

# POLITICAL LIFE

ISSUE 61

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

Oct 2020  
Nov 2020

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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 MP, 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



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

On 14<sup>th</sup> September I voted to protect the United Kingdom, as any Prime Minister would do.

Unfortunately, I was not joined by a single Labour or SNP MP.

**Instead Labour and the SNP chose to side with the EU and their outrageous threats to carve up our Union.**

I am making it clear we're the only Party willing to stand up for the United Kingdom.

Last year in good faith I signed the Withdrawal Agreement, believing the EU would stand by their word to be reasonable.

But regretfully, as Labour know, in recent months the EU have suggested they would go to extreme and unreasonable lengths.

**Threatening to put up blockades across our own country, divide our own land and change the very economic geography of our own union.**

No British Prime Minister, Government or Parliament has ever bowed to such a humiliating and offensive threat.

And I'm proud to say that legacy continued in this vote on 14 Sep 2020..

**But appallingly when presented with another opportunity to stand up for the UK, Labour chose not to. Instead they buckled to the EU.**

With your support I'm certain we will succeed.

Yours sincerely,

**Boris Johnson**  
Prime Minister



**WASH HANDS**  
Regularly



**COVER FACE**  
In enclosed spaces



**MAKE SPACE** 2 metres  
or 1 metre with mask

## FURLOUGH AND VAT REDUCTION EXTENDED – 23 Sep 2020

Rishi Sunak plans for the economy following the Prime Minister's statement on 23 Sep 2020.

The government and firms will continue to top up wages of workers who have not been able to return to the workplace full time due to the coronavirus. The Jobs Support Scheme, which will replace the furlough scheme, will see workers get three quarters of their normal salaries for six months.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak said it was part of a wider "winter economy plan".

Nearly three million workers are currently on partial or full furlough leave. The Job Retention Scheme ends on 31 October and will be replaced by the Chancellor's post-furlough plan.

A cut in VAT for hospitality and tourism companies will also be extended until March. The cut from 20% to 5% VAT had been due to expire on 12 January next year.

The government will directly support the wages of people in work, giving businesses who face depressed demand the option of keeping employees in a job on shorter hours, rather than making them redundant. The Chancellor said the new scheme would "support only viable jobs" as opposed to jobs that only exist because the government is continuing to subsidise the wages.

"The primary goal of our economic policy remains unchanged - to support people's jobs - but the way we achieve that must evolve," he said, and continued, "I cannot save every business, I cannot save every job."

The Chancellor said a similar scheme for the self-employed would be available.

Under the scheme, the government will subsidise the pay of employees who are working fewer than normal hours due to lower demand. It will apply to staff who can work at least a third of their usual hours. Employers will pay staff for the hours they do work. For the hours employees can't work, the government and the employer will each cover one third of the lost pay. The grant will be capped at £697.92 per month.

It will be open to employers across the UK even if they have not previously used the furlough scheme

The scheme will run for six months starting in November. The furlough scheme was a bridge to carry livelihoods through the crisis. But the bridge needs to reach the other side of the gap to be effective.

The Chancellor's wage subsidy scheme is a continuation of the support given since the lockdown in March.

Mr Sunak also announced that businesses that have borrowed money through the government's loan scheme would be given more time to repay the money.

The Chancellor said that small businesses who took out "Bounce Back" loans can use a new Pay as You Grow flexible repayment system. It means borrowings can be repaid over 10 years instead of the original 6 year term.

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## Conservative Policy Forum

10 Sep 2020



Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, would like to get our discussions going again but obviously at this time it is not possible.

Once we get through this current period we will be contacting members so they can take part in formulating Party policy again.

George believes that the face-to-face meetings are very important and produce the best discussions. However the work of the CPF continues on line and the most recent discussion on Environment and Animal Welfare had some very good results from the 94 constituencies participating. You can read the full report on our webpage at: <https://www.corbyandeastnorthantsconservatives.org.uk/news/conservative-policy-forum-1>

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](mailto: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.

# Party Conference 2020

This year, for the first time ever, our Party Conference is online and FREE for all our members. CCHQ emails have been sent to current members inviting them to register at [conservatives.com/conference](https://conservatives.com/conference) for the October 3rd to 6th event.

If you are a member please ensure that you sign up for this free event. Email queries should be directed to [conference@conservatives.com](mailto:conference@conservatives.com).

Photo: Pixabay edited R Boyd



## Fahrenheit 451

So, we're now at the book-burning stage of political correctness. This week, after it was revealed that JK Rowling's new Strike novel features a backstory about a cross-dressing bloke who murders women, the familiar howl of 'transphobia!' rose from the offencerati.

Soon TikTok witch-finders were posting videos of themselves torching Harry Potter books.

Jedward, of all people, egged them on, saying Rowling's book would make a cosy, romantic fire. The mob's desire for Rowling's death trended on Twitter. '#RIPJKRowling', they yelled. This isn't normal behaviour. The Rowling hate is proof not



Pic: Pixabay DarkmoonArt\_de

**JUST A THOUGHT:** For supporters of XR, BLM and the like. Before jumping on a bandwagon you need to read the small print to see where the bandwagon is going.

## Campaign Managers Ramblings.

24 Sep 2020

These are certainly very trying times for all of us, but I am sure we will come out of the other side of this before too long. Probably the secret is to look for any positives in the situation and not to dwell on the difficulties too much.



Tom continues to work tirelessly on our behalf, and to make sure he remains as our MP requires year-round campaigning which costs money.

As you can appreciate our usual ways of raising money are not possible at the moment, so we are moving into a digital world. We are planning an online auction, and other events ... ranging from virtual coffee mornings to cookery/ painting classes, talks by MPs and celebrities etc etc. If you have any ideas I would be more than happy to hear them....

Email me on:

[rosemary.armstrong@conservatives.com](mailto:rosemary.armstrong@conservatives.com)

We are currently distributing Christmas raffle tickets, and the profits of this will go straight into the campaign fund. Any help you can give with this task would be enormously appreciated, especially in the more rural areas as it is not a blanket delivery. I can deliver the envelopes with a detailed map to your door, just let me know what area/streets you would like to do.

I look forward to hearing from you soon

**Rosemary Armstrong**

only that cancel culture exists but also that it is intensifying, becoming more and more rash and unforgiving. You know the old saying - first they burn books, then they burn people. Making the argument for freedom and tolerance has rarely been as important as it is right now. Brendan O'Neill, Editor SPIKED 18 Sep 2020

# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

17 Sep 2020

**Eileen Kemp, our President.** As you may know, on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020, Eileen passed away.

Eileen was one of the most loyal, hardworking and reliable individuals one could ever meet, and her dedication to the Corby and East Northamptonshire Conservative Association was immense. I hadn't realised, until I listened to George Whittaker's moving eulogy at her funeral, just how many other organisations had benefitted from her wisdom over the decades. I'm not sure where the energy came from, but it was clear that she had helped and guided dozens of organisations and bodies during her life. Personally, whilst I didn't know Eileen for as long as most, I will miss her direct approach, her absolute focus on saying what she thought needed to be said – she took no prisoners. She will be sorely missed.

At her funeral, held outside St Mary the Virgin Church in Weldon on 19<sup>th</sup> August, on a horribly wet and windy day, an estimated 100 people, from all walks of life and of all ages, turned out to pay their respects. I think that says it all.



There were other things I intended to talk about in this report, but I think I will leave it for now – they will wait until the next edition

Yours,



**Councillor Lee Wilkes**  
Chairman – Corby & East Northamptonshire  
Conservative Association



**CENCA President**  
**Eileen Kemp**

## **TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES**

Following government advice Tom's surgeries are being held on line. Telephone 0020 7219 8043 to make an appointment.

Regular surgeries will continue once we get through this period of difficulty.

**Your Association contact details:**  
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Association Office

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NN17 1SZ

# The Battle for Brexit isn't over yet

## Blair, Major and other powerful figures want to keep us beholden to Brussels.

14th September 2020

Boris Johnson's desire to give the UK some wriggle room in relation to the Withdrawal Agreement has really sparked the fury of the likes of Blair and Major who are branding Britain as a 'rogue state' for daring to question the agreement. These arch Remainers, who for four years, have abused their positions as former PMs in pronouncing endlessly how awful Brexit will be are castigating the government for introducing the Internal Market Bill.

You don't need a PhD, or even a GCSE, to see through the hypocrisy and the hollowness of Major and Blair's posturing about the sacredness of international law. Blair? The man best known for launching an illegal war in Iraq that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people?

People aren't stupid. They know that when someone like Blair talks about the importance of adhering to the rules, he shouldn't be taken seriously; that something else is going on here, something unsaid.

The government wants to reclaim an oversight over trade between the UK's four nations and the bluster about global rules is a disguise for something else.

The Remainder elite's rage against the Internal Market Bill has nothing to do with the principle of respecting international treaties and everything to do with defending one particular international treaty: the Withdrawal Agreement.

And this is for the simple reason that this treaty does something these people have longed for and agitated for: it weakens the Brexit ideal, stymies the democratic cry of 'Take Back Control' and keeps sections of the UK beholden to EU rules and regulations.

As Major and Blair say in their newspaper article, the Withdrawal Agreement makes clear that Northern Ireland will have to 'comply' with 'EU rules, including those on state aid'. In short, the Remainder elite loves the Withdrawal Agreement for the same reason many of us on the Brexit side have long criticised it: because it softens Brexit; it maintains EU oversight in crucial areas of what ought to be sovereign British activity, including state aid.

The controversy over the Internal Market Bill reminds us that the battle for Brexit isn't over yet. Not by a long shot. The EU and its supporters in the UK are as determined to retain EU oversight in the UK as they ever were.

Adapted from an article by Brendan O'Neill, editor SPIKED

### GINA MILLER—HOIST ON HER OWN PETARD

The Supreme Court in the 'Gina Miller Case' upheld the principle on invoking Article 50 in 2017 and this gave authority to the government to take action in above matter. (See Tom Pursglove's article).

## WE ARE THE 2020 NUMBER TWO CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION IN THE WHOLE OF THE EAST MIDLANDS.

### OFFICE OPENING TIMES

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Corby Conservative Club has reopened for restricted hours and the Association Office is now able to open on Mondays and Fridays from 11am to 1pm. Currently the Club is closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday which means the office cannot be opened on those days.

Outside office hours you can reach me at:

Email: ray.boyd@talktalk.net. The office email address is: office@cenca.co.uk. Both email addresses are monitored 7 days a week. My home telephone: 01536 742954 (Unless already registered you may have to identify yourself on this phone before being connected). If I am unavailable please leave a message and I will get back to you.

You can also contact the Chairman, Cllr Lee Wilkes. Please email me if you need to get in touch with Lee.

Kind regards and keep well, Ray Boyd

**PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR MAILCHIMP COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MAY GO TO YOUR EMAIL SPAM BOX**



## NEXT YEAR'S ELECTION NEWS

20 Sep 2020

### May 2021 polls

I know you, like us, will have been looking ahead to the May 2021 polls.

It is my view that, following this analysis work with partners and based on the information currently available, polls can be delivered safely and securely, and the risk of transmission substantially reduced, if COVID-19 secure guidelines are followed closely.

### By-elections

As you know, Parliament legislated to push back the May 2020 elections and subsequent local by-elections to May 2021, and the UK Government continues to operate on that basis. We are not changing that legislation, meaning that you should not expect any kind of elections to be able to take place before May 2021. This decision was made to give Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers certainty on the timing and combination of elections at the start of the year. It would be disruptive for local elections teams to plan for a poll before May 2021, for it to then be postponed again.

### Legislation

I believe there is no necessity for significant changes such as imposing an all-postal vote or changing polling days or times (which would require primary legislation). The UK Government remains of the view that all-postal voting increases fraud risks and removes choice from voters who wish to cast their vote in person. I am considering a potential smaller change to legislation to support electors with absent voting. An update on this will be provided in due course.

Chloe Smith MP Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution

## A READER'S VIEWS

Sep 2020.

Coronavirus is spiking all over the globe again, not surprising as people are out and about again, some treating life as normal - thinking it's gone away. Now some time ago it was claimed to be the over 70's who were likely to lead to possible death, then it was stated those with diabetes/obesity, after this came the claim that it was the ethnic communities, today it's the 17-25 year groups who are catching/spreading it. Let's face it IS everyone who can catch this nasty virus: so what do we as a country do?

Well, we will be crippled financially as a country if we lock down again. Separate town/areas lock down doesn't seem to hold it back either so it seems there is no answer except await a vaccine. If we get one, the sooner the better, everyone should have it but there are always some that are vaccine shy so they can continue to spread it while most are more considerate to save lives.

Throughout this virus our government has been knocked mercilessly but few have given them the benefit of reason that if they hadn't locked down [albeit late] many more people would have died, No UK government could have done better or put in place so many packages of financial help for workers. Many companies have gone to the wall or had to give workers notice of redundancy so jobs are lost. The British way is usually to get on with challenges—and life right now is going to be an uphill obstacle to get our country back on its feet. Please don't despair we will.

Please Labour MP'S stop knocking our Conservative government, instead please come up with some sound answers to our current crisis instead of constant carping, let's pull together.

Member Dee Davies

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



# TOM PURSGLOVE

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

**BREXIT: STILL STRIVING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE FREE  
TRADE AGREEMENT, BUT PUTTING A SAFETY NET IN  
PLACE TO PRESERVE OUR UNION**



21 Sep 2020

*A topic that I've seen appearing regularly in my post bag, and that has been a huge topic of conversation nationally over the last few weeks is that of the United Kingdom (UK) Internal Market Bill. As such, I wanted to set out for members what the Bill actually does, hopefully allay some of the concerns that have been expressed, and set the whole thing in its full context.*

The Bill seeks to ensure businesses across the whole of the United Kingdom will continue to enjoy seamless internal trade, as they have done for centuries, after the transition period ends on the 31st December 2020.

Hundreds of powers previously exercised at the EU level will flow directly to the UK Government and the devolved administrations in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast. To allow each home nation to take full advantage of these new opportunities, and to ensure businesses can continue to trade freely across the whole United Kingdom, the Government needs to legislate to prevent any new barriers to trade from emerging within the UK as EU law falls away.

The Bill contains a 'Market Access Commitment' to give UK businesses certainty that their goods and services can be traded seamlessly in all the home nations. This will mean there is no difference in internal trade arrangements for businesses when the transition period ends, meaning total continuity and total confidence for businesses, consumers and investors alike.

I support these measures in the Bill because I know many businesses across the country rely on being able to trade freely and without hindrance across our four home nations, as they have historically. In fact, for so many businesses, including here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, I am mindful that it is absolutely imperative, as ultimately, many depend on internal trade more than that with any other trading partner.

As part of the Government's work in drafting this Bill, a consultation ran up to the 13th August to allow businesses to respond to the Government's initial proposals as set out in the associated White Paper and I am pleased that there was overwhelming support for them.

As I have already touched on, I am also aware that the nationalist parties in Parliament have claimed that this Bill seeks to remove autonomy from the devolved assemblies and parliaments in the various nations. This could not be further from the truth: to the contrary, the Bill will give additional powers to the devolved governments in over seventy policy areas, including parts of employment law, land use and air quality, while also respecting the powers that have already been granted to Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. The proposals have been deliberately designed to ensure that devolution can continue to work for everyone.

Importantly, the Bill's provisions would do nothing to stop any devolved government from introducing rules and regulations for their own businesses operating within their nation. What they do mean is that no administration will be able to block their businesses trading goods and services produced and sold legitimately in other parts of the UK.

So, overall, the Bill is fundamentally about protecting the integrity of the United Kingdom, providing more powers for all parts of the UK and ensuring that businesses can continue to trade seamlessly across the entire country. The Prime Minister made this clear when he introduced it in the House of Commons. As we recover from the Coronavirus pandemic, it will also help to protect jobs and support our economic recovery. These objectives in themselves, it would seem to me, are broadly uncontroversial and difficult to argue with in principle.

Continued>>>>

However, in terms of the main technical controversy surrounding the Bill, there has been much speculation about the Government's commitment to treaty obligations and international law. I believe that some of the commentary has misrepresented the situation and I want to address this directly.

First, it goes without saying that my ministerial colleagues and I are committed to the rule of law as determined by a democratically elected Parliament.

Specifically with regard to the provisions on the 'Northern Ireland Protocol', as things stand, the protocol contains inconsistencies that the UK and the EU had intended to resolve by the end of the year. The end of the transition period is fast approaching, and with no agreement yet reached, the Government has proposed a safety net to protect the union and ensure that the UK's obligations under the *Belfast Agreement* are met. We are clear and unwavering that we have a duty to deliver on our promises to the people of Northern Ireland and this Bill allows us to do so, by way of a contingency, should agreement with the EU not be reached.

If no action were taken, the default legal position would risk creating barriers to trade within the UK and could threaten the union. The EU, for instance, has already suggested blocking the transportation of food from Great Britain to Northern Ireland. The Government's proposals make clear this cannot be allowed to happen - and I would be surprised if anybody thought this were an acceptable outcome to allow to happen through an extreme interpretation of the protocol, or a reasonable demand for the European Union to make. Indeed, I would argue that no responsible United Kingdom government of any complexion could ever allow such a situation to materialise and as a unionist I personally cannot countenance it.

It is also important to recognise that it is not new for Parliament to consider legislation that could override treaty obligations. This is because the UK's constitutional settlement provides for Parliament alone to decide whether, and how, to implement the UK's treaty obligations. It is worth remembering that this principle was upheld by the Supreme Court in the 'Miller Case' on invoking Article 50 in 2017.

However, after listening to concerns in Parliament, the Government tabled an

amendment to the Bill which requires the approval of Parliament before ministers can use the powers under sections 42, 43 and 45 of the Bill. For this, and the reasons mentioned above, I do not support the removal of these parts of the Bill as some advocate, and believe that a reasonable compromise has been reached, which goes a long way to address the concerns that were raised in the House in the Second Reading debate.

Remedying the unintended consequences of the protocol may breach the *Withdrawal Agreement* in a limited way, but the consequences of inaction could break up the United Kingdom. I therefore hope people will understand that while I remain fully committed to international law, I have a duty to protect the integrity of the union - the overriding purpose of the relevant provisions in the Bill.

With all that in mind, it is important to stress, however, that our primary objective remains to secure a comprehensive free trade agreement with the European Union, exactly as they committed to through the *Withdrawal Agreement* and the *Political Declaration* associated with it. From my perspective, that remains the optimum outcome for both sides, as it is evidently mutually-beneficial. I also understand that we are not asking for anything that the European Union has not been willing to agree with other countries around the world, such as in their recent trade agreement with Canada.

As such, I fully support the Bill, as well as the Prime Minister and the Government's ongoing stated commitment to negotiate in good faith to try and agree a free trade agreement, that would in turn render the more controversial elements of this Bill redundant, but which act as a reasonable and proportionate insurance policy in the absence of a deal.

*Given that we won the General Election late last year with an overwhelming mandate to deliver a proper Brexit and to preserve our precious union, the expectation that we will keep our promises on both is clear locally and nationally - we must do just that, and help that process along by backing our Prime Minister and his team to achieve it.*

**Tom Pursglove** Member of Parliament  
for Corby & East Northamptonshire



# COUNCILLOR KEVIN WATT, LEADER OF CONSERVATIVE GROUP ON CORBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Joining us up.

21 Sep 2020

Next May North Northants Unitary comes into existence, its political make up will be the choice of the electorate. That choice will depend on the policies we offer. Our offer should be positive, bright and bold. Our transport policy should not just include filling the pot-holes but increasing choice. Nobody enjoys gridlocked roads. Long ago are the days in Corby when 2 cars waiting at a junction was considered a jam. We need to give people choice about their methods of travel. Covid 19 has shown us that we don't always need to travel either to work, or to visit other companies. Working from home is an option but however it's not a panacea for everything as it's only applicable to some office jobs and then comes with it the risks of efficiency and effects on mental health. Going to work and being part of a team is actually very beneficial, for most people. For those with an awful boss working from home can be fantastic. Within Corby most of our jobs are hands on and not office based so we have to go to work. So what can we do about that? Without stating the obvious living in the same town as your job helps, it means your journey to work may be shorter and you have the choice of a greener alternative. To live in the same town requires available accommodation and if you're on the minimum wage then low-cost accommodation is a must. That is another very important policy we must offer.

The new Unitary must offer a transport evolution enabling people to use greener forms of transport. It's here I have to own up that I try to cycle to as many destinations as possible. I agree that it is often not possible with distance, weather and safety.

During lockdown I continued to travel to work on a bicycle and appreciated the glorious clean air the 80% reduction in car journey afforded me. That journey is partly along an upgraded cycle path which is a joy to transverse. Our roads are built for heavy vehicles and even on a road surface without potholes and fallen drains it can be very uneven and uncomfortable for a cyclist. The coming of e-bikes and e-scooters and their inevitable fall in price will enable more people to travel greater distances without vehicles. The new unitary should aim to provide the country's best cycle ways within our towns and connecting its rural villages.

We must support rural communities with a regular public transport service. With improvements in technology that service can be both green and cost effective. Connecting our centres of population be they towns or villages is a must for North Northamptonshire to gain a sense of its own identity. We can still be proud to live in our towns and villages but also have the same pride that it's in North Northamptonshire, that will only come if we believe North Northamptonshire is backing us.

*Cllr Kevin Watt*

## ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Our regular meetings have been suspended during the lockdown.

The next meeting is planned for 6 Nov 2020. but confirmation and venue will be notified to all Executive members via Mailchimp and email.

We have recently set up a Zoom account to allow us to hold meetings on line and this is currently being organised and Executive members will be advised should it be necessary to begin these on-line meetings.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

To minimise local administration, the Voluntary Party's Membership Committee has recommended that no new local Standing Orders or Bank Transfers are set up from this point. They advise associations to direct members to pay through Direct Debit or Credit/Debit Card (online or via the CCHQ Membership Team). Please note, the money received by Associations remains the same whether payments are made centrally or locally.

So if you know of someone who would like to join please ask them to go to:

[www.conservatives.com](http://www.conservatives.com) and click 'Join'.

# IT'S THE SAME OLD LABOUR (In a shiny new knee-bending suit)

Sir Keir Starmer proclaimed himself Labour's 'new leadership', in his first conference speech on 22 Sep 2020.

**But nothing could be further from reality. Sir Keir's leadership is just more of the same old Labour.**

He's advanced Corbyn's far-left economic plans and continually shown he doesn't respect the views of ordinary people on crime, immigration and regaining our independence now we've left the EU.



Photo by Kelvin Siqueira from Pexels

Sir Keir Starmer was a key member of Jeremy Corbyn's top team. He led the charge for a second referendum and did everything he could to make Corbyn Prime Minister.

**And even now whilst he pretends to be showing 'new leadership' he can't even name a single one of Corbyn's policies he'd drop.**

Instead pledging to 'build on' his far left plan, including suggesting a devastating new tax on homes and savings, and praising Corbyn's radicalism.

Sir Keir Starmer's leadership is just more of the same old Labour.

**Sir Keir Starmer is being handsomely rewarded for his loyalty to Corbyn:**

- 96% of reported donations to Labour under Sir Keir's leadership have come from the trade unions

- Labour's most influential union baron, Len McCluskey, has reconfirmed his support of Sir Keir's advancement of the Corbyn Project this month

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## THIS IS THE FUTURE

Members responded well to the recently advertised on-line Zoom events and these will continue. The Chancellor Rishi Sunak took part in the most recent event.

Participants are allowed to ask questions but these have to be submitted in advance to avoid the speaker becoming over-whelmed with them so it is important that members wishing to take part get their applications in early and submit their questions when doing so. Later applicants may not get the opportunity to ask a question.



Image by Alexandra\_Koch from Pixabay

Regular Mailchimp emails are sent out to members and it has been noted that sometimes these go into the spam box. Please check your spam/trash box regularly to avoid missing these.

**JUST A THOUGHT:** It's being written today that Extinction Rebellion is adding to its aims and is now trying to shut down free speech. Consider the case of Australian Tony Abbott. Maybe his trade appointment is a good idea and maybe it isn't. But either way, supporting same-sex marriage shouldn't be a disqualification. Paul Goodman 7 Sep 2020

# RAY JACKSON - OUR COUNTRY IS IN GREAT TROUBLE

20 Sep 2020

'Look for me in the morning- you'll find me a grave man' or 'Men fear death as children fear to go in the dark': teenagers always see themselves as immortal and so they are in many ways – to the sadness of us later generations. The difference with coronavirus is that not are they wrong for themselves, but they take many others with them. It is a difficult fact of life we have to deal with; a generation matter. Let's try to answer it with reason, not with cowardice. The last thing we want is to watch loud mouthed, arrogant teenagers march toward their deaths. We have to try to persuade them not to act in such a way as to bring awful consequences on themselves and others. Why oh why are they having to face this problem?

It is difficult against this background to look at some practical political issues, but they will be there for us to deal with when we get back to something like normality.

I have been obsessed to hear the Health and Safety Executive has been allowing workers in Leicester to be paid well below their promised wage – £3.50 per hour was one figure I read. I have never liked the Health and Safety organisation, but I came to respect its ability to resolve conflicts over wages and salaries without endless strikes and power to do further harm being handed to some trade union leaders. I have assumed for years that wages promised were wages paid. Employers had to be honourable. The problem came to light about two months ago but has only come to the surface occasionally since. There is no talk of restoring wages to the agreed levels, no prosecutions, no departures of senior managers, no big revelations in the Press. The big names in Health and Safety remain very quiet. With the problems of employment and productivity the country is going to have to face in the next few months, we shall need first class managers, not those who achieve success by screwing down wages unfairly and hiding it from the H&S people. I must admit John Ashworth, Labour MP for one of the Leicester constituencies seems the sort of person to tackle this sort of problem, but we have heard nothing yet. Is it all being fudged over, a few more national names put on the list for sinecures? Have any Tories got wind of what is going on?

For years I assumed teachers always and sincerely had the interests of their pupils firmly in their hearts. They could reject the idea of not re-opening their schools, not because the free time on full pay would suit their

domestic arrangements, but because teaching from home opened up the possibility of changes worth exploring. 'The needs of the children are paramount' - (Introduction to the Children's Act?). I have been very happy with the philosophy, not particularly disturbed when a friend suggested that 80% of teaching staff were ladies.

Better a 50/50 mix but teaching hours do suit families. I would like to see occasionally male teachers, other than Heads, appearing on TV to talk about their schools. Some men are quite good at talking! I have now discovered that middleclass children from prosperous families have their own computers, whereas the poor do not. When work is given out, those with computers shine; those without receive commiserations. I can't believe it, but apparently it came out when children stayed at home and home-work was set for them from school. Fall out if you haven't got use of a computer at home. I am going to try to seek confirmation of this. Any comment would be welcome.

Here we are talking and planning One Party Conservatism for the whole country, a campaign which is going well especially around Rotherham and we may perhaps – perhaps have this blatant discrimination. If it has happened how have we good Tories allowed it? I am reminded of the case of a keen Tory resigning his national membership because a very old friend was having to pay for her TV licence. He was incensed but having resigned can do much less about it than if he had stayed.

Our Country is in very great trouble. We who have in the past tried to help it along are going to be needed in ways we can't yet conceive. Stand close with your Tory friends. Keep in touch with Tom.

Be bold in accepting jobs you never thought you could do.

Best wishes,

**Ray Jackson**

Chairman, 200 Club



*Ray Jackson*

**Just a thought:** The EU wants its fishing boats to keep the same rights to work in UK waters as they have now. Mr Barnier said on 29th August 2020: 'Obviously the UK will recover the full sovereignty of their waters. No doubt. No question. 'But it is another thing, an other story, speaking about the fish which are inside those waters.'



On 23 Sep 2020 Sir Keir Starmer asked his Party to rediscover its patriotism.

But the next day Labour refused to back our Bill to protect our soldiers and veterans, despite tens of thousands of you demanding they do the right thing.

Proving that we are still the only party who will deliver on its promises to our troops.

But there's more work to do.

Our Overseas Operations Bill will correct a grave injustice.

Stopping the endless cycle of vexatious claims over historic allegations abroad and recognising the unique burden placed on our serving men and women.

When I voted for this Bill, I was thinking about all those brave service personnel who did their duty defending our nation but found themselves subject to the stresses and strains of late and repeated allegations.

Sadly, we can't rewrite history. But with this Bill we will put things right for future personnel.

I'm proud to be a member of a Party which truly stands with our Armed Forces and acts to protect them whenever needed, and I'm hoping you'll be too.

Thank you,

**Johnny Mercer MP**  
Veterans Minister



## WE STAND TOGETHER

### in CORBY and EAST NORTHANTS

- ✓ 17,900 jobs protected via the furlough scheme
- ✓ £13,400,000 to support self-employed people
- ✓ £52,695,665 of Bounce Back loans for small companies
- ✓ £20,733,000 of business grants paid out

## THE SUMMER DRAW

Thank you to everybody who took part in our Summer Draw which took place on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August. The winners were:

1st Prize - £2500 Grand Prize - **Antonia MacKay** of Argyll & Bute

2nd Prize - Bottle of Champagne signed by Boris Johnson - **Phillip Taylor** of West Berkshire

3rd Place - Signed Copy of the Victorians by Jacob Rees Mogg - **Luke Holmes** of Bishop Auckland

All prizes will be sent out within 14 days. All those who purchased at least £50 worth of tickets will be sent a replica copy of the EU Withdrawal Bill which was signed by the PM within the next 14 days. A number of members also took part in the on-line events and the Association received a share of the proceeds along with a percentage of receipts from the sale of the Summer Draw tickets.

Thank you again to all for taking part.

**Just a thought:** Speaking at a Labour Connected event on 20 Sep 2020 Labour frontbencher Shadow education secretary Kate Green has described the deadly coronavirus pandemic as a "good crisis" the party can exploit. She said "I think we should use the opportunity, don't let a good crisis go to waste. 20 Sep 2020. Reminds one of a Labour memo on the day of the Twin Towers tragedy as 'a good day to bury bad news'.



# Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

12 Sep 2020

I was pleased to announce that more than £1.5 million will be invested to give a crime fighting boost in Northamptonshire with rural policing, neighbourhood policing, knife crime and high-tech investigation all receiving extra funding to increase capacity and strengthen the police response to tackle crime and keep people safe in Northamptonshire.

Taken together these projects are part of an ongoing push in conjunction with the Chief Constable to improve policing in Northamptonshire and marks one of the most significant investments in the Force of recent years.

The funding is made up of £750,000 from local investment through the council tax precept and £400,000 from special grant fund from the home office, topped up to £1.5 million from existing resources. It will support initiatives including:

- More officers and specialist vehicles in Rural Policing teams to increase engagement with and operational capacity in rural communities. This includes mobile police stations to increase the visible police presence rural areas
- Deploying 20 extra officers to neighbourhood policing teams across the county, working in communities to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour and crime in our town centres
- Committing an additional £100,000 to support the Force in tackling knife crime
- Continuing support for the dog section with five new handlers and new vehicles
- Improving the way data is retrieved from phones and other devices by creating a digital hub to speed up and improve the quality of investigations
- Investing £80,000 to fund programmes that will prevent sexual violence



This is another major investment in policing in Northamptonshire that will benefit people across the county. Taken together with the increased number of police officers and our plans to almost double our ANPR network, these investments support the Chief Constable in his robust plans to crack down harder on crime.

In addition to this investment, we will also deliver a major new initiative that will add around 100 new cameras to the ANPR network in Northamptonshire

as part of an investment strategy to disrupt crime, support road safety and deny criminals the use of the county's roads. The £1.3 million investment will see new, fixed cameras across the county and marks a significant expansion of the ANPR network.

The cameras will be used by Northamptonshire Police to fight crime and keep people safe, providing additional tools to detect crime, disrupt criminals who are using the roads and deter them from committing crime in this county.

The investment plan includes additional cameras:

- on the county's major, strategic routes and at the county borders
- an increased ANPR footprint in rural communities, with cameras at strategic routes on roads in rural areas
- increased coverage in the county's major towns

The plan also includes increased mobile ANPR capacity in police vehicles as well as mobile rapid deployment cameras that can be sent to hotspots around the county.

ANPR – Automatic Number Plate Recognition – reads the registration of passing vehicles and checks them across a number of databases, raising the alert if a vehicle is stolen or linked to crime. The fixed cameras will be deployed in areas that analysis shows are the most likely to effectively support the investigation of crime. Consultation with local people will take place before any new cameras are deployed.

Continued>>>>



The expanded camera network is part of a wider strategy to strengthen crime fighting and links several initiatives, including the establishment last year of the road crime team to focus on denying criminals the use of the roads and the soon-to-be-deployed rapid response Interceptor cars. Taken together, these initiatives significantly strengthen the tools available to help Northamptonshire Police fight crime and keep the county safe. The cameras will also support police in tackling antisocial driving and identify uninsured vehicles – research shows that drivers who drive uninsured are more likely to be involved in serious road traffic collisions and be involved in other types of criminality.

A programme of activities to engage with authorities and the public will be taking place over the coming months and it is hoped that the cameras will be in place by next spring.

Finally I was very proud to help deliver the new Northamptonshire Police training centre in Weston Favell which was officially opened by the Rt Hon Michael Ellis QC MP. Giffard House was purchased last year and the interior of the building has since undergone a complete refurbishment. It has now been transformed into a modern and professional, bespoke police training facility that will enable the Force to deliver a range of training to new recruits and existing officers and staff alike.

The new facility is an important investment for policing in the county and will add much needed capacity that will support the Force's drive to recruit hundreds more police officers. It replaces two small modular buildings in the driveway at Wootton Hall that were earmarked for replacement more than 10 years ago. Northamptonshire Police is growing by almost 200 police officers over the next few years and those new recruits need to be trained to the highest standards.

The investment in a new training hub was vital to create a professional learning environment that I believe now is one of the best in the region. Giffard House is an important addition to the Force estate and will ensure we are able to continue to provide effective, professional and quality training in a much-improved and dedicated learning environment for many years to come.

In addition to this new training facility, a new office building has been purchased in Wellingborough which will become the business services hub for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Police. The new building, on the Park Farm Industrial Estate, is part of a plan to modernise the police and fire estate with efficient buildings that are shared where possible and are affordable to run and maintain in the long term.

Purchasing the building also marks a major step forward in the collaboration between Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service: it will be the hub for a new joint team of business service departments including IT, Finance, Estates and Facilities and HR who will now work across both organisations. Northamptonshire Police and Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service already share buildings in Rushden, Thrapston, at the Northern Accommodation Block in Kettering and at Mereway in Northampton. There are also joint police/fire teams including the Joint Operations Team and the Arson Task Force.

By investing in this building we can bring together the services that keep both organisations running, share systems and processes and develop a joint culture that is focussed on working together to protect the people of this county. It also marks an important step in reshaping the estate with shared buildings that are modern, efficient and affordable into the future.

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

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

**Stephen Mold**

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

# THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'I FEAR FOR OUR COUNTRY'

18 Sep 2020

Firstly, let me say that I hope that you are all well and safe.

I will start this month with a quotation:

"The UK's preparedness and response, in terms of its plans, policies and capability, is currently not sufficient to cope with the extreme demands of a severe pandemic that will have a nationwide impact across all sectors".

And wasn't this right.....This quote is from the 2016 Cygnus report. You've heard me talk of this before and this was ashamedly not regarded or possibly even read by the then Health Secretary and the then Prime Minister, Mr. Hunt and Mrs. May. Shame on them and look where we are now. I am not saying that this report would have been a panacea for this terrible pandemic but at least the Country would have been made aware of what to expect and possibly even prepared.

I do not intend to write further about how the Conservative Government has handled this issue, but suffice it to say that in future elections, unfortunately, the people who will suffer from the fallout of this Westminster elitist bunch will be the hard working local Councillors who may lose their seats.

## BORIS LOOKING AFTER OUR INTERESTS

"Britain is preparing to opt out of major parts of European human rights laws, risking an explosive new row with the EU. Boris Johnson's aides and ministers are drawing up proposals to severely curb the use of human rights laws in areas in which judges have "overreached". The plans under discussion include opt-outs from the Human Rights Act, which could prevent many migrants and asylum seekers from using the legislation to avoid deportation and protect British soldiers against claims relating to overseas operations. The current Act allows British courts to apply the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The move sets up a major new confrontation with the EU, which has been demanding that the UK commits to remaining signed up to the ECHR and keep the Human Rights Act in place as the price of future "law enforcement co-operation" between the bloc and Britain."

Sunday Telegraph

Instead of this Government becoming closer to the people, it is becoming alarmingly further away. What is it with Westminster? Is there a 'capping machine' which all politicians go into and then emerge fully in the knowledge that they are now part of this Elite group who run the country and can openly lie, sometimes cheat, avoid the populace, gather titles, money and countless opportunities not open to you and I. I despair at where this will all end.



In the increasingly reduced world of commerce, which I was part of for over 40 years, if you didn't do a good job, the solution was simple - you lost it! Where is the accountability of these fellows, where is the honesty they should use to inform us and above all where has integrity gone.

I am beginning to lose faith in the Politicians of today on all sides, this at a time when we were promised openness, honesty and mutual dialogue to solve the Country's problems.

I have to say that by the end of this year I fear for the Economy, I fear for increasing unemployment and I fear that an underclass will develop unless we do something now to stop it.

I have my own ideas on how to solve this but I leave it to our elected fellows and would urge them to adopt the following principals in doing so:

Honesty, Integrity, Courage and Empathy - I'm sure there's more.....

Until next time - Keep safe and well,

## 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. MOG is a long-time active, subscribing member of the Party.

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