

POLITICAL LIFE

ISSUE 52

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Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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TOM PURSGLOVE, MP - LONDON MARATHON 2019

After completing the 26.2 miles last year in surprisingly hot April weather, I am once again planning to run the London Marathon this year on the 28th April.

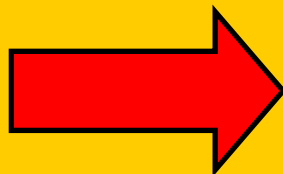
Some would call it glutton for punishment! This year I have chosen two very worthy causes to raise money for - Corby Mind and Care after Combat; two brilliant charities

who both do fantastic work. I really appreciate your support! Wish me luck! If you feel able to sponsor my efforts, and donate to these really worthwhile causes I would be hugely grateful, and you can find my fundraising page, here:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/TomPursglove>



**DO YOU FANCY A TRIP TO PARLIAMENT
(AND A LONDON SHOPPING TRIP) ?
SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS**



Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

So here it is, my first report as your Chairman. I would like to start by thanking you all for taking the time to attend the CENCA AGM and casting your votes. We should never forget that Conservative Associations, and therefore the Conservative Party, exist and move forwards because of the time that we all donate, voluntarily, to it. We do so for an ultimate common cause. Obviously we will never all agree on everything, and that is healthy, but the fear of a Labour Government led by Jeremy Corbyn, Diane Abbott and John McDonnell helps remind us of why we give up our time, and money, for the cause.

But whichever way you voted at the AGM, the important thing is that we all voluntarily gave up our time to attend and help steer the Association – for that we should all be applauded. For those that voted for me, Thank You, your faith in me is appreciated. For those that didn't, I assure you I will do my best to lead our Association and positively develop it.

I had hoped that by the time I wrote this, the Brexit votes and decisions would have been resolved, we would have a clear path forward, and we (the Party, the Country and the People) could start the process of reuniting and rebuilding, but alas there is still no clear outcome. As many of you know, I voted and campaigned for Brexit, and I fully support Tom's stance on the issue - his focus and determination to do what he believes is right is to be admired, as is his resolve to represent the views of his constituents. Of course, we didn't all support Brexit, but I am sure that whichever way we voted, one thing we can all agree on is that this entire issue needs bringing to a conclusion so that Government, and the rest of us, can get on with other business.

On to more cheery thoughts, I am lucky to be joining a fabulous Management Team that has energy, ideas and enthusiasm in abundance. For this report I wanted to reiterate my main points of focus as your Chairman and highlight those areas I hope we can all help deliver on.

Campaigning works. We had a great result, especially considering the circumstances, with Annabel's success in the recent Oundle by-election. That result didn't happen by accident, it happened because we pulled together and knocked on doors, spoke to voters, delivered leaflets and got our voters to attend the polling stations. I never cease to be amazed at how many times voters tell me that they have never been visited by any political party – they really do appreciate it. Obviously, they don't all shower us with love and



affection, but the vast majority respect the fact we are visiting them and representing our party, and we have many, many more people for us than against us.

The Saturday Task Force (jointly organised and supported by CENCA and Wellingborough Association) is a success, with more and more people turning up to listen to Tom or Peter, share views, and spend an hour or so delivering leaflets. It is a great way to get the latest news on the goings-on at Westminster, have your say, share a coffee with other members, and get some fresh air for an hour. I would implore you all to come and join us, see

what it is all about, and help identify where our voters are.

More Conservative Councillors. In addition to ensuring that our chosen MP gets elected, it is vital that we get as many Conservative Councillors elected as possible. Some areas are easier than others, but none are easy, and all should be fought. With a pro-active Association and membership, we can get Conservative Candidates elected to as many Council positions as possible.

Unitary elections. We are extremely lucky that we do not have local elections this year. Next year however will see us fight the unitary elections. The Association has an important role to play in choosing candidates, and we all have a vital role to play in supporting those candidates as they knock on doors, speak to voters, and deliver leaflets. It sounds clichéd, but if we all work together and support each other, we can deliver a really successful outcome at these elections.

Branches and wider membership. The Association, and I would argue the Party, exists purely because of us – its Members. To move forwards we need to attract more and more members. Those new members will support the Association, attend events, help with campaigning, and may ultimately become future Candidates. It is a tumultuous time in Politics, but we should remind ourselves that we are seeing more new members join the Party/Association/Branches than we have for a long time. People are interested. I would very much like to see CENCA support the growth of existing Branches, and potentially the creation of new ones, to help attract, direct and support new members.

To summarise, I very much look forward to seeing how much we can all achieve together over the next 12 months, and look forward to leading those efforts from the front.

Yours

Lee

OUR 200 CLUB ANNUAL LUNCH

A report by our President, Mr Eileen Kemp, JP

I would like to congratulate Ray Jackson on his work in revitalising the 200 Club.

He was asked to take on the vacant position of chairman of this group a little while ago and he decided to arrange a 200 Club lunch as the members had not met for this annual function for some years.



The lunch was a great success, even making a modest profit, and I do hope you will all continue to support and join this group in the future.

And, of course, we need your support for our other functions which are currently being planned.

TRIP TO PARLIAMENT

The 200 Club has been asked to organise a trip to Parliament in the Spring. Initial enquiries reveal the coach cost would be around £20 each depending on numbers.

It is planned to hold the trip on Monday 10th June.

Pixabay—David Mark



A light lunch could be obtained in the Commons for £5 - £10.

There is the option to either tour the Commons or the coach will take others in our party to the West End shops for some shopping before the trip home. Contact Ann (01536 200255) at the office if you are interested.

MikesPhotos Pixabay
RBoyd Mod



Tom Pursglove MP tweeted

20 Mar 2019

Not leaving the #EU on 29th March is a political choice - and one entirely within the Prime Minister's gift. We can leave on the 29th March - on time, as planned, as promised. There is absolutely no need to delay.

The ball is in her court.

MORE THOUGHTS ON THE EU

Cllr Michael Clarke



The EU have learned nothing from having admitted Greece. That has been disastrous for the Greeks. And the effect of Euro membership on Italy and Spain has been to depress their economies resulting in double or treble the rate of unemployment we have in the U.K.

One of the few good decisions made by Gordon Brown as Chancellor was to stop Blair, Mandelson and the CBI from sleepwalking the U.K. into the Euro zone.

A MEMBER WRITES TO US

21 Feb 2019

I must comment on the defectors from Labour and our party who have left to join the independent group. These politicians are not believers in democracy at all. 'The Vote Was Leave': if any one of these were my constituency candidate I would have to cross out their names from any voting card. They are just using their positions to try and mess with Brexit, Democracy and our wish to leave to force the hand for another vote or general election. Labour MPs complaining of Anti-Semitism in their party I can fully understand but all rebels should resign and stand in elections as Independents NOW. Why should we pay them for their treachery against our democratic leave vote? Interestingly, as our MP Tom Purglove points out, 'How can they be Independent when they are in a group?' By the way, the MP's pay rise is totally bewildering at this time, could it not wait until we properly leave - then it will be earned? And how does this rise compare with the less than 2.5% given to pensioners?

(And don't say it was 2.5%. Any little extras earned on a pension many years ago are not index-linked.)

I do not submit many political views to our magazine, more of personal viewpoints. But I hear comments on my travels to other parts of UK as well as around Corby: There is definitely an anti-foreigner feeling in the country. Many of these I cannot repeat in print, but the feeling is there. The less offensive comments: *'Foreigners have taken over our High Streets.'* *'We rarely hear English spoken anymore.'* *'Many find thousands of pounds to arrive in UK, how if they are frightened for their lives?'* *'Our hospitals and doctors are totally over-stretched as there are too many people here.'*

All a bit racist but how come I hear the same comments everywhere, and why are MP's frightened to say it too? These comments and the current dreadful civil breakdown may also be a result of the appalling Brexit negotiations and the consequential distrust of politicians. Personally, I am not sure that all incomers 'enrich' us. Homelessness needs to be eradicated too, but this will never be achieved while so many are coming here, that is fact.

We need to get a grip on these problems. Immigration was possibly the main reason for our democratic 'Leave Vote' in 2016.

While working in Corby delivering bedding furniture 4 years ago I and one other reported to Corby Borough Council about homes known as HMOs. These are properties where private landlords keep homes in overcrowded conditions with mattresses on the floors, in bathrooms and one even in the bath tub! Attics, hallways, kitchens, garden sheds with homemade bunk beds. I Informed CBC with addresses, CBC reply: 'We have no worries about these properties'. Now 4 years later a CBC housing officer is complaining about licences. WHY? CBC were giving licences out like sweets to anyone who applied - WITHOUT checks, before or after.

Stephen Mold has a job of high salary and high position, but he should be able to relay more than his same old tired, fabricated piece (every bi-monthly edition) stating that we are safer on our streets, homes, businesses, schools and basically in all areas of life in UK when we never see police officers on our streets. Yes, I know it will be his PR person writing it!

Mrs 'Ground Hog May' goes to the EU with her begging bowl too often. Time to say *'No more talking we are leaving with "NO DEAL" if we must and you are not getting a penny more.'*

On Sunday 24th we went for a superb 200 Club lunch, Tom came too and gave us his views on our present situation and took questions after. We are so lucky to have Tom as our MP. Whenever you ask him a question he always looks at you directly throughout his reply which to me shows a person of true honesty. Those who divert their eyes I have found are not as genuine. Tom's thoughts are exactly the same as George Eustace gave the other day. Who knows what will have occurred within our politics by the time this goes out. Everything is chaotic; we voted Leave - now let's go.

Dee Davies (Member)

The writer's comments are obviously their own opinion which do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Association or its management.

If any members 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.

John Redwood: Project Fear takes another hit – employment and wages carry on rising. It is particularly cheering that employment has grown so well recently, when the national conversation has been dominated by gloomy Remain MPs telling us the future is dreadful.

What mistakes did the EU make in their relationship with the UK?

Frank Melling, Author and Journalist. Written 20 books

QUORA 7 Mar 2019

I voted to leave the EU and I am not an under-educated, blue collar worker who loathes Europe. On the contrary, I speak very reasonable French and can drive from Denmark to southern Italy without the need of a map – and did so very frequently when I was reporting on GPs in the 1970s.

Equally, I am a citizen of a sovereign state which is ruled by the democratic process. The situation is really no more complex than this. I exercise some control over my life, albeit not that much, by going into a ballot box and making my tick. That's how democracy works.

I am not prepared to be ruled by unelected officials in a foreign country – even if this decision costs me money and reduces the material quality of my life-style.

That the EU did not grasp this single, but immensely important idea, was reflected during the Brexit campaign. Day after day the Remainers brought in experts from every part of the world to lecture the British – and particularly the English – on how stupid we would be to consider leaving what is a political, not trading, concept.

The more the fingers were wagged at us, and the greater the sighs at our perceived stupidity, the stronger the desire to leave became.

I would make two further observations based on the two years I spent working with members of the European Parliament. First, it was the obsession of the EU apparatchiks which caused this whole mess. When David Cameron, the arch Europhile, went to Brussels and pleaded for concessions on immigration the very concept of Brexit could have been killed at birth in one simple move. If the EU had agreed to a cap of 99,999 immigrants a year then Cameron could have strutted into the House of Commons like some conquering hero and there would never have been a Brexit campaign.

Since 100,000 EU immigrants a year were what the numbers were drifting towards, no-one would have suffered. The problem was that EU aristocracy would have lost face – and this was unthinkable.

Secondly, there will be some sort of deal: there always is with the EU, as I know from personal experience. It is the infantile, petty way which things are done in Brussels. There is a much desk banging and threats by very highly paid officials and, at the last minute of the last hour, an agreement is reached because the practical ramifications of not being sensible are too severe.

Ask the Spanish farmer, who exports his produce to Britain and keeps his workers in employment as a result, whether he wants a pragmatic resolution or would prefer to stand up for the EU's political principles. He will be the truly representative voice of Europe.

I feel that I should add that the following statements of fact.

1) Britain is a democracy. It is factually inaccurate to suggest that either our Monarch or the House of Lords can either make or enact law. By virtue of the two Parliament Acts of 1911 and 1949 the House of Lords can neither amend nor prevent the wishes of the House of Commons - but only suggest changes. The Monarch is rigidly apolitical.

What this means in practice is that all eligible voters in the United Kingdom can exercise their democratic rights by voting in each General Election. There is one vote for each eligible voter and no vote is more important than any other. All these votes carry the same weight regardless of the person's age, gender; ethnicity and political beliefs. This is what democracy means.

Now one might think that our MPs are incompetent, ego-centric, narcissistic, even amateurishly dishonest and much more – but they have all been fairly elected by the people of Britain.

Continued>>>>

-Frank Melling, continued >>>

I should add that my experience is that some are very good and we should be grateful that they are representing us.

2) I can write directly to my MP and I will receive a response.

I can ask to see him or her in person and will be granted a personal interview.

I know who he or she is; where his/her local office is located and what are the means of reaching my MP.

3) By contrast, the laws and regulations of the EU are made in Brussels by the European Commission and then rubber stamped by the European Parliament. I cannot alter or influence the membership of the European Commission nor can I exercise my democratic rights to change the composition of the Commission.

Those in favour of the EU might not like to be reminded of this situation but it is factually accurate.

4) It is easy for those who are pro EU to suggest that all those who voted for Brexit are some toxic mix of old/ill-informed/poorly educated/parochial or whatever other convenient label can applied to the "mistake" we made in wanting to leave an undemocratic political grouping.

Chris Heaton-Harris MP

8 Feb 2019

The UK's membership of the EEC was confirmed in a referendum and I believe that it is only right that the country's departure should also have been settled by a referendum in 2016. At 72 per cent, voter turnout in 2016 was also higher than any election in the last 25 years. There must be no re-run of the vote.

To those of who are fearful for the future I would like to remind you that the UK is the world's fifth largest economy with a booming capital city. We have the greatest global 'soft power' influence of any country and one of the world's most accomplished armed forces. I truly believe that we can thrive outside of the EU so I am feeling rather bullish about Britain's future and I am looking forward to breaking free from the constraints of Brussels.

This is unfortunate because 17,410,742 of us exercised our democratic right and voted to leave the EU. Is every single one of those who voted for Brexit intellectually flawed and every one of those who voted to remain a member of a vastly superior elite?

5) Britain has not been invaded since 1066 and has had a charter of rights, albeit a nascent one, since 1215. For the rest of Europe, where being conquered on multiple occasions is just a fact of life, these are truly difficult concepts to understand.

Britain is a free and independent country governed democratically.

The greatest gift that I can pass on to future generations is this freedom. If my standard of living falls, my pension benefits are reduced and I pay more tax then so be it.

My Grandfather fought in the trenches of the Somme for this freedom and my father made the same sacrifices in WWII. By comparison, what I am prepared to give is mere nothing compared with their sacrifices.



TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Mar 2019

Last year, I was delighted when NHS Corby Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) announced that Corby Urgent Care Centre (UCC) was to stay open exactly “as is” for the next three years. This was after many months of campaigning as a community, very regularly covered here in the *Northants Telegraph*, and I was pleased that the CCG chose to listen to local people and respect the huge strength of feeling we saw as part of the campaign to keep the UCC open - unsurprisingly well supported, given the excellent level of care provided at the UCC, through a hugely dedicated team of staff.

It was very pleasing, therefore, to hear the CCG announce that they have now successfully procured two new contracts - one relating to the UCC, and the other introducing new primary care services, that I believe are much-needed. This will mean that not only will the UCC service continue “as is”, but a new service, providing 1,000 extra GP related appointments a month will also be on offer to patients.

Residents of Corby, and the surrounding villages and beyond, all know what a brilliant service the UCC provides, and I know that everyone will welcome this announcement as much as I do; not least because of the certainty it brings. Additionally, the delivery of additional GP capacity is great news for our local area. Something I hear often on the

doorsteps is that ease of access for GP appointments is an extremely important priority for local residents, and this announcement will help to dramatically improve that situation, through more capacity and greater flexibility for patients to access those appointments.

In other good health related news for Corby, the Government has recently announced that over 13,000 people aged 55-74 in the town will be eligible for a ‘Targeted Lung Health Check’ - important given the proud industrial heritage of our town, and a further boost for primary care services in Corby.

To my mind, prevention is crucial, and is one of the most significant factors in keeping people well for longer, and it is absolutely right that we invest in our local health services, and that those services best meet local needs. This has been helped by the major boost to NHS spending we are seeing nationally, of nearly £400 million extra a week, which will ensure that the NHS is properly funded, providing excellent care to all, going forward.

Ultimately, I am delighted that the future of our urgent care services has been secured in the medium-term and I will of course be

Tom Pursglove— continued>>>

making the case for these services in the longer-term. We all know what a fantastic service the Urgent Care Centre provides for local residents, and I am delighted that the strength of local feeling has been listened to on this issue, and delivered upon. The UCC represents the very best in health services and is a credit to the NHS as an institution.

I wish the new providers well and look forward to the continuation of an excellent UCC service at Cottingham Road.

If anyone would like any further information about the announcement, you can visit:

<https://www.corbyccg.nhs.uk/news/2019/successful-procurements-mean-corby-u2019s-urgent-care-centre-will-continue-and-an-extra-1-000-nhs-appointments-a-month-will-be-available-via-a-brand-new-service>.

Tom

Tom Pursglove, MP for Corby & East Northamptonshire

Tom Pursglove on Police

25 Feb 2019



Photo: Pixabay

Quite rightly, people in Corby & East Northamptonshire want to see more police out on the beat, catching criminals and deterring crime - a message I regularly hear on the doorstep. So, I asked the Home Secretary if his Department would be impressing on Police & Crime Commissioners that a good chunk of the recently announced extra funding being made available should be directed towards that very priority. He assured me that, whilst PCC's have a lot of independence in setting priorities in order to tailor the approach to their areas, the Home Office do work closely with police forces to make sure that those strategies are the right ones. I will certainly keep pressing this point.

Britain's economy is set to boom and become the largest in Europe - because of Brexit

LIAM HALLIGAN The Daily Telegraph 28 Feb 2019 •

The public finances are on the mend, recording a healthy surplus in January on booming tax receipts. Employment is at record levels, with real wage growth at a two-year high. Despite a global slowdown, Britain expanded 1.4 per cent last year, recording just 4 per cent unemployment. Yet Germany and France are on the brink of recession, the Italian economy is contracting and eurozone joblessness is twice as high.



REPORT FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Northamptonshire County Council Monthly Update

Note: These two main reports have been extracted as being relevant to members.
The full report has been circulated to NCC councillors and District and Borough leaders



Street Doctor is getting better!

The name's the same but Street Doctor is about to work better for everyone. For many years, our online reporting has allowed customers to tell Northamptonshire Highways about a transport or highway issue directly, and to see what we are doing about it. Over the years we have worked with Northamptonshire County Council to look at improving the service and, this year, Street Doctor is getting an overhaul.

After looking at various providers we will be launching the site using FixMyStreet at the end of March and this will sit on the Northamptonshire County Council website. This means customers will still go to Street Doctor which will take them to the reporting system for a smooth, end to end service.

The system we had been using is getting dated and we have listened to what people really want from a public reporting system. Our officers are already using it internally and finding the whole process a lot better.

Constituents will have a better way of reporting and will see a great improvement in the whole

defect fixing cycle. People will be able to make reports on the NCC website, where they will find FixMyStreet as the Street Doctor interface – or through the main FixMyStreet website and app. Photos can be uploaded assist with locating issues and reporting back on repairs. They will be able to easily map where the defect is and also view assets such as signs, trees and adopted highways so it is easy to identify exactly which one they are talking about when they make their report to us. Testing of FixMyStreet is happening now. Training will be rolled out in March to everyone. We will also be promoting externally to all our users.

In the last month, we were challenged by the weather but we were ready. Roads were kept clear of ice and snow and safe for drivers.

The progress by NCC to address the financial challenges of the last year has also meant we have revisited the gritting service and introduced a new intermediate gritting network.

The team looked at all the routes from 2018/19, those that had been recategorised to be part of the adverse routes and agreed intermediate routes.

Around 300 kilometres of roads currently on the adverse gritting network will be treated as part of a new 'intermediate' category. The crews will come back in after the precautionary run, load up with salt and go out again.

Consultation on the proposed change to the provision of Northamptonshire Libraries and Information Services

At Cabinet in December, it was agreed to commence consultation on the future provision of libraries in Northamptonshire. The proposals for the final 8 libraries have now been published and so the consultations run as follows:

8 libraries (Abington, Duston, Far Cotton, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Long Buckby, St James) – ended Friday 22nd March

There are proposals for each library, and so people were asked to give their views on an individual library basis, although there was no limit to the number of libraries people could comment on.

They were also able to give their views on the proposals as a whole. Public drop-in events were held in libraries where there is a change proposed, and Councillors were invited to events being held in their divisions. The schedule for these events, along with the links to questionnaires and further information about the consultation, was available on the Consultation Register. The proposals for all 36 libraries will be considered at May Cabinet.

These two main reports have been extracted from the full NCC document as being relevant to members.

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

What happened to the gracious loser?

Britain loves a gallant loser. We watch a sports event and we see the lucky loser giving it all but just coming up short, our heart goes out to them. When the cup is awarded the loser always claps the winner and congratulates them.

For example, take the EU referendum - the Remainers have accepted the result with humility and supported those that won. *Sorry I was in a parallel universe there for a minute.*

Most Remainers have never accepted the result. Complaining that either of the referendum was advisory or that it should have had a 75% win margin or it was foreign money that bought the result or all of these complaints. Conveniently forgetting the £9 million spent by the government on their own remain leaflet. Then some bring out the "only 37% voted for BREXIT" argument; when has a none vote ever been counted in an election.

The worst Remainers are those Tory MPs that stood on a 2017 manifesto of accepting the referendum result and of leaving the EU then triggering Article 50 but have since done 180-degree about turn. Seizing upon a government

that is weak and making every attempt to stop Brexit under the ruse of a 2nd referendum just to check that we still want to leave. Their argument is that things have changed since the referendum and we now know what leave means. The only thing that has happened since the referendum is that Remainers have run a shambolic negotiation with the EU. Getting exactly nothing because the EU know they don't believe in BREXIT and that Tory Remainder MP's will do their work for them.



Photo: Pexel

Look at it this way, either the EU are trying to save us from ourselves, which would be strange seeing the economic hardship they have forced upon Greece and Italy, or they are trying to save their failing EU project. The EU accommodates Macron's deficit-busting borrowing but refuses

Italy's spending plans to invigorate its economy that has not grown in ten years. Maybe that's because Macron loves the EU and calls for more EU. And remember the EU Army Nick Clegg told us would never come about.

Can we trust the EU, but more disappointingly can we trust our own Prime Minister who said BREXIT means BREXIT.

Cllr Kevin Watt

Leader of the Conservative Group. CBC

**The UK now has a higher
employment rate than
America, Canada, France or Italy.**

Source: ONS 19 Mar 2019



Pixabay:
Peggy und Marco Lechmann Anke

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON BREXIT—20th MARCH 2019

Nearly three years have passed since the public voted to leave the European Union. It was the biggest democratic exercise in our country's history.

I came to office on a promise to deliver on that verdict. In March 2017, I triggered the Article 50 process for the UK to exit the EU – and Parliament supported it overwhelmingly. Two years on, MPs have been unable to agree on a way to implement the UK's withdrawal. As a result, we will not now leave on time with a deal on 29 March.

This delay is a matter of great personal regret for me. And of this I am absolutely sure: you the public have had enough. You are tired of the infighting. You are tired of the political games and arcane procedural rows. Tired of MPs talking about nothing else but Brexit when you have real concerns about our children's schools, our National Health Service, and knife crime. You want this stage of the Brexit process to be over and done with.

I agree. **I am on your side.** It is now time for MPs to decide.

So today I have written to Donald Tusk, the President of the European Council, to request a short extension of Article 50 up to 30 June to give MPs the time to make a final choice. Do they want to leave the EU with a deal which delivers on the result of the referendum – that takes back control of our money, borders and laws while protecting jobs and our national security? Do they want to leave without a deal?

Or do they not want to leave at all, causing potentially irreparable damage to public trust – not just in this generation of politicians, but to our entire democratic process? It is high time we made a decision.

So far, Parliament has done everything possible to avoid making a choice. Motion after motion and amendment after amendment has been tabled without Parliament ever deciding what it wants. All MPs have been willing to say is what they do not want.

I passionately hope MPs will find a way to back the deal I have negotiated with the EU. A deal that delivers on the result of the referendum and is the very best deal negotiable. I will continue to work night and day to secure the support of my colleagues, the DUP and others for this deal.

But I am not prepared to delay Brexit any further than 30 June.

Some argue that I am making the wrong choice, and I should ask for a longer extension to the end of the year or beyond, to give more time for politicians to argue over the way forward. That would mean asking you to vote in European elections, nearly three years after our country decided to leave. What kind of message would that send? And just how bitter and divisive would that election campaign be at a time when the country desperately needs bringing back together?

Some have suggested holding a second referendum. I do not believe that is what you want – and it is not what I want. We asked you the question already and you gave us your answer.

Now you want us to get on with it.

And that is what I am determined to do.

The Rt Hon Theresa May, Prime Minister

RAY JACKSON - 'FUNCTIONS ARE SO IMPORTANT'

12 Mar 2019

After a very well attended meeting with goodwill and humour all round, we elected a new Chairman, Lee Wilkes, and we wish him well. Observation over many years has shown that tact and the ability to deal with members who as politicians often have extrovert characteristics, are essential qualities of a chairman. It looks from his record that our new one has them in bucket loads. This will enable us to spend much less time on conflict resolution and much more on creative development activity for the future. I am still inspired by the photographs of the Task Forces in East Northants, which include our new Chairman, looking very happy and confident. Let us hope he will be able to spread this winning spirit through the whole constituency.

It is a sign of change that the decision has been made to appoint a Fundraiser and a Communications Officer. For too long Ann has worked hard organising fund-raising events, often with the support of only one or two Management Committee members. Finding speakers, deciding prices, finding locations, printing and distributing tickets and then encouraging often reluctant members to attend can be exhausting work. But there are signs Ann's work is beginning to bear long term benefits. The Christmas Dinner has grown in popularity in recent years and is now I think on many people's minds as an event they must attend.

Of course, we have had many other events, some like dinners at the King's Head in Wadenhoe in October, memorable for the warmth, friendship and good food - and occasionally a good speaker. We have been invited as guests to country houses such as Deene. We have kept going with the spectre of the Association running out of money for the next election. It has been challenging. If we could select five other events each year such as St. George's Night, a country house reception, a President's or Chairman's dinner, a special dinner on a winter's night and a garden party and build these up over the years, as Ann has done with the Christmas Dinner, we could have a sound source of funds, which would need adapting with the changing years, but would be the bedrock of our social activities. We would pay attention to our guests, recognising the tastes and interests of our members vary across the constituency. Interwoven could be the 200 Club lunch in February (23 February 2020!),

Curry Suppers and away visits are possible ideas. Not everyone would go to every event, but enough would to maintain viability of each.

We have also decided to appoint a Communications Officer. From what we read about Momentum a year or so ago, and the Labour Party's surge in membership making it the largest political party in Europe, there was some discussion in the Management Committee about using Facebook to target the 20 - 40 year old section of our membership. We would have a couple of people to collect any positive news which might be

Functions can be great fun with a chance to meet and chat with other members

of interest to that group, thinking of university fees, rents, house prices and availability, Universal Credit, interest rates and whatever current matters might concern them.

The two information collectors or editors would be supported by three distributors who would send out the messages. Fine idea, but probably unworkable. With discussion with Tom and Cllr. Harriett Pentland.

I realised there would be a great danger of accidentally misinterpreting news from say Central Office and thereby landing the Party and Tom in great trouble. Further Harriett pointed out the sheer vileness of responses we get from Momentum and anyone working along these lines would have to have a very strong stomach. This leaves us with Radio and TV which we could use when we have something local and particularly interesting to report on. The Press of course would be keen for local news and photographs. Best of all perhaps is our own Cenca News Magazine, expertly edited and often written by Ray Boyd. If we get our brains working we will come up with something. Professional help is also probably available to us.

We face an exciting year, but we have a very good Member of Parliament and many good members. This could be the start of something very good.



Ray Jackson

Ray Jackson

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Corby & East Northants Conservative Association was held on Friday 8th March 2019. There was an excellent attendance.

The following are the officers for the year 2019-20:

President:	Mrs Eileen Kemp, JP
Chairman:	Cllr Lee Wilkes
Treasurer:	Cllr Richard Levell
Dep Chairman Political:	Cllr Harriet Pentland
Dep Chairman Membership:	Cllr Helen Howell
200 Club Chairman:	Ray Jackson
CPF Chairman:	George Whittaker
Auditor:	Mark Lee



Tom Pursglove MP with the President, Eileen Kemp, JP



There was one motion discussed at the meeting and following a short debate involving two amendments which were defeated, the substantive motion was passed by 36 votes for, 13 against and 8 abstentions.

The Conservative Party Chairman has been notified of the result.

The motion was:

“The Corby & East Northants Conservative Association supports the commitments the Prime Minister has made to the country to honour the European Union Referendum result of 2016 that having triggered Article 50 we will leave the European Union on the 29th March 2019. Another referendum, a delay beyond the European elections, taking ‘no deal’ off the table or not leaving at all would betray the 2016 Peoples Vote and damage democracy and our Party for a generation.”

Following the AGM there was an Executive Committee AGM and members were given the details of the officers as above plus a list of dates for the meetings for the next year.

Management meeting dates had been arranged as follows:

Fri. 26 th April 2019	All at 7.30pm at the President’s house
Fri. 19 th July 2019	
Fri. 25 th October 2019	

Executive meeting dates had been arranged as follows: (all at 7.30pm)

Fri. 10 th May 2019	7.30pm	Raunds Conservative Club
Fri. 6 th September	7.30pm	Corby Conservative Club
Fri. 15 th November	7.30pm	Raunds Conservative Club
Fri. 6 th March 2020	AGM follows	CENCA AGM at Raunds Conservative Club

Annual General Meeting:

Fri. 6 th March 2020	7.30pm	Raunds Conservative Club
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Meeting dates subject to change if necessary.

The Executive Committee also agreed to create two new officer positions, ie, a Fund-Raising Officer and a Communications Officer (responsible for GDPR, the web, the magazine and Mailchimp). The elected officers would co-opt members to these positions.



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

The next topic for discussion by the CPF will be **'SUSTAINING OUR DEMOCRACY'**

The new CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, is currently arranging details of the meeting to discuss this important topic. All members will be notified of the date by Ray Boyd through Mailchimp email.

All Association members may attend and members of the public will also be welcome.

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

The topic for the following meeting will be **'THE POST-BREXIT ECONOMY'**, a highly relevant subject.

Tom Pursglove MP on Santander

8 Mar 2019.

I met last week with representatives from Santander, including the Corby Area Manager, to discuss the closure of the Corby branch. They very much shared my sadness at the



closing of this branch, but assured me that they will be doing everything they can to help individual customers transition smoothly to online banking, or other arrangements which best meet their specific needs.

They also assured me that the Post Office would be able to take on any transactional banking, and that the Kettering branch will remain open. If you have any concerns about this, please don't hesitate to contact me on pursglovet@parliament.uk and I will work with you to get your questions answered.

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.

QUESTION FOR LEAVERS: 'WHAT WOULD THE EU HAVE TO DO FOR YOU TO SUPPORT IT AND RECOMMEND CANCELLING BREXIT?'



Philip Brian Hall, MA
from Corpus Christi
College, Oxford (1968)

16 Jan 2019 (Quora Digest)

In the words of the old Irish saying, if I were going to Dublin, I wouldn't start from here.

And if I were going to cancel Brexit, I wouldn't start from here either. For me, The European Union has been going in the wrong direction at least since its foundation at Maastricht a quarter of a century ago. Yet until the 2016 Referendum, I, like all those others who felt the same way about it, had been given no opportunity to vote for an alternative.

This is because the EU is fundamentally, and designedly, anti-democratic. It was conceived by elitists who believed they knew best and therefore had the right, nay duty, to dupe and over-rule the common man.

It has embarked on a project to federalize Europe whether Europe's citizens like it or not and to ride roughshod over all objections, over all diversity of cultures and over national independence.

In the vestibule of the Visitors Centre of the European Parliament, are inscribed these words:

"National sovereignty is the root cause of the most crying evils of our times....The only final remedy for this evil is the federal union of the peoples."

At the EU's heart is an unelected bureaucratic dictatorship that has the sole right to initiate legislation. It interprets the treaties to suit its own ends. None of these bureaucrats can be removed mid-term except by the preposterously cumbersome method of The EU Parliament removing them all. They delight in over-regulation by process instead of simple regulation by outcome. This makes them the allies of big business and the enemies of economic vibrancy, of start-ups and of new technology. This is essentially why the EU experiences such very slow economic growth.

Most egregiously, they deliberately introduced a common currency which any sensible economist knew could not function without a raft of non-existent federal institutions.

These consequential extra measures, on their own merits, might not have been publicly accepted but, as expected, they had subsequently to be introduced to prevent the collapse of the jury-rigged system. Another nail in the coffin of members' sovereignty.

To protect the badly-administered banks of Germany and France, this inefficient system condemned Greece to poverty and destitution. It nearly achieved the same in Italy and Portugal. The chaotic single currency can and will result only in the collapse of the EU or its total domination by Germany.

In short, there is nothing the EU can do that would persuade me to support it. As a democrat, I cannot endorse a system that subjugates democracy to elitism. If the necessary reforms were to be implemented The EU would cease to be The EU. It is a rare empire that successfully and voluntarily transforms itself into a commonwealth.

The EU is a badly-conceived idea whose time came and went half a century ago.

OUNDLBY ELECTION

21 Feb 2019

Conservatives	51.3%
LibDems	35.1%
Labour	11.1%
UKIP	2.5%

Councillor Annabel de Capell Brooke
(standing next to Tom Pursglove MP)



RAY JACKSON—MORE THOUGHTS ON LEAVING EUROPE

22 Mar 2019

With the the threat of a major crisis hanging over ourselves, our political party and our country and the drama of being aware that people of goodwill could still save the situation, it is good to try to articulate some of the issues which will end our existence as a responsible, well governed country with about 1000 years experience. There will be a lot of blame so a few headings might be helpful.



Ray Jackson

Financially we can expect GDP to fall by about 25%. The amount will depend on how thoroughly our business rivals seize their opportunities to push us out of our traditional markets. We know already Germany wants to stop making and supplying components to British Aerospace because the completed assemblies are being sold to Saudi Arabia. Once properly separated, Germany will change its mind and make and supply the whole assemblies. After years of struggle and hard work to build a world leading company, we will see it taken from us. Some economists have forecast an exchange rate of US\$1.1/£1. That should restrict the import of carbon fuels and please the Green Party as well as restricting the import of American high tech products such as aircraft. The economic outlook could be grim.

Politically, the calling for a second referendum challenging 17.4M people their right to leave is totally un-British and undemocratic. We just do not do things like that in Britain. We stick by what people vote for. My immediate reaction a few weeks ago when it was sort of gradually becoming Momentum policy had me planning to give up politics, leave the Conservative Party and gently rot away. The problem is that most Brits share my revulsion at such a move and will be prepared to go down with honour, supporting democracy and saluting the ensign as we sink beneath the waves. It was heartening to hear that Tom has the same opinion but expresses it probably better. What motivates the DUP is impossible to understand.

Put in a position with power, they seem to be determined to sell it for as much as they can get, regardless of the needs of the Conservative and Unionist Party. With friends like these who needs enemies? Much the same goes for the ERG Group. They are all highly intelligent and successful people, the sort I admire for their potential to govern us well. Yet they split hairs over the PM's agreement with the EU and deprive us of their leadership. Do they really think their calculation that there are a few too many angels dancing on the head of a needle will matter in 5 years time?

One group which I am finding more and more difficult to watch are those new young members who came in at the last election. Every interview is the same. 'Theresa May has no idea and has wasted three years when she should have been negotiating. She has blinkers and refuses to listen to our arguments. It is her fault the country faces ruin'. Young Tories (except of course Tom) are the same. It is so refreshing to hear Ken Clarke or Hilary Benn or some other senior politicians who gave up personal vituperation as they became 'good' MPs. If, as I fear, many more of these inexperienced youngsters will be brought in by Momentum at the next election to replace our Tories who will have to accept the blame for ruining the country for the next two decades. The question is whether the Party will survive.

I must say I favour the PM's deal. We avoid so many dangers. The situation is never static. If we can rid ourselves of those who are trying so hard to ruin us, we will have enough wit and energy left to establish the working relationship we want with the EU. I remember being bombed and machine gunned by German aircraft in Peterborough in the 'forties. At least thanks to the EU I no longer have to shout, 'Don't worry - it's one of ours' or wince when I hear a siren.

Ray Jackson

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



POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



6 Mar 2019

This year's budget for policing has not been an easy one to set as we face the ongoing challenge of balancing the needs of an ever increasing population with a flawed funding model that effectively means that Northamptonshire Police loses out on much needed investment when compared to other forces.

I am pleased that the Government have now recognised the serious funding issues that face policing today. However a great deal of that burden will be passed on to local residents through their Council Tax Bill.

This is one of the hardest decisions I have had to take as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and one that I do not take lightly, even though 58% of people who responded to the budget consultation said they would pay more for policing.

For less than 50p a week extra, this budget will mean that this is the third year in a row that the police budget has increased and means that the operational policing budget in 2019/20 is £130 million. This is an increase of £11.6 million since 2018/19 and almost £20 million since 2017.



£3 million of this will be specifically ring-fenced to be spent on improving police visibility and service in areas that residents have told me are a priority.

Improvement plans which the Chief Constable and I will announce in will include:

- A significant investment in neighbourhood policing, including more dedicated police officers and staff
- An improved response for victims of burglary and a renewed focus on the prevention and detection of crime
- Additional resources to tackle crime and bolster the rural crime teams to support policing in rural areas
- Greater focus on tackling street level drug dealing and anti-social behaviour

This will build on additional funding given in the previous two years, including for the investigation of domestic abuse and sexual offences and the funding of an additional 50 frontline police officers and staff. All of this has been achieved by an increase of less than 50p a week. I will make sure that this increase leads to a better service for local people and I will be working with the Chief Constable to demonstrate how improvements are being made.

As the first Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire I am also responsible for setting the budget for the County's Fire and Rescue Service. My first budget represents the first year of a three year plan to build financial stability and includes some immediate initiatives for Fire and Rescue to take forwards, including:

- 2% pay inflation has been included and estimated for all staff
- A three year investment plan to ensure the service has sufficient reserve levels and a Reserves Strategy in place.
- Funding has been set aside in the Fire budget to contribute towards the cost of Governance transition over three years.

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

The first specific Fire capital programme has been prepared to invest, develop and provide the infrastructure needed to support the delivery of future Fire services.

A draft capital programme has also been prepared which will be reviewed and refined during the year.

In response to my consultation, 70% of people said that they would pay more to support Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and my ambition is to provide a stable platform that will enable them to plan improvements in the service that the public receive. I have been able to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20 where all funding for Fire is allocated to support Fire delivery and only increased the fire precept by just £1.76 a year.

Serious and violent crime is at the forefront of many people's mind at the moment. Operation Viper was launched last year to help focus attention on tackling people who commit serious crime in this county, like gang-related violence and drug crime, modern slavery, human trafficking and the grooming of vulnerable people.

Over the course of 12 days of action, police seized drugs, weapons and cash and arrested 38 people for offences linked to serious and organised crime.

The Force's proactive teams were also heavily involved in tackling serious and organised crime, and during 2018 they:

- Made 514 arrests
- Searched 269 premises
- Conducted 767 stop-searches
- Seized 172 vehicles; 141 weapons; £196,000 cash
- Seized drugs worth almost £150,000 including heroin, cocaine, crack cocaine, cannabis and amphetamine

In addition to this, I gave the Force an additional £63,000 to tackle serious and organised crime, which paid for 12 further days of action.

The consequences of serious and organised crime can be seen right across our county and

tackling the problem is, without question, a key priority for Northamptonshire Police. I will support the force in every way that I can so that they can focus on fighting this criminality.

Anyone who has any concerns about gangs, drug dealing, modern slavery and human trafficking or vulnerable people being targeted by criminals, can call police on 101. Alternatively, you can call independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. You can also visit northants.police.uk to find out more about serious and organised crime.

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

Stephen Mold

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

CCA Membership 2019

Our existing Councillors are reminded that all councillors and candidates 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.

OUR PRESIDENT REQUESTS THAT YOU MAKE A NOTE OF THIS DATE

Annual Christmas Lunch

Friday 22 Nov 2019

in the Churchill Suite of
Corby Conservative Club
Time - 12 for 12.30 pm

More details to be announced later



THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'TWO YEARS OF CONTEMPLATING NAVELS'

Well, here I sit on Wednesday 20th March just nine days prior to when I thought that we would leave the European Union, and wasn't I wrong!

Last week it seemed that we were not at all certain who was in charge in Westminster when the diminutive speaker of the house, a certain Mr John Bercow took control of events. I am in agreement with his views because it seems that our very out of touch Prime Minister is determined that her agreement will be voted through the house even if it takes her five or more times to brow beat her MPs into submission. I for one hope that this will not happen.....

Imagine my surprise when I heard that the

The Prime Minister has declared over 100 times that we will leave on 29th March 2019

said lady had written to our 'masters' in Brussels requesting an extension for us to leave the EU until June 30th knowing full well that the only extension that they will grant had already been stated as May 27th. There must be some very strange substances in the air around the Downing Street area of London indeed!!!

And then later I heard this.....'this house will spend months contemplating its navel on Europe if a longer extension is allowed'. This again from that same lady.

My belief is that the entire House of Commons has spent the last two years 'contemplating navels' and that it, and our Government has let the population of this great country well and truly down - I must now stop contemplating Brexit otherwise my blood pressure will rise.

Now in the meantime, we are 20,000 Police down, we have 97,000 nursing vacancies, we have 6,000 less teachers this year than last, yet the occupant of number 11 says that everything is rosy.



I understand that the tax take for GB PLC was 600 billion pounds in 2010 and is 775 billion pounds today yet Local Government funding (which we all rely heavily upon) has decreased by 5.8 billion pounds since 2010. I do not profess to be the brainiest in Britain, but these maths do not add up.

WHEN WILL THIS OUT OF TOUCH GOVERNMENT GET OUT OF WESTMINSTER AND INTO THE SHIRES TO SEE HOW THE UK ECONOMY IS ACTUALLY RUNNING?

They say that unemployment is at a record low - so are foodbanks at their greatest usage. Why? Because things are not as Rosy as Mr Hammond believes - or does he?

I will not hold my breath on this one but as I said in earlier articles PLEASE write to your MP, whom I believe to be an excellent listener and communicator and let him know your thoughts.

Tom, please take note of your Constituents.

In conclusion, am wringing my hands at the sheer incompetence of our members of parliament. With these muppets at the helm in 1945 we would never have prevailed.

MOG

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

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

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

RECENT TWEETS

Lee Rowley MP said today (14 Mar 2019) 'I propose that Parliament votes against a second referendum'.

Tom Pursglove MP tweeted:

Very pleased to be a fellow signatory. We've had a 'People's Vote' so let's just leave!

Nadine Dorries, MP

Any MP or party that attempts to delay or to stop [#Brexit](#) is working against the will of the people. The power is in the ballot box and the people will make them pay.

The Association of Conservative Clubs



The ACC takes an active role in

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National Draws Society
Membership • Campaigning
Constituency Accommodation

Join your local Conservative Club
and help the ACC support the Party

Chairman: Rt Hon Alistair Burt, MP
Chief Executive: Lord Smith of Hindhead, CBE

www.toryclubs.co.uk 0207 222 0843

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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