming, my statement above is advancing.

## Illegals on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct found at Dover

On this date Hubby went to France and on his return at Dover a van with 10 Romanian illegals were found, no papers, no English language, they were detained but where will they be sent to have a much more secure life financially, instead of being returned, let's hope not Northamptonshire. What about the person bringing them in, what happens to them too? The jails are full and so is Britain.

Our homeless figures are disgraceful, yet the wealthy and illegal immigrants are comfortable, something drastic has to be done about these situations as the divide between the rich and poor is getting ever greater and it actually does not look brilliant for our political party?

## Recycling

I am one of many people who constantly recycle all that can be. However, our shops do not seem to. Look at their bins - a mix of everything all in together, some do separate the big cardboard boxes, maybe large stores get money for doing so, perhaps the business rates go up according to how many bins each store has? Certain plastics which cause devastating danger are sent to landfill. As consumers we can indeed recycle, but perhaps it's time to hit out at the producers of certain plastics instead of us, Corby has had a superb company that has developed a fully disposable cup, if they can do it why not other companies?

For those who didn't know the water leak at Rockingham Road has happened again causing traffic problems once more for the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> time now this year I believe. We can ill afford water leakage to this extent, cascading water that we have paid for just wasted and costing thousands to the haulage companies in lost time and fuel at traffic lights.

Sorry, but to return to the Brexit issue -  
-- Nostalgia regarding good British foods grown in Britain have, at 70 years old, recently jumped into my mind.

Many of you must remember the taste of our past favourites that were not covered in a 'plastic coating' as now. Vegetables, Root crops, Salad varieties, Potatoes [good old King Edwards]. How I would love to have a real Jaffa orange again [imported I know].

Recently travelling around Norfolk the roadside fruit and veg sellers were doing a roaring trade in their home grown products of the old varieties. Many small farmers and smallholders have kept traditional orchards and produce from seed as many of the superb home grown fresh produce we were used to. With the E.U. rules we have to eat food drowned in chemicals but what was wrong with giving these products a jolly good wash before consuming? Maybe all this chemically preserved food has helped along our obesity problem, who knows?

Our County Councils have had such cutbacks that our roads are falling to pieces, the numbers of drivers that have had repairs done because of pothole damage are in their thousands.

Living in Northamptonshire there is no need to try and claim from N.C.C. I can tell you by experience there is no money left.

I will end on a good note, we attended our Corby Conservative Club for the French Night meal; once again Darren did a fantastic job as many people there would tell you, what a superb chef.

*Dee Davies*

If you would like to submit a letter or an article for the Magazine or comment on our contributors' articles please email the editor at ray.boyd@talktalk.net. Letters may be edited.

# CPF discussion paper on The Digital Age

Meeting held Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Raunds Conservative Club



This paper was discussed by members who advanced the opinion shown:

## 1. To what extent do you view the digital age as a force for good?

*In our view the digital age has made a positive impact, giving access to entertainment, commerce, navigation, education and a lot more. It has brought the world a lot closer together, communications have reduced isolation. It has increased access to education through e-learning, information sharing and home working which in turn reduces Co2 and stress. It has contributed to cheaper goods because of reduced overheads and virtual shopping. It has improved the way we access medical information and contributed to many surgical advancements. It is up to date and easy to reference.*

## 2. Finding the balance between encouraging tech innovation and mitigating tech's harms is crucial to the tech revolution. What are the most important areas you think Government should be focusing on in order to achieve this?

*Training from an early age is needed to guide and inform users that technology is a valuable tool and should not be abused. There needs more legislation to force the likes of Facebook, twitter and social media sites to take more responsibility for what is posted on their sites. There needs to be more accountability for what is posted and individuals need to be identified. Technology free areas could be introduced to encourage interaction with each other. You could opt in to a scheme where your computer indicates time limits. Companies need to encourage technology down times and encourage ideas such as walking meetings. The group also thought that there needs to be a seamless health programme from birth to death that tracks your level of need.*

## 3. How active should the Government be in tackling online harms? To what extent do you view legislation necessary in tackling this?

*The group felt this was a priority in the discussion, absolutely more legislation needs to be introduced and as stated in the previous question individuals and organisations need to be accountable for their actions.*

*The introduction of a digital identification number for every citizen from birth was suggested.*

## 4. To what extent has your broadband improved recently?

*The views were varied*

*but overall it was positive and improvement needs to continue.*

## 5. British tech start-ups are vital to the UK tech industry. What more can we do to support our entrepreneurs of the future?

*Education is the key, knowing what the opportunities are and schools and businesses working hand in hand with each other. Encourage more technology apprenticeships.*

## 6. Social media has experienced serious challenges recently. How active should Government be in addressing the challenges posed by social media?

*The government as stated earlier needs*

*to be far more active as stated in questions 1, 2 and 3.*

## 7. How concerned are you that the automation of jobs will put many people out of work? Do you think the creation of new jobs from the tech revolution will be sufficient?

*This is an unknown entity, we are always worried about this but history shows that it doesn't happen, cannot see how you can mitigate against it other than through education.*

## 8. Is there any other question you think should have been asked or observation you would like to make?

*Not at this time.*



Report compiled by Cllr Helen Howell.

An important policy discussion paper on disability and inclusion will be the subject of the next meeting.

*If you would like to take part in CPF discussions contact the office.*

**Just a thought:** "I am 100% opposed to Brexit. Up to the very end I am going to do everything I can to stop it."  
**Tony (warmonger) Blair** — who signed off on the EU Constitution and oversaw the initial influx of unsustainable EU migration.



# CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM

## Summary of Health and Social Care Discussion

In response to our [discussion on health and social care](#), we received submissions from 124 CPF groups representing 150 constituencies and at least 1199 members across the country. This represents the largest number of submissions since the 2015 general election (and possibly ever) and more than 10 per cent above the average number of participants.

Over seven thousand people also participated in our most recent online Members' policy survey and hundreds joined us last month for our CPF Q&A video conference with the Environment Secretary, Michael Gove. This was recorded and can still be viewed (the actual broadcast starts at around 14:50) [online](#).

We anticipate organising a similar video Q&A with the Health & Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, next month (plus another later this month with the Party's Vice-Chair for Policy, Chris Skidmore, to discuss the PM's Policy Commission) – so, if you do not already receive CPF updates via email but would like to be kept informed about such opportunities, be sure to join the CPF mailing list via our [Join](#) tab).

What follows is an overview of the key points raised by CPF groups. The summary includes ideas that were received last year from 60 CPF groups in response to our [discussion on adult social care](#), which was interrupted by the snap general election. Those submissions represented the views of 68 constituencies and at least 515 members.

A more detailed collation of policy suggestions has been presented to the Director of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, the CPF Chairman and the Party Vice-Chairman for Policy. We are delighted that the PM's Policy Unit would also like to organise a **roundtable discussion on social care** with representatives from 7-8 different CPF groups in the next month, ahead of the publication of a Green Paper on social care in December. We also look forward to publishing a formal response to members' ideas in due course.

As is often the case, several suggestions highlight the greater need for the government to **communicate better** what it is already doing and has already achieved. E.g. Groups seem unaware of the development of the new [NHS app](#) that allows patients to book GP appointments, order repeat prescriptions, view their medical record and access 111 online access for urgent medical queries. If members with an interest in policy are unaware, then it is certain that the general public have not noticed.

### Top policy suggestions in the various sections include:

- Health outcomes is the most important measure of success.
- Integrate NHS & Social Care budgets and consider making CCGs accountable to their local population by devolving responsibility to regionally-elected "Health Commissioners".
- The Secretary of State should now have a dedicated Internet of Things (IoT) team mapping the possibilities for the NHS.



- Explore long-term NHS funding through a cross-party Royal Commission.
  - Publicise and implement the Dilnot Commission's recommendations.
  - Introduce ISAs for health and social care.
  - Encourage use of triage systems as standard at entry to GP surgeries and A&E.
  - Publicise the real cost of medicines, treatment, equipment and appointments to the NHS/taxpayer through labelling, appointment letters and issuing receipts.
  - Introduce national procurement services for drugs and supplies to gain the advantage of bulk buying.
  - Promote a "mental health 5-a-day" campaign and relationship classes.
  - Offer Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) as standard practice for anyone who approaches their GP asking for help to lose weight.
  - Along with antenatal classes during pregnancy, relationship and parenting classes could be provided to help strengthen families.
- There were also calls for the following, though others recognised that there would be considerable costs and/or political difficulties associated:
- Review the GP contract and nurse training/remuneration.
- Revitalise use of cottage hospitals for convalescence, minor injuries or step-down between major hospital care and returning home.

# Northamptonshire County Council is continuing its plans to radically improve governance and decision making in the authority



**24 Oct 2018** The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is responsible for carrying out the authority's statutory scrutiny functions and allows non-executive councillors to influence the development of policies and to hold to account decision-makers.

It follows direct advice from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to improve decision making and is designed to ensure swift action is taken to implement advice as set out in their report.

The Committee consists of 15 councillors from all political parties to scrutinise key decisions in the authority, and will focus on the delivery of the council's current savings plans and future budget proposals.

Members will scrutinise the council's plans for improvement, emerging savings proposals outlined in the Stabilisation Plan, and the relevant equalities impact assessments whilst monitoring in-year budget performance.

Leader of the council, Cllr Matt Golby said

The report by CfPS makes it clear that the council's overview and scrutiny function was no longer

fit for purpose and it's vital we tackle the challenges in Northamptonshire head on to make sure public services are financially sustainable for the future.

"Members from all political parties are represented to reflect the political balance of the council and work together to assess major risks to the authority and ensuring the right decisions are made for residents across the county.

Items to be discussed at the first meeting include proposals on the commissioning of learning disability services, measures around the collection of business rates and council tax, and to identify and consider further topics for scrutiny.

## Unitary Update Further meeting

**5 Nov 2018** The two steering groups have now been formed. The West steering group comprises the Leader from each authority – Cllr Matt Golby from NCC, Cllr Chris Millar from Daventry District Council, Cllr Ian McCord from South Northamptonshire Council and Cllr Jonathan Nunn from Northampton Borough Council. In addition these councils have formed a Programme Board made up of the chief executives – Theresa Grant from NCC, Ian Vincent from DDC, Richard Ellis from SNDC and George Candler from NBC, or their deputies, which meets fortnightly. The North steering group is made up of both Leaders and Chief Executives from Corby - Cllr Tom

Beattie and Norman Stronach, Wellingborough – Liz Elliott and Martin Griffiths, Kettering - Cllr Russell Roberts and Graham Soulsby, and East Northants – Cllr Steven North and David Oliver together with Theresa Grant and Cllr Andy Mercer for NCC.

Even though the unitaries are still just a proposal rather than a done deal, they still need government and parliamentary approval. This unlikely to be completed until next spring at the earliest and we know that waiting until then to begin the work in earnest and expect to have it completed by April 2020 is a tall order, so we have already started work.

The county-wide group continues to meet on a regular basis whilst north and west groups are now meeting to consider work streams. In the west this comprises Finance, Legal, Customers and Services (other than social care), Social Care services, Communications, Data and Information Governance, ICT, HR/workforce, and Future Organisation. The north are preparing for workstreams initially around finance, legal, HR, data and information governance, but as time goes on this will expand. It is important to understand that these are working meetings not decision-making meetings and all decisions will be made by the relevant councils as with any other council business.

In November, both groups will be holding a series of 'strategic design principle' workshops and the values and principles drawn from those will shape the service design work that follows.

Rt Hon  
**DAVID DAVIS MP**  
Member of Parliament for Haltemprice & Howden



**David Davis, MP, has written to all Conservative Members of Parliament with his views on Brexit.**

*Dear Colleague*

*A few weeks ago the President of the European Council Donald Tusk tweeted:*

**“From the beginning, the EU offer has been a Canada +++ deal. Much further reaching on trade, internal security and foreign policy cooperation. This is a measure of respect. And this offer remains in place.”**

*This was a restatement of his previous comments in March and Michel Barnier’s similar remarks in August this year.*

*Accordingly Number 10’s stated position that there is only a binary choice between her Chequers Plan and No Deal is not correct. A third way does exist.*

*This week the European Union is likely either to reject the Chequers proposal as being incompatible with its commitment to the integrity of the Single Market and significantly outside of its rules-based legal order, or to take it as a basis for further significant concessions.*

*The Chequers Proposal fails to take back control of our laws, money, borders and trade because it proposes a common rulebook, a facilitated customs arrangement and effective subordination to the European Court of Justice. That was always unacceptable as it does not meet the requirements of the referendum or our subsequent promises to the electorate.*

*It would also delay and undermine our ability to agree third country trade deals. For example the papers are full this week of Prime Minister Abe’s offer of membership of the TPP; this would give us an immediate and significant boost to trade with a number of our most important trading partners. However, I consulted with a leading trade expert and he is certain that the “common rule book” proposal would render such membership impossible.*

*We should therefore switch strategies to Canada +++ and deliver an outcome that is good for the UK, acceptable to Parliament, and negotiable with Brussels. There is even a detailed plan on the shelf ready to be used; the excellent **Plan A** published recently by the Institute of Economic Affairs. There is a similar plan held in DEXEU.*

*The prize is on offer and the EU is saying it is ready to make that deal. The Irish border is raised as a red herring to divert us from this path. Nobody wants a hard border in Northern Ireland. Literally, the only person raising the spectre of one recently is the Chancellor in his Conference speech.*

*There is already a tax, currency and judicial border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. It is today operated in such a way that it is invisible on the ground and that will continue.*

*It will be necessary to make particular arrangements at the Northern Ireland ports to control goods from the Rest of the World from entering the EU undetected. We already have special arrangements relating to the regulatory control of issues like the Single Electricity market and agri business and in a free trade arrangement there will be no tariffs.*

*So it is perfectly possible to maintain this invisible border by using and developing existing administrative procedures. We can do this with existing technology although up until recently the European Commission dismissed this as “magical thinking” – that has now changed.*

*The DUP, two ex-Secretaries of State for Northern Ireland, and David Trimble – the Nobel Peace Prize winner and architect of the Peace Process – have all made clear that Chequers was neither necessary nor effective in dealing with the Northern Ireland border and backed these more practical plans.*

*Continued>>>>*

David Davis MP – continued>>>

The border issue is eminently solvable if the political will is there. In any case, the heads of both the British and Irish customs authorities have told us that a hard border is not necessary. Jean-Claude Juncker, Leo Varadkar and Theresa May have all said that they would never enforce one. There will be no hard border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It's that simple.

The current Irish backstop proposals will see us "parked" semi permanently in the Customs Union and this would certainly break our manifesto commitment made in 2017 to leave the Customs Union after Brexit.

The Cabinet will need to decide its next course of action if Chequers – as seems likely – is rejected by the European Union. It is clear that a deal which honours the referendum result, is negotiable with the EU and which would reunite our party is within our grasp, with political will and imagination. This is doubly important in the face of the threat of the most extreme left wing Labour Party in living memory.

There is no need for either preposterous threats, in order to justify Chequers, of 'losing Brexit or using Labour votes to get a discredited "Chequers minus" through Parliament.

If we stay on our current trajectory we will go into the next election with the government having delivered none of the benefits of Brexit, with the country reduced to being a rule-taker from Brussels, and having failed to deliver on a number of promises in the manifesto and in the Lancaster House speech. This will not be a technicality, it will be very obvious to the electorate. The electoral consequences could be dire. So it is in both the Party's interest, and crucially the national interest, that we reset our negotiating strategy immediately and deliver a Brexit that meets the demands of the referendum and the interests of the British people.

Yours sincerely,

Rt. Hon. David Davis MP

MEMBERS SHOULD CHECK THAT THEIR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION IS UP TO DATE. SUBSCRIPTIONS FALL DUE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF JOINING, NOT ON 1st JANUARY. CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD OR ENQUIRE AT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE IF UNSURE.

## 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

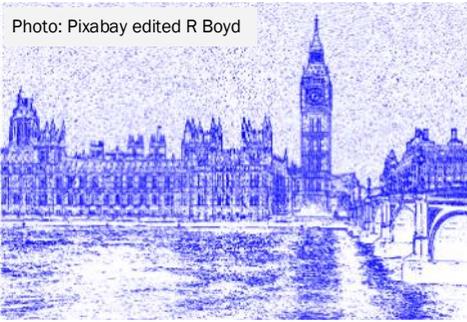
**Raunds:** The Hall, Thorpe St, Raunds, NN9 6LT.

**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.

Photo: Pixabay edited R Boyd



## Chris Heaton-Harris MP

A number of constituents have written to me asking if I will support a People's Vote. For the avoidance of doubt, I want to take this opportunity to be absolutely crystal clear – I will NEVER support a 'People's Vote', a 'Fair Vote', or however else they want to dress it up. (*Or perhaps a "Losers' Vote": ed*). To do so is an affront to democracy.

The UK is leaving the EU next year. The ballot paper presented voters with an unambiguous choice to remain in the EU or to leave.

As in every election, it was up to the electorate to judge the merits of the different arguments and over 17.4 million voters voted to leave. Both main political parties pledged in their manifestos at the General Election 2017 to respect the EU referendum result and these parties received over 80 per cent of the vote. The mandate is there and is up to us to see it through.

### ***The PM's plan to make us the "punk" of Brussels is a recipe for continued Brexit strife, says Boris Johnson***

I really can't believe it but this Government seems to be on the verge of total surrender. With every day that passes we seem to be getting more craven. We have already agreed to hand over £40bn for nothing – and certainly not a trade deal – in return.



We have agreed to become the punk of Brussels, signing up not just to their existing rulebook but to huge chunks of future regulation – even though we will have no say in drafting that legislation. We have agreed against all promises that the European Court of Justice will have a say in the enforcement of that regulation in the UK.

We have been so feeble...

## RICHARD TICE - CONSERVATIVE HOME

Theresa May had always repeated what I have known to be true in business: "no deal is better than a bad deal". But now, even in the face of multiple Cabinet resignations and growing anger among her Parliamentary colleagues at her proposed deal, her actions suggest she believes that any deal is better than a no deal. The regrettable reality is that her deal is not only a bad deal: it is the worst deal in history.

For nothing in return, by way of a guaranteed free trade deal, the Prime Minister is willing to hand over at least £40 billion, potentially £60 billion. We will have no say in the EU, but payments will continue until the EU decides we can leave the arrangement.

We would not be able to strike our own trade deals with old and new friends around the world. That would mean the same protectionist high costs for consumers and, in reality, no access to new EU trade deals with third countries. We would also have no influence at the WTO, no protection against trade dumping and have our own tariffs decided by the EU.

The EU is terrified of a competitive UK. It's terrified of our innovation, flexibility and attractiveness to the world.

Continued European Court of Justice oversight is not Brexit. This deal will only succeed in disenfranchising the UK electorate, possibly forever, and result in Dublin having more of a say than London over large parts of the UK economy.

Don't be fooled by those who say this is only a transitional arrangement. Once we hand over £40 billion for a transition process that may never end, there is no longer any incentive for the EU to come back to the table to talk trade. And what kind of masochist Prime Minister would want to re-open negotiations with the EU in the future?

There are just seven pages of non-binding waffle on the "future framework" of a possible trade deal, which the EU has no incentive to finalise; yet there are almost 600 pages of room for EU traps and mischief on everything else in the Withdrawal Agreement. The backstop, is a backdoor to the EU, with EU regulatory control and no time limit.

Worse still, we could only break this terrible deal with EU approval, which they have zero reason to give.

**As Michel Barnier's deputy, Sabine Weyand, has said to EU Ambassadors, the backstop will be used to lock the UK inside the EU indefinitely as a feeble vassal state.**

*Richard Tice is an entrepreneur, campaigner and co-founder of Leave means Leave*

15 November 2018

## IT'S NOT ALL GLOOM AND DOOM IN BRINOLAND

Just to recap September/October's good news:

- Unemployment at 4%, its lowest level since 1975.
- Public borrowing at its lowest level for 16 years.
- Wages rising by 3.1%.
- Inflation down to 2.4%.
- Amazon to create 1,000 new research jobs in Britain.
- Rolls Royce to create 200 new jobs in Britain.
- TALGO selects Britain for new train factory with 1,000 jobs.
- Unilever to stay in Britain.
- RELX (worth £33 billion) to move its HQ to Britain.
- Starbucks to move its EMEA HQ to Britain.
- Nick Clegg to move to America.

### Local Elections 2019

In accordance with the Conservative Party Constitution, current councillors who do not maintain their membership of the CCA may not be nominated to stand as Conservative candidates at next year's elections.

**Alan Mabbutt**  
Director General

## DAVID DAVIS, MP THERESA MAY'S BREXIT DEAL

Let's be clear. If the Cabinet somehow manages to whip Parliament into allowing it to proceed, then a whole raft of irreversible consequences will flow from it.

This will begin the breakup of the United Kingdom, not just isolating Northern Ireland, but also undermining the Unionist cause in Scotland. The so called backstop will not actually be a backstop at all but a foundation for EU ambition to constrain our opportunities and limit our competitiveness. In Brussels they admit this privately.

This deal will contrive to make the Customs Union **inescapable forever** and effectively trap the UK to **perpetual domination from Brussels**. The supposed negotiation over the future economic partnership will be deliberately slowed down to take years. The UK's leverage of the £39 billion payment will be squandered.

The British people voted to take back control over borders, laws and money. If this deal is agreed it will be seen as a betrayal of the referendum result. The British people will lose faith in their political leadership and the democratic consequences will be dire.

It is a sad day indeed that the Cabinet failed to recognise their responsibility today and flinched from taking control of this process and demanding proper delivery on the referendum.

14th Nov 2018

### This is A Very British Coup

The dwindling band of MPs sticking up for the 17.4 million who voted Leave are condemned as plotters and rebels. Those, including Theresa May, who are doing everything in their power to prevent Britain leaving the EU and becoming once again a proud, sovereign nation are hailed absurdly as true patriots.

I told you the day after the referendum that the fix was already in. Now they're on the final furlongs.

We're being informed, in no uncertain fashion, that our votes are worthless, that we don't count. We're too ignorant, too uneducated, too racist to be taken seriously. Politicians who try to respect the referendum are vilified.

And if I hear anyone else demanding a second 'People's Vote', I'll scream. All they want to do is reverse the referendum result or give us three options so they can split the Leave vote.

As I've said often enough, just because you're paranoid, it doesn't mean they're not out to get you.

Richard Littlejohn. Daily Mail 20 Nov 2018

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.

# Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands



Nov 2018

As 2018 draws to an end, in her final year as an East Midlands MEP, Emma has been working hard in Brussels, Strasbourg and the East Midlands.

To deliver successful Brexit, she has attended meetings and events across Europe to secure support for an ambitious free trade deal, uphold the integrity of the United Kingdom and protect the rights of both UK citizens in Europe and Europeans in the UK.

In particular, Emma, in her capacity as Chair of the Commonwealth Forum, has been working to boost Commonwealth cooperation after the Commonwealth Summit in London this April. She held four roundtable events in Brussels on diverse topics including the future of Economic Partnership Agreements and the prospect of Zimbabwe's membership of the Commonwealth. Emma has also been fighting hard to ensure the UK can make the most of its free and independent trading policy after 29th March 2019. Flying the flag for Global Britain as an outward looking, liberal, free-trading nation, Emma promoted new and ambitious Free Trade Agreements on trade delegations in South East Asia, Australia and the United States.

This year, Emma has steered crucial European Legislation through the European Parliament. Legislation that will benefit UK Businesses, consumers and residents of the East Midlands. In her role as Coordinator for the European Conservatives and Reformists Group, Emma helped steer the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement through the International Trade Committee. This was the highest value agreement ever negotiated, and with a nation eager to sign an ambitious deal with the UK. She has also pioneered a report on Blockchain, ensuring that state of the art technology drives innovation, streamlines business costs and enhances consumer welfare.

In the Culture and Education Committee, Emma has championed the creative industries throughout the progression of the Copyright Directive, securing an outcome for creators that ensures they are fairly rewarded for their hard work. To ensure that sport is accessible, fair and free from scandal, she also brought together Europol, FIFA and footballer Ramon Vega in a panel event in the European Parliament to discuss best practises for kicking match-fixing out of football.

In the East Midlands, Emma has organised a broad range of events across the region.

Through talking to students of the Sir Christopher Hatton Academy in Wellingborough about her role as an MEP, Emma has sought to spark interest in UK and European politics. Meanwhile, in Leicester, she arranged a Brexit Briefing for local Businesses with Lord Callanan, Minister of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union, to provide an update on the Government's preparations for Brexit and the progress of negotiations.

At the local elections earlier in the year, Emma campaigned in Amber Valley & Lincoln to help secure two marginal seats for Conservative Councillors. Before the year-end, Emma will be supporting a local charity through her annual Christmas Card Appeal and holding a Youth Conference in Nottingham on 17th November.

In a busy final year, Emma has fought hard for the East Midlands; flying the flag of Global Britain, delivering Brexit and ensuring the East Midlands' voice is heard loud and clear across the continent.

**Just a thought:** *IN NOVEMBER MERKEL CALLED FOR A EUROPEAN ARMY. "This would be disastrous. The only people who will get any comfort from this are our potential enemies,"*

Conservative Defence Spokesman Geoffrey Van Orden MBE MEP

# THE BUDGET — A VIEW FROM TOM PURSGLOVE, MP

A few weeks ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced his Budget, laying the foundations for a strong Britain as we leave the EU - here's a quick round-up of the key measures announced!

Among the measures laid out, it was announced that there would be an investment of £160 million into counter-terrorism policing, a welcome extra £2 billion for the NHS over the next five years, and £500 million to enable a further 650,000 homes to be built.

The Chancellor also announced welcome changes to taxation, including an increase of the Personal Allowance Threshold (the amount at which a person is required to begin paying tax) from £11,850 to £12,500. Fuel duty has also been frozen for the ninth year in a row, and the National Living Wage will increase by 4.9%, from £7.83 to £8.21 per hour.

Further positive impacts on individual families' incomes will stem from the increased work allowances (the amount a family can earn before losing benefits) and funding for Universal Credit to increase by £1.7 billion. There has also been allocated an extra £1 billion to help welfare claimants



Photo: Pixabay

transfer to new consolidated benefit. Overall, 2.4 million working families with children will benefit from the Budget changes by £630 a year.

The Budget also recognised the one hundred year centenary of the Armistice of the First World War, allocating £1 billion for mental healthcare for veterans, in addition to the extra £2 billion a year for mental health services more generally - two causes I feel particularly

strongly about.

There were also very positive announcements made in relation to road repairs and maintenance, along with a commitment to a new round of Enterprise Zone bidding opportunities - two announcements I have been specifically campaigning for locally, and I will provide more information about these separately.

I am very pleased that the Budget recognised the contribution that hard-working people make to our country, and is delivering more support for our fantastic public services, help for household budgets now, and investment for the long-term to deliver higher living standards for everyone as our economy grows.

The European Union is drawing up plans to control Britain's tax policies after Brexit, leaked documents seen by *The Daily Telegraph* disclose.

According to draft documents, the EU wants to ensure the UK pledges to keep its tax rules aligned with those of the bloc as part of any future Brexit agreement.

Such a move would prevent the UK from becoming a low-tax economy by cutting its corporation tax rate to attract business. And - depending on the wording of any agreement - it could mean that any future changes to the EU's tax rules would need to be followed by the UK, even years after Brexit.

The document was written by the European Parliament's TAX3 secretariat after a meeting with the EU negotiating team, spearheaded by Michel Barnier, the Brexit Task Force.

*The Daily Telegraph* 19 Oct 2018

**This is part of a punishment Brexit and only serves to reiterate why it's so important we leave**

Jacob Rees-Mogg



# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



Oct 2018

One of the biggest changes to how our emergency services will be delivered was approved when the Government formally published in Parliament the framework for the transfer of the oversight of Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service from Northamptonshire County Council to the Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019.

The move means that the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner can now be held to account for the performance of the Fire and Rescue Service. I will hold the chief fire officer to account in the same way as the chief constable. From January, I will work with the chief officers of both services to look at how they can collaborate, where it is in the public and their interests to do so, and work together to improve the frontline services.

The day-to-day business of the Fire Service will carry on as it is now, with its own chief officers, uniform and operational



independence. Combining the oversight of both the Fire Service and Northamptonshire Police will also create opportunities to share resources and buildings and to increase joint working in other ways. It will also give Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service much-needed stability so that it can plan for the future, make the very best use of resources and invest in improvements that will help to provide most effective and efficient emergency service it can be.

I am excited by the possibility of enhancing the effectiveness of both organisations through working more closely together and in being able to give the Fire Service the stable home it needs so that it can invest and plan its development for the future. Consultation on the oversight transfer took place during 2017 and both partner organisations and staff supported the transfer as being in the best long-term interest for the fire service.

I have launched a consultation to ask people if they would be willing to pay more in council tax to support policing and fire services in the county. The Government has given all Police and Crime Commissioners the power to raise the policing part of council tax by an extra £1 a month (£12 a year) in 2019/20, which would give Northamptonshire Police an extra £2.9 million if the increase was put into effect. The average household in Northamptonshire currently pays £4.25 a week towards policing (£221.04 a year for a Band D property).

Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service currently costs £1.13 a week to the average household (£59 a year for a Band D property) and an increase of £2 per year in line with current powers would bring an extra £0.4 million for the service in 2019/20. The results of the consultation that has now been launched will help inform me when I set the budgets for both Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue and decide on the level of council tax precept for 2019/20.

I have given the Force an extra £8 million to invest this year in areas where the previous Chief Constable asked for support to deliver

Continued>>>>

*Stephen Mold— continued>>>*

operational policing and invest in the frontline and in priority areas such as domestic abuse and rape investigation. Now I would like to know what people think about the council tax that they pay to the police and fire service and whether they are prepared to pay more to support those services.

I will continue to work with the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to discuss our priorities for the coming year and how we can provide the services that people in Northamptonshire expect and deserve. Those conversations and the feedback I receive through this consultation, will inform my decision on the level of council tax precept that is needed next year.

I would appreciate any views you may have on this important subject as ensuring our Emergency Services have the resources they need is vital to us all. The survey is quick and simple to fill in and can be found at:

<http://www.northantspc.org/northantscounciltax>

The closing date for feedback is 7 Dec 2018. As ever, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at: [Commissioner@northantspc.org](mailto:Commissioner@northantspc.org)

With every best wish to all of you as we enter our pre-Christmas season!

**Stephen Mold**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire**

## **CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL— A REPORT BY CLLR KEVIN WATT**

### **Who's the real Scrooge this Christmas?**

Many will be aware that subsidised bus services were ceased due to Northants County Council's financial difficulties. This resulted in the removal of the daily Bus route 67 serving the villages of Corby and Kettering. The Parish councils came together and organised a 2 day per week service between Market Harborough and Corby for 1 year as a pilot scheme to gauge the level of use and therefore viability. The service still needed subsidising but only £6,000 per annum unlike the £30,000 cost for the daily bus service. Kettering Borough Council granted their Parishes £3,000 covering their half of the route. This left the Corby Parishes to contribute their share which due to the late withdrawal of the County funding meant this could not be factored into this year's precept and had to be drawn down from Parish reserves. Corby Conservatives raised a motion at Corby Borough Council to reimburse the Corby Parishes the £2,660 they had drawn from their reserves. Sadly, the Labour group chooses to pro rata the reimbursement to the end of the financial year reducing it closer to £1,000.



Place this against a backdrop of Corby Borough Council with over £10 million in reserves and planning to spend half of it this coming financial year. A reserve fund which has been replenished almost exclusively from the Conservative Government's New homes Bonus Scheme. Add into this the withdrawal of Corby Council Grants to its Parish councils totalling £20,000 per year. The withdrawal of these grants has forced the Parishes to raise their precepts and this is where I get to the crux of the argument, who's the real Scrooge? Corby Borough Council always portrays the County Council as not caring for Corby; it plays the "Us and Them" card regularly. Yet if you gauge their decision to withdraw £20,000 of funding to our parishes against the loss of the £15,000 share of county council Bus subsidy their decision has the greater financial impact on our rural Parishes.

We know who the real scrooge is and how much it cares about its rural communities.

***Cllr Kevin Watt***, Leader Conservative Group

## THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - ' WELCOME TO BRINOLAND — A COLONY OF THE EU EMPIRE'

I am writing this month's article on Tuesday 13th November and I believe that I have just heard on the news that we have 24 hours to make a Brexit deal or we will not be in time for a vote in Parliament until after Christmas. Which world do these Politicians live in? My old world of work meant that if something needed doing then it was done and if time ran out - it didn't - because people worked over and worked long hours to succeed.....

What have we been doing for 2 years and 5 months, because by my calculation we should have been where we are today on or around August 2016. I remember a lady saying "**BREXIT MEANS BREXIT**", and "**NO DEAL IS BETTER THAN A BAD DEAL**". What **has** been going on?

I really cannot bring myself to say anything more on this subject except to say that my opinion is that we have been wholly and totally let down by the Political class. We should all take it upon ourselves to let them know this in no uncertain terms.

I now want to say a few words about Crime.

In 1984 we had 120,000 policemen, in 2018 we have 120,000 policemen except that between these times the population has increased by 18%.

Knife crime increased 22% in 2017, Burglaries and car crime is on the increase. The Mayor of London says it will take 10 years to reduce the levels of violence as evermore petty crime goes



unreported and therefore unrecognised in any statistics.

in 2010 we had 142,000 policemen so the person who was sitting in the position of power at the Home Office in 2010 until 2 years ago reduced their numbers by 18%. The numbers in 2018 should be at 142,000 to combat the ever increasing crime and violence.

What on earth possessed the then Home secretary to reduce their numbers? What was she thinking about?

I would like these two questions answered but do not hold my breath.....

Instead I have a challenge to Stephen Mold. I would like him to write an article in the next edition of this magazine telling us his opinions on the reduction in numbers, telling us how he intends to reduce crime here, telling us how he intends to get more Police on the beat where they used to be and still should be, telling us when we will be safe walking about after 10pm at night with a visible Police presence to protect us and lastly to tell us who was to blame for these cuts and why they were never challenged.

Somehow I think I'll be waiting some time.....

After this all I can do is to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and Happy and Healthy 2019.

**MOG**

*Will Theresa May go down in history as the person who saved Britain - for the EU? (Ed.)*

MOG's comments are obviously his own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of our members, Association or its management.

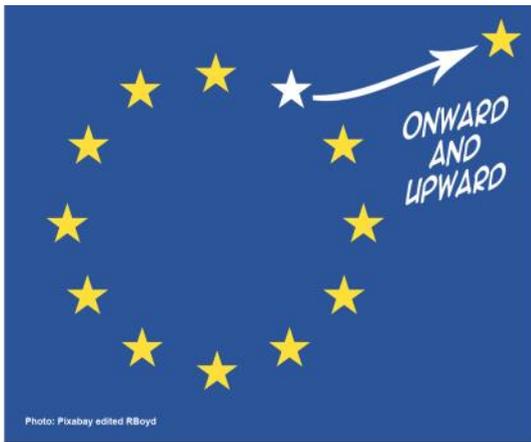
### WHY DID THEY VOTE REMAIN?

**The Mandelson Pension Clause in the Withdrawal Agreement:** The UK must promise never to tax former EU officials based here - such as Peter Mandelson or Neil Kinnock - on their E.U. pensions, or tax any current Brussels bureaucrats on their salaries. The EU and its employees are to be immune to our tax laws. (Article 104).

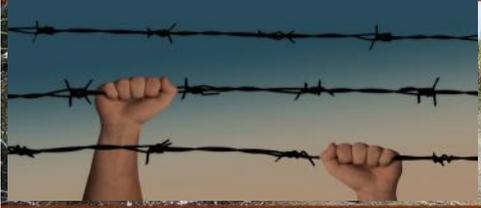
*Downing Street says: This provision of the agreement respects rights which individuals have acquired during 40 years of membership of the EU. It would not be appropriate for these rights to be summarily removed.*

(Ed: It would be nice if our pensions—also acquired over 40 years—weren't taxable too)





**EVER NOTICED THAT YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN  
PEOPLE FLEEING CAPITALISM TO SEEK A  
BETTER FUTURE IN A SOCIALIST STATE?**



**NEVER EVER, NOT ONCE...  
THINK ABOUT THAT...  
TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED**

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### POLITICAL LIFE

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