

A

# POLITICAL LIFE

## ISSUE 54

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

**Aug - Sep 2019**

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

Stay 'In Touch' with the

**Corby & E Northants Conservative Association**

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

## OUR NEW PRIME MINISTER WITH OUR LOCAL MPs



Tom Pursglove MP says: 'I am confident that Boris will deliver Brexit, unite the country and my party, and importantly, I would argue, win the next General Election, having delivered for the British people, with a promise of more, and a record to prove he'll keep his word.'

**GREAT NEWS: THE BBC HAS AGREED TO TAKE OVER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUNDING OF TV LICENCES FOR THE OVER-75s.  
(BUT - FOR THE SMALL PRINT SEE PAGE 3)**

# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

Dear Members,

By the time you read this, our Party will have a new Leader, and the country will have a new Prime Minister.

Having attended the official Hustings at the ICC in Birmingham, I can say that we are lucky to have both candidates in our Party – indeed we are lucky to have all of the leadership contenders. At the West Midlands hustings both candidates spoke well, both answered questions and both were clearly dedicated to the Conservative cause. Similarly both received a rapturous round of applause after their speeches, and both received lengthy standing ovations.

What the new leader needs to do now, and do urgently, is begin the process of bringing the Party, and eventually the Country, back together. It's an incredibly tough task, but hopefully one that will be made easier once Brexit is delivered. If we manage to leave on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, the process of healing and recovery can begin in earnest on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

One thing we do know – if a General Election is called, we are going to have a fight on our hands. Lose that fight and we could easily have a Jeremy Corbyn led Government / Coalition Government – maybe even a Labour / SNP one.

It is vital that we get organised and come together as an Association and a Party.

**Irthlingborough By-election.** Due to the resignation of a Labour District Councillor in Irthlingborough, there is a by-election. These are unpredictable times and not ideal for by-elections, so we need as much help as possible in delivering leaflets and canvassing to identify our voters. Labour have been out in force already, and chatting to them on the street, they didn't hide the fact they thought Irthlingborough was a seat to win on their way to Corby and East Northants.

**Town and Unitary elections.** Next year will see elections for Town and Unitary Councils. As such CENCA needs to collate a list of approved members who would like to be considered for a local government position. You should already have



received an email or letter from Ann asking you to let us know if you are interested, if you haven't, please contact Ann at the office. Once we have collated a comprehensive list, CENCA will organise any required Approvals Committee meetings, before moving on to Selections.

**Reasons to be cheerful.** In my last report, I had mentioned how poorly the Conservatives had performed in the EU elections – disastrously in fact. But there are some reasons for us to look forward with optimism: -

- Feedback from canvassing is pretty good. We are managing to keep hold of most Conservative voters, winning others from UKIP and potentially the Brexit Party, and hearing plenty of stories from Labour voters about how they will never vote again. Considering how long we have been in Government, considering Brexit, and looking at the political landscape as a whole – we aren't doing too badly
- At the time of writing, YouGov (yes I know, who believes Polls!) has the Conservatives on 24, Brexit Party on 23, Lib Dems on 20 and Labour on 18.
- A new Leader. Whilst many will accept that Theresa May did her best under exceptionally difficult circumstances, most will appreciate that something had to change. Hopefully a new leader will breathe new energy into the Party and enthuse downtrodden members.
- Task Forces continue to be well attended, including many younger members of our Party. If you don't already come along on a Saturday morning, please do so. It is a great opportunity to get the latest information from Tom, and enjoy a leisurely walk for an hour afterwards (if you're available) delivering some leaflets.

Onwards and Upwards.

Yours,

*Lee*

Lee Wilkes  
Chairman



## 200 CLUB NEWS

### 200 Club Monthly Draws 2019

Month	Number	Name
Jan	42	Ray Jackson
Feb	12	Susan North
Mar	71	Dr Brian Cromie
Apr	130	David George
May	28	Gill Sharman
Jun	115	Roy Davies
Jul	70	Mary Shirville

The trip to Parliament in June was a successful visit in spite of the rain and the awful traffic in London. It must be dreadful to have to drive there everyday.

We had a good coachful of supporters who seemed to enjoy the tour and the interesting debates in the House. We had a bonus afternoon as a number of well-known MPs were in the chamber, including our Tom (who spoke twice), Vince Cable, Diane Abbot (with a silent Corbyn) and Chris Heaton-Harris.

As a bonus, because we arrived before the afternoon session we were taken into the actual Chamber and had a good look around. This doesn't often happen and we were very lucky to be given this extra treat. We were even allowed to look into one of the two despatch boxes which are seen permanently in the Chamber on the central table. They contain religious texts for the day of the Oath. Coincidentally, we saw from the gallery the despatch box opened to allow the new MP for Peterborough to take the oath.

All in all, a good day and grateful thanks are recorded to Ray Jackson for organising and sponsoring this event. And many thanks to those who came along.

## SO WILL THE OVER-75s STILL GET THEIR FREE TV LICENCE?

At the moment the cost of providing free TV licences for the Over-75s is met by the government, but from June 2020 the BBC is due to take this over.

Back in 2015 the then Tory Chancellor, George Osborne, and the BBC agreed that the BBC would take on the responsibility of providing free TV licences for the over-75s and in return the licence fee would rise with inflation. These details appeared on the BBC website in July 2015.

Director General of the BBC, Tony Hall, talked about the good deal he had negotiated and confirmed the commitment to free TV licences. He said that the projected annual budget would go slightly up as a result of the inflation-proof licence. But now the BBC Chairman, Sir David Clement says, 'Keeping the existing scheme is untenable and will cost £745 million a year by 2021/22.' We don't know what his fag-packet calculations look like but moving from a slight surplus to a massive deficit smacks of something horribly wrong with his accounting system.

A spokesman for the BBC explained that the BBC had only ever agreed to **take responsibility for the policy** of providing TV licences to the over-75s, and that didn't mean agreeing to pay for them. .

So does '**take responsibility for funding**' mean something different from paying for it. Talk about double-speak

So, sorry for raising your hopes on the front cover but, unless our new PM bails them out I am afraid all the old folk are going to have to hand over to the BBC the £150 per annum pension increase they got in April.

(with acknowledgements to Toby Young)

**Free TV licence for the over 75s was a Labour policy. It was George Osborne who broke a Tory commitment to keep it by passing the \*problem\* into the hands of the BBC. This announcement is Tory policy carried forward and yet everyone is blaming Aunty. Osborne and the Tories deliberately gave this to the BBC so that the BBC would take the protest storm & the Tories would avoid it.**

**George Osborne is still the one to blame, though.**

# UK UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS AGAIN TO ITS LOWEST LEVEL SINCE 1974 - AND PAY IS UP TOO -DESPITE BRITAIN'S BREXIT PARALYSIS

Mailonline 11 Jun 2019

The Office for National Statistics has said that the number of people out of work fell by 34,000 to 1.3 million in the three months to April.

The overall employment rate of 76.1 per cent is also the joint highest total since records began in 1971.

There is also a record number of women in work in the UK - with 72 per cent in jobs - this is the highest ever level in Britain.

And average earnings increased by 3.1 per cent compared with 3.3 per cent in the previous month.

The UK's unemployment rate is now lower than at any time since the end of 1974.

The buoyant figures show Britain's economy still defies the Brexit paralysis and seemingly unending deadlock at Westminster.



## GREEN MEP DISCOVERS THE REALITY OF BRUSSELS

They say you should never meet your heroes, new Green Party MEP Magid Magid appears to be having exactly this experience in Brussels after discovering that the EU that he was passionately in favour of just a few weeks ago is actually a bureaucratic hellhole dominated by stale old white men stitching everything up behind closed doors. *Brexiters did try to warn him*

Magid even suffered the indignity of being asked to leave the Strasbourg Parliament by someone who assumed he wasn't meant to be there because of the colour of his skin - the UK remains the only country to send ethnically diverse MEPs to the European Parliament in any significant numbers. *He's written a refreshingly honest account of what he actually found in Strasbourg and Brussels:*

*"Next to nobody in Brussels has any clue what the European Union truly stands for – beyond a flag and an anthem – and more crucially, where it is heading. And that includes the EU leaders and senior officials soullessly waddling through the corridors of power.*

*When I arrived in the EU capital, I expected to find it brimming with activity and potential answers to these questions. Instead, I felt duped: Making a tangible impact on constituents' lives is apparently not what being an MEP is all about."*

*"In Brussels in particular, we need more transparency in the way we make decisions. Our institutions are plagued with convoluted customs, hidden handshakes and backdoor bargaining. I've seen it first hand already. How can we reject the accusations leveled against the European elite that we are out of touch, when the top dogs in our Parliament and Commission are chosen through obscure quid-pro-quo arrangements agreed over Champagne and truffles in Brussels' finest hotel lobbies?"*

*"In Brussels, the go-to answer to a failed system is superficial; try a fresh coat of paint on crumbling walls. We have to be ready to burn down the house if necessary, to rebuild it in such a way that every citizen from Mansfield to Milan truly feels part of and represented by the EU."*

Euro Guido 12 Jul 2019

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

## Housing, Housing, Housing

It's the Housing Market Stupid, to paraphrase an American politician.

Or we could just say Housing, Housing, Housing.

Amongst the many areas that we Conservatives have to step up our game is housing.

The simple thing is we have to reduce the cost of housing. Too much of earnings is going into housing and not being active in other parts of the economy the parts that create jobs. I'm particularly addressing younger home creators. I speak of home creators and not owners because the cost of buying your first home has risen much faster than wages. Many of us middle aged Tories have benefited from the increase in house values and to be perfectly honest we haven't done anything amazing to contribute to that increase.

Basically, demand has outstripped supply which leads to rising prices. Some may think that's a good thing but I always ask this question – Who is buying my house off me? Answer - My kids. Next Question – Can they afford it? Answer – Maybe, if they have a job paying well above the minimum wage. But in reality, it's massive wealth transfer from the young to the old. Help-to-buy is not the answer, putting more money into the market will only increase prices. In fact, Corbyn's £10 per hour minimum wage will not solve the answer either, it will just add to the housing cost inflation. Maybe the answer is to rent. NO! renting is dead money. The winner is the Landlord and these days that's a private landlord. Mrs Thatcher's Right to Buy policy was the right thing at the time but successive governments have failed to replace the lost low-cost housing stock. Since 2004 unskilled wages have stagnated and with an increased population more people are chasing fewer homes. A double Whammy. Historically

rents over a lifetime were lower than paying a mortgage and this made up for the fact you didn't own the property. Perversely today private rents are higher than the mortgages the landlords are paying.

We don't want a housing market crash that benefits nobody as it's usually accompanied by a recession. But we need two things, housing values increasing at or below wages and a large expansion of affordable council housing.

Why council housing and not private build? Well, private builders have had long enough and under-delivered and if they do build, they squeeze the affordable housing element to a minimum. As Conservatives we should not be hung up on home ownership, that is the choice of the individual, but we should be champions of decent affordable housing be that a home you own or rent.

With enough council housing an anchor on rents can be achieved, not rent controls but a method of damping private rent increases. Most private landlords are responsible but let's not forget they are out to make a profit and are not charities.

The next leader of the Tory party should signal a massive Council house building program if not then they are stupid and we will continue to lose support from younger voters.

Kev  
**Cllr Kevin Watt**

Leader of the Conservative Group CBC

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.

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



AN EVENING AT RUSHDEN LAKES WITH

# Stewart Binns

Subject: *“My Life in Television”*

BAFTA  
Award winning  
Documentary  
film producer  
& author

**ALL  
PROCEEDS  
FROM THIS  
EVENT WILL  
BE DONATED  
TO CENCA**

**29 September 2019 at  
Boat House Meeting Room,  
Rushden Lakes, 2pm to 5pm.  
Tickets £35, including glass of  
sparkling wine and canapés.**

For diners a concessionary  
voucher for Bill's restaurant,  
no time limit.

Promoted by RSP Promotions.

Sponsored by Marsh Industries.

Limited tickets - Book early!

Call **01933 411214**

## Stewart Binns

After earlier careers as an academic, teacher and soldier, Stewart moved into broadcasting thirty-five years ago, joining Documentary Features and Current Affairs at the BBC, where he worked on *Panorama*. He then spent twenty years at IMG Media where he conceived two ground-breaking series, *Trans World Sport* and *Futbol Mundial*, both of which remained in production for over thirty years.

Stewart directed the *Camera of Record* at each Olympic Games from 1994 to 2004 and produced *Olympic Century*, the IOC's official centennial history. His list of definitive sports programming also includes *Wimbledon*, *A History of the Championships*, *The People's Game*, FIFA's official history and *Tiger*, the official biography of Tiger Woods.

Stewart led IMG's diversification into factual programming with *Artworld*, *Century*, *Churchill* and *The Second World War in Colour*. His 'In-Colour' genre went on to include, *'Britain at War'*, *'Japan's War'*, *'Anzacs'*, *'D-Day'* and *'Canada at War in Colour.'*

In 2004, he became Head of Production at Octagon CSI where he launched, *Golazo!* and *The Football League Show* and widened Octagon's portfolio to include the entertainment series, *What Price Fame?* and *Chasing Churchill*.

Among over thirty international awards, Stewart has been awarded a BAFTA, four RTS awards, a Grierson and a Peabody.

In 2006, Stewart formed his own company, Big Ape Media International. Big Ape's productions include *Indochine*, *A People's War in Colour*, *Korea*, *The Forgotten War in Colour*, *Seisen*, *the Rise and Fall of the Japanese Empire*, *Sport Under Threat* and *India, A Visual Homage*. Recent Big Ape productions include *A Journey of Hope*, *Mao in Colour* and *Chuan's Ocean*.

# RAY JACKSON - 'WILL PARLIAMENT BE PROROGUED'

9 July 2019

We have all been active in the febrile atmosphere of the last few weeks, talking more loudly than we usually do and being absolutely certain that the person we are speaking to knows we may not be raising the subject again.

I was surprised at the number of people who are still in error over the role of an MP. From when we first read about 'Civics' throughout all our political lives we have always known that an MP is our 'Representative' not our 'Delegate'. We used to use the trade union comparison of the 'delegate' entrusted by the membership on how the vote on clearly defined issues and then report back to the membership. An MP on the other hand studies the issue as deeply as he can, takes into account the general attitude of the Party of which he is a member, the views of his local association, the

The chancers on Left and Right were prepared to push the system beyond its limits.

verbal and written advice given him by the more active friends in the local party and finally the views of his fellow parliamentarians. By this hard work and accumulated experience he comes to a conclusion which usually represents the views of his membership. If he is aware of significant differences he lets his colleagues know why he has chosen a different view. But he is his own man and although in our case a Tory at heart he is not slavishly bound. He and we with our wider range of thoughts move faster and more generously. Over the years we all become better politicians for it.

The current state of political affairs is frightening. Will Parliament be prorogued and we left without representation? Does Theresa May's failure to get us out of Europe mean that all discussion is over and we can go back to the start. I forecast the impoverishment of our country as the Left gave Eton Boy David Cameron a 'severe smacking, but it was Theresa May's job to brig it about and the chancers on Left and Right were prepared to push the system beyond its limits. As a distraction we are having to choose a new leader, neither any better than the one we are losing.

Of the two we chose from, one is the son of a admiral, which pleases me, and has run a major department for many years spending endless millions and no doubt looking for the day when the only reason the UK exists is to keep the NHS afloat.

For the other chap there are two pages in the Economist and the Spectator by very serious writers of international standing who describe his character flaws and his impetuosity, his egotism and his close friendship with President Trump.

Do you remember when he came to Corby and spent the whole of his visit talking about the £74M he was going to spend on the new London airport in the Thames Estuary. That was a real vanity project! Of course the pair of them are throwing the shekels from Philip Hammond's treasure chest far and wide to buy votes. Not the sort of prudence we ever imagined



*Ray Jackson*

Tories would display in this day and age. We live in very strange times. Is there anyone who could sort out the new Universal credit scheme so that those who are genuinely poor have half a chance of getting at last something out of the system?

For the rest of us, let us stick together behind Tom and be ready to try to heal the wounds being inflicted. I still think one prime minister has to come and go before we can begin to see any stability.

**Ray Jackson**  
**200 Club Chairman**

**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*

## **Margaret Thatcher's prophetic prediction of the Euro's failure**

### **The growth of extremist parties, mass immigration, and unemployment.**

"If the divergence between different European economies is so great that even the ERM cannot contain them, how would those economies react to a single European currency? The answer is that there would be chaos of the sort which would make the difficulties of recent days pale by comparison.

Huge sums would have to be transferred from richer to poorer countries and regions to allow them to take the strain. Even then unemployment and mass migration across now open frontiers would follow. And a full-fledged Single currency would allow no escape hatch.

The political consequences can already be glimpsed: the growth of extremist parties, battenning on fears about mass immigration and unemployment, offering a real — if thoroughly unwelcome — alternative to the Euro-centrist political establishment.

If in addition you were to create a supra-national European federation, and the people could no longer hold their national parliaments to account, extremism could only grow further.

It is time for the European politicians to sit up and take note. Time to stop their endless rounds of summits — summitry is fast becoming a substitute for decision-making — and observe the reality around them.

There is a growing sense of remoteness, an alienation of people from their institutions of government and their political leaders. There is a fear that the European train will thunder forward, laden with its customary cargo of gravy, towards a destination neither wished nor understood by electorates. But the train can be stopped."

1992 Sep 19 Sa, Margaret Thatcher.  
Speech to CNN World Economic Development Conference

**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.**

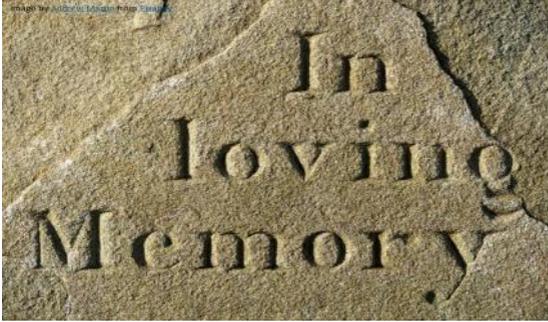
Copy for the next issue must be received by 10<sup>th</sup> September please. Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor.

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

All emails will be acknowledged.

**Just a thought:** Figures show that more than half of MPs have been revealed to have claimed for a free TV licence on expenses since 2010. And 320 MPs have enjoyed the £154.50 perk for their second home or office. (Sunday Times 23 Jun 2019)

# A MESSAGE TO OUR NEW PRIME MINISTER FROM HIS MOST LOYAL AND AGÉD SUPPORTERS



## HOW TO LOSE AN ELECTION

1. **Cancel free TV licences for the Over-75s**
2. **End free bus passes for pensioners**
3. **Tax the Winter Fuel Allowance**
4. **Cancel the Triple Lock on pensions**
5. **Oh yes - don't leave the EU**

**And as a final insult—raise the tax allowance for the wealthy.**

**Another thought - maybe OAPs should pay for their prescriptions? (*But don't even go there Prime Minister*)**

***What on earth is the matter with our MPs? Why are they hitting their most staunch supporters?***

### **LEARN FROM HISTORY PRIME MINISTER:**

***In 2016 Theresa May announced (following consultation with her political advisors Nick Timothy and Fiona Hill, and the PM's husband) that the Tory manifesto would include 3 items from the above list. Our canvassers will tell you that support on the door plummeted overnight and that is what lost her the government's majority, and ultimately cost her the top job.***

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STANDING AS A COUNCILLOR?

It is rapidly approaching the time where CENCA need to collate a list of approved members who would like to be considered for a local government position, be that as a Town or Unitary Councillor, in the elections next year.

Therefore, if you wish to put your name forward, please let Ann at the office know (01536 200255) or email [office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk). Provide:

1. Your name
2. Whether you are interested in Town, Unitary or both
3. Your preferred ward area

Once we have collated a comprehensive list, CENCA will shortly thereafter organise any required Approvals Committee meetings, before of course we move on to Selections.

Yours Faithfully

Lee Wilkes  
Chairman - CENCA

### CCA Membership 2019

Our existing Councillors are reminded that all councillors and candidates must have up-to-date Conservative Councillors Association membership otherwise they will be ineligible for nomination.

Councillors are required to maintain their membership of the CCA throughout their term of office

## SAD LOSERS

Philip Hammond has given a furious interview to *Le Monde*, in which he attacks Boris Johnson's attitude to Brexit and suggests he would vote against his own party in a motion of no confidence. 'I will take steps to avoid an exit without agreement apart from an explicit parliamentary approval,' he told the newspaper.



Photo: Pixabay

He doesn't seem to be taking leaving government particularly well. The ex-Chancellor knows that his time is over and he won't be able to terrify ministers who want more money for their departments, or irritate the Prime Minister by being all fiscally responsible.

It is a deeply irresponsible move from the ex-Chancellor which will cause further turmoil in British politics. Hammond of course isn't the only minister planning to quit before they are fired by the new prime minister. There are around a dozen who want to resign on principle, and the question is really when they plan to do this. Some may not quit immediately, but probably soon.

These resignations may well be people jumping before they are pushed, but they will also set the tone for what promises to be a very fractious few months in the Tory party.

## £20,000 FINE OVERTURNED

Brexit campaigner Darren Grimes has won his appeal against £20,000 fine for spending violations

Mr Grimes, a former fashion student who ran youth Brexit campaign BeLeave, was issued a fine by the Electoral Commission in 2018 for breaching spending rules and making false declarations in relation to a £675,000 donation from Vote Leave.

However, the fine was quashed by the Mayor's and City of London Court in mid July.

The 25-year-old's lawyers told the court that he had filled out the complex and difficult-to-understand campaign declaration forms to the best of his ability.

Judge Marc Dight found that Mr Grimes had tried to meet his obligations to the commission in filling out the forms, and that his actions were not dishonest or lacking transparency.

The original penalty was widely broadcast on the BBC although the appeal does not seem to have been mentioned..

## THE LAUNCHING OF A MOON ROCKET BY INDIA PROVOKES SOME COMMENTS ABOUT FOREIGN AID.

However this is the GOV.UK response:

*The UK no longer gives any money to the Government of India.*

*More than half of the projected £98 million will be invested in Indian enterprises, while the rest funds technical expertise. Together these help develop new markets, whilst creating jobs for some of India's poorest and marginalised people.*



*At the same time, this will also help create jobs for UK businesses, and generate a return for the UK. This is a win for the UK and a win for India.*

*India is fast emerging as a global power and it is becoming increasingly important for the UK's economic, security and geopolitical interests to be their partner.*

*India is due to be the third biggest economy in the world by 2030. This is driven by the size of India's population, which at some 1.3 billion people is nearly 20 times larger than the UK's. But on a per capita basis, India is more than 20 times poorer than the UK (UK 2017 per capita GDP of US\$39,700 is 20.9 times larger than India's US\$1,900).*

*Ensuring that UK aid spending keeps pace with new challenges and the rapidly changing world we are living in is firmly in the national interest. A global Britain is outward looking. We are using our development budget to build a more stable, secure and prosperous world for us all.*

# AT LAST, CORBYN HAS BEEN FORCED BY THE UNIONS TO MAKE A DECISION OVER BREXIT



Corbyn has long held the position of having no decided policy over Brexit. His policy was in order to try to keep Labour supporters on board. Corbyn's ideal line was 'Remain' in the south and 'Leave' in the north; a nonsense of course but he has stuck by this. But now the Unions have called time and he has had to do as he is told. This new policy is planned to pull back those Labour supporters who have abandoned him for either the Lib/Dems or the Brexit Party.

Sky News reports Jeremy Corbyn has challenged the next PM to put their Brexit deal or a no deal exit to a second referendum, saying Labour would campaign for Remain in those scenarios.

The Labour leader announced the shift following a meeting of his top team, having come under pressure from critics to rectify what they characterised as a lack of clarity from Mr Corbyn on the issue.

In a letter to party members, Mr Corbyn said: "Whoever becomes the new prime minister should have the confidence to put their deal, or no deal, back to the people in a public vote.

"In those circumstances, I want to make it clear that Labour would campaign for Remain against either no deal or a Tory deal that does not protect the economy and jobs."

9 Jul 2019

*Asked if he had changed his position because of pressure from colleagues, Mr Corbyn said, 'Not a bit of it. I've been listening and I've enjoyed it.'*

Tom Pursglove on new service from the Royal Mail

11 Jun 2019



I was really pleased to hear that the Royal Mail is introducing some of its first ever 'parcel postboxes' in Corby, which will enable small businesses and residents to post pre-paid parcels as they would a letter.

These will be located on Princewood Road, Sallow Road and Saxon Way East – great news for our community and for those who buy and sell online!

## EAST NORTANTS DISTRICT COUNCIL WATERLOO WARD IRTHLINGBOROUGH

The election of a district councillor for the above ward will take place on Thursday, 8th August 2019.

Our Chairman, Lee Wilkes, has been selected to stand for this vacancy and any support you can give him will be appreciated.

If you can help please call Rosemary Armstrong on 07711 945801 or email: [rosemary.armstrong@conservatives.com](mailto:rosemary.armstrong@conservatives.com)

Here are some of our team already out delivering in the area.



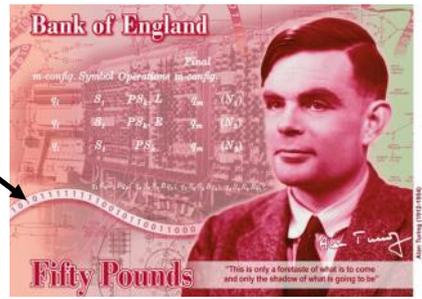
## THE NEW £50 NOTE

Interesting that when working out whether the binary number on the ribbon of the new £50 banknote meant anything. Dan Barker discovered it does:

1010111111110010110011000

is 23061912 in decimal. Alan Turing was born on the 23rd June 1912. What a nice touch.

Spotted by @danbarker on Twitter  
(23rd June is also the date we voted to leave the EU)



## 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.

## Under Corbyn's plan an average bill would skyrocket by £375 a year.



Labour want a new tax on your family home.

Corbyn's team are planning to create a new 'progressive property tax' which could see your bills skyrocket.

They have made clear that they want their new tax to 'generate more revenue' – in other words, to take more out of the pockets of homeowners. And larger homes, particularly family homes with gardens, would pay far more.

And this is just the latest in a long line of tax grabs from Corbyn that will hit hardworking people.

He has already made promises that would need him to take a thousand billion pounds more from taxpayers.

# NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE JOINT COMMITTEE

## *FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE UNITARY COUNCIL PLANS*

*Matters discussed at a meeting held on 24 Jun 2019.*

### Membership of the North Northamptonshire Joint Committee

Borough Council of Wellingborough:	Cllr Martin Griffiths Cllr Tom Partridge-Underwood Cllr Andrew Scarborough
Corby Borough Council:	Cllr Tom Beattie Cllr Jean Addison Cllr Kevin Watt
East Northamptonshire District Council:	Cllr Steven North Cllr David Jenney Cllr John Farrar
Kettering Borough Council:	Cllr Russell Roberts Cllr Ian Jelley Cllr Mick Scrimshaw
Northamptonshire County Council:	Cllr Victoria Perry Cllr Jonathan Ekins Cllr Jason Smithers

Substitute Members Councillors Mark Pengelly, Bob Eyles and David Sims (Corby); Councillors Helen Howell, Andrew Mercer and tbc (East Northamptonshire); Councillors Lloyd Bunday, Lesley Thurland and Clark Mitchell (Kettering); Councillors Tim Allebone, Barry Graves and Elayne Francis (Wellingborough); tbc (Northamptonshire County Council)

Below is the current understanding of the proposed timeline; this is subject to statutory confirmation –

**Shadow Period** – the Shadow Period (also referred to as the transition period) commences from when the Structural Changes Order (SCO) comes into force and finishes the day before Vesting Day (the day the new unitary authority comes into being). The Shadow Period will commence when the Order has completed its parliamentary process. It should be noted that during the Shadow Period the existing local authorities will continue to operate and fulfil their normal duties and responsibilities.

**Shadow Council Elections** – it is currently envisaged that elections to the new authority will be held on 7th May 2020. Members elected will serve an initial 5year term of office. The first year will be as members of the Shadow Council until Vesting Day (1st April 2021) when the current councils will be abolished and the new unitary council is fully operational. The elections in 2020 are likely to be based on current county divisions, with each electing three Members. There would be a total of 78 Members elected to the Shadow Council. Second elections for the new council are planned for May 2025 (then every four years)

## COMMENTS ON THE TWITTERSPHERE



**Ray Rodden 8 Jun 2019** Tom, the Brexit Party has no need to stand in Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. Other places? Too right. Time to get rid of the anti-democrats of Ms Soubry, Mr Umunna et al. We voted #Leave lets do it.



**Tom Pursglove MP 24 Jun 2019** At International Trade Questions, I took the opportunity to confirm that in any future trade agreement, the NHS is not, and never will be, for sale. The Secretary of State was very clear on this issue in response - quite rightly, the NHS simply isn't for sale!



**Boris Johnson MP 24 Jun 2019** We are going to come out of the EU on 31st October - we can, we must and we will.



**John Redwood MP. 26 Jun 2019** Yesterday the Govt pushed through a tax hike from 5% to 20% VAT on solar panels to comply with EU law. I did not support them. What is it about Mrs May's Govt that they are so wedded to the EU? We're leaving. We don't need to set our taxes in the ways they demand anymore.



**John Redwood MP. 26 Jun 2019** I've written to Govt & the BBC re its plan to abolish free TV licences to the over 75's unless they receive Pension Credit. It's clearly out of the spirit of the agreement that gave the BBC the right to levy a higher tax as long as it kept free licences for all over 75's.



**Emma McClarkin. 10 Jul 2019** My time as an MEP has come to a close. It has been an honour & privilege to represent my constituents & country for the last 10 years. Thank you to all those who have supported me on this journey. Excited for the next chapter



**Robert Peston. 7 Jul 2019** This is from the chairman of People's Vote and seems to confirm for the first time that the PV campaign is now unambiguously in favour of Remain, rather than simply a campaign to deliver a referendum while being neutral on the outcome. Quite a big and controversial shift

Quote Tweet



**Roland Rudd 6 Jul 2019** Britain desperately needs a People's Vote to cut through the chaos & confusion. We need to remain, reform and rejuvenate. Every meeting, rally, demonstration from any party and none in favour of this will have our support. #peoplesvote

**Just a thought: 14 Jul 2019** Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry says: *"We're going to ask for a public vote, we're going to ask for Remain to be on the ballot paper and we're going to campaign to Remain"* **So now we know - Labour is the Party of Remain**

## A MEMBER WRITES ON LOCAL MATTERS

5 Jul 2019

Well, we will soon know who our next PM will be with the selection finally closing. I have returned my voting slip straight away without actually listening to any of the hustings as both make mistakes which will upset one or the other's supporters. I am sure of one certain thing we do not want Jeremy Corbyn to be in at number 10 ever, so who ever wins by our members' voting has got a great deal to do to put Conservative Party back to being a popular party.

Under Mrs May's reign a lot of bad things have been done, cuts have affected all except those who are wealthy and this must be rectified especially with policing which to me is the most urgent.

Yes they say that police men and women to be trained takes a while, but, there are many experienced officers which are now forced in offices doing computer work to find drug dealings and child protection; all commendable actions. While they are sitting there though with no physical police presence on our streets our young are killing each other as they know there is no authority to stop the drug wars/dealings/violent actions. At least police officers are lawfully able to carry protective clothes and weapons to defend themselves.

I very recently (3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019), stepped in to help stop such a violent attack on a young man who sustained terrible kicks to his head in Elizabeth Street from 5 other young men,

I am of the 'old school' and stepped in and was prepared to cover this young man with my body to stop him from serious injury.

Yes there were other witnesses but did nothing, and some said I was wrong as I should not get involved because injuries could have easily have been inflicted on me. Luckily the offenders

walked away just issuing more verbal threats to the young victim.

I went about my business in town and decided to go to the Cube and report what I had seen, again some said 'It's a waste of time - police won't do anything', I disagree with just leaving this incident there. I did go across to report it as my thinking is this young victim could present to hospital later that day/night with serious head injuries in which case there may be a case to bring the violent youths to court.

There is an old saying 'If the good do nothing, etc, etc.'. I am a 71 years old disabled female and left my mobility scooter to intervene. Most would say 'How silly ' but I have had a good life - this young male victim is only just beginning. I don't know why he was set upon. I don't care but I can not just watch when such violence is being reigned on to a very defenceless person. Policing must be back on our streets otherwise I can see ordinary people in town and cities will soon be arming themselves , I don't mean just the youths. In Corby we have been totally abandoned by Northamptonshire Police Force.

I, like many others hate going into town, this was my first time since September 2018; it will be a long time before I go again.

**Dee Davies** (Member)

### **Cava and Canapes**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**at**

**Three Mill Bills**

**Nassington**

**More details from the office on**

**01536 200255 or email**

**office@cenca.co.uk**

**Just a thought:** On Twitter last week: *'Did you hear that news on the BBC, or is it true?'*

# Tom Pursglove, MP on Brooke Weston Trust school opening hours.



Drg: Pixabay

28 May 2019

I just wanted to say something about the ongoing consultation by the Brooke Weston Trust relating to the opening hours of their schools in Corby, having been contacted by a number of local parents about their

concerns regarding the proposal.

I have of course made urgent contact with the Brooke Weston Trust to get to the bottom of this and to make known the understandable concerns being raised with me about this proposal which is currently being consulted upon, and am very happy to help individual parents raise any specific concerns if they make contact with me directly.

More generally, I have to say that I am surprised by any justification being given on the grounds of funding, as over the two years 2018/19 and 2019/20, per-pupil funding in Northamptonshire is going up by £172, which equates to 4.1% - compared to the national average of 3.2% - and when changes in pupil numbers are taken into account, total funding rises by £30.9 million, which is up 7.1% compared to 2017/18.

Northamptonshire will also receive £27.3 million in Pupil Premium funding, to support the 22,552 pupils eligible for Pupil Premium of all abilities to perform better, and close the gap between them and their peers.

I should also add that compared to 2010, as at November 2017, we had 55 more teachers in Northamptonshire and 490 more teaching assistants compared to 2011. And, on the specific issue of pension costs and salaries, following the welcome end of the 1% public sector pay cap, the Government is funding the unexpected additional cost of the pay award for teachers with £508 million over two years, over and above the amount schools had already been allocated. We are also covering the costs of increased pension contributions for state schools,

and are also taking steps to address some of the areas of particular cost pressure that education has faced.

One of these is High Needs, and Northamptonshire in particular will receive an additional £3.5 million over the two years, bringing the total High Needs block funding for two to 18 year-olds to £71.9 million in 2018/19 and £76.1 million in 2019/20.

Despite having successfully campaigned vigorously for this extra funding, I am conscious that all too often the debate is too focussed on figures and not enough on standards. It is worth remembering, therefore, that in Northamptonshire, three quarters of children now attend schools rated either 'good' or 'outstanding', compared with half in 2010. This decade, we are also on course to create a million new school places, with a big focus on this in our area given the housebuilding we are seeing, following the net loss of 100,000 places nationally in the six years up to 2010. In Northamptonshire, over 17,000 places have been added; this includes the establishment of 10 new Free Schools, with a further five new schools set to be built in the coming years.

As I say, I am very conscious of the concerns being raised and will do all I can to support parents in ensuring their concerns are properly heard by the Trust, who I would urge to pause for reflection and review their proposals, having taken on board that feedback.

Whilst I am mindful that there is always more to do, significant boosts in education funding locally have been made by the Government, but we must always work together in our community to improve opportunities for every young person to get a good education, drawing upon their particular skills and talents, and help them succeed. As someone who was comprehensively educated locally, I am passionate about this issue, and most recently, I held a meeting only a fortnight ago with local school leaders to discuss a number of issues relating to improving local education that I am assisting them with, and all Northamptonshire MPs meet regularly with the Schools Minister to discuss progress. This is my focus, rather than engaging in political knockabout on this important issue, when the actual figures tell a very different story to the rhetoric seen in some of the reporting on this.

**Just a thought: 16 Jul 2019.** *I think if the Prime Minister had played hardball in the three months from October to December [2016], you don't know what would have happened. But once she's given away the leverage... champagne corks were pretty much popping in Brussels'*

Sir Ivan Rogers, former UK Permanent Representative to the EU. '



# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER STEPHEN MOLD



8 Jul 2019

Policing a large county such as Northamptonshire, which contains large urban areas and many smaller rural communities, is a complex and challenging undertaking. With only a finite amount of resources, coupled with new and increasing demands, delivering an efficient and effective police force entails us making some very difficult choices.

To help underline this challenge and enable residents to better understand the work we undertaken on their behalf, a new consultation exercised has been launched by my office. This will help to start a wider conversation about the difficult choices that have to be made when policing the county and about how police resources should be allocated. The consultation asks people to put themselves in the shoes of the Commissioner and the Chief Constable and tell us what matters most to them.



Northamptonshire is growing fast: the population has increased by 115,000 over the ten years to 2017, which is equivalent to adding another large town within the county

border. Policing itself continues to change and become more complex, with police officers responsible for work that isn't always seen by the public, including: monitoring high risk offenders; investigating serious and organised crimes; protecting vulnerable people from exploitation and attending incidents where people are in mental health crisis.

The consultation called, which is called 'Policing - how would you decide' can be completed by visiting our website: [northantspolice.pointsimulator.com](http://northantspolice.pointsimulator.com) and the deadline for contributions is the 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2019.

It is important that we have a wide conversation about local policing in our county. The issues the police are expected to deal with change all the time and become more complex. Despite the fact the Force has a budget of £130 million, tough decisions will always have to be made. Through this consultation, I would like to raise the awareness of some of the work police officers undertake that may not be obvious to most people and I want to hear where local residents think the focus should be.

Policing our roads is one area which I know is of great concern to residents across our county. With this in mind, a brand-new roads policing team has now hit the streets and highways of Northamptonshire to disrupt criminals and make the county safer.

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

The Northamptonshire Police Road Crime Team is made up of 18 officers who will be focused on denying criminals the use of the roads – disrupting county lines, targeting organised crime groups, responding to Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) hits and executing planned, proactive operations. The team will work alongside the Force’s Safer Roads Team and the Northamptonshire Safer Roads Alliance to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on Northamptonshire’s roads by clamping down on the ‘fatal four’ – speed, seatbelts, drink or drug driving or using a mobile behind the wheel.

Northamptonshire is 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. This new team that will work to deliver our commitment to improving safety, whilst targeting people who drive anti-socially or use our roads while committing crime.

In addition to this new roads policing team, fifty more police officers from neighbourhood and rural teams have now completed the training and are equipped with Taser, in a first for Northamptonshire. Last year, 100 additional officers were trained and equipped in frontline response and proactive team teams.

Now, officers from the neighbourhood teams will join the number who can deploy Taser, following the investment I made to provide the additional training required. Nationally and locally there has been an increase in knife related crime. It therefore makes complete sense that the officers that are out in the communities are equipped and able to respond to incidents quickly and effectively. Extending Taser capability allows the force to do that.

Northamptonshire Police officers must be able to protect the public and keep themselves safe from anyone intent on causing harm. I was keen to make this investment and support the Chief Constable’s view that training more officers to use Taser will give them a real and visible deterrent in situations where they believe that someone’s safety is under threat.

As ever, I am always happy to provide any help or assistance and can be contacted at:

[Commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk](mailto:Commissioner@northantspfcc.pnn.gov.uk)

### Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

The next meeting of the Conservative Policy Forum (CPF) will be held on Thursday 15th August 2019 at Corby Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ. The meeting commences at 7.30pm



The topic for this meeting will be: **“POST-BREXIT ECONOMY”**.

This meeting is open to members and non-members. The Chairman of the CPF, George Whittaker, will host the meeting and he welcomes constructive debate from all who attend.

Please contact Ann of 01536 200255 or email [office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk) for agenda and meeting notes. Subjects for future meetings:

Discussion	Publication date	Deadline for responses
Values-Based Policy-Making	23 July	20 October
Under-18s Education	w/c 21 October	31 December

#### Your Association contact details:

Tickets for all events can be ordered through the Conservative Association Office (Ann)

Phone: 01536 200255

Email: [office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk)

Mail: CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

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

# THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'NOW THE WORK BEGINS'

22 Jul 2019

As I write this article all Conservative members will have voted in the leadership contest and we will have a new Prime Minister in place from 24th July.

This is the greatest opportunity we have had for at least a decade to cement ourselves into power. However, I have this message for that person.

1. You must engage with your membership more. The last two Governments have been exceedingly London centric and we in the shires were rarely consulted in decisions which basically affect us more than the Westminster elite. Why doesn't Number 10 set up regional forums to hear our voices. I for one would happily give up a day a quarter to invest in public debate and decision - and what's more I would not want to be paid!!!
2. You must ensure that your Parliamentary party follows as a group. Even now the Chancellor (who has no doubt packed his bags) is conspiring to defeat the next incumbent of number 10. What the hell are we all doing raising funds and working hard for a bunch who all they seem to do is argue and bicker against themselves. Never have we seen the labour party in such disarray and now would be a great time for an election if only our party was united. We would have an unassailable lead as a Government and could implement all the policies we know need to be introduced.
3. You must obey the will of the people. Out means Out and it has to be done before the year end and really should be completed by the October 31st deadline. If we are going to try to renegotiate then Please, Please, Please send in a tough negotiator and put leaving without a deal firmly on the table.

4. The senior care crisis needs sorting out as a matter of urgency. 1 in 3 dementia patients end up selling their own home to pay for care when other terminal illnesses are covered by the NHS. Forget tax decreases, if we need more money (and we do) raise it and cut foreign aid. We sold the County Council assets of elderly care homes decades ago and now fund rich lifestyles and large pay for care home bosses. I know of one care home management team who have five luxury cars with a total OTR value of well over £400,000. This cannot be right.
5. For God's sake tell us the truth.....we are grown up and can take it. Forget trying to gloss bad news up - tell it like it is . This I know will be a first for politicians at any level but it needs to change.
6. You must stop lying about increased funds for education, the forces, the NHS and police. We all know that they have been cut to near destruction and now need urgent repair.



This is my wish list. If only I could believe that even some of these points will be listened to I would be grateful. I would urge the 160,000 or so members to write along these lines to the party chairman and your MP so that the new Government is under no illusions where we stand.

*Have a great summer - if you can.....*

*Yours sincerely*

**MOG**

*CC Boris Johnson, oops..... I have let the cat out of the bag for my vote!*

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.

**Corby Conservative Club Ltd**  
Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ  
Telephone: 01536 203711  
Email: [conclub2010@gmail.com](mailto:conclub2010@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.corbyconservativeclub.net](http://www.corbyconservativeclub.net)

**Club opening times**

Monday–Thursday 12 noon - 11pm  
Friday/Saturday 12 noon - 11.30pm  
Sunday 12 noon - 11pm

**RESTAURANT OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS**

**Restaurant opening times**

Wednesday 12 noon - 3pm  
Thursday 12 noon - 3pm  
and 6pm - 9pm  
Friday/Saturday 12 noon - 9pm  
Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

# THE CONS Club



## and Comer Restaurant

**Restaurant open to the public**

## The Association of Conservative Clubs



The ACC takes an active role in

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

Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members.

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

Our address is  
CENCA, Cottingham  
Road, Corby,  
NN17 1SZ