

POLITICAL LIFE

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Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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COME AND JOIN US

Our Task Force Team meets every week for an hour's briefing on Parliamentary matters followed by an hour or so of delivering or canvassing.

We have a vital local election coming up in the Oundle division on 21st February and it is extremely important that we retain this seat. We need every bit of help to do so.



Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Helen Harrison (Association Chairman)

Happy New Year to you all!

I hope you are all well refreshed and ready to take on the challenges that 2019 is going to bring!

We already have our first challenge and need your help.



Heather Smith resigned, on the 31st December, as the Independent County Councillor for the Oundle Division.

Unfortunately, we had no advanced notice of this, so we have a lot of work to do in very little time. Anyone who can offer help with stuffing envelopes, delivering leaflets or knocking on doors would be gratefully appreciated. Please contact our new Campaign Manager, Rosemary Armstrong, on 01536 200255.

This is going to be a tough fight, but is a great opportunity to win back the seat for our Party.

On the national scene, of course, Brexit continues to dominate. As I write this article, there are only 86 days until we leave the European Union. I am sure we are all behind Tom Pursglove's campaign to deliver the Brexit that people voted for. He is campaigning to deliver a Brexit that:

- Ends the free movement of people from the EU and controls immigration.
- Stops sending billions and billions of ££££ each year to Brussels.
- Makes our own laws in our own country, judged by our own judges.

Thanks to all of you who helped to deliver Tom's campaign postcard across the constituency. Thousands of people returned the cards to show their support.

For those who want to get more involved in campaigning, Tom along with Peter Bone MP, runs

a joint Parliamentary Taskforce on most Saturday mornings. There's an hour's discussion on national and local politics followed by an hour or so of campaigning. We would love to see you there, it is great fun and interesting. Please look out for Harriet Pentland's Taskforce emails or contact Rosemary Armstrong at: rosemary.armstrong@conservatives.com or telephone 07711 945801

We had 5 very successful Association events this year, with Robert Goodwill MP, Liam Fox MP, Esther McVey MP, Nadine Dorries MP and Robert Courts MP. We had great feedback from those who attended and we will be putting on more events this year. Look out for notices of the events, and please come along.

Happy 2019 to you all.

Helen

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 PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Jan 2019

As we begin the process of campaigning in the by-election for the Oundle Division of Northamptonshire County Council, I would like to first say congratulations to Annabel de Capell Brooke, who has been selected to be the Conservative Candidate - I know that we all wish her well and will do everything we can in the coming weeks to deliver a Conservative victory, in what will not be an easy election for a whole host of reasons.

The North Bridge in Oundle, and the much-needed repairs required to ensure that this Grade II listed bridge is safe for the general public, and that larger vehicles are still able to use it to get in and out of the town, ensuring residents, visitors, and the many small businesses in Oundle are not negatively impacted, has been an important running theme as part of my 'Listening Campaign' for the past few months, and is likely to be a big issue in this election. As such, I wanted to give some background as to the work I have been doing on this priority issue.

Back in September, I presented a petition in the House of Commons signed by hundreds of local residents, urging Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) to prioritise repairs to the bridge, and avoid a hugely unsatisfactory permanent weight limit from being imposed. I also raised this issue numerous times in Parliament and had meetings with residents, business owners and councillors to try and find a way forward, as well as officers and the Cabinet Member for Highways at NCC. Frustratingly, the financial situation at County Hall was a significant stumbling block, and thwarted every line of resolution.



Consequently, I met with my colleague, Jesse Norman MP, who at the time was the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, to highlight the specific issue of the North Bridge, and to ask what the Government could do to help. I also met with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in advance of the Budget to make the case for additional funding for highways maintenance in our area - to address this specific problem, but also the wider pothole challenge we see across North Northamptonshire.

Subsequently, in his Budget, the Chancellor made the welcome announcement of the 'National Roads Fund' - extra funding for local roads, repairs and maintenance, and I am very pleased to say that NCC will receive an extra £6.772 million for these purposes, thanks to this funding announcement. What is more welcome is that one of the conditions of the funding is that a portion of it is utilised on the repairs and strengthening of the North Bridge, and I will also press for a good chunk of the balance to be spent on pothole repairs in our area - a vexing frustration of us all!

The Council has now been in touch to confirm that the construction works will begin in the latter part of 2019, after a bridge strengthening programme has been designed, and in the meantime, the focus will be on a number of actions to reduce

Continued>>>>

Tom Pursglove— continued>>>

further damage to the bridge. The carrying out of these repairs will also mean that a permanent weight limit is avoided, and I am actively arguing for the earliest possible start and completion to the works.

This is fantastic news for local residents, businesses, and visitors to Oundle, and evidence that a well-supported community campaign, actively supported by the local MP and councillors, with everyone working together, can get things done to the benefit of our whole community.

Tom Pursglove on Libraries

10 Jan 2019



Photo: Pixabay

I recently received a very welcome update from Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) on the review of library provision across the county - an issue I have been working hard on, alongside a number of dedicated Friends' groups, for many months. Having listened to concerns, recently, NCC have been working hard to produce proposals for each library, working with their communities to create a tailored plan for each one. They argue these bespoke solutions will deliver a comprehensive and efficient service that is sustainable and works within NCC's budgetary constraints. These will now be subject to public review, but it is good news that NCC will continue to work to find workable solutions that will prevent closures, and I am determined to help with that endeavour in any way I can - quite rightly, we want to keep our libraries open.

I think there is a lesson in that, as we all continue to work constructively together as we design the future model for local government in the county, that works best for local residents and delivers the highest quality services possible. I also hope you might help both Annabel and I in spreading the word locally about this 'Listening Campaign' success - we must all do our bit to secure victory on the 21st February!

Tom

Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby & East Northamptonshire

Tom Pursglove on Sport

13 Jan 2019



Photo: Pixabay

I am delighted to announce that Brigstock Parish Council have secured a grant of £37,930 from Wren's Community Action Fund to build a multi-use games area, which will be installed in the Meadow.

This will be an all-weather area for football, basketball, tennis and cricket - a great incentive to encourage people of all ages to get outside and get active!

Work is set to begin on this project late January, so watch this space!

@KateHoeyMP: "Slowly those who've never wanted us to honour the referendum are sensing and waiting for people to show weakness" -

We must not allow Project Fear to win.

RAY JACKSON - 'Deus ex Machina'

10 January 2019

With so many people pursuing their own aims and objectives and so few seeming to have the prosperity of the country as their aim and with fresh ideas coming up about every five minutes, it is not a good time to try to write an objective article about Brexit. And yet it is so important. I have already written and destroyed a short history of the background to the Referendum and its likely outcome. Who is interested now about clever David Cameron and George Osborne challenging the Conservative Party to become active supporters of the EU., seeing off Nigel Farrage's plan to move the Party much more to the right, or the workers in Sunderland voting, not really to leave Europe. but to get the satisfaction of giving the Tory Toffs, including you and me, a severe smacking and sacrificing their jobs and prosperity in the process, breaking the heart of the Department of Trade and Industry, of industrial officers like me and politicians like our council who strove so hard to make sure Corby Works? Who cannot be amazed at the sad irony of a Conservative Party which probably at its heart supported the EU. and the rich commercial offerings it offered, picked up the task as the government in power of taking up the challenge of the British people and trying to get as good an outcome for Britain from a very angry, non-understanding and disappointed EU, which I think really likes and admires us.

Those of us who contacted Tom Pursglove in our troubles were blessed to receive Tom's long analysis of the situation and his clarity in explaining his problems in deciding the best way forward. Those who recognise the very great historical importance of the period we are going through should get a copy of Tom's letter to anchor their thoughts should they in later years feel tempted to explain what they thought during the crisis. (What did you do in the war, Daddy?).

I was delighted to find Tom was concerned about the damage to our democracy that would be done if we decided to ignore the wish of all the people who voted to leave and tried another referendum to get a different outcome. If my readers have trust in our Parliamentary democracy and have had the opportunity to see how other countries, in Europe or perhaps much further afield are governed, and if they have achieved a certain age,

they will like me wonder what they are going to do if Parliament gets a taste for mucking about with the system. We can stop voting, stop attending Exec. Meetings. opt out, but how will we get our views heard and acted on?. We might try to found a new party, but this would be difficult if the existing government changes its mind every five minutes. I am glad Tom shares my anxieties.

Secondly Tom is worried about crashing out although he does point out there would be a two year consultation period.

My view, and despite the deep gloom I still hope for a happy outcome, is that under the very real pressure of time, we have got to apply our minds in a positive way. The best example I have dreamt up of a 'negative way' is Corbyn and McDonald turning up in Brussels with their wish list of what they want, in much the same way Kelvin Glendenning and Duncan Hall turned up in 1980 with their list of what they wanted for Corby. The PM. has got a deal and it is opposed for various reasons by different groups, most of which are playing party politics and dredging up all sorts of grievances. But sooner or later, very soon now, reality will have to be faced. Crashing out is not an option: none of the people opposing the PM's deal have come up with a clear alternative, especially the Labour Party. Have Frank Field and Hilary Benn been gagged? The dramatist in me suspects those in Europe who like us will not want to see us destroy ourselves and those who have learned to respect the PM's hard work and integrity will come up with concessions, probably mainly around the Irish issue and win over the many waverers. Time, goodwill and fundamental respect for our systems will save the day.

Of course, I write this, my little plan, as somewhat of a forecast of the way things might go. The PM will not be aware of my advice until she has won approval in the House. My reward will be that we can all breath again.

Ray Jackson



Ray Jackson

SO WHY DID SO MANY VOTE AGAINST THERESA MAY'S DEAL?

THE LEGAL ADVICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, GEOFFREY COX

BREXIT CENTRAL - 2 Dec 2018

Legal advice provided on the Brexit deal by Attorney General, Geoffrey Cox.

A confidential analysis of the Withdrawal Agreement by the House of Commons' own expert legal team comes to the same conclusion as President Trump – that Theresa May's Brexit deal would prevent the UK from entering trade deals with countries such as the US.

The bombshell is contained in a 27-page legal note prepared by the House of Commons EU Legislation Team, which is headed by Arnold Ridout, its Counsel for European Legislation. A highly respected specialist in EU Law, he has previously worked for the EC Commission's Legal Service and advised the European Secretariat of the Cabinet Office and prior to taking up his current role in 2014, he was Deputy Legal Adviser to the House of Lords EU Select Committee.

The note – marked 'not for general distribution' and obtained by BrexitCentral – is dated 26th November and states that the UK-EU customs union which would come into effect if the backstop is triggered “would be **a practical barrier to the UK entering separate trade agreements** on goods with third countries”.

This is in direct contradiction to the Prime Minister who has insisted that her deal will allow the UK to have an entirely independent trade policy. Indeed, she told the House of Commons just last Monday how “for the first time in 40 years, the UK will be able to strike new trade deals and open up new markets for our goods and services”.

The legal note – titled **The Withdrawal Agreement: Legal and Governance Aspects** – also appears to suggest that the Prime Minister's claim (repeated many times) that her deal “takes back control of our laws” by ending “the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice in the UK” with “our laws being made in our Parliament, enforced by our courts” **does not entirely stand up to scrutiny.**

In its summary of “Continued application of EU law”, the note states:

- *EU law will apply during the TIP [transition or implementing period], but essentially without formal UK participation in its making;*
- *EU law will apply after the TIP to protect the rights of EU citizens in the UK. This could extend for some considerable period.*
- *EU law also will apply after the TIP in relation to the Separation Issues and the Financial Settlement. Again, this could extend for a considerable period.*
- *EU law will apply extensively, particularly in Northern Ireland, under the “Backstop” found in the Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol.*
- *EU law in relation to goods, turnover taxes, agriculture and fisheries as well as veterinary and phytosanitary rules will apply in the Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus.*

After the end of the TIP the CJEU will continue to determine the interpretation of EU law applicable under the WA by the mandatory reference procedure from the arbitration panel.

Moreover, if the backstop has been triggered and the UK-EU customs union established, it adds that:

“The UK will conform to specific EU legislation on customs, including with respect to third countries. To provide a ‘level playing-field’ the UK commits to non-regression (from the law as it stands at the end of the TIP) on EU environmental protection, labour and social standards, state aid and competition and state-owned undertakings in respect of administration of tax.... On the UK side of the customs union, in the ‘United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland’, specific additional EU legislation applies on customs, certain VAT and excise, and certain technical standards relating to goods”.

Continued>>>>

Another section in the document concerns what happens when the proposed Joint Committee (of representatives of both the EU and UK) which supervises the Withdrawal Agreement and the backstop cannot reach a consensus on certain issues:

*“Both UK and EU are represented on the Joint Committee, so no decision may be made without the UK’s agreement. This may not be the same thing as the two parties having equal power, as the aims of the parties will matter. **If the Joint Committee is unable to reach a decision, in some circumstances, that will block next steps. The party that wants those next steps to occur, will then be at a practical disadvantage.** By way of example, i) the Joint Committee sets the limits of state aid that can be authorised by the UK for agriculture. If limits are not agreed, state aid may not be authorised.”*

In other words, in those circumstances the UK would not be free to set levels of subsidy for UK agriculture, but the EU would remain free to adjust its Common Agricultural Policy however it liked. EU products would therefore have open access to the UK market via the customs union, while Brussels could stop us subsidising agriculture at all unless it was agreed in the Joint Committee.

And given that the proceedings of the Joint Committee will be confidential, the document concludes that “the **absence of transparency** would impact on any proposal for Parliamentary scrutiny of the UK participation in the working of the JC”.

Meanwhile, many will have concerns about the potential for the UK being disadvantaged over the working of the arbitration panel appointed for the purposes of dispute resolution. It will comprise five people: two nominated by each party and a chairperson from a list agreed by both, and also be encouraged to try to take decisions by consensus, but can decide by majority.

As the legal note explains:

*“This raises the prospect of a decision adverse to the UK on the view of the EU appointed panel members and the jointly appointed chairperson **outvoting the view of the UK appointed panel members.**”*

Reacting to the contents of the document, Conservative MP Marcus Fysh, who sits on the International Trade Select Committee and European Scrutiny Committee, told BrexitCentral:

“This document identifies and explains many of the very serious legal problems for the UK that would emerge from the Prime Minister’s proposed Withdrawal Agreement, should it be approved. It is wishful thinking and irresponsible to accept the Government’s spin of this damaging legal reality, or to think it could be used as a basis for successful further negotiation. I don’t believe any MP in possession of these facts could in good conscience ignore them and support the Withdrawal Agreement.

“The EU and UK have a great future as friends, but this is not the way to achieve it. Let’s waste no more time, prepare for all eventualities, and work constructively for an advanced but regular Free Trade Agreement which respects the independence and integrity of our jurisdictions while making trade and community relations smooth, effective and efficient. We have set out how to do this, contrary to the Government’s attempt to say otherwise, and there is no reason a plan and schedule for ratification of such an agreement cannot be agreed by the end of March so conditions remain smooth from the end of March until that happens. That is the way to preserve the faith the people of the UK have in their politics, and we need a Government that will ask for it.”

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT - SO HOW COULD ANYONE VOTE FOR A DEAL THAT TURNS US INTO A EUROPEAN SATELLITE?

Former Prime Minister of Australia, Tony Abbott slams the 'Project Fear' scaremongering surrounding the prospect of the UK having a 'No Deal Brexit' when withdrawing from the EU.

"What's wrong with no deal? Australia does \$100 billion a year trade with the EU without a deal"

A MEMBER WRITES TO US

Tuesday 4th December— three lost votes—Mrs May's signature tune must be **'I'm Still Standing'** by Elton John.

Thursday 15th December - Another **'Ground Hog Day'**

Tuesday 11th December - Vote for/against her leadership so. **'I'm Still Standing'**, again.

Tuesday 15th January - Her deal lost by 230 votes, so perhaps **'I Gotta Get Out of this Place'** by the Animals.

Will her 2019 theme song be **'Times they are a changing'** by Bob Dylan,

I believe other EU Countries are observing our Brexit confusion learning lessons before activating their own Brexit; such a wise move.

Crime in our towns & cities—To halt this in 20 year's time we must start now, babies at about 9 months old know by a parent's facial expression and tone that an action by that child is wrong or right. The word NO in a firm tone usually means a child growing up knowing right from wrong, parents need to do this at such an early stage. There is hope if 'Softies' get firmer earlier on.

Immigration - Recent immigrants arriving in our waters by perilous means over the last weeks are to be discouraged by more ships in our waters leading them safely back towards French waters, but only for them to try again the next day? There are good reasons for them to attempt that trip to UK after travelling across the rest of Europe: we are the most generous country with too many people wanting to help them here, but not have them on the doorstep and have their own life style put at risk.

Gilets Jaune -We British are so level headed and curtailed by being peasants that we will never revolt against our Government or Queen, unlike France and other countries, but I have to say there is a lot of unrest in Britain now.

By the time this is printed other events may have happened in our country politically, At this time none of us know.

I wish all a happier, more secure 2019 after 2018's end. An end of uncertainty for most, politically a heightened opportunity for some to upset our country's democracy.

A vote of thanks go to the editor for the work he puts into our magazine.

Dee Davies [Member]

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.

A deal with the EU is a trap

The public, MPs, businesses and the media have been the subject of a cunning plan by the elite, metropolitan voices – which lost the referendum. The cunning plan, swallowed whole by the hapless Theresa May, is that leaving the EU without a 'deal' is a 'cliff edge', a 'leap in the dark', a 'walk in a fiery inferno'... or whatever. This cliff-edge talk is nonsense. Everything you buy from the EU can be bought from the UK or the 93% of the world which is outside of the EU. Wetherspoon has proven this point. We took our third-highest-selling spirit (and the top-selling non-UK-owned one), Jägermeister, as an experiment – and replaced it with the unknown Strika, from Chorley (Lancashire), which we buy at 10 pence less per measure. The reduction has been passed on to customers, saving them about £1 million per year. It seems logical that, if you can substitute an almost unique, and incredibly successful, product like Jägermeister, you can substitute ANYTHING the UK currently buys from the continent. The Europeans are acting cool, yet I can promise you that they are truly terrified that Wetherspoon's actions will catch on – which they will, because they work.

Having successfully switched from Champagne some months back, to UK and non-EU alternatives, Wetherspoon has recently replaced top-selling French Courvoisier brandy with E & J (from the US) and Black Bottle (from Australia). Both products outsell Courvoisier in their home markets. These products, also costing 10 pence less per measure, are already more successful than Courvoisier.

MPs should listen to the people and respect the promise on the leaflet which the government posted to every household just before the referendum. At a cost of £9m it said: **"The government will implement what you decide."**

The public doesn't believe a word of the cliff-edge scare story, immediate post-referendum recession, as well as a plague of locusts or a shortage of Mars bars. And even if there were adverse economic consequences for a time, which we don't believe, we still want out – so, get a move on, please.

Plan A is just a trap laid by the CBI, the FT and others for keeping us in the EU.

It's time to say goodbye... Please have the good grace to honour the referendum result and your election pledges, by leaving the EU and the customs union on 29 March.

Tim Martin Chairman—Wetherspoons

Labour's position on BREXIT:
They will support LEAVE in the North and support REMAIN in the South

RUPERT MATTHEWS

MEP for the East Midlands

Jan 2019

We may be heading closer to Brexit Day (or B-Day as I have come to call it), but my work as a Member of the European Parliament continues with work going on right to the final day. But although my role as your MEP will be ending very shortly, I will still be around [as I always have] campaigning for the Conservative Party and the causes that I believe in. You don't get rid of me that easily!

Meanwhile, I have been busy with several different projects, both here in the East Midlands and over the water in Brussels.

War Memorials

As you may be aware, earlier this year I launched the East Midlands War Memorials Association to coincide with the centenary of the First World War. The Association aims to help reinforce the importance of remembrance through education. I have travelled around the region visiting war memorials, giving talks to local communities, scout groups and schools. We have also produced lesson plans for Key Stages 1, 2 & 3 for teachers to use in schools.

Further information can be found on the Association website:

www.eastmidlandswarmemorials.com.

In addition to this, I have produced a documentary video detailing the role the regiments of the East Midlands played during the First World War. This will shortly be available on the Association's website. At Conservative Party Conference this year, I held a fringe event where I hosted an exhibition detailing my personal journey from the East Midlands to the Menin Gate in Belgium. I visited war memorials in the UK, France and Belgium which featured angels on them. The exhibition also coincides with a book I have written entitled *Trail of Angels: A Journey of Remembrance from Derbyshire to the Menin Gate*, and if you would like a copy of this, please let me know. I will also be taking this exhibition to the European Parliament in February.

Finally, I was deeply honoured to lead commemorations at the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in the week leading up to Armistice Day.



I read out the exhortation and laid a wreath on behalf of all of those from the East Midlands Regiments who lost their lives in that terrible conflict. It was

a moving ceremony, and one I will remember for the rest of my life. As I stood there, I remembered my grandfather and three great uncles, all of whom marched through Ypres on their way to and from the trenches.

Protecting our Regional Food and Drink

In March, I launched the 'East Midlands Food and Drink Heroes' campaign to recognise the wonderful food and drink produced in the region.

Not only does this campaign celebrate the high-quality food and drink produced across the East Midlands, through the Heroes Certificates, it also aims to lobby the Government to continue the regional protection schemes which have ensured that specially certified produce are protected from substandard imitations using the same name.

These protections are in place to ensure that Melton Mowbray Pork Pies cannot be made elsewhere or to a lower standard and still be labelled as being "Melton Mowbray". These protections not only help to preserve the sometimes historical nature of the food and drink but local jobs also.

I have taken the campaign to the Government and have written to the Secretary of State, Rt. Hon Michael Gove MP, as well as setting up a petition on the Government's website to ensure that the message gets across clearly.

It is vitally important to local jobs that we keep the protections in place following Brexit. I want to see these protections expanded, where reasonably possible, and included within all trade agreements around the world. I believe that we should be proud of our produce and sell it as far and wide as possible - I hope to see Stilton cheese in Korea or Pork Pies in Australia!

You can sign the petition at: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/230455>

Continued>>>>

Projekt Hansa

I have also become Chairman of Projekt Hansa, a group which seeks to look for opportunities for trade and the sharing cultural exports across Northern Europe. Nearly a year on and we have been striving to build a network of like-minded stakeholders across Northern Europe, underpinned by trust, with the ambition to pursue shared economic interests.

Here are some notable highlights from 2018.

We hosted business hubs and conferences in the East Midlands throughout the year. Nottingham and Boston were just two of the locations where local businesses came together to engage with our Northern European neighbours and discuss the future of exports/imports, the labour market,

tourism, and the cultural nuances in foreign markets.

Focussing on Iceland, as one of our Northern European partners, we held an exhibition on its natural resources in March, followed by an interview with Iceland's ambassador to the EU Mrs. Bergdís Ellertsdóttir, and the publication of *The view from Iceland - Being Free and Being Free to Trade* by historian and political journalist Hjörtur J. Guðmundsson.

One of the key issues for the group this year has been fishing, a crucial aspect of Northern European trade and Brexit. In June, we hosted a debate on the future of fishing trade with Dutch MEP Peter van Dalen and thereafter published *The Future of Fishing*. Both contributions stressed the importance of cooperation and interconnectivity of the fishing markets.

THE FINAL PARAGRAPHS OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON BREXIT

House of Commons—21 Jan 2019

The process of engagement is ongoing. In the next few days, my ministerial colleagues and I will continue to meet with Members on all sides of the House and with representatives of the trade unions, business groups, civil society and others, as we try to find the broadest possible consensus on a way forward. While I will disappoint those colleagues who hope to secure a second referendum, I do not believe that there is a majority in this House for such a path, and while I want to deliver a deal with the EU, I cannot support the only other way in which to take no deal off the table, which is to revoke Article 50. So my focus continues to be on what is needed to secure the support of this House in favour of a Brexit deal with the EU.

My sense so far is that three key changes [*to the Withdrawal agreement*] are needed.

First, we will be more flexible, open and inclusive in the future in how we engage Parliament in our approach to negotiating our future partnership with the EU.

Secondly, we will embed the strongest possible protections on workers' rights and the environment.

Thirdly, we will work to identify how we can ensure that our commitment to no hard border in Northern Ireland and Ireland can be delivered in a way that commands the support of this House and the European Union. In doing so, we will honour the mandate of the British people and leave the European Union in a way which benefits every part of our United Kingdom and every citizen of our country.

Huffington Post 14 Jan 2019

"The UK's first working day post-Brexit will be Monday 1 April – April Fools' Day. If we leave with this deal, we, our children and grandchildren will be treated as fools for evermore." And on the Today programme, Liam Fox said of a no-deal Brexit: "I don't regard no deal as national suicide." He also said it was 'survivable' and better than Dunkirk. He also made a new constitutional argument to counter Grieve, Boles et al: in holding the 2016 EU referendum, Parliament 'contracted out' its sovereignty to the people and 'it has a duty to honour that contract'. Brexiteer **Maria Caulfield**

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER FOLLOWING DEFEAT OF HER PROPOSED EU WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT ON 16 JAN 2019

Mr Speaker, the House has spoken and the Government will listen.

It is clear that the House does not support this deal. But tonight's vote tells us nothing about what it does support. Nothing about how – or even if – it intends to honour the decision the British people took in a referendum Parliament decided to hold.

People, particularly EU citizens who have made their home here and UK citizens living in the EU, deserve clarity on these questions as soon as possible. Those whose jobs rely on our trade with the EU need that clarity. So, with your permission Mr Speaker, I would like to set out briefly how the Government intends to proceed.

First, we need to confirm whether this Government still enjoys the confidence of the House. I believe that it does, but given the scale and importance of tonight's vote it is right that others have the chance to test that question if they wish to do so. I can therefore confirm that, if the Official Opposition table a confidence motion this evening in the form required by the Fixed Term Parliaments Act, the Government will make time to debate that motion tomorrow. And if, as happened before Christmas, the Official Opposition decline to do so, we will – on this occasion – consider making time tomorrow to debate any motion in the form required from the other opposition parties should they put one forward.

Second, if the House confirms its confidence in this Government I will then hold meetings with my colleagues, our Confidence & Supply partner the DUP, and senior Parliamentarians from across the House to identify what would be required to secure the backing of the House. The Government will approach these meetings in a constructive spirit, but given the urgent need to make progress, we must focus on ideas that are genuinely negotiable and have sufficient support in this House.

Third, if these meetings yield such ideas, the Government will then explore them with the European Union.

Mr Speaker, I want to end by offering two reassurances.

The first is to those who fear that the Government's strategy is to run down the clock to 29 March. That is not our strategy. I have always believed that the best way forward is to leave in an orderly way with a good deal and have devoted much of the last two years negotiating such a deal. As you confirmed, Mr Speaker, the amendment to the business motion tabled last week by my Right Honourable and Learned Friend the Member for Beaconsfield is not legally binding, but the Government respects the will of the House. We will therefore make a statement about the way forward and table an amendable motion by Monday.

The second reassurance is to the British people, who voted to leave the European Union in the referendum two and a half years ago. I became Prime Minister immediately after that referendum. I believe it is my duty to deliver on their instruction. I intend to do so.

Every day that passes without this issue being resolved means more uncertainty, more bitterness, and more rancour. The Government has heard what the House has said tonight, but I ask Members on all sides of the House to listen to the British people, who want this issue settled, and to work with the Government to do just that.

Rt Hon Theresa May, Prime Minister

CLLR KEVIN WATT - LEADER OF THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP AT CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

The future awaits.

I remember waking about 4 in the morning on the 17th June 2016 and watching David Dimbleby on the BBC's EU referendum results program; he was announcing the BBC's prediction that the UK would vote leave. It was a surprise to everybody, not least because the volume of Project Fear had been turned up to max in the later stages of the campaign; remember George Osborne's emergency budget, half a million job losses, 30% house value drop. Never happened. My very first thoughts were how awful the EU would be to us in the negotiations and they have never disappointed on that front. What has been a surprise and shock is the complete non-acceptance by the UK remain camp that 17.4 million voters, the biggest democratic mandate in UK history, should be ignored. That 400 out of 650 constituencies voting leave means nothing. That the general election where both main parties stood on manifestos of leaving the EU was not worth the paper those manifestos were printed on. We've seen a succession of UK Remainer politicians visiting the EU Chief Negotiator Michel Barnier advising him how to stand firm in the hope of a 2nd Referendum.



Remainers have portrayed Leavers as grey haired, racist, xenophobic, narrow minded, thick individuals that didn't understand the complicated nuances of the argument. However, Remainers fully understood what they were voting for.

We stand at a point in history where the path the UK takes on March 29th decides ours and the EU's future. Some may see Brexit as simply the UK leaving the EU but it has much greater significance. The EU is now fighting for its very existence and their vision of a country called Europe, which incidentally nobody has ever voted for.

It's law that the UK leaves the EU on March 29th. It remains to be seen whether the penny will finally drop (pardon the pun) with the Remainers and particularly those Conservative MP's that have fought tooth and nail to ignore the will of the British people, the referendum they gave us and the Party manifesto they stood on. One thing is clear: March 30th will see a new Conservative Party.

Cllr Kevin Watt

Leader of the Conservative Group. CBC

Helen Grant (Con, Maidstone) 21 Jan 2019: *Members of this House should be mindful that most of us were elected on manifestos that promised to respect the result of the referendum.'*

Manifestos! Was that a shiver that ran through the Chamber? Many kept their heads down while others studied their order papers.

Just a thought: In January 2017, Theresa May used her Lancaster House speech to issue her famous warning that **'no deal is better than a bad deal'**. This message was warmly received and her personal standing duly increased. She has now been reduced to making a desperate plea to Tory MPs that **'a bad deal is better than no Brexit at all'**.

REPORT FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Update

Note: This report has been extensively edited to fit space available..

The full report is available on request to the editor



Monthly Update January 2019

Happy New Year, and welcome to your first update for 2019. To refresh you all this newsletter is to provide information on the following areas:

· Published Cabinet papers:

The Revenue Monitoring Report shows a £19m improvement in the overall position over the last five months. This month shows that the current forecast year-end position is an overspend of £11m – down from the £30m overspend forecast last July and a further improvement on the £15.6m position reported last month.

Social Worker Recruitment and Retention Scrutiny Review The purpose of the Scrutiny Review was to scrutinise issues affecting the recruitment and retention of children's social workers by NCC and to identify opportunities to make improvements that could help to address current pressures. It should be noted that the timing of the scrutiny review meant that it did not consider the specific situation relating to the outcomes of the latest Ofsted focussed visit to Northamptonshire children's services and the subsequent appointment of the children's commissioner. However, it is hoped that the scrutiny review will still help to inform action that is now taken to move forward from this point.

Risk Management Report The NCC Corporate Risk Register has been fully reviewed and refreshed. Significant amendments have been made.

Implementation of new Code of Practice for Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure

The highway network represents the Council's biggest asset, and is a significant liability if not maintained. The Council carries out programmes of maintenance and renewal, and also carries out inspections and repairs of safety defects identified by inspectors and reported by the public and others. The key legislation for highway maintenance is the Highways Act 1980. This sets out our statutory duties as Highway Authority to maintain the highway. Guidance has been provided through various Codes of Practice which previously have established minimum standards for activities such as inspections and defect intervention levels. A revised Code makes 36 recommendations with regard to how the highway infrastructure should be managed. The review indicated that most of the recommendations were already being complied with, or were being implemented in connection with the processes being introduced in response to the Department for Transport's Incentive Funding Assessments.

Construction Skills Training Centre, Wellingborough Prison A grant of £1m has been allocated by the Construction Skills Training Board to develop a Construction Skills Centre at the Wellingborough Prison site and associated training provision. The project will support 800 learners to enhance their skills and make them employment-ready. Courses would be aimed at the unemployed, ex-offenders, ex-military and people at risk of redundancy, with training in a range of areas. Funding is provided up until March 2020.

Consultation Update - January 2019 Open consultations Consultation on School Admission Arrangements in Northamptonshire for September 2020 Intakes Each year, NCC along with all admission authorities, is

required to carry out a consultation to ascertain if any changes are proposed to county schools' admission arrangements for the following school year (2019). These proposed changes could include proposed changes to published admission numbers (PANs), oversubscription criteria and Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs). In the past, NCC has agreed to coordinate the consultation process on admission arrangements for all schools in Northamptonshire (regardless of the types of school), and we will continue to do this for 2019 intakes

The future of the Adults specialist dementia domiciliary care service. At the November 2018 Cabinet meeting, approval was given to begin a consultation on the future of the in-house specialist domiciliary care service currently operating within NASS (Northamptonshire Adults Social Services).

Consultation on the proposed change to the provision of Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Services (28 libraries) At Cabinet in December, it was agreed to commence consultation on the future provision of libraries in Northamptonshire. Currently, consultation is open for 28 libraries, while work on the proposals for the remaining 8 continues to give the best chance of achieving positive outcomes for all libraries. There are proposals for each library, and so people are asked to give their views on an individual library basis, although there is no limit to the number of libraries people can comment on. Work is ongoing to develop solutions for the remaining eight libraries that are not yet out to consultation (Abington, Duston, Far Cotton, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Long Buckby and St James). We hope to launch these consultations shortly .

STATEMENT BY TOM PURSGLOVE, MP

On Wednesday 16th January, the House of Commons voted on the EU Withdrawal Agreement - having listened carefully to the debate, local views, and reflected upon matters more generally, I resigned as a Vice Chairman of the Conservative Party and voted against the Agreement.

Essentially, I have significant concerns about:

- The fact it is easier to leave the European Union itself than the ‘backstop protocol’ - I cannot in all conscience vote to sign our country up to an international treaty that we have no ability to leave of our own accord.
- The fact the Agreement would commit us to paying £39 billion, as a minimum, to the European Union, with no guarantee of anything in return, abandoning the mantra “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.”
- The fact there is no real clarity on the future of the UK’s ability to broker its own trade deals once we leave.

Whilst fully respecting the wide array of views that others sincerely hold, I have spent the entirety of my political life campaigning to leave the European Union, and I am also acutely conscious of the need to deliver on the democratic decision of the referendum, in which Corby & East Northamptonshire voted overwhelmingly to leave. Ultimately, last night’s vote came down to a simple matter of trust - trust I found myself unable to place in the European Union.

That said, I wish to be absolutely clear that I remain completely opposed to a second referendum, and believe that the Government should now carefully consider the ‘managed no deal’ approach as an option to deliver the UK’s exit on the 29th March 2019. Indeed, I wrote about these matters in detail before Christmas, and you can read my thoughts on them, here: <https://goo.gl/mpF38h>.

Tom

RICHARD II John of Gaunt’s deathbed speech William Shakespeare

*This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise,
This fortress built by nature for herself
Against infection and the hand of war,
This happy breed of men, this little world,
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall,
Or as a moat defensive to a house
Against the envy of less happier lands;
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England,*

*This land of such dear souls, this dear dear land,
Dear for her reputation through the world,
Is now leased out – I die pronouncing it –
Like to a tenement or a pelting farm.
England, bound in with the triumphant sea,
Whose rocky shore beats back the envious siege
Of watery Neptune, is now bound in with shame,
With inky blots and rotten parchment bonds.*

***That England that was wont to conquer others
Hath made a shameful conquest of itself.***

Peter Bone MP for Wellingborough

Abridged from Conservative Home 14 Jan 2019

Since we have been a part of the European project we have given a net subscription fee of over £210 billion. If that money had stayed in this country, we could have improved our public services, cut taxes and lowered national debt.

This cost might not have been so bad if we had had a trading surplus with the European Union, but of course this is not the case: they sell £100 billion of goods more to us than we do them each year.

Under May's plan we would pay a minimum amount of £39 billion to the EU for the transition. That equates to £60 million for each constituency in the country; just think what a difference that could make! However, the £39 billion is only the start. Her plans allow for a further extension of two years for the transition period which would cost a further £20 billion.

Clearly, our citizens want to return control to Parliament. They want to elect their politicians to make laws which are in the interest of the people of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They also want the power to be able to throw out those politicians through the ballot box. Simply, they want sovereignty returned to our country.

They are fed up with laws and regulations made by European bureaucrats who are not subject to scrutiny or to election by the people.

May's plan would sign up to accepting laws made by the EU, with no say in making them. The worst part of this being that we have no unilateral right to end this arrangement, and we could become a permanent rule-taker, not rule-maker.

Our judicial system is the envy of the world. Our judges are of the highest integrity and calibre, and they make their decisions based on the law of the land and never for political reasons.

Yet at the moment our Supreme Court is subservient to the European Court of Justice whose judges are appointed for political reasons.

Unfortunately, the Prime Minister's plans would have us in a transition period for up to four years, during that period we will be subject to the rulings of the European Court of Justice.

The Prime Minister's proposal might be the worst deal ever for this country. It is certainly not the Brexit that people voted for.

As Bill Clinton might have said about Brexit: It's the Sovereignty, Stupid!

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.

Emma McClarkin MEP for the East Midlands

Jan 2019

THE DIGITAL AGE: HARNESSING BLOCKCHAIN FOR A FORWARD-LOOKING TRADE POLICY

I was delighted to read in CENCA's last edition that the Conservative Policy Forum discussed the impact of the digital age. In this regard, there is little doubt that blockchain was the buzzword of 2018. From the Bitcoin bubble to the development of new blockchain applications, politics and industry were abuzz with the hype that blockchain will be the next transformative wave of the digital revolution.

This is indeed an incredibly exciting field, within which innovations are emerging on a daily basis. It is important to me that beyond Brussels, the U.K, and in particular the businesses of the East Midlands are increasingly aware of blockchain's widespread potential. We must explore the uses and applications of blockchain for international trade and there is tremendous potential for it to revolutionise the way businesses trade and exchange information, goods and ideas.

As the Rapporteur on my Own Initiative Report on "Blockchain: A forward looking trade policy" in the European Parliament's International Trade committee, I hoped to raise much needed awareness about the opportunities and challenges of this emerging technology and to expand understanding of how this technology works. My report focused on several areas in which blockchain has the potential to improve the trading environment, and provide businesses and consumers alike with greater confidence in the products and services they use.

The report focused on the application of blockchain to improve transparency throughout supply chains, strengthening the certainty of the provenance of goods, upholding consumer protection improving trust and enhancing business stability. Moreover, the reduction of barriers in supply chains through the implementation of blockchain has demonstrated the potential to reduce transportation costs, make the industry more environmentally friendly, and



boost economic performance overall. For SMEs this technology could make it significantly easier to interact with customs authorities and other businesses along the supply chain, enabling them to internationalise their exports.

However, whilst we are right to extol the opportunities blockchain has to offer, I believe that politicians must proceed with a rational and laser-like focus on the challenges and current limitations to this technology. Blockchain is not a silver bullet that can solve all the world's problems. Despite its abundant potential, there are still a number of challenges to blockchain implementation that will need to be addressed.

To this end, my report highlighted how the free flow of cross-border data is integral to both trade and the blockchain architecture. It also recognised the need to further investigate the relationship between blockchain and data protection and highlighted the need for policy makers (in the UK and EU) to design a regulatory framework that creates an ecosystem for blockchain to be applied appropriately and safely.

In 2019, the UK must be a global leader in blockchain, as countries across the world are launching innovative initiatives and pilots on a daily basis. This applies not just to the development of regulation and policy, but also to the technology itself. The digital technology revolution is here and blockchain will soon be commonplace among business supply chains - small and large. It is imperative politicians keep up to date with changing technology, enable the benefits but also mitigate against the risks. I am pleased that we in the East Midlands are a step ahead.

You can read my report in full here: <https://bit.ly/2M2hv0h>



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



Jan 2019

Increasing accessibility and visibility of the Police in both urban and rural areas is at the heart of my Police and Crime Plan and our sponsored PCSO scheme forms a valuable part this work.

More parishes have now taken up the opportunity to sponsor their own, dedicated PCSO under a new scheme developed by my office. These new sponsored officers will each be dedicated to their sponsoring areas, working to locally agreed priorities and only being deployed on other duties in very exceptional circumstances. Organisations have been able to sponsor a percentage of the costs of a PCSO for some time. Under the new scheme however, organisations can now pay 100% of the costs and receive in return a PCSO who is a dedicated, visible policing presence in their area. Sponsoring organisations include parish councils, local authorities and business areas. PCSOs are an integral part of many communities and perform a vital role, keeping communities safe and providing a very reassuring local presence.



I am really grateful that so many organisations have forged this partnership with my office and Northamptonshire Police and are demonstrating their commitment to community safety. It shows how highly people value their local PCSOs and this scheme undoubtedly contributes to the overall safety of Northamptonshire.

Action to tackle gang related and serious violence in Northamptonshire has also received a boost with the injection of £627,000 of new Home Office funding for a successful bid by my office and Northamptonshire Police. The money, from the Serious Youth Violence

Early Intervention Fund, will be used to develop programmes to prevent vulnerable young people from becoming involved in violence and gang activity. Northamptonshire Youth Offending Service, Prospects (which provides the careers service) and Assist Trauma Care are partners in delivering the programmes.

This will see targeted interventions for young people who are at risk of becoming involved in violence, including specialist support to keep them in education or training – many young people already involved with the criminal justice system in Northamptonshire have been excluded from school, often for violent behaviour. Mentoring will also be provided by an ex-gang member – now an experienced youth worker – who will work directly with young people at risk of, or already involved in, gang activity.

The programme will be part of Northamptonshire Police's initiative to reduce violence and the dedicated team will co-ordinate activity, manage cases and disrupt gang activity. Gang activity is emerging as a significant issue in this county and all the evidence tells us that we can't arrest our way out of the problem – we need to intervene early to give young people positive role models and opportunities for a life away from crime. This funding will help us to put effective programmes in place to support vulnerable young people and tackle crime.

In addition to this, a countywide road safety strategy has also been launched to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries to motorists, riders and pedestrians on Northamptonshire's roads. Road safety in Northamptonshire has improved significantly over the last 20 years, and the number of people killed and seriously injured on the county's roads is at the lowest level since 1960, when figures were first recorded – despite the fact that the county's roads are busier than ever before. Despite this, 279 people were killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions in Northamptonshire in 2017.

The OPFCC, Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire County Council have come together as a Strategic Roads Alliance to develop and implement a new plan that will guide actions to make

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

Northamptonshire's roads and footpaths safer for everyone who uses them. The plan brings together each of the partner organisations who have responsibility for different aspects of road safety – road design and engineering, enforcement, education and the continued monitoring of the steps taken towards improving road safety in Northamptonshire.

Together they will focus on the five key areas for activity: safer roads, safer speeds, safer vehicles and the response to, and investigation of, collisions. Every person who dies or is injured on our roads is one too many. Northamptonshire lies at the heart of the country's strategic roads network and making sure that people can travel safely in and through our county is a key priority for everyone who lives here. This strategy is a very important piece of work where each of the key partners with a shared responsibility for road safety, contribute to a shared vision of reducing harm to all road users in Northamptonshire.

The strategy can be downloaded at:

<https://www.northantspcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Northamptonshire-Strategic-Road-Safety-Plan.pdf>

As you can see, we have delivered a great deal throughout 2018 and I am sure 2019 will be an eventful and exciting year as we build on these achievements.

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

Stephen Mold

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

OUR 200 CLUB DRAW RESULTS 2018

Monthly Prize - £30

January -	96	Mrs Dorothy Burdett
February -	40	Mrs Sandra Capp
March -	115	Roy Davies
April -	38	Derek Capp
May -	53	William Powell
June -	142	John Miley
July -	126	Mrs Gwyneth (Sue) Singlehurst
August -	139	Dr Brian Cromie
September -	125	Mrs Isobel Richardson
October -	70	Mrs Mary Shirville
November -	105	Ray Jackson
December -	124	Thomas Lane

Annual Big Winners -

£100	21	Mrs Dee Davies
£50	40	Mrs Sandra Capp

Ray Jackson, as 200 Club Chairman, is currently arranging the annual get-together. All members will be notified of details in due course.

CCA Membership 2019

Our existing Councillors are reminded that all councillors seeking re-election in May 2019 must have up-to-date CCA membership otherwise they will be ineligible for nomination.

Once again, CCA are offering a **special membership for Conservative council candidates** who have been selected to run in the 2019 local elections. New Council candidates are welcome to join for a special rate of **just £12**. Please ask at the office for more information.



There was no CPF meeting in December due to shortage of time.

Please watch out for details of the next meeting and topic.

If you wish to take part in these important discussions please contact the office at office@cenca.co.uk

Happy New Year to all - or is it ?

As I write this article Mrs May is about to brief Parliament on her 'plan B' Brexit proposal prior to yet another 'meaningful' vote on the 29th January. There are likely to be no major changes to persuade the many, many Conservative MPs who voted against the original plan which was engineered in Chequers to change their minds.

As far as I am concerned there has already been one 'meaningful' vote, and that was held in June 2016. At that vote a majority of those who voted, and an overwhelming majority in the East of England, voted to leave the European Union. What has followed is a debacle which, if it had not already taken place, would be difficult to believe in that at every point within the negotiation with the EU we have shown our hand first and have even handed them reasons why they should not cooperate with us.

As I have said before, it is inconceivable that the German car manufacturers, and others in the other nations will not want to do business with us when we leave. This is a powerful negotiating tool which so far has not been used. WHY ?

It is now too late in the day for us to restart the negotiation. What we should do now is finally say to Monsieur Barnier "NO BACKSTOP" and if you do not agree this now, we leave without a deal on the 29th March.



I am ashamed at how we, the electors, have been treated by our Party executive, elected MPs and in particular Mrs May - all of whom I think we actually pay.....

There is no doubt in my mind that at the end of this process Politics will have changed and I urge each and every member of the this party to write to either Brandon Lewis the Chairman, your own MP or Mrs May, or all three to express your disgust at the way we have been treated at this time. I have been a member of the Conservative party for nearly 50 years and I see it at its lowest ebb now and we are at the brink of a catastrophic change if our elected representatives don't listen to the will of the people and in particular our activists.

Go on - write that letter....

MOG

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

The stench of desperation

When the Brexit deal was published in November, one of the official Tory party lines was "if we reject this deal we will go back to square one". So Plan B has actually been plan A all along.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the opposition parties had no interest in co-operating on

the final Brexit deal. Why on earth would they? Still, she had to be seen to try.

The response from the Government, however, is astonishing.

Theresa May is expected to continue to push for her original deal, while seeking some kind of

concession - any concession - on the Irish backstop.

Even if it was possible to amend the GFA, it wouldn't solve anything. Brussels governs the Irish border and the EU would not allow their external border to be removed.

In short, there is no Plan B.

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th

March please.

Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor.

You can email the editor,

Ray Boyd at
ray.@talktalk.net
All emails will be acknowledged.

From Northants Highways

Oundle, North Bridge. 3 tonne restriction to prevent any further deterioration of historic Grade II listed structure.



21 Jan - Install weight restriction signage.

18 Feb - Width Restriction and Traffic signals works start for approximately 4 - 6 weeks

The Association of Conservative Clubs



The ACC takes an active role in

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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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