

POLITICAL LIFE

ISSUE 68

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

**Dec 2021
Jan 2022**

www.cenca.co.uk

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

**WE HAVE A BY-ELECTION COMING UP FOR RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL
ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE TO PAUL WILL BE APPRECIATED
AND IF YOU LIVE IN RAUNDS WINDMILL PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO VOTE**

VOTE Paul Byrne for Raunds Town Council
Listening, campaigning and delivering for you!

our plan for Raunds Windmill Ward

1 Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

We are putting more police on the beat, catching criminals and deterring crime.

2 Delivering the 'Raunds Goes Green' initiative

We are installing electric charging points, planting a community orchard and ensuring we have a cleaner, greener Raunds, by focusing on tackling litter.

3 Keeping Council Tax low and car parking free

We are keeping Council Tax low and parking free. We deliver more for less.

4 Focusing on the youth

We are working on projects such as the skate park redevelopment.

5 Shopping local to support our High Street

We are developing a 'Town App' to help people shop local and support jobs in Raunds.

6 Making sure we have great community events

We are proud to bring the community together through the Christmas lights, Mayor's Show, film afternoons, coffee mornings and care packs.



Promoted by Ray Boyd on behalf of Paul Byrne, both at CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

On Thursday 16th December use your vote to support Paul Byrne! Vote Conservative between 7am and 10pm. The polling station is at The Woodpecker, 31 Marshalls Rd., Raunds, NN9 6ET

 **Conservatives**

WINNER

2020 –
2021



ASSOCIATION

INCENTIVE

SCHEME

PHISHING/SCAM WATCH

Fake emails are currently circulating posing as McAfee and Norton Antivirus informing people that their subscriptions are at an end and need renewing. The emails ask you to click through on links in order to 'renew the subscriptions'. Some even attempt to trick you into contacting the scammers using the details at the bottom of the email.

Emails promising Primark gift card 'rewards' have also been circulating, but they're fake and absolutely nothing to do with the retailer.

You can report phishing email attempts to Action Fraud or you can send them on directly to the National Cyber Security Centre at report@phishing.gov.uk.

If you think you may have fallen victim to a phishing email, let your bank know what's happened straight away.

Phishing emails should be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre on

report@phishing.gov.uk

Please report every one of them. It is our weapon to stop the scammers

SCAM ALERT
Watch out for this NHS COVID vaccine passport scam that's been doing the rounds. It looks like it's linking to a genuine URL, but in reality, it's a slick phishing website designed to steal your personal and financial details.

NHS: You are eligible to apply for a Covid Pass proving you have been vaccinated against COVID-19. You can apply for this here: [https://](https://nhs.pass-application.com)

nhs.pass-application.com

The Covid-19 pass is free. Order one at www.119nhsonline.

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If you are in Corby shopping and looking for somewhere to eat why not try the Corby Conservative Club. Lunchtime snacks are again available from Wednesday to Saturday for under £7.

Non-members welcome. Check the Club website: www.the-cons.co.uk
Phone to check Restaurant opening times
01536 203711

Please see Club report in this issue regarding the new Chef starting.

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. You can write to him at: Tom Pursglove, MP, House of Commons, Westminster, London, SW1A 0AA

JUST A THOUGHT: "I've never understood how we incentivise economic activity by increasing tax....We can talk about raising taxes in the short term to deal with a short-term crisis. But broadly, higher tax is basically a tax on economic activity." 11 Oct 2021 Kwasi Kwarteng, Business Secretary

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

25 Nov 2021

They say that a week is a long time in politics, but at the moment an hour seems like a long time, such is the speed that issues arise in Parliament and the press report it. We will all have our own opinions on some of the decisions being made by the Government, but one thing is for certain, those decisions seem rarely to be reported in the media without some kind of biased twist. That said, we could really do with Government promoting some of their good news stories at the moment.

Rosemary Armstrong: It will be of no surprise that CCHQ have “headhunted” Rosemary to utilise her skills and energies in the new London and South East Region. She will be sorely missed by us all in CENCA, but we will still twist her arm to help us where she can. I'd like to personally put on record our enormous gratitude for everything that Rosemary has done to help to help Tom, CENCA and me personally - she's a real star. I'm sure I speak for us all when I wish her good luck in her new role.

Christmas Lunch: Despite the best efforts of Ray Boyd and the Management Team, it is with regret that we have had to cancel the Christmas Lunch. The Conservative Club in Corby have lost some of their staff, including their Chef, and in the current climate are struggling (along with everyone else) to recruit new people. We tried hard to find an alternative venue, but it was simply too late.

We of course wish the Club well in their endeavours and for the future. A bigger and better Spring get-together will be organised as a replacement. Look out for details in the future.



COVID: Sadly COVID hasn't gone away, and barely a week goes by without reports of yet another new variant. As I write this report, a number of our European neighbours are considering entering new lockdowns, with some already in them. The vaccination programme in Britain was a huge success, but as Sajid

Javid and his advisors announced only this week, the new “B.1.1.529 Covid variant” is already showing signs of being the worst variant yet, and the vaccines might be less effective at protecting against it. We must avoid another lockdown in Britain if at all possible, but the news from Europe and beyond is a worry – I hope that our vaccine programme, the speed it was rolled out, and the vast number of people who have taken up the vaccines, is enough to avoid one.

Insulate the Nation: I rarely mention specific issues in these reports, as we all have our own opinions and they are equally valid. However in my personal opinion, these “Insulate the Nation” protesters need to be shut down, and fast. I have no problem with anyone protesting, as long as it is legal, and am always willing to listen to all sides of a debate, as I know most of you are. But blocking roads, gluing oneself to a road, causing accidents on motorways, preventing ambulances from getting to hospitals, is not just protesting, it is terrorising ordinary people. If they are left unpunished, we would have chaos – with everyone with a “cause” feeling justified and empowered to shut down the country by blocking roads or blockading bridges and hospitals. It has to stop.

Continued>>>>

Conservative Conference: After last year's virtual conference, it was great to get back to a real, in the flesh conference. The energy and enthusiasm was impressive, as were the crowds of people who attended. There were a number of real highlights and you will no doubt have read about those online. However for me one of the most memorable parts was seeing the Young Conservatives. As a group they have huge numbers of enthusiastic and articulate members, and that membership is growing at a staggering rate. It is a real comfort to know that the next generation of Conservatives are out there and active.

Polls: The polls show that Labour are closing the gap. That isn't a huge surprise – we have been in Government for a long time, there have been some frustrating stories emanating from the Party, and an opportunity to shoot ourselves in the foot is usually taken. We are also poor at telling

people about all of the great things that we, as a Government and Party, do. But those polls need to be taken in context. What may surprise you is just how well we are doing in actual by-elections. In the vast majority we are seeing the Conservative vote increase, typically with Labour's vote falling. As a case in point there were 11 by-elections around the country this week and our vote increased in 9 of them. We also gained some seats, such as Knutton (Newcastle-under-Lyme) where we gained from Labour with 51.1% of the vote (up by 25.8%).

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.

The office will be closed on Thursday 2 December for training and from 24th December to 4th January for the holiday period.

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 seven 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 R Boyd

Just a Thought: More observations on the idiocy of 'WOKENESS'. (November 2021)

1. 'No-one has the right not to be offended.'
2. 'An appeaser is someone who keeps feeding the crocodile in the hope that it will eat him last.'

John Cleese

Winston Churchill



This article has been condensed from the Leader's web update

Recently I was honoured to attend the Remembrance Sunday event in Corby. This followed a two-minute silence the Council held on Remembrance Day.

On Tuesday 16th November, I was delighted to introduce North Northamptonshire's first ever Climate Change Conference. Thank you to those of you who were able to watch the event live. For those of you who missed it, you can view it on YouTube here: NNClimate21

I am also really pleased to say that North Northamptonshire planted its first trees for the Queen's Green Canopy this week.

North Northamptonshire Council's plan for the future

This week, the Council's Executive endorsed its first ever Corporate Plan, setting out its vision, values, key commitments and priorities for the Council. This follows a public consultation earlier in the year.

The Council's vision for North Northamptonshire to be 'A place where everyone has the best opportunities and quality of life.' The Corporate Plan outlines the values the Council will embrace as well as six key commitments it has made to everyone in North Northamptonshire:

- Active, fulfilled lives
- Better, brighter futures
- Safe and thriving places
- Green, sustainable environment
- Connected communities
- Modern public services

Bus Service Improvements

Recommendations include forming an 'Enhanced Partnership' with bus companies, towns and parishes, passengers and businesses. Such an arrangement would allow access to a £3 billion funding pot to assist with sustaining, re-introducing and developing bus routes.

Our investment in rural routes will help tackle the issue of social isolation, which many face in these areas and which has been particularly acute during the pandemic.

National Consumer Week 2021 will launch on 6 December. In response, North Northamptonshire Council will be raising awareness of how people can protect themselves from misleading energy efficiency and environmental claims, such as 'green scams' and rogue traders.

Steel Road Improvements

Work started this week to open up the highway network to the north east of Corby Town centre in order to accommodate much needed new housing by improving the capacity issues on the A43 Steel Road Roundabout. The project is a key component in the infrastructure improvements needed to ensure that the area is able to accommodate the housing and employment land growth set out within the adopted Development Plan for North Northamptonshire. Specifically linked to the Priors Hall Park development site, these junction improvements will enable a capacity increase to ensure the road network can meet the demand.

Millions to be made available to most vulnerable in North Northants this winter

Millions of pounds will be made available as the economy of the North Northants area continues to recover from the Covid pandemic.

North Northamptonshire Council's Executive learned that a total of £2.5million will be made available through the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) to help the most vulnerable this winter.

This support ranges from Holiday School Meal Vouchers for the next two term holidays to a fuel bank concept which supports the maintenance of energy within the household over the winter period. The process of identifying the individuals and families in need will be done through the Citizens Advice Bureau, Job Centres and other local voluntary organisations. This latest fund will be available up to March 2022.

Funds to be released to get Corby town investment plan rolling

Approximately £995,000 to be added to the Capital Programme to get planned projects in Corby off the ground. This fund will cover the cost of design work, feasibility studies and business case development (including accurate financial projections) for each project, including a Sixth Form College, a Multi-use Building, Corby Station Links and Smart and Connected Corby.

You can read Jason's full latest report as well as all of his previous reports on the web at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yj98touj>

RAY JACKSON - 'DO WE NOT CARE ANYMORE?'

29 Sep 2021

First of all – thanks are due to the North Northamptonshire Council for authorising free lunches for children during half term and the Christmas holidays. Caring Conservatism at its best. If unexpected outcomes of Brexit create economic difficulties it is good to feel we have a caring Council to handle them.

There was an article recently in one of the weekly economics magazines which suggested that the urgency to get some of the gas out of the rich deposits in Lancashire was because the present government recognised that Theresa May's cap on gas prices after the press campaign against high prices would result in the closure of many companies retailing gas. This has happened with twenty three companies so far having gone bankrupt and Centrica in deep trouble. Local people objected to the work of extraction in their area and stopped it. One up for democracy: one down for the industry and for us consumers. Was there another solution?

I attended a few years ago a meeting in Kings Cliff seeking the public's views on the possibility of a company burying articles which had been lightly nuclear contaminated like the gowns worn in NHS X-Ray departments. The company specialised in handling nuclear waste all over the country, had a superb record and its managers and directors were extremely well qualified in their specialisations. I went partly to learn how many new jobs it would create, but more because it would give us understanding of the problems of disposing nuclear waste as we moved in future from fission to fusion. The public opposition was tremendous, quite vilely expressed, with some local politicians identifying suddenly with the opponents. There were also vivid descriptions of local children running around in the dark but glowing with radio activity. Some of this type of objection came from people with quite cultured accents, indicating to me the possibility they were highly educated and understood science better than most of the audience. They might have been drafted in for the occasion. The application was rejected unanimously, but later the government over-ruled the objection; the company went ahead and made a success of the project and of many other projects throughout the UK. One up for science; one down for democracy.



Ray Jackson

I have already given my views on the refusal by 20% of our English population to be vaccinated against Covid. They are deliberately endangering their own lives, but more important the lives of ordinary innocent people who may become affected and die.

We now see the objectors on television with well-produced placards claiming their right in a free country to defend their civil liberties even if it results in the deaths of

others. Are these the real, civil objectors or have they been overtaken by a mob seeking disruption?

Would the present depressing increase in the number of deaths be neatly reduced by an increase in the numbers of people being vaccinated? Many will never know; they will be dead. Democracy one; science nil.

Is there a way out of this problem? In Ancient Athens, you had to be 24, prepared to bear arms for the State and have two children before you had the democratic right to vote. You knew what you wanted and although susceptible to orators like Pericles, you were forced to think around the issues.

In Britain now everyone has the vote. Many broadcasters and journalists suggest we are becoming hardened and inflexible in our views, not wanting to think twice. We slag off the prime minister even though we are all parliamentarians in the same business. Another MP recently when asked how she would solve the covid problem advised taking the money off the wealthy and giving it to the poor. Simple to her! Just imagine Tom saying something like that!

We have got to ease off; to recognise co-operation, goodwill and trying really to understand the problem are more likely to bring consensus and harmony. We are at present a highly stressed nation, as are many others. We are blessed with democrat rule, but this means there are likely to be sound alternative views which need our consideration.

Ray Jackson

President and 200 Club organiser

Wellingborough Town Council
Presents
Wellingborough Christmas Market

- Food Stalls ● Christmas
- Gifts ● Decorations
- Craft ● Fun Fair

There is also a Christmas Tree Festival at the United Reform Church, Carol Concert at All Hallows Church and Santa's Grotto in Swansgate Centre Market Square, Wellingborough

For more information call 01933 832822
www.wellingboroughtowncouncil.gov.uk

North Northamptonshire Council
Welcome BACK

11th DECEMBER
8:30am-3pm

Latest recommended UK posting dates

2nd Class

Sat 18th December

1st Class

Tue. 21st December

Special Delivery

Thu. 23rd December

Information correct at
1 October 2021

Cancellation of Christmas Lunch.

Unfortunately we had to postpone this lunch as the venue was unable to provide catering staff after their chef left at very short notice. We hope to re-arrange this event in the New Year. Please watch out for details

Everyone who bought tickets for our Christmas Draw is sincerely thanked for their support during a time when finances for everybody are being stretched. Results will be announced via Mailchimp as soon as declared.

IS **HOGO** THE REASON PEOPLE ARE NOT RETURNING TO PUBS AND CLUBS, ETC? You may ask, what is HOGO?

It simply means 'hassle of going out'. The 18 month lockdown has got everyone used to staying home. And now it is just too much bother to get ready to go out. And it sort of makes sense.

Unitary Council Councillor Macaulay Andrew Nichol (Corby Rural)

My first day at Conservative conference with my fellow North Northants Councillor King Lawal. I had the amazing opportunity of speaking with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor about the new unitary, as well touching on the successful election results which we had throughout North Northamptonshire. Great first day. Look forward to many more discussions and panels !



TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE JOINTLY
AT THE HOME OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE



29 Nov 2021

This year, I was honoured to attend the Remembrance Sunday services in Corby and Thrapston and to have wreaths laid on my behalf in Irthingborough, Oundle and Raunds. As ever, the events were brilliantly organised by the fantastic Royal British Legion volunteers and we came together as a community and as a country, in remembrance of those that have sacrificed so much on our behalf.



Photo: R Boyd

I also ensured that Corby & East Northamptonshire was represented in the House of Commons Garden of Remembrance in Westminster, along with crosses placed by so many of my colleagues. As in past years, I know that enormous sums of money will have been raised to support our brave veterans and their families - and I want to say a huge 'thank you' to all those involved in organising and delivering the Poppy Appeal locally this year and to all those who have been so generous in their giving.

Covid thoughts: When you get the call, get the job. Week on week we continue to see increasing numbers of people vaccinated against this terrible disease - a very significant achievement - and locally, the roll-out continues apace.

It's remarkable that 88% of people aged 12 and over have now received at least one dose of one

of the COVID-19 vaccines, and 80% have now had both doses. 22.4% have also had a booster (or 3rd) dose which is a strong start in this next step, but it is crucial that we don't slow down now. Maintaining our momentum across all age groups is so important if we are to make sure we do not risk in any way the hard-won freedoms that we currently enjoy, having been able to relax the restrictions by managing the virus.

Ultimately, the vaccines have been our way out and I'm hugely grateful to all of the amazing volunteers and staff that are continuing to make it happen. I am proud to have had both of my doses, having gone along to a drop-in session in Corby town centre for my second jab, and I urge everyone locally to get their doses too, including the booster vaccines that have started to be rolled out.

Clearly, COVID-19 isn't over and people should continue to show common sense and exercise good judgement, showing real consideration for others.

Of course, this is all a difficult balance and the Government continues to monitor the situation as we head into the winter period.

PFCC Safer Streets meeting:

It was great to have a meeting recently with representatives from the Office of the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Stephen Mold.

We discussed the Government backed Safer Streets Fund and what more can be done to bring down crime within our communities, creating a safer space for local residents and how we can try and deliver projects in our area through this funding going forward.

Continued>>>>

I know how important this issue is out on the doorstep and meetings such as this are a good opportunity to explore ideas for improvement, as well as to press home my constant message of needing to ensure strong policing visibility on our streets across Corby & East Northamptonshire.

Taking the Nationality & Borders Bill through Parliament:

For the last few weeks, much of my time in Parliament has been spent in Bill Committee, taking through the Government's flagship Nationality & Borders Bill. This new legislation delivers large parts of 'The New Plan for Immigration', which has the following three objectives at its core:

- To increase the fairness and efficacy of our system so that we can better protect and support those in genuine need of asylum, utilising safe and legal routes.
- To deter illegal entry into the UK, thereby breaking the business model of criminal trafficking networks and protecting the lives of those they endanger.
- To remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here.

These are common-sense reforms, the biggest of the asylum system in decades, that are long overdue and will directly address the concerns that so many people have locally, particularly around the small boat crossings that are perilously dangerous and unacceptable and simply have to stop.

We promised action on this issue and are getting on and delivering on that commitment. I look forward to the Bill's Report Stage soon.

Back at the Despatch Box for Justice Questions:

It was good to be back at the Despatch Box a couple of weeks ago to answer questions relating to my policy areas of responsibility at the Ministry of Justice, alongside the Secretary of State and the ministerial team.

The two questions I fielded related to our plans to deliver the forthcoming Victims Bill - enshrining the rights of victims in law - and in relation to the Nationality & Borders Bill and the need to deter dangerous, illegal journeys facilitated by evil criminal gangs who have no regard for human life.

Brigstock flooding meeting:

I was in Brigstock recently for a meeting to discuss the flooding challenges that have been affecting the village in recent winters, but particularly last year. Councillor David Brackenbury, representatives from North Northamptonshire Council, the Environment Agency and a local housing association were all present, as well as a number of local Brigstock Parish Council members. Cross agency meetings such as this are crucial if we are to make both the short-term preparations and long-term plans necessary to mitigate some of the terrible flooding that we have seen. The meeting was productive, with a few short-term pieces of work to be done to aid local resilience, as well as a commitment to go away and expedite the publication of the important professional report into what happened last winter and to identify what steps need to be taken to ensure those events are not repeated. I shall certainly continue to work closely with residents on this and will assist in any way that I can.

Photo: Harriet Pentland



Finally, it was great to finally open the new Weldon Relief Road this afternoon (26 Nov) - well done to all involved, including residents, Weldon Parish Council and local councillors who have worked with me in keeping the pressure up for the earliest possible opening. Now it is essential people make use of it and reduce the congestion pressures on this terrific village!

Yours sincerely

Tom Pursglove Member of Parliament
for Corby & East Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

23 Nov 2021

As we approach Christmas, many of us will be hitting the shops to buy presents for friends and family. Sadly, with the increase in the number of people in our shops, there is also an increase in shoplifting.

However, a newly appointed retail crime investigator will help Northamptonshire businesses receive extra support to bring persistent shoplifters to justice.

The specialist role, which has been filled by a retired Northamptonshire Police Detective, is part of a 12-month trial scheme in North Northamptonshire which is being funded by my office. Under this scheme, our new retail crime investigator will work closely with local retail firms in helping them to gather improved evidence – such as statements and CCTV footage – that can then be sent onto Northamptonshire Police so they can investigate incidents that have been reported to them.



The scheme will also give retailers additional specialist assistance when they have been targeted and will focus on persistent and violent shoplifters who cause harm to retailers, their staff, and their communities. I am absolutely committed to ensuring we provide a valued service to all victims of retail crime.



We hope this 12-month pilot will provide further reassurance to businesses that we will do everything in our power to firstly deter criminals, but also to investigate and bring swift justice to those shoplifters who do target our local businesses. I am particularly concerned about the increase in violence or threats that staff employed in this sector have been suffering nationally, and this is wholly unacceptable.

The new retail crime investigator will work within the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership (NBCP), a non-profit organisation with more than 500 members ranging from national retailers to independent traders. They will also link in with the Initial Investigation Team (IIT) at Northamptonshire Police to provide evidence on lines of investigation. The Force has reviewed the service that is given to retailers reporting shoplifting, and the pilot scheme will support the new direction it is taking. A recent survey by the British Retail Consortium found that there are more than 450 physical or verbal assaults on retail workers every day in the UK, and that retail crime results in a loss of £1.3 billion a year. And in the county, there were 2,720 shoplifting offences recorded by Northamptonshire Police in the 12 months leading up to July 2021, with a detection rate of 12.8 per cent.

Continued>>>>

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

A review at the end of the 12-month trial will determine if detection rates have improved as a result of the pilot and the more focussed approach the IIT is taking.

In addition to this, a new online mapping tool has been launched to allow members of the public to flag areas in their communities where they feel unsafe, and I have keen to hear the views of local residents. The StreetSafe map, launched in September by the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) will collect data and allow police to understand specific concerns and use the information to make decisions on safety in the local community. The app provides the facility to allow people to report where they felt unsafe and why. Reports are anonymous and data gathered from this will be used by my office to analyse and identify trends so we can work with both the force and Local Authorities to help resolve them. This new app represents a vital new tool to help protect members of the public – in particular women and girls – and the more who use it will be contributing important data that will help inform and influence the decision-making process in relation to front line policing.

More details about StreetSafe can be found at: <https://www.northants.police.uk/notices/street-safe/street-safe/>

As we come out of the worst of the pandemic our Fire and Rescue Service have increased their public facing activity which has seen a 4-fold increase in activity like Home Fire Safety Visits being delivered, school visits restarting, Fire Safety Inspections increasing as well as attendance at high profile community events such as Northampton PRIDE and Diwali.

In addition, Fire and Rescue staff continue to assist the Ambulance Service with the driving of urgent care ambulances and are still playing a full part in the Multi agency effort as we go through the Winter Months with the Chief Fire officer chairing the County's multi agency co-ordination group.

The Fire and Rescue Service is also in the process of developing its next Community Risk Management Plan (formerly Integrated Risk Management Plan). This will be the plan that will run from 2022 to 2025. The plan will be out for public consultation in December and shows how NFRS plan to mitigate risk in the County by utilising Prevention, Protection and Response resources. This will highlight the priorities across these three disciplines. Consultations such as these ensure that local residents have the opportunity to shape the priorities of our local emergency services and I would urge you take part in this important piece of work.

The last 18 months have been challenging and difficult for many of us, but I have been so proud of the hard work and resilience of our Police Force and Fire and Rescue Service who have continued to help protect communities across our county. The last 18 months have been unprecedented, but I have seen at first hand how our emergency services are able to respond to a complex and far-reaching pandemic with clear insight and undefeatable fortitude.

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

Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

Peter Sutcliffe murdered 13 women but we don't hate all lorry drivers.

Jeremy Bamber murdered 5 members of his family but we bear no malice towards farm hands.

Dennis Nilsen murdered at least 12 men but we have don't have a problem with employment officers.

Dr Harold Shipman murdered in excess of 250 people but we don't despise all doctors.

Similarly, it would be moronic to hate the Police due the actions of just one of them.

Please don't tar all Police Officers with the same brush.

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB NEWS

It seems an age since Christmas at the Club was celebrated but things are looking brighter so the Management Committee have decided to begin booking bands and entertainment again. There is a Members' Quiz on the third Friday of each month and John Headley's Quiz with music held every other Sunday at 4pm is another popular event.

The Club holds a special 'Chase the Joker' draw every Sunday between 12noon and 3pm and the rollover jackpot at the end of November was £870.

Great news on the catering front: our new Chef, Jack, starts work this week. He comes with a great CV and we look forward to seeing a full restaurant again. Restaurant opening hours are advertised on our webpage where you can also book a table.

Members are reminded that membership falls due at the end of the year and this can be renewed at the bar.

At the moment Raunds Conservative Club is only opening in the evenings.



Image by Patricia Studin from Pixabay

Restaurant Opening Hours:

Wednesday:	12.00 –15.00
Thursday:	12.00– 15.00 & 18.00-21.00
Friday:	12.00– 21.00 *
Saturday:	12.00– 21.00 *
Sunday:	12.00–17.00 (Sunday Menu)

*Evening Menu from 15.00 hrs

Christmas Opening Hours:

Christmas Eve:	10.30 –23.30
Christmas Day:	11.00–14.00
Boxing Day:	10.30–23.30
New Year's Eve:	12.00–01.00 (1st)
New Year's Day:	12.00–20.00

Entertainment for December

Sat. 4th Dec:	Bar - 'The Brudge'
Sun. 5th Dec:	John Headley's Quiz
Fri. 17th Dec:	Doco's Quiz
Sun. 26th Dec:	Bar - 'Without a Doubt' Hall - 'Smarties' £5 at ticket
Fri. 31st Dec:	Bar- 'Prisoner' Hall - 'The Contenders'

All rooms: New Year's Eve £5 per adult, £2.50 for children (with free drink for members)

Entertainment in the Bar for 2022

Sat. 15th Jan:	'Ryan and Crabbie'
Fri. 28th Jan:	'Last Minute Brigade'
Sat. 12th Feb:	'Skirt Patrol'
Sat. 26th Feb:	'Go with the Flow'
Sat. 12th Mar:	'The Brudge'
Sat. 26th Mar:	'Out of Order'

You can find details of how to join and see what facilities are on offer at:

www.the-cons.co.uk

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 now on. 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. Existing members coming up for renewal will be asked to transfer their payments to CCHQ. So if you know of someone who would like to join please ask them to go to:

www.conservatives.com/join

JUST A THOUGHT: Interesting that in every single one of last night's local council by-elections bar one, the Conservative vote share increased. Iain Dale (Twitter) 26 Nov 2021



Conservative Policy Forum

The CPF arranges topics of interest which will be put forward for inclusion for our future discussions.

Now, more so than ever before, there is a genuine recognition at the top of the party that members views need to be sought and heard: 4-out-of-7 commitments in the Party's 2019 election manifesto can be traced back to ideas proposed by CPF members so you can see that the CPF meetings are a genuine method for passing on your thoughts to the top.

The topics for our next consultations papers will be:

1st Nov 2022 - 16th Jan 2022 Planning and Housing

17th Jan 2022 - 20th Mar 2022 : Jobs and Pensions

Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker, has arranged a meeting to discuss the Planning and Housing topic. It will be held at Corby Conservative Club on Monday 10th January commencing at 7pm.

Please let the office know if you would like to be included and details of the briefing papers will be supplied to you.

As always, all members and friends are invited to our meetings which are friendly and informal and do provide feedback for the Party. We have heard comments that these meetings are for the same old grey-haired diehards but this is far from the truth. Everyone is invited, members and friends, as long as they are willing to be polite and treat others with respect.

Summary of CPF consultation on 'TELL N° 10'

Discussion period: 5th July to 5th September
Our most recent CPF discussion was "Tell No 10" consultation.

In all, a total of 423 policy ideas from 763 participants were received. This included a high proportion of women and young people. Of those proposals that came from CPF groups during the final stage of the initiative, half (48%) addressed social care, a third (31%) lifelong training and a fifth (21%) flexible working & caring commitments.

Previous input from the CPF—most recently our winter 20/21 consultation—was considered ahead of the plans for adult social care published by the Government on 7 September and ideas in this latest CPF report will help to inform policymakers.

Our report to the Director of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit, the CPF Chairman and the Party Chairman consisted of the most developed proposals, plus other common themes. As usual, we look forward to publishing a formal response to members' ideas in due course.

Snapshot of Common Themes

1. *We need a society which values achievement, free speech and individual responsibility.*
2. *Education, lifelong learning, family life and social care should all be approached and underpinned by the aim of empowering all individuals in our society, regardless of background to have equal opportunity to reach their full and maximum potential throughout their lives.*
3. *Families should be supported to take more responsibility for social care.*
4. *Many groups said they would support an additional levy and proposals for adult social care—including an increase in National Insurance.*

Note point 4 which was ultimately included in the recent government new plans.

Several groups mentioned the Dilnot proposals of 2011 and support a cap on life-time individual social care costs. To read the full Dilnot report go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/y3zv6ru7>

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 magazine contributors are obviously their own opinion and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Association or its management.

MAKE IT A CORBY CHRISTMAS

Christmas Shops opening hours in CORBY

MONDAY 20 DEC: 9AM–5.30PM

TUESDAY 21 DEC: 9AM–8PM

WEDNESDAY 22 DEC: 9AM–8PM

THURSDAY 23 DEC: 9AM–8PM

FRIDAY 24 DEC: 9AM–5.30PM

SATURDAY 25 DEC: CLOSED

SUNDAY 26 DEC: NORMAL HOURS

MONDAY 27 DEC: 10.30AM–4.30PM

TUESDAY 28 DEC: 10.30AM–4.30PM

WEDNESDAY 29-31 DEC: NORMAL HOURS

SATURDAY 1 JAN: CLOSED

Corby celebrates its biggest Christmas events programme ever in the town centre this year, including free children's craft workshops, festive walkabout characters, live music and a pop-up Christmas market with bar and street food stalls.



As well as the usual decorations, taking pride of place in Corporation Street is a giant illuminated 'Happy Santa'. Plus, join the snow family for another seasonal selfie in Willow Place!

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/y42rsmgn> for latest news

Image by OpenClipart-Vectors from Pixabay

Your Association contact details:

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Web: www.cenca.co.uk

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

200 CLUB NEWS

The Lucky winners of the latest Draws:

November: Mrs G Kerruish £25.00 and

December: Ray Jackson £25.00

Now is your chance to be one of our lucky winners. The cost is just £15 for the year with eleven monthly prizes of £25 and two big prizes of £100 and £50 in our annual draw in February.



Just set up an annual standing order for this amount, email the office to let us know you have done this and your name will be entered in every draw.

200 Club members received a complimentary copy of this magazine.

If you prefer to pay by cheque annually that is okay. Just send your cheque for £15 made payable to CENCA to Corby & E Northants Conservative Association, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

We also hold our Annual Lunch in February each year where you will get a chance to meet other members and make new friends. Our Member of Parliament usually attends and has a chat with everyone.

Our 200 Club bank is Lloyds Bank, Corby. a/c No: 00618359. Sort code: 30-92-26

Copy for the next issue must be received by 10th January 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.

We only hear bad news in the media but consider this: Boris Johnson defied some of his scientific advisers in removing Covid restrictions in July and also defied the WHO in planning the booster programme. His policy of opening up society in the summer—exposing those who had declined to be vaccinated to the virus at a point when hospitals were under little pressure—might turn out to have been a better move than keeping restrictions, which in Europe succeeded only in delaying another Covid wave in the Autumn. The relatively high levels of infection recently may turn out to be what defends us against the surge being witnessed in mainland Europe. (The Spectator 27 Nov 2021)

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'IS THERE A SOLUTION TO THIS CRISIS?'

21 Nov 2021

MOG is away on business on the South Coast but has sent his thoughts:

Dear Readers,

Looking out of my hotel window over the beach this morning my thoughts turned to the thousands of people flooding across the channel just a short distance down the coast from where I am staying. Later in the hotel foyer I picked up a copy of the Daily Telegraph and read the following:

"The overwhelming majority of Tory voters believe the Government's approach to Channel crossings is "too soft".

Migration was also the performance area in which Mr Johnson received the worst negative ratings from voters, with 54 per cent disapproving and just 21 per cent approving, according to the online survey by Redfield and Wilton Strategies." - Sunday Telegraph 21 Nov 2021.

In my opinion there are three main concerns over the continuing migrant crisis:

1. This whole matter is doing great damage to our Party, which is being seen as unable to deal with the problem. (But can anyone?)
2. Where are we going to put the 50,000-plus people? MP Peter Bone rightly points out that our local towns should not have to put up these immigrants (many possibly illegally here) in local hotels—and pay them an allowance at the same time.

3. And finally, the financial burden of supporting the daily growing numbers of boat-people is not sustainable.



It is true that we owe a debt of gratitude to the refugees from Afghanistan, many of whom have put their lives in danger to help us. It is important that we fulfil our moral obligation to provide assistance where we are able to do so and I know that our Unitary Council have offered to assist in any way they can.

Does anyone have an answer to this problem?

The Civil Service clerks in the Home Office were able to wrongly target legal residents of this country who came over on the Windrush over 70 years ago, and in some cases they actually deported them. Surely it not beyond their wit to devise a scheme to stem the flow of people (up to a 1,000 a day) and actually return those not entitled to be here.

Finally, I have just heard of the sad news of the deaths of around 30 people in the Channel. The blame for this tragedy can be laid squarely at the feet of the traffickers. But France is not without blame having encouraged the vast gatherings of hopefuls on the French beaches.

Anyway, happy Christmas* and enjoy a good New Year.

MOG

*PS: *I don't care what the Wokeys say, this is Christmas time. And if that offends someone - tough*

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 in another Northants constituency

JUST A THOUGHT: Those people who died in the channel were residents of France, who boarded an unsafe vessel provided in France on a French beach then drowned in French waters. Bit of a stretch to blame the UK government. James Gibbon (Twitter) 26 Nov 2021

CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB

**POP IN AND PICK UP A
MEMBERSHIP FORM**



WE ARE NOW FULLY OPEN

www.the-cons.co.uk

Photo: R Boyd



The Association of Conservative Clubs



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POLITICAL LIFE

Our magazine is available as an A5 printed booklet.

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.

Non-members who would like to receive news of our magazine regularly will need to join the Association.

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

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