

# POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 65**

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

**Jun 2021  
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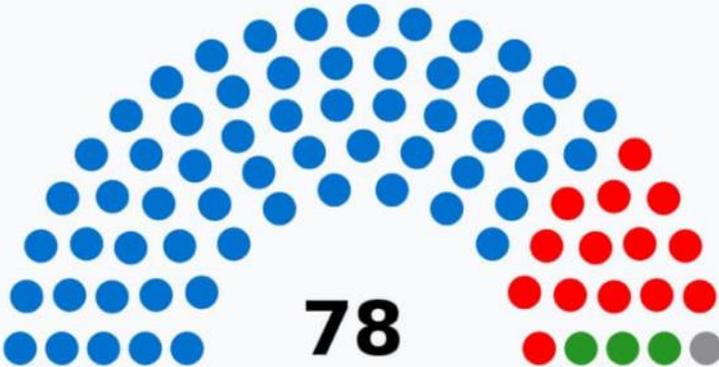
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Stay 'In Touch' with the

**Corby & E Northants Conservative Association**

Promoted 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

78 seats on North Northamptonshire Council



Party	Conservative	Labour
Seats won	60	14
Popular vote	124,537	69,258
Percentage	53.2%	29.6%

**SOME OF THE TEAM  
WHO HELPED US WIN**



**THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ASKED EVERYONE TO USE THEIR COMMON SENSE  
TO HELP DEAL WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER WAVE OF THE VIRUS**



**WASH HANDS**  
Regularly



**COVER FACE**  
In enclosed spaces



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

## A COMMON COMPLAINT

I NEVER RECEIVED ANYTHING ABOUT THE ELECTION FROM THE PARTIES DURING THE ELECTION

So why you didn't get a leaflet during the election?

Have you checked your front door? If it carries a sticker which says 'NO JUNK MAIL' then our deliverers, to avoid offence, will not post a leaflet through your letterbox .

You may have forgotten that you have this sticker so if you really don't need it just take it off and in future you will get our leaflet.

In addition, during the Covid pandemic it was not possible to deliver to flats so you may have missed out because of this ruling. This should not be a problem in the future.



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

Grants available to North Northamptonshire firms adversely affected by Covid-19

Go to the new Council website for more details'  
<https://tinyurl.com/yetkou7g>

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.

**JUST A THOUGHT:** Former MP and veteran campaigner George Galloway (who was expelled from Labour in 2003) has announced he is running in the forthcoming Batley and Spenningsworth by-election on 1 July with the explicit aim of ousting Sir Keir Starmer as leader of the Labour Party. Keir Starmer cannot afford to lose this by-election, otherwise it's curtains for him.

28 May 2021



Sir Keir

# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

27 May 2021

**Elections!** On 6th May the elections were finally held. Locally residents voted for the new Unitary Council as well as a number of local Town and Parish Councils.



Due to the coronavirus restrictions, our normal campaigning programme had been severely disrupted and an entire election campaign had to be squeezed into a few short weeks. The effort from members was immense. Candidates and Volunteers from across North Northamptonshire worked together to cover the entire region – with leaflet delivery and canvassing taking place daily. It was yet again proof of how well CENCA and the Wellingborough Association work together, with members of each supporting one another. It was also great to see the Raunds/Irthlingborough, Oundle/Thrapston and Corby Rural/Oakley campaign partnerships working so well.

There are too many people to mention individually, but in amongst a huge concerted team performance, there truly were some super human efforts by some – you know who you are.

So after 100,000's leaflets were delivered, and 10,000's of doors knocked, the electorate finally went to the polling stations.

And the results.....

The Conservatives won 60 of the 78 available unitary seats across North Northamptonshire, also taking 8 out of 12 Irthlingborough Town Council seats, and 12 out of 12 Raunds Town Council seats. (Full voting results are in this issue of the magazine

We were also, after a tremendous effort, within a whisker of winning the 3 Oakley Unitary seats. Next time!

It was an incredible result after an incredible effort by so many of you.

Those successfully elected were: -

## **Corby Rural Division**

Macaulay Nichol  
David Sims  
Kevin Watt

## **Irthlingborough Division**

Kirk Harrison  
Dorothy Maxwell  
Roger Powell

## **Oundle Division**

Annabel De Capell Brooke  
Helen Harrison  
Jason Smithers (also elected Leader of North Northamptonshire Council)

## **Raunds Division**

Helen Howell (also elected Deputy Leader of North Northamptonshire Council)  
Richard Levell  
Lee Wilkes

## **Thrapston Division**

David Brackenbury  
Wendy Brackenbury  
Geoff Shacklock

Now those elected need to capitalise on the election results and build a brand new Unitary Council that we can proud of, one that can be class leading, and one that will enable us to retain those seats won, and take those we narrowly lost, at the next election.

Take care all.

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 opened fully and we are able to man the office at the Club once again from Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm.

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. The office telephone is manned during the above hours. My home telephone is: 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**



Image by PourquoiPas from Pixabay

## SHOULD PHOTO ID BE USED AT FUTURE ELECTIONS?

In order to vote in an election in most of the UK, you don't have to show identification or even a polling card. The government says photo ID will reduce the potential for voter fraud in our current system.

The Electoral Commission calls for tighter rules on voter ID and the government's Electoral Integrity Bill would answer this.

But is there a lot of voter fraud? Very few convictions for impersonation of a voter have occurred in the past. Many campaigners are accusing the government of trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist. But it is an issue that concerns some voters.

In 2016 the former Conservative cabinet minister Lord Pickles published a report into electoral fraud, saying: "Despite the low numbers of allegations and rare cases of personation being prosecuted, there is a concern that the absence of evidence does not mean this practice is not taking place.

There are a great number of people who don't have any form of photo ID and trials in 2018 and 2019 in some

areas it was reported that many people were turned away from polling stations as they did not have identification. But 99% of voters who turned up did vote showing that requiring ID does not appear to significantly affect turnout.

The main problem seems to be identifying just what form of ID is acceptable. In Northern Ireland, where the ID system is used, the authorities will supply an electoral card free of charge but whether this free system would be adopted in the rest of the UK is not known.

Ownership of certain forms of ID varies between demographic groups which leads to accusations that these voters will be disenfranchised.

In 2004 David Blunkett, the then Home Secretary, wanted a new biometric ID card that would eventually be mandatory, with personal data from the cards stored on a government database. Boris Johnson was completely against this idea. However, the new bill is not a move towards compulsory ID cards. Boris has said that he didn't think it was unreasonable to ask first-time voters to produce some evidence of identity.

### 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

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

# RAY JACKSON - LIKE MOST VOTERS—I WANT A LOT!

28 May 2021

What a pleasure it is to look back on the elections in which we did so well. The best result in CENCA before this was Andrew Griffith's second attempt for the Parliamentary seat when he lost by only 1500. That cheered us up, but it did not get Andrew into Parliament. Our present successes are due to the very hard work, particularly in canvassing over many months well before the Election, inspired by Tom, but followed up by many able and dedicated people who worked really hard for this wonderful outcome. As your fairly newly elected President and on your behalf I congratulate them all.

But what do we do in North Northants with this amazing majority? It is not unknown for Parties with this sort of majority to allow factions among themselves to disagree bitterly, even to being divided on the manifesto. Fortunately looking down the list of our new councillors, all good men and women and true, this is very unlikely to happen.

Like most voters I want a lot.

I would love to see more wealth drift into our whole area. It does my temper little good to hear of London salaries compared with ours. It's even worse when you hear of those managers who came out of London, got houses at very low prices in Corby of a much better quality than the ones they were selling in London. Admittedly they have the cost of travelling every day, but probably finished up much better off. I know going back to live in London is most likely not an option, but their decisiveness has been well rewarded. Could we attract half a dozen Hong Kong Chinese families, to make their



*Ray Jackson*

homes here and trade between Hong Kong and Northants.

We need to do all we can to support Tresham to continue to produce good young engineers to enrich the quality of our R&D and managerial staff. At a younger level, it would be good to be sure that by 15 all children have good literacy and numeracy. What happened to all those volunteers who went into primary schools a couple of afternoons a week as classroom assistants?

It would be good to get a few electric car re-charging units at various garages in Corby. We used to boast there were thirty million people living within 100 miles of Corby. Let's try to maintain our lead in road transport.

Finally, could the new North Northants Council set up a group of councillors and business people to produce a short term (Five Year) plan for serious industrial growth?

We live in exciting times. Oh to be young again and working in Corby!

**Ray Jackson**

President and 200 Club organiser

**Just a Thought :** Labour MP Diane Abbott has been accused of stoking "tensions" after she suggested a black activist was attacked because of her race stance - after police confirmed there was no proof it was a targeted attack. (Ms Abbott could have been Home Secretary if Labour had won the last general election).

25 May 2021

# THE ELECTION 2021

## NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCIL

<b>Corby Oakley</b>	Elect: 10,803	33.1%		<b>Corby Kingswood</b>	Elect: 10,327	25.67%	
Ross Armour	Labour	1491	E	Ray Boyd	Conservative	724	
Leanne Buckingham	Labour	1334	E	Ray Jackson	Conservative	711	
Ollie Curtis	Conservative	1176		Michael Mahon	Green	312	
Lorna Garner	Conservative	1177		Peter McEwan	Labour	1447	E
Aidan O'Donovan	LibDem	439		James McGeown	LibDem	153	
Simon Rielly	Labour	1482	E	John McGhee	Labour	1619	E
Penny Smith	LibDem	444		Zoe McGhee	Labour	1477	E
Chris Stanbra	LibDem	969		Robert Tustin	Conservative	642	
Alexandra Wellings	Conservative	1116		<b>Corby Lloyds</b>	Elect: 10,925	32.05%	
<b>Corby West</b>	Elect: 10,040	33%		Lyn Buckingham	Labour	2212	E
Jean Addison	Labour	2062	E	Cameron Clarke	Conservative	783	
Rosalie Beattie	Conservative	853		William Colquhoun	Labour	1852	E
Phil Bromhall	LibDem	149		Lee Forster	Green	491	
Alison Dalziel	Labour	2044	E	Cesare Marinaro	Conservative	642	
Glenvil Greenwood-smith	Conservative	776		Terri Meechan	LibDem	162	
Matt Keane	Labour	1946	E	Mark Pengelly	Labour	2338	E
Lynne Scannell	Green	225		Jayden Watts	Conservative	691	
Peter Wathen	Conservative	754		<b>Oundle</b>	Elect: 10,178	47.22%	
<b>Corby Rural</b>	Elect: 10,525	37.97%		Charlie Best	LibDem	1606	
Ray Beeby	Labour	1376		Annabel de Capell Brooke	Conservative	2831	E
Judith Brown	LibDem	341		Helen Harrison	Conservative	2281	E
Stevie Jones	Green	484		Harry James	Labour	936	
Guy Longfoot-Finch	Labour	1102		Luke Jones	Green	867	
Macaulay Nichol	Conservative	1857	E	Peter Peel	Independent	283	
David Sims	Conservative	1995	E	Jason Smithers	Conservative	2133	E
Ann Wallington	Labour	1506		Phil Stearn	Independent	217	
Kevin Watt	Conservative	1888	E	Caroline Yeo	LibDem	1212	

<b>Raunds</b>	Elect: 9,545	32.85%	
Pauline Ellis	Labour	614	
Neil Harvey	Labour	540	
Sheila Harvey	Labour	519	
Helen Howell	Conservative	2095	E
Richard Levell	Conservative	1949	E
Garth Ratcliffe	LibDem	307	
Julia Thorley	Green	408	
Lee Wilkes	Conservative	1873	E

<b>Irthlingborough</b>	Elect: 10,112	35.67%	
Caroline Cross	Labour	1288	
Matt Davies	Reform	151	
Jon Gray	Labour	1137	
Kirk Harrison	Conservative	1770	E
Dorothy Maxwell	Conservative	1817	E
Roger Powell	Conservative	1763	E
Caroline Smith	Labour	788	
Susan Smith	LibDem	267	
Joel Wylie	Green	590	

<b>Thrapston</b>	Elect: 11,380	43.43%	
David Brackenbury	Conservative	2520	E
Wendy Brackenbury	Conservative	2746	E
Hope Carpenter	Green	708	
Val Carter	Independent	1712	
Taffy Chikoto	Labour	599	
Jack Duckworth	LibDem	398	
Jerry Hawkins	Labour	647	
Paul Kirkpatrick	Labour	782	
Iris Lerse	LibDem	349	
Geoff Shacklock	Conservative	2117	E
John Smoker	Independent	370	

## FULL RESULT FOR THE NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE UNITARY COUNCIL

Party name	Seats	%
Conservative	60	53%
Labour	14	30%
Green	3	7%
Independent	1	4%
Liberal Democrat	0	7%
Reform UK	0	< 1%
Alliance	0	< 1%

The results were broadly in line with our expectations and we now control the new Unitary council.

The Oakley Ward in Corby was always going to be a hard fight with the LibDem vote collapsing. These votes probably went to Labour. So unfortunately, in spite of a tremendous effort by our knocking-up team just half of our supporters actually voted on the day in the Oakley ward and this gave Labour the extra 160 votes lead they needed to win.

The three inner Corby wards continued, as always, to solidly back Labour and we knew we had an uphill struggle in those areas. But we are slowly eating into the Labour vote in Corby. Our grateful thanks go to those members who put their names forward for these difficult seats.

e&oe

# TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

When you get the call, get the jab!

27 May 2021



Week on week we are seeing increasing numbers of people being vaccinated against the terrible COVID-19 virus and locally, the roll-out continues apace. In fact, over 70% of people nationally have now had one dose and that figure is growing all the time - a very significant achievement and a credit to so many who have all played their part in making it happen. I myself have now had the call and have booked in my two doses, the first being at the end of this week - a much anticipated moment personally, as part of our national drive to get everyone vaccinated and the country back to normal. Please, when you get the call, get the jab!

Nothing about the last fifteen months has been easy and we have undoubtedly had our difficulties here in North Northamptonshire, particularly two or three months back when our infection rates were some of the highest in the country - businesses have faced unprecedented challenges of survival and all

our lives have been adversely affected in one way or another, and it is rare to find someone who hasn't lost somebody they knew or loved. It has been hard, gruelling, exhausting and relentless - so many descriptives spring to mind and I could fill this entire column with those alone.



In response, over the last few months we have seen increased vaccine supply and significant uplifts to our testing capacity - the latter designed to help identify chains of infection, so that they can then be shut down. Clearly, testing and vaccination continue to be our best tactics in tackling this persistent challenge and I've been impressed with the consistent above and beyond efforts and dedication of our local public health leaders in delivering the various testing and vaccination initiatives, with capacity having been building all the time. Indeed, it was a real pleasure to meet a few of them and to say 'thank you' when I visited the Moulton Park vaccination centre a few weeks ago.

But we cannot be complacent and all of this certainly still matters when you consider reports about new 'variants of concern'. Continuing to keep infection rates down as far as we can as we move along the path back to normality is eminently sensible, with the latest easing of restrictions having come into effect on Monday 17th May - something that was no doubt a very welcome step forward and a relief to so many. I have to say it is great to see our local sporting facilities back open, our cafes and restaurants fairly busy again and our High Streets coming back to life.

We must sustain the progress we are making and that is why the easing of the restrictions is gradual - there are of course things we would all like to resume doing straight away, but nothing about COVID-19 has been linear

Continued>>>>

and nor can the easing of restrictions be either. Instead, we are moving gradually, and irreversibly forward, and the good news is that there isn't seemingly now long to wait - the Government's clear and stated ambition remains to dispense with the restrictions altogether on the 21st June.

In light of all the above I wanted to help magnify some of the latest official statistics that have been released recently (published on the 20th May 2021) that are certainly very heartening and illustrate the continuing progress of the COVID-19 vaccination programme here in Northamptonshire - the very roll-out that is making the much desired return to normality possible. Namely, over 600,000 total doses have now been given, which breaks down to nearly 400,000 first doses administered and over 200,000 second doses, all of which are increasing massively week on week. It has been a truly remarkable effort and the hard work continues to see this through.

Ultimately, our performance in emerging from this crisis is very favourable so far when considered relative to other countries around the world, with many of our neighbours in sustained 'lockdowns' with no end in sight, but for now we must maintain our commitment to the common sense, but undoubtedly highly undesirable and inconvenient restrictions that are still in place, to sustain our progress for a little while longer - and I am confident we will.

With that in mind I want to again profusely thank all those who are helping to deliver the ongoing response to this pandemic on the ground here in Northamptonshire and to everyone in our community who has, and continues to, do their bit to make this work - simply put, it is a monumental effort and we couldn't do this without you. Let's keep following the guidance, let's get our vaccines when we get the call, and let's keep this progress going. We are getting there!

Yours sincerely

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

## COUNTRY WALKS

Northamptonshire is the home of picturesque villages and beautiful countryside walks. If you're interested in joining a local walking club please visit:

<https://t.co/rUVpyLPVUv?amp=1>



Image: Mabel Amber, who will one day from Pixabay

Middleton Residents Action Group (RAG)

22 April, 2021

I was very pleased to be invited to speak at one of the meetings of the Middleton Residents Action Group (RAG), who I have been working extremely closely with in respect of the issues that Middleton and the surrounding villages have been dealing with, particularly relating to a nearby unauthorised encampment at Peasdale Hill Field.

Residents had the chance to ask me questions about what action is being taken both locally and nationally to deal with unauthorised encampments and I reiterated my strong support for the model campaign that they have been running to ensure that our planning processes are respected and upheld. What has happened isn't right and local people will continue to have my strong support in raising these concerns and pressing for appropriate robust action.

Tom Pursglove, MP



# Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

24 May 2021

It is a great honour to have been elected for a second term as Northamptonshire's Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner and I would like to thank all of you for your work and support that made this victory possible. As I begin a second term, my focus is to consolidate and build on the work I have undertaken over the last five years to make Northamptonshire a safer place to live.

I would also like to thank the people who have put their trust in me and recognised just how far we have come in improving policing and fire services in Northamptonshire. We have more police officers and firefighters than for we have had for many years - we have recruited more than 200 police officers with 130 more to come and we have 32 additional firefighters.

It's the quality of the service we provide that really matters to people, and the way that we focus on their priorities so that police and fire services are fundamentally grounded in the communities they serve. Almost one third of Northamptonshire Police officers have served for less than four years, and I want to see them embedded to become fully experienced officers who will make a major difference to the safety of the county.

Looking forward it is my intention to prioritise work to safeguard children and young people and to ensure that their lives are not blighted by crime and the establishment of the two new unitary authorities for Northamptonshire offers a unique opportunity.

This is a huge moment when we can all take a pause, refocus our efforts across the two new authorities, police and fire to intervene early to protect children and prevent them falling into or becoming a victim of crime. Tackling domestic violence is a significant part of that. This is an investment in the future of young people that ultimately reduces demand and makes us all safer.

I will further prioritise neighbourhood policing and embed the new neighbourhood model across all communities. I will ensure that we



make the very best use of our increased resources to provide a strong, visible presence in all communities - rural and urban - across Northamptonshire. We will soon have more police than ever before. I will be expecting to see more positive outcomes and investigations and a consistently high-quality service that prevents crime and makes people safer.

In addition to this work, I will also ask the Chief Fire Officer to continue to bring forward the improvements in service and new ways of working that are already making an impact in Northamptonshire. Our two, vital emergency services are working more closely than ever before and already share buildings and support: I will expect them to embrace closer working on every level, to better protect people and promote safety in Northamptonshire.

Finally, I want to thank and pay tribute to the police officers, firefighters and staff who have worked hard to deliver and improve our vital emergency services. It has been a privilege to work alongside them and an honour to be able to support them to do even better for the public they serve over the next three years.

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

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

**Stephen Mold**

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

# A READER WRITES

17 May 2021

Our Vaccine march is continuing at a brilliant pace, deaths are dropping, infections are less and managed a lot better. All our thanks must go to every area of the N.H.S. and our government after a slow start.

We are also making good progress with world trade deals, so there is much to be grateful for.

Many of our candidates in the recent elections will, of course, be celebrating success on 6th May. Some not (particularly in Corby Town), but well done all of you who were brave enough to stand. And congratulations to our winners.

Regarding the Corby Town result, I am surprised that with the influx of people in our town that Labour still get in. I was hoping that we had encouraged enough intelligent people to come to Corby so we would decimate their hold. In the 3 inner wards Labour still outnumber us 2 to 1, but it is getting closer – it used to be 3 to 1. As in all elections the well-known names appear on the ballot paper so people recognize the name and put a cross against it. And of course, many people, including our supporters just vote for the Party.

As a resident of Corby I will be watching closely to see if there is any attempt to make the town councillors a paid job— a cost which will obviously go on our rates!

**Dee Davies** [Member]

At this time the actual area of responsibility of the new Corby Town council (now dominated by 17 Labour councillors) has not been determined yet. It is known they are responsible for the green spaces and the hanging baskets but the new councillors have yet to be told of their actual role following the demise of the old Corby Borough Council.

## CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB NEWS

The Club opened up again with restrictions on 17 May from 12noon every day. The current plan is to reopen with normal service on 21 June

The Committee is already contacting various bands able to provide entertainment once the lockdown is totally over. It is hoped that the very popular August Bank Holiday gig will be able to go ahead and the monthly entertainment in the Games Room will resume.

The Secretary reports that the Club has had a lot of enquiries for private bookings and is trying to fit them in around those which were postponed last year. Last year's Christmas Day lunch was cancelled because of the pandemic and almost everyone has transferred their booking to this year - so, incredibly, Christmas Day Lunch is fully booked already.

Many members have been asking about subscription payments. A large number pay by standing order and these have gone through as normal. Since reopening many members have been in to renew and the Club will be contacting those outstanding during June. Nobody will lose their membership because of the pandemic.

Club committee meetings have resumed and the postponed AGM will go ahead in a few month's time. The 2020 accounts have already been audited.

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](http://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 around 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 Association Annual Christmas Lunch will be held at the Club in early December.

**As soon as we hear from Raunds Conservative Club about their opening plans members will be advised via Mailchimp.**

# 200 CLUB NEWS

No monthly draws have been held for our club since March 2020. There are three reasons:

1. We couldn't meet up to draw the numbers,
2. We couldn't write cheques as signatories could not be visited, and
3. It would have been difficult for winners to actually get to their banks to deposit their cheques.



Members should not worry though as we **will** be drawing all the winners for 2020 and 2021 once we can get together again, so there will be a bumper payout.

Our plan is to hold our annual lunch at Glaphorn in August when we will draw the winning numbers, including the big one for December 2020.

As soon as the lockdown ends we will book the Glaphorn village hall and invitations will be sent out to all members.

## 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](http://www.conservatives.com/join)

## 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. Members really do have an input to Party policy.

Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, will get our local discussions going again as soon as permitted.

# NEW BY-ELECTIONS COMING UP

Labour have officially confirmed that there will be a by-election in their red wall seat of Batley and Spen.

Whilst our historic victory in Hartlepool proved that we can win more seats from Labour, this will be a far tougher and very different campaign. Labour will throw absolutely everything they have at keeping this seat, which means we need to start investing in our campaign right now to stand a chance. More is at stake here than a party political fight. It's about levelling up every part of the country.

And our great candidate Ryan Stephenson will be the strong local voice Batley and Spen needs to work alongside our Conservative government for the benefit of everyone in the constituency. Focussing on the jobs and investment the area needs to build back better from the pandemic.

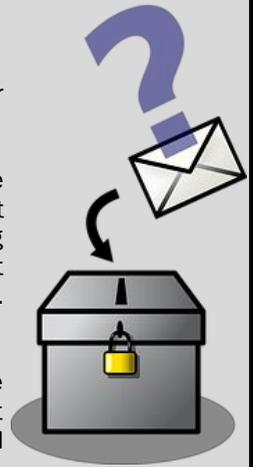
The next few days of this campaign will be crucial and every penny counts.

With the Chesham and Amersham by-election just three weeks away, this is the second campaign we need to fully fund. And with each costing up to £100,000 the Party is counting on all members to step up.

Grassroots contributions were pivotal in our recent victories and they will make the difference here again.

You can donate to the campaign by logging in at this website address:

<https://tinyurl.com/yjcbvy6c>



## Northamptonshire virtual funding fair 2021 - FREE

Are you a community group who requires funding for a project, new activities and play equipment, building repairs or more?

This opportunity is for community groups across Northamptonshire to listen to presentations from local and national funders who can help contribute towards their community projects.

The Northamptonshire Virtual Funding Fair will take place from Tuesday 15 June to Thursday 17 June 2021 exclusively online between 10am and 4pm.

Places are limited and you must book to reserve your place by completing the online

booking form to reserve a place on the presentations of your choice.

The event will be hosted via zoom and you must have Zoom to access the virtual fair.

Details on how to log in to the session will be emailed the day before the seminar please note if you have not booked you will not be given access to the seminars.

This year's Virtual Funding Fair has been organised by Northamptonshire Development and Funding Workers Network.

For further information, please contact by email: [grants.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:grants.kbc@northnorthants.gov.uk).

## NATIONAL INSURANCE SCAM

Dozens of people have been targeted by this UK scam over the past few months. Action Fraud data shows it is the most reported phone scam of this year so far, having received more than 1,000 reports.

One victim said that when he returned the call he was falsely told that someone had been using his National insurance number to claim Universal Credit.

The scammer told him that if he didn't hand over his personal details so they could make a 'correction' he would be liable to repay thousands of pounds in fraudulently claimed benefits and could be sent to prison. At this point he realised something wasn't right and put the phone down, but the scammers continued to try and get in touch with him for more than a week

## DELIVERY SCAMS

Hermes, Royal Mail and DPD have all reported a sharp rise in scam texts and emails. Do not click on the link in any of their communications.

If you do it will take you to a webpage which advises you that you must make a small payment (usually under £2). You then have to fill in your credit card details, etc. Then they have you.

Don't think it won't happen to you - a member reports that she clicked on the link and since then has been receiving phone calls which appear to come from the Fraud section of her bank. They have even tried to get her to transfer her bank balance to a new 'safe' account. They still keep ringing even though she puts the phone down on them.

HERMES: We attempted to deliver your parcel on 19/04/21. Pay a £1.57 redelivery fee at [reroute-fees-hermes.com](https://www.hermes.co.uk/fees-hermes.com) to avoid your parcel being returned to sender.

Census: We still haven't received your form for Census 2021. You must complete this by law or you could be fined up to £1000. Please complete this here: <https://census-application.co.uk>

You can report phishing emails by forwarding them to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

This information is provided for members as it is known that many are very active on email and messenger

Join Sunit for another  
Virtual Cooking Masterclass



THURSDAY  
JUNE  
24  
@  
7pm

Let's talk about BBQ's and how to make them exciting.

Hacks to make them easy and extra special.

Share recipes for marinades, rubs, slow cooking, vegetarian options.

Your questions answered - email [jayne.west@conservatives.com](mailto:jayne.west@conservatives.com)

DONATION ONLY

Let's talk about BBQ's, how to make them exciting, BBQ hacks to make them easy and extra special.

Share recipes for marinades, rubs, slow cooking, Vegetarian Options.

1. Oriental Inspired marinade
2. Italian Inspired marinade
3. Indian Inspired marinade
4. Vegetarian Inspired marinade
5. Rubs and sprinkle

\* Featured recipes will be forwarded to you following the event \*

Put your BBQ's question to Sunit by emailing - [jayne.west@conservatives.com](mailto:jayne.west@conservatives.com)

Go to:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yfa23cb7>

# THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'A LONG-TERM PROBLEM'

25 May 2021

Here we are again after the latest round of elections. These were great results for the Conservative Party and particularly for our region where we elected two Unitary Authorities. I just wonder how the results would have gone had this magnificent vaccine rollout not have been so successful as it currently is. However, that is speculation.

What is not speculation however, is the Social Care crisis.....

In September 1997 Tony Blair said that he did not want current children's relatives to need to sell their home to pay for their old age care. He was not able to achieve his wish. His successor, the notoriously bland Gordon Brown said the same thing and again nothing happened.

Fast forward to 2013 and the Prime Minister said that he intended to cap social care costs for the elderly and there was even mention then of an insurance policy provided by the Government which older people could buy in to. The next government's manifesto in 2015 said '*We will guarantee that you will not need to sell your home to fund your residential social care*'. In April 2017 there was talk about a long-term solution for what was becoming a crisis. A crisis which has been coming for 20 years.

Boris Johnson came to power promising to fix the problem, but in the recent Queen's Speech the problem was once again somewhat deferred by Her Majesty just saying that reform will be 'brought forward'.

Brought forward to when I say.

This problem has been around for at least 25 years, and we MUST, I repeat MUST do something about it in this Parliament. Is there a chance that following the mighty response from our beloved NHS in this current crisis that the current Government will bite the bullet and realise that there needs to be a more joined up Health Service which services the UK population from cradle to grave. I sincerely believe that all of us voters know that this is required and we also know that this will cost more in both the short and long term. We are prepared for that and are willing to pay. But perhaps the money could be found from cutting the huge spending on ridiculous projects demanded by the current "woke" generation. By the way does anyone know what 'woke' means? I know I don't.



The Prime Minister really needs to wake up to the fact that this could be the jewel in the crown of his Government if he goes some way to fix the problem. It won't be fixed in a term but it could be begun now. Failure to do so will lose him and our Party valuable votes.

Just as an aside, I have just heard that there will soon be a National Institution called the Great British Railway - where have I heard that before. What comes around goes around !

Enjoy the late spring 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.

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Photo: R Boyd



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

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

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