

POLITICAL LIFE

ISSUE 63

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Stay 'In Touch' with the
Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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Nurse Image by Vesna Hamri from Pixabay. Compilation by R Boyd

An important message from HM Government



CORONAVIRUS

STAY HOME SAVE LIVES

Find out more at gov.uk/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

The Prime Minister's statement

6 Jan 2020.

This virus mutation is spreading with frightening ease and speed in spite of the sterling work of the British public,

But this country will come together and the miracle of scientific endeavour, much of it right here in the UK, has given us not only the sight of the finish line but a clear route to get there.

We have already vaccinated more people in this country than in the rest of Europe combined and we will give the House the maximum possible transparency about our acceleration of this effort publishing daily updates online from Monday so that job by job Hon Members can scrutinise the progress being made every single day.

THE ROLLOUT OF THE VACCINE IS UNDERWAY WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE FIRST IN THE QUEUE. WHEN YOUR TURN COMES PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GET IT AS IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE WILL FINALLY OVERCOME THIS HORRIBLE DISEASE. AND PLEASE IGNORE THE SCAREDY-CAT ANTI-VAXXERS. 'THE INJECTION DOESN'T HURT AND IS SIMILAR TO THE ANNUAL FLU JAB'.



WASH HANDS
Regularly



COVER FACE
In enclosed spaces



MAKE SPACE 2 metres
or 1 metre with mask

Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP want independence from the UK

They may find this interesting reading:

Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced the government's continuing policy of support during the coronavirus (and this includes support to Scotland).

'Business support is a devolved policy and therefore the responsibility of the devolved administrations, which will receive additional funding as a result of these announcements in the usual manner:

- the Scottish Government will receive £375 million
- the Welsh Government will receive £227 million
- the Northern Ireland Executive will receive £127 million
- this will contribute to the funding which has already been guaranteed by the UK Government, to continue to provide the devolved administrations the certainty they need to plan for their COVID-19 response in the months ahead
- small businesses in the devolved administrations should also be able to benefit from other UK-wide measures in the government's unprecedented package of support for business, including the various business lending schemes (where the repayment terms were made easier as part of the Winter Economy Plan), and the extension of the Self Employment Income Support Scheme.

It is unlikely that Scotland would have been able to supply this level of funding if it were separated from the United Kingdom.'



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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.

JUST A THOUGHT: Never forget that Sir Keir Starmer is a man who is even more anti-Brexit than Corbyn. He led the charge for a second referendum, tried to frustrate Brexit 43 times, wanted to keep and expand free movement and proposed extending the transition period.

25 Jan 2021 Darren Mott OBE, Chief Executive of the Conservative Party.

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

24 Jan 2021

Brexit. Whether you voted Leave or Remain, I'm sure we can all breathe a sigh of relief that a deal has been done. A year after promising the public that he would "get Brexit done", our Prime Minister has done just that, and I have pasted below a note I recently received from him: -



Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP

Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party

A year ago we fulfilled our promise and got Brexit done and despite the challenges of last year we stood firm and reclaimed our independence, taking back control of our laws and destiny on 1st January this year.

We did this so that we could bounce back stronger—delivering on more of our priorities and defeating the pandemic.

So I hope you'll continue to support our Party as we mark the historic first anniversary of Britain's exit from the EU and our first month of independence.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to be "Boris Johnson".

Elections. As I write this, the North Northamptonshire Unitary Election is still scheduled to be held on 6th May 2021, and we remain focussed on campaigning hard to return as many Conservative Councillors as we can. Obviously this election is like no other – we have been unable to canvass for many months and are currently unable to deliver leaflets ourselves. I am aware that the Liberal Democrats have decided to breach the "Stay at Home" guidance by asking their volunteers and candidates to deliver political leaflets door to door. We will not, instead we continue to work hard behind the scenes to ensure that our message is delivered to the public, whilst ensuring the safety of our candidates, volunteers and the public.

Vaccine status. The coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage the world, but we can take heart that vaccinations are being rolled out in record numbers. The UK has administered more vaccinations than the rest of Europe put together, we truly are leading the way in fighting Covid-19.

So far: -

- Over 5 million people vaccinated in our world-leading rollout
- 1 in 10 UK adults are now vaccinated
- Over 2 million vaccinations a week (285 jabs a minute!)
- Currently over 1200 active vaccination centres

Unitary candidates – We have a great team of Prospective Candidates for the forthcoming Unitary Election. Of course in

these trying times, the Management Committee and I understand that Candidate's situations may change, and that we need to be flexible and able to rapidly adapt to those changes. It was unfortunate recently that Jane Sagggers, an excellent prospective candidate for the Oundle Unitary Ward, had to withdraw. We were however very lucky to be able to select an exceptionally strong candidate in Cllr Jason Smithers as a replacement. A number of you will know Jason as the Cabinet Member for Highways at Northamptonshire County Council; he is also Deputy Leader of the North Northamptonshire Unitary Shadow Council. Welcome to the team Jason.

Continued>>>>

Covid Grants. If any of you know (or own) businesses who need financial support during this pandemic, please point them in the direction of their local Council: -

East Northamptonshire Link -

<https://www.east-northamptonshire.gov.uk/COVIDbusiness>

Corby Borough Council Link -

<https://www.corby.gov.uk/home/business/business-rates/covid-19-small-businessgrant>

New Corby Town Council. As I mentioned in my last report, as part of the transition to a new Unitary Council, a brand new Corby Town Council will be created. This gives local people (and anyone living within 3 miles of

the outer boundary of the area covered by the Council) a fantastic opportunity to help shape, develop and lead a local Council specifically created to represent and support Corby residents. If you would like to be considered as a Conservative Candidate for the election, please get in touch with Ray Boyd at office@cenca.co.uk

Onwards and Upwards!

Yours,

Councillor Lee Wilkes

Chairman – Corby & East Northamptonshire Conservative Association

OFFICE OPENING TIMES UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Corby Conservative Club has continued to be closed for the January/February lockdown. This means the office cannot open as it is part of the Club building. However normal day-to-day running continues and the office will re-open once the lockdown ends. Our opening hours will depend on the hours the Club can open.

By the way, I have had my jab and never felt a thing. →



Image by Richard Dujinska from Pixabay

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. 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

TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES

Following government advice Tom's surgeries are being held on line. Telephone 020 7219 8043 to make an appointment.

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

Your Association contact details:
Corby & E Northants Conservative Association Office

Phone: 01536 200255

Email: office@cenca.co.uk

Web: www.cenca.co.uk

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

IT'S OFFICIAL—WE CAN CALL OUR FLAG THE 'UNION JACK'

When you see our national flag flying and you refer to it as the 'Union Jack' there is always someone to point out at that it should only be called that if flown from a ship's bow.

The chief vexillologist of the Flag Institute, who is just about the highest authority you can find in the flag world, has declared that, yes, we can after all call our national flag the Union Jack. In other words we can ignore know-all letter-writers who can always be relied upon to go into action every time the term "Union Jack" is broadcast or used in print.

Don't you realise, they say, that the term "Jack" should only ever be used at sea and that on dry land it should always be the Union flag? Well it seems not. Graham Bartram, who undertook research for the Flag Institute, has concluded that the terms Union Jack and Union flag have always been acceptable alternatives whether you are steaming out of Portsmouth on a frigate or hoisting it on the Houses of Parliament.

One of the important pieces of evidence is a 1902 Admiralty circular which declared the terms to be interchangeable: it made no difference whether you called it the Union Jack or the Union flag.

Source: Ross Clark—The Daily Telegraph

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/join

ELECTIONS IN 2021

A number of elections are due this year. They were cancelled in 2019 due to the impending local government reorganisation and then Covid-19 halted the 2020 elections which were put off until this year.

This year will also be an even bigger effort than usual for Northamptonshire election officials as alongside the local unitary elections, residents will also be casting their ballots for a police, fire and crime commissioner and many will also be voting for the first time for a new town council. Northampton, Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough will all form new town councils, that will take over some public services from the unitary councils.

A joint statement from the West and North Shadow Authorities has expressed some caution about whether the elections will go ahead.

It says: 'We are aware of the May local elections being under review by central government. While we are looking forward to having councillors in place for the new North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council, which will take over the delivery of public services currently run by the county council and district and borough councils across Northamptonshire from 1 April, the number one priority for a local authority is the safety of residents. If the 6 May elections do take place, we will of course ensure that voting follows all Covid-safe protocols in place at the time.'

According to the 6 May timeline the deadline for nominations will be 4pm on 8 April and the final date to register to vote will be midnight on 19 April. The deadline to apply for a postal vote will be 5pm on 20 April.

On 13th January cabinet office minister Chloe Smith said the ballots would take place across the country on 6 May as 'voters have a right to be heard and to decide who governs them'.

She said: 'There would be additional Covid-19 safety measures put in place at polling stations and the government is actively encouraging anyone shielding to apply for an absent vote. There was however a caveat in that the decision would be 'under review', but the minister said there would have to be robust evidence if a cancellation was decided.'

Source Sarah Ward NN Journal
(<https://www.nnjournal.co.uk>)

Just a thought: 'In 2021 we won't be Remainers or Leavers – only believers in Britain.'

Chancellor Rishi Sunak 27 Dec 2020

CORBY COUNCILLOR DAVID SIMS REPORTS ON RECENT PLANNING NEWS IN CORBY

5 Jan 2021

The fight continues regarding Oakley Park Gypsy site, Ashley Road, Middleton.

A breach of condition notice served has finally been served.

The Senior Planning Enforcement Officer served a Breach of Condition Notice (BOC) on the above site this afternoon.



There are two requirements on the notice and they are:

1. Remove all static and mobile homes from the site apart from the 3 in total as approved by the planning permission,
2. Remove all touring caravans from the site apart from the 3 in total as approved by the planning permission.

The compliance period is 6 months from 11 December 2020.

The notice has been served on the occupiers of the site and each mobile on site has been served a copy.

Copies have also been posted on the two accesses to the site in accordance with formal guidelines.

6 months compliance period was imposed due to legal advice after the government announced that immediate eviction should be avoided during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This is a retrospective application 20/00097/COU located off Ashley Rd Middleton opposite the Middleton waste-water treatment works. The Environmental agency initially responded with no comments as it did not fit any criteria on their consultation checklist.

However after a second time of asking and raising the issues of the sewerage and of course the history associated with the site they then

responded again this time objecting because it involves the use of non mains foul drainage where it is reasonable for the development to be connected to a public sewer. *(The reason for this is private treatment facilities should only be utilised when it is not reasonable to connect to a public sewer. This is because of the higher risk of failure leading to pollution of the water environment posed by private sewer in comparison to a public sewer.)*

David Sims moved a motion against the officer recommendation of approval based on the objection from the environmental agency. Despite the fact CBC cannot currently demonstrate 5 year land supply for travellers which in David's view is completely unacceptable as this should have dealt with some time ago. This is now going to appeal in which David will have to give evidence to defend his reasons. His hope is now we can have the appeal heard after vesting day of the new unitary authority as we may then be able to demonstrate we have 5 year land supply for travellers. This will of course strengthen our position in the appeal.

The same argument had to be used with Anglia Water on the Larratt Road Weldon planning proposal which was successfully refused.

(25 Jan 2021) Here is the latest information regarding travellers on Peasdale Hill Field located along Ashley Rd Middleton.

David has suggested, and this has been agreed by the legal department, for an enforcement and stop notice rather than an injunction. This is because the injunction would take several days to collate and then we would have the issue in regard to the possible delay at the Courts. An injunction would also only effectively freeze what has taken place on the land whereas the requirements of any enforcement notice will require that the land is vacated and restored. The stop notice will prevent any further operational development.

Ray Jackson, a former councillor for Great Oakley, used his community fund to have a notice board and bench installed on Lewin Road. The bench is regularly used especially by the elderly as a rest point but has now sunk down one side due to unstable foundations. The notice board is also damaged. David Sims has asked the CBC to carry out repairs on these items.

CORBY & E NORTHANT CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As previously announced, the AGM of our Association will be held on **Friday 5th March 2021 at 7pm**. The Management Team has agreed that due to the ongoing problem with the pandemic it would not be safe (or perhaps even permitted) for this meeting to take place in a gathering of members.

They have therefore decided to hold the meeting as a virtual meeting on Zoom. There have been a number of these virtual meetings during the year (indeed our local councillors have been meeting in this way for the last 12 months) so the system has been tried and tested.

In order to set up the meeting with Zoom we will need to have an idea of how many members are likely to wish to attend so everyone is asked to notify their interest by replying either to this article or by responding to the email which will be sent out to every member via Mailchimp. **The deadline is Friday 19th February**. Once confirmation has been received from members the various items of paperwork and login details will be sent out electronically to those members. You can only reply to one of our email addresses as follows:

office @cenca.co.uk or office.cenca@aol.com
Please mark subject as: AGM

The AGM is mainly a report on the year's activities but there will be two items on the agenda which will require a vote. The first item is voting for the officers for this forthcoming year and the second item is to adopt the new CCHQ rules for all associations.

Officers: All existing officers have indicated that they are willing to stand for a further term of office and have been so proposed and seconded.

Should any other person wish to be elected to any position they will need indicate this in their email and will have to be sure of a proposer and seconder. **These nominations must be submitted by email by Friday 19th February**.

Mr Ray Jackson, who currently runs the 200 Club has been nominated to stand as our President. The 200 Club can be comfortably absorbed into the office of the Deputy Chairman Membership whose duties include fundraising, and Mr Ray Jackson has expressed his desire to continue supporting the 200 Club as President, and should members present at the AGM agree this 200 Club position will be removed. However should a member wish to put themselves forward for this position and take on this duty then they may seek nomination to do so. And the position will remain.

New Rules: A pdf copy of the proposed new rules are on our website at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2kbvza8>

Please note that under the rules proxy and postal voting at the AGM is not allowed and only paid-up members can attend the AGM.

For information the officers of the Association are:

**Hon President,
Chairman
Treasurer
Deputy Chairman Political
Deputy Chairman Membership
CPF Chairman
200 Club Chairman (see notes above)
Communications Officer**

The Communications Officer is currently nominated as being responsible for GDPR (data protection).

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

Brexit has finally happened and we're all finding out what it actually means. So far I gather that Dutch Customs will inspect the contents of your sandwiches throwing out any ham. *Note to self: if travelling to Holland pack egg mayonnaise sandwiches.*

The French customs are insisting on grammatically correct paperwork even down to missing full stops. Ardent vocal remainers would have us believe that this is the situation forever. I'm sure this silly season will settle down and sanity prevail.

Strangely it's reported that increased import paperwork will add £1.50 to a bottle of EU wine. Excellent wines from outside the EU presumably already have these charges applied meaning the wine itself must be cheaper. Anyway French wine producers are going to have to sharpen their pencils if they want to compete on the British high street.

Maybe the biggest fallout from Brexit is Nicola Sturgeon's drive to extract Scotland from the Union. This would be the strangest of ironies as Scotland formed a Union with England because it was broke. Should Scotland leave the UK it would have the biggest deficit in Europe, essentially broke.

Its current account deficit is worse than Greece when the EU imposed draconian cuts to its public services. All the free stuff Scotland currently enjoys by way of the Barnett formula - the free prescriptions, free adult social care, free university education - would have to go or taxes would have to rise.

Support for independence currently sits at 54% but some of that has to be an anti Boris sentiment.

You have to give Nicola Sturgeon credit for creating an anti English atmosphere. She even tried to say Scotland was nearly free of Covid but English visitors re-infected Scotland. The truth is an independent Scotland would have to make difficult decisions of either cutting public services or large tax hikes to pay for those services. The party that introduces those policies is unlikely to win the following election.

As Scottish independence affects the Union perhaps all those in the Union should have a say. It's very likely in the current anti English climate fostered by the SNP that English voters would do their work for them and eject Scotland from the Union. But that should not happen because the SNP is not Scotland. Those that draw similarities with Brexit are wrong, Scotland and England have much deeper and longer ties than the UK had in the Common Market. We share an island, share a currency, share defence forces and much more.

Perhaps it won't come to an illegal referendum: the Alex Salmond inquiry could be Nicola Sturgeon's downfall because the SNP may not be Scotland but Nicola Sturgeon is the SNP.

Cllr Kevin Watt

Leader of the Conservative Group on CBC



Image by Lorraine Mays from Pixabay Modified by R Boyd



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

23 Jan 2021

I'm proud to announce that over 5 million people across the UK have now received a coronavirus vaccine - including 71% of over 80s and two thirds of elderly care home residents.

This is a tremendous national effort and the result of months of hard work from across the NHS, armed forces and government.

From the start of the pandemic we knew that vaccines would be our route back to normality – so we took concerted action to ensure the UK had what it needed to carry out the largest vaccination programme in history:

- ✓ Boosting vaccine funding to speed up development
- ✓ Swiftly securing access to over 360 million doses
- ✓ Rapidly expanding our vaccine manufacturing capability
- ✓ Setting up over 1,200 vaccination sites
- ✓ Recruiting and deploying a 80,000 strong vaccination workforce
- ✓ Signing up over 200,000 potential vaccine volunteers

This I must say was in stark contrast to the Labour Party and Keir Starmer who took every opportunity to attack the heroic work of our Vaccine Taskforce and arguing that the UK should have joined the EU scheme – a policy which would have seen millions fewer of our most vulnerable protected as of today.

So we're throwing absolutely everything possible at this unprecedented rollout.

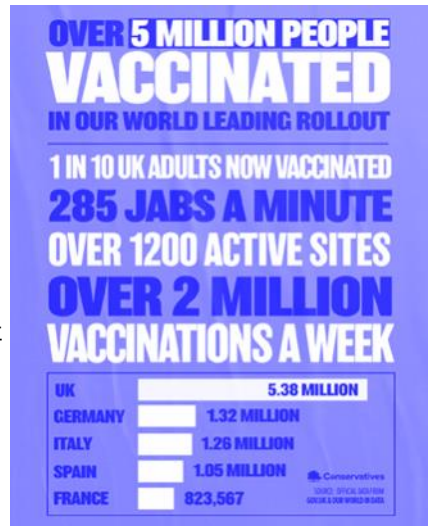
But we do have a way to go yet, so I must ask you again not to lose focus over the coming weeks.

It's vital we all continue to play our part and follow the rules by:

Staying Home, Protecting the NHS and Saving Lives

Yours sincerely,

Boris Johnson
Prime Minister



Just a thought: 'This Government has spent over £280 billion to support people's jobs and incomes through this emergency. Around £7.4 billion has been spent on a package of welfare measures including a temporary uplift in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits, which has seen people's standard allowance increase by around £1,000 for 12 months until the end of March 2021.

This is a system that has stood up to the unprecedented pressures of this unprecedented last year. A system that Sir Kier and the Labour Party has publicly committed to scrapping, with no alternative plan on how to support those in need. **Will Quince MP Minister for Welfare Delivery** 17 Jan 2021.



Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

23 Dec 2020

This issue I would like to share with you details of a multi-million-pound dark web drugs operation for which the crime gang were sentenced for:

- £2.7million dark web drugs operation
- Cocaine, MDMA, Crystal MDMA, Amphetamine, Cannabis, Ketamine
- Royal Mail used to send drugs to customers
- First ever electronic seizure of cryptocurrency

Four men have been sentenced to a combined total of more than 34 years in prison after their multi-million-pound dark web drugs operation was thwarted by Northamptonshire Police.

Vladislavs Cvirkovics, aged 28, Filip Hmelnicenko, aged 31, Denis Potapenko, aged 28, and Edgars Pirants, aged 32, all pleaded guilty to conspiring to supply Class A drugs at court hearings earlier this year.

The convictions relate to a sophisticated multi-million-pound drugs operation the gang of four operated from Northampton, where customers would buy drugs from them on the dark web using cryptocurrency. The gang would then distribute the drugs via the postal service, both nationally and internationally.

A ground-breaking investigation into the gang was conducted by the Force's Serious & Organised Crime Team following police identifying and searching a storage facility in Northampton in June 2019. Once inside, they uncovered £2.7million of Class A drugs including 3.7 kg of cocaine, 50kg of MDMA tablets and Crystal MDMA, along with Class B drugs - amphetamine, cannabis and ketamine.

The team of detectives were able to link this facility to Hmelnicenko and Cvirkovics who were arrested in Oxford Street, Northampton, a short time later.

Specialist examination of their devices allowed detectives to identify that the pair were marketing and selling their drugs on the dark web through a platform they had named 'MartinLutherUK' on the Empire Market.



Previous customer orders, address lists and images of drugs were all uncovered.

Virtual wallets containing cryptocurrency were also discovered with Northamptonshire Police making their first ever electronic seizure of cryptocurrency accrued from the sale of drugs.

Detectives also analysed CCTV which showed Hmelnicenko carrying large amounts of jiffy bags to numerous post offices in Northampton and using the Royal Mail to distribute the drug orders via the postal network.

Evidence also led police to an industrial premises in Moulton Park where they discovered a large and sophisticated cannabis grow linked to both men, with a street value of £400,000.

However, the case wasn't to end with the imprisonment of Hmelnicenko and Cvirkovics as the dark web shop reopened and once again, became active in the selling and distributing of Class A drugs.

The reactivation was linked to Potapenko who was arrested in February 2020 in Hood Street, Northampton. He was found in possession of digital devices that linked him to the continued operation of the 'MartinLutherUK' platform along with communication linking him to the multi-kilo importation of Class A and B drugs.

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

His fingerprints and DNA were also found on packaging of the £2.7million drugs from the storage facility and the cannabis factory in Moulton Park.



Spreadsheets found on his computer identified Pirants as also being involved and he was arrested in March 2020 in Cotton End, Northampton. Upon a search of his bedroom and an associated outbuilding, Class A drugs, jiffy bags, Royal Mail special delivery labels, 144,000 MDMA tablets and a pill press used to manufacture the tablets, were all seized.

On Friday, December 18, Cvirkovics was sentenced to ten years for conspiring to supply Class A drugs. He was also sentenced to six years for conspiring to supply class B drugs and one year for the possession of a stun gun, to be served concurrently.

Potapenko was sentenced to six years and eight months for conspiring to supply Class A drugs. He was also sentenced to three years for conspiring to supply Class B drugs and ten months for the possession of CS spray, to be served concurrently.

Pirants was sentenced to seven years for conspiring to supply Class A drugs.

Hmelnicenko is due to be sentenced in early 2021.

DS Keith Morson from Northamptonshire Police's Serious & Organised Crime Team, said: "I am extremely proud of this ground-breaking investigation which shows in no uncertain terms the capability of this Force to successfully investigate a very sophisticated, 21st century, Metropolitan-level crime.

"This is our first ever successful prosecution of a dark web drug supply and seizure of cryptocurrency, demonstrating that Northamptonshire Police can punch well above its weight in our ability to tackle this type of complex and hidden criminal network.

"The officer who led this investigation, DC Gareth Askew, has worked tirelessly to bring this challenging case to a successful conclusion, and I would also like to pay tribute to other departments across the Force, including Cybercrime, Digital, Financial and Forensic teams, who helped us bring the investigation to a point where all four defendants had no choice but to plead guilty."

Detective Superintendent Lee McBride, Head of Serious & Organised Crime at Northamptonshire Police, said: "This result once again shows Northamptonshire Police's ability and determination to robustly tackle serious and organised crime occurring in our county and beyond.

"The scale of this drugs activity and the advanced tactics utilised by this criminal group are issues more typically associated with larger metropolitan forces and I am really proud of the team here whose work was second-to-none - meticulous, tenacious and committed, ensuring this gang was taken down.

"This detailed investigation and final outcome shows we are committed and have the technical capability, skills and specialisms to deal with new emerging criminality. We will continue to pursue criminals who try to hide behind technology to commit their crimes, relentlessly."

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

Commissioner@northantspcc.pnn.gov.uk

Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

New laws to protect our History from 'Wokeness'

17 January 2021

Communities Secretary The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, MP has announced new laws to protect England's cultural and historic heritage.

For hundreds of years, public statues and monuments have been erected across the country to celebrate individuals and great moments in British history.

They reflected the people's preferences at the time, not a single, official narrative or doctrine. They are hugely varied, some loved, some reviled, but all part of the weft and weave of our uniquely rich history and built environment.

We cannot – and should not – now try to edit or censor our past. That's why I am changing the law to protect historic monuments and ensure we don't repeat the errors of previous generations, losing our inheritance of the past without proper care.

What has stood for generations should be considered thoughtfully, not removed on a whim, any removal should require planning permission and local people should have the chance to be properly consulted. Our policy in law will be clear, that we believe in explaining and retaining heritage, not tearing it down.

New legal safeguards introduced for historic monuments at risk of removal

- All historic statues, plaques and other monuments will now require full planning permission to remove, ensuring due process and local consultation in every case
- The law will make clear that historic monuments should be retained and explained
- The Secretary of State able to "call in" any application and ensure the law is followed
- The most significant new protection for England's heritage since the 1967 Civic Amenities Act established Conservation Areas.

Measures build on proposals that embed beauty, design and quality in England's planning system for the first time.

The new legal protections mean that historic statues should be 'retained and explained' for future generations. Individuals who want to remove any historic statue, whether listed or not, will now require listed building consent or planning permission.

Under the new regulations, if the council intends to grant permission for removal of a particular statue and Historic England objects, the Communities Secretary will be notified so he can make the final decision about the application in question.

Culture Secretary Rt Hon Oliver Dowden MP said:

'I strongly believe that we should learn from our past – in order to retain and explain our rich history.

The decisions we make now will shape the environment inherited by our children and grandchildren.

It is our duty to preserve our culture and heritage for future generations and these new laws will help to do so.'

The new rules will also apply to unlisted historic plaques, memorials or monuments which will also require planning permission and Historic England to be informed.



Image by Gordon Johnson from Pixabay

Just a thought: The Vaccine. "Talk to someone that you trust. Not Facebook, not WhatsApp, not Twitter. Don't take what you hear on social media because there is so much nonsense about it, where people are never held to account so they can say whatever they like and spread whatever nonsense they like.

"Talk to someone that you trust, who will tell you that this will save your life. Don't believe the nonsense." **Angela Rippon** 21 Jan 2021

RAY JACKSON - CORONAVIRUS

18 Jan 2021

We are all finding it tough living under the discipline of coronavirus. I have not seen my dear sister for 9 months. Worse I have lost a dear younger friend. I do not want to lose anyone else so I will sweat it out until the end. Friends believe that if we can hang on for the last two months, we shall have our reward. We would be foolish to break the rules now.

I do find communications from the government a bit taxing. We are by nature control freaks and would welcome consistent reports on a few basic issues. Months ago we had the number of deaths, but found that they were always lower during the weekends presumably because the clerk responsible for collecting them 'did not do weekends'. Then we found they excluded the figures for Scotland, so we can not longer compare like with like. Then we are told there would be no point in having the vaccination centres open 24 hours a day because 70 year olds would not get out of bed at 3.00 am. Now we are going to have them open for 24 hours! Could we have just the daily death figure and the daily number of vaccinations, clean, accurate and easily on everybody's lips? It would limit politicians' wriggle room. With that and a way of stopping the Radio 4 interviewer shouting down the interviewee and the news would be easier to take. Let us privately and sincerely thank all the NHS staff (25% of whom are currently off work through illness and/or stress so are genuinely suffering and the increasing number of volunteers for battling on to help us overcome the crisis. Let us all publically reprimand those who think themselves immortal and deliberately flaunt the regulations and threaten our lives.

COMPUTERS IN SCHOOLS

I am still incensed that a lot of children in our schools have not had access to computers for many years. These are often the children of parents who probably did not rate education very highly when they were going through it and do not take as much interest in their children's performance as they should have. How did we as good Tories let this happen? I don't know a single Tory these days who would admit to deliberately

wanting to keep 'the working class' down. I don't remember anything from Secretary of State for Education Patrick Baker who gave us the CTC and raised educational performance in virtually all our schools. Neither do I remember the teachers' unions taking up the issue. What happened to allow us to drift into this disgraceful mess? Ease your conscience by acquiring a couple of modern computers and handing them over to your local school with due pomp and ceremony. Can anything be done with this 'Pi' gadget made and marketed by our own RS Components? Should we ask them for help and advice?



Ray Jackson

Tom plus our Association President Lee and the Management Committee are working hard preparing for the new County political structure. We have a core of excellent candidates, but could welcome more. We must not forget there will still be a Town Council working much more closely with us individuals. I am not keen on a councillor serving at County and at Town level, even is the money is good. If you are a good Tory and feel passionate about some issue, (such as computers in schools!) then put your name forward. You can guarantee a warm welcome and a lot help. It's a good time to become part of the wind of change which is going to drive our country forward.

Ray Jackson
Chairman, 200 Club



THE NEW LOCAL COUNCIL STRUCTURE

In April the Corby Council, together with the district and borough councils in the area will be closed and these will be replaced by two unitary authorities and four new town councils.

The elections are due to take place in May this year and residents of Northampton, Wellingborough, Kettering and Corby will then be represented by, not only Unitary Councillors, but by town councillors as well. Every resident in the county will be represented by one of 270 town or parish councils.

Early in 2020 shadow councils were set up by outgoing councillors and clerical officers with the aim of taking over from the current local councils once the elections take place. Meetings have been held throughout the past year to ensure that the new town councils are legally in place by April.

The new town councils

- *Northampton - There will be 25 elected councillors.*
- *Wellingborough - There will be 23 town councillors.*
- *Kettering - There will be 20 councillors elected in May across nine wards.*
- *Corby - The new council will elect 17 town councillors at the May local elections. Talks are ongoing about costs and which services it will run although the borough's leadership has said it wants the initial precept to be 'minimal'.*

The new town councils will then have to negotiate which services and assets they wish to take on and how much of a precept they wish to levy on their electorate.

Outgoing administration assets

All assets such as buildings and parks and service provisions plus those of the county council will be legally transferred over to the North or West unitary council.

Conclusion

Unfortunately there is no doubt that residents will end up paying more for the new system. Council tax will be increasing along with the police precept and there will be an additional payment to cover the cost of the new town councils.

However, one of the positive aspects of the new system is residents will have a closer relationship with their local authority through the town council scheme and with the two new unitary authorities.

At the moment within the Corby Borough Council area there are seven parish councils: Cottingham, Middleton, East Carlton, Gretton, Stanion, Little Stanion & Weldon and Rockingham.

Within the East Northants District Council area there are 37 parish councils and 6 town councils.

Parish Councils: Aldwinckle, Ashton, Barnwell, Benefield, Brigstock, Bulwick, Chelveston-cum-Caldecott, Collyweston, Deene & Deenethorpe, Denford, Duddington with Fineshade, Easton-on-the-Hill, Glapthorn, Great Addington, Hargrave, Harringworth, Hemington, Luddington & Thurning, Islip, Kings Cliffe, Lilford-cum-Wigsthorpe & Thorpe Achurch, Little Addington, Lowick & Slipton, Lutton, Nassington, Ringstead, Stanwick, Sudborough, Titchmarsh, Pilton, Stoke Doyle & Wadenhoe, Polebrook, Tywel, Warmington, Woodford, Woodnewton, Yarwell
Town Councils: Higham Ferrers, Irthlingborough, Oundle Town, Raunds, Rushden, Thrapston,

A READER WRITES

19 Jan 2021

I wish all a happier, healthier New Year, so pleased to see the end of 2020 for obvious reasons and welcome 2021 and an inevitable end of Covid-19.

The latest message is to stay local, the reply I believe is common sense: Stay In Your Own Town. If going to work that is not always possible but always be very careful — also get vaccinated when it is offered.

An odd statistic – infection numbers are falling, yet admissions are still rising? I suppose there must be a reason for this. There are still some people without common sense who seem to think that ‘all is ok now’.

So travel corridors are to be closed from Monday 18th January. Better late than never, I suppose. I do have to wonder if our government is afraid to actually govern our country. Please while Boris is our PM he is just one person who has a cabinet to help him. And Boris, please get a grip on your advisors and cabinet members, you are being let down.

Policing here in Corby: Nick Adderley and our Commissioner blow their own trumpets in national media so keenly yet deny what is happening in Corby away from the town centre. We cannot remember when we last saw a police officer of any kind on their feet away from the centre, plenty in cars going by or sitting with engine running to keep warm and cosy, waiting I presume for criminals to tap on the vehicle window to let the officers know what crimes they have done or will do. I can't blame the officers as they have to obey orders from above.

My largest gripe against our government is that poverty is constantly rising yet CEOs of large companies are getting richer while a lot of our children are going hungry. Recent photos in the media disclosing some food packages for our children were so inadequate. Our government gave out these contracts so whose responsibility was that job given to in the Cabinet? I suppose it's ok just to let companies that supply the food do as they wish while getting paid well, but someone should have been overseeing what was being given. The government representative who got this job is guaranteed his/her pay cheque every month regardless. what a disgrace.

Yours *Dee Davis* (Member)

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB NEWS

With the lockdowns continuing this excellent Club has to remain closed. Fortunately due to foresight by the founders (a policy continued by the committees over the years) the Club is holding its own. Thanks are due of course to the government's financial support and to good management.

During this time the Club Manager and her staff, together with several volunteers have been busy taking the opportunity to update the premises. The Hall foyer and Churchill Suite have been redecorated by our volunteers.

Some weeks ago the Club suffered devastating flooding from the water overflow of Cottingham Road. It appeared that the road drainage system was blocked and huge quantities of water were forced onto our property by the traffic trying to get through the flooding. Our carpets were ruined and have had to be removed and much residual water damage was experienced. The insurance company was of little help in covering costs unfortunately.

So our team got busy again placing sandbags along the front path to prevent a recurrence, and, now the floors have dried out, are starting to get everything sorted. The opportunity has been taken to upgrade the colour schemes of the paintwork so when members are able to return they will see a big difference.

All this work has been carried out at minimal cost by our splendid team.

Association members could help the Club considerably in two ways:

1. Perhaps consider joining the Club.
2. Make use of the Club once it reopens.

You can find details of how to join and see what facilities are on offer at: www.the-cons.co.uk

Our two organisations are mutually reliant on each other and it would be great to see us helping each other. We have a number of Club members on our books and a few more have joined us this year. The Club has over 1,000 members and each one pays us a small subscription to show their support. We do have some of our members who already have Club membership but more would be really appreciated.



The new strain of the virus presents us with a new challenge just as the vaccine is being rolled out.

Which is why we have taken swift and decisive action to get businesses through to the Spring and protect jobs as part of our £280 billion plan for jobs.

We're providing one-off cash grants of up to £9,000 per business premises and giving local councils an additional half a billion pounds to support businesses in their area.

These grants will help to sustain over 600,000 of the hardest hit businesses across the UK, those in retail, hospitality and leisure, forced to close.

My absolute priority throughout this crisis has been to protect jobs, which is why these new grants will be in addition to our comprehensive package of business support, including:

The extension of furlough until April

Grants of up to £3,000 a month, that businesses can already claim

£1.1 billion further discretionary grant funding for Local Authorities

100% business rates relief for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses

The extension of 100% government backed loans until March

The next few weeks are going to be difficult, but we are redoubling our efforts to protect jobs and help businesses get through to Spring.

And with more and more people being vaccinated every day the end is in sight.

Which is why work is already underway for the Budget in March to set out the next stage in our economic response.

Yours sincerely,



Rishi Sunak
Chancellor of the Exchequer

VACCINE PROGRESS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

By 8 January 20,000 Northants residents had so far received the coronavirus vaccine according to the county's top NHS boss.

Chief executive of the Northamptonshire Clinical Commissioning Group Toby Sanders said the mass effort by the two acute hospitals, GPs practices and a mobile service has meant that a significant number of the county's priority groups had received the first dose of the vaccine.

He said altogether there are 135,000 in the four priority groups in Northants - which are NHS staff and care workers, anyone over 70 and the clinically vulnerable - and so the county was well on the way to have all of that group vaccinated by mid February.

The first vaccines, which have been the Pfizer vaccine, were provided by Northampton General Hospital in mid December.

He has also announced that a fourth larger vaccination centre should open in the county by the end of January.

Source: NNJournal 8 Jan 2021



We've published our UK Vaccines Delivery Plan which maps out our route back to normality.

We are on track to offer the vaccine to all the most vulnerable groups by the middle of February – and the plan sets out how we will ensure every adult gets access to the vaccine.

We have always known vaccines would be our best way out of the pandemic and we moved fast and early to make sure Britain leads the way on vaccinations.

This action allowed us to be the first country to authorise a vaccine, secure access to 367 million doses and have more authorised vaccines than any country in the world.

So far, our Plan has allowed us to vaccinate over 2.3 million people – more than the rest of Europe combined.

Our plan sets out how we will expand and accelerate our rollout, creating the largest vaccination programme in British history, with:

- 206 active hospital sites
- 50 large vaccination centres
- 1,200 local vaccination sites

All meaning that by the end of the month everyone in England will be within 10 miles of a site or have a vaccine brought to them in highly remote areas.

And by mobilising a workforce of over 80,000 from the NHS, armed forces, and government, with the support of potentially over 200,000 members of the public, we can commit to the following timetable:

- 1) End of January – all residents and staff in over 10,000 care homes across the country will be offered a vaccine.
- 2) February 15th – all those in the top four priority groups, who account for 88% of fatalities, will be offered a first dose.
- 3) Spring – all nine high-risk groups for phase one of the programme (32 million people accounting for 99% of deaths) will be vaccinated.
- 4) Autumn – All UK adults will have been offered a vaccine.

We're under no illusion as to the scale of the challenge ahead, but we have never felt more confident we can achieve our ambitious goals.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Hancock

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Our regular meetings have been suspended during the lockdown. There was an Executive meeting on 6th November and a Management meeting on 15th January. These were both virtual meetings via Zoom.

The Annual General Meeting is planned for **Friday 5th March 2021**. This will be a Zoom meeting.

Confirmation and full details will be supplied to all members as soon as possible. Please refer to the special announcement regarding the AGM in this issue of the magazine.



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

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



Conservative Policy Forum

The CPF continues to hold discussions on-line and all members are invited to take part. Any member who would like to be involved now or in the future should contact Ray Boyd for information on this important forum. Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, will get our local discussions going again as soon as permitted.

VIRTUAL EVENTS

There were a number of virtual events held over the past six months and these are continuing during the current lockdown. All these events were held via Zoom.

We send regular Mailchimp emails to all members and these give details of the links through which the talks can be accessed.

For February and March we have the following arranged. Log in information will be sent out as usual via Mailchimp.

Friday 5th Feb. The Rt Hon George Eustice, MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Friday 10th Feb. Jacob Rees-Mogg, MP, Leader of the House of Commons.

Friday 12th Mar. Robert Jenrick, MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government.



DO YOU GET OUR MAILCHIMP EMAILS?

We have 470 members on our email list and a regular email is sent out to keep members informed of latest news.

Unfortunately a number of members have reported that they have not seen these emails. It is likely that they have gone into their spam box so this should be checked and the sender marked as acceptable for future emails. When you find our email just click on 'Add to Address Book' at the end.

If you are still not receiving them please email the editor on ray.boyd@talktalk.net and your address will be checked. If there is still a problem then copies of Mailchimp emails can be sent from the office email address.

And of course you can always check our website which also contains the latest magazine and other news. Go to: www.cenca.co.uk

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

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'THE NHS MUST BE SORTED OUT'

18 Jan 2021

Happy New Year one and all. Let's hope that 2021 will eventually be better than 2020.

As I write this page, the National Health Service and all those associated with it are in the process of adapting to two seismic events. The first is to deal with the almost overwhelming numbers of patients suffering from Covid 19 which have almost overwhelmed the service since Christmas. To say that this was unexpected is folly. Christmas was nearly allowed to be 5 days of events, Students came home for the holidays and New Year happened. The Government should have shut down the country on about the 15th December for four weeks, and this crisis which is still in the process of unfolding may have been avoided. We should be eternally grateful for the whole of our NHS family forever.

The second event which runs at the side of the first is the rolling out of the vaccine which in the most part is due to the heroic efforts of our and the world's scientists and unusual cooperation over the piece. Again, we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the NHS, the army and all involved for what will allow us to come back to some sort of normal life by, I believe, late spring.

At the end of all this we must never lose sight of the NHS and its contributors and never again should we allow this service to be cut so radically, not forgetting Police cuts, as it was in the previous Conservative regime by the Hunt and May brigade! I believe that as Conservatives, we understand that these services must be funded to capacity and increase should be in line with population growth year on year.

I'm not saying that there doesn't need to be some radical rethink as to how these services are administered, and indeed there appears to be far too much bureaucracy which has been allowed to expand year on year for half a century. This is where cuts can and should be made. It will be for the remainder of this Government term to clearly understand where the funds should be allocated and work accordingly.

While we are on the subject of care, we must get social care sorted out once and for all. Not that long ago social care was in the hands of the local authorities and this worked quite well. I



I remember with fondness visiting local care homes in the 70s as a choirboy when 'matron' was in charge. Now we have a very fat cat living in Northamptonshire whose pay increased to £2.02 million per annum for being one of nine Directors at a care home group where many of its homes are classed as inadequate by the Care Commission (clearly a body without teeth). A dividend was also declared for that company of a huge amount when its front-line staff are only earning just over £8 per hour. What is this country thinking about allowing the care of its elders being in the hands of such individuals who don't even do a great job (except for generating profits) judging by results. We must get this sector of our community back under our control as soon as possible to ensure that there is consistency of care and more importantly fees. This Government has pledged to sort this out - and sort it it must! Profit is something for the private sector and this has no part in the future of any part of the Care sector in my opinion.

And then there's education (he says with fire breathing from him) - I'll wait to next time.....

Three cheers I say for the NHS, the Police, Fire Service, the Army and the myriad of volunteers who are about to ensure we can go back to some form of normality soon. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude and we should never forget.

Have a good start to 2021 and keep safe

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.

**WE COMPLY
ABSOLUTELY WITH
COVID GUIDELINES
TO KEEP US ALL SAFE**



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POLITICAL LIFE

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Issues are also available in a format suitable for reading on iphones, ipads and PCs. Details of publication date are emailed to members via Mailchimp.

A copy of recent magazines is also available on our website at

www.cenca.co.uk

Printed circulation is restricted to Conservative Party members.

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Please contact our office by email at office@cenca.co.uk or telephone 01536 742954

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