



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

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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

**WE HAVE A BY-ELECTION COMING UP FOR THE UNITARY COUNCIL
ANY HELP YOU CAN GIVE WILL BE APPRECIATED
*AND IF YOU LIVE IN OUNDLE WARD PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO VOTE***



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



**OUR
CANDIDATE
FOR OUNDLE
OLLIE
CURTIS**

**LISTENING—CAMPAIGNING—DELIVERING IN OUNDLE
AND THE VILLAGES. 6,000 LISTENING SURVEYS
DELIVERED IN ONE DAY BY OUR FANTASTIC TEAM**



PHISHING/SCAM WATCH

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.

Never follow the links in unsolicited texts or emails. If you get a message purporting to be from the NHS, check the details with your GP surgery or NHS service.

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://nhs.pass-application.com>

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

'Your parcel could not be delivered' scam.

Most of us will have received a message supposedly coming from Royal Mail or Hermes or some other delivery company advising that you must contact them to arrange redelivery. Do not reply under any circumstances. A lady reported that she had lost £7,000 after answering one of these messages. Shortly after logging in she received a call from her bank telling her that her account had been hacked and she must immediately transfer funds to a new account. But the call was not from her bank and her account was cleared out in minutes.

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Christmas Draw result

Sadly we have no winners in our region for the big prizes.

The winner of the bottle of whisky will be announced in the next magazine.

1st Prize of £10,000 SHREWSBURY

2nd Prize: £1000 WEST BYFLEET

Details of all winners are held in the office and the list can be examined upon request.

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

• Last month, Tom's office received well over 1,400 emails from local residents and 282 specific new cases were created for individual constituents.

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

25 Jan 2022

Happy New Year to you all, I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas.

New Members: Since my last report, we have had a number of our constituents join the Conservative Party, so I'd like to welcome all of those new members. We are a friendly bunch and, as restrictions relax, look forward to welcoming you personally at one of our social events.

Global Britain – trade surging: New data shows 13.6% growth in trade! British trade with non-EU countries has accelerated - as almost all of the fastest growing trading partners are from outside the bloc, with non-EU goods trade rising 13.6 percent while EU goods trade rose 1.4 percent.

The United States remains the UK's biggest trading partner by a long margin, accounting for 21 percent of UK exports in 2020 and 12.5 percent of imports. Germany ranks as the second biggest trading partner, accounting for 8.2 percent of exports and 11.1 percent of imports. In another major boost for the City, the EU recently confirmed an extension of access to the UK's clearing houses for EU banks which are heavily reliant on London's services.

Since Brexit, the UK has embarked on a programme of new trade deals with a range of countries which will begin to show in trade statistics as time moves on. Last month a new free trade agreement was signed with Australia, and you may have read in the press that negotiations have now launched for a deal with India.



There is also good news coming from Government that the UK has begun negotiations with the US over the removal of tariffs on steel and aluminium left over from the Trump administration.

COVID: The Government's Omicron strategy appears to have paid off! After almost 2 years of restrictions

(in one way or another), and a world leading vaccine roll-out and extraordinary booster campaign, it is very welcome news that most of the measures under Plan B will end on 26th January.

Mandatory Covid-19 passes for entering nightclubs and large events will end, as will the rules around face masks in places where you mix with people you don't usually mix with. Secondary school pupils no longer have to wear face coverings in classrooms and guidance on their use in communal areas will also be removed.

Restrictions on visits to care homes will also be eased. Let's hope other countries are able to follow suit shortly.

Oundle by-election: As most of you will know, Annabel de Capell Brooke has recently resigned, leading to a by-election in the Oundle Ward due to be held on 17th February. I'd like to thank Annabel for all of her hard work and wish her the very best in her new life in Norfolk.

Moving forwards, we are very lucky to have a superb candidate in Ollie Curtis. Ollie has experience, energy and commitment, and would make an excellent hardworking Councillor for the Oundle Ward residents.

Continued>>>>

Chairman's Report — continued>>>

The choice for residents will be between Ollie, or one of his left-wing opponents (Labour, Lib- Dem or Green). If any members can help with leaflet delivery, canvassing, or indeed in any other way, please make contact – Ollie would appreciate it enormously.

Folding machine: Last, but not least, can I thank Patrick Boyle for his donation of a folding machine to the Association. The machine has proved invaluable in the past in helping reduce the time it takes to fold the 10,000's letters that are sent from the Association to residents, and will continue to be hugely beneficial in the future.

Just some of our fantastic team of volunteers who are out and about delivering and canvassing:

Ollie Curtis, Helen Harrison, Jason Smithers , Mike Taylor, David Jenney, Harriet Pentland, Dorothy Maxwell, Brian Skittrall, Jennie Bone, Macaulay Nichol, Barbara Jenney, Philip Irwin, Andrew Weatherill, Wendy Brackenbury, David Brackenbury ,Richard Levell, Adam Fernley, Kevin Watt, Andy Mercer, Gill Mercer, Lloyd Bunday. And of course, our thanks also go to anyone who may have chipped in, but is not included on this list. There are more every day.

Take care all, hopefully I will see many of you in Oundle on the by-election campaign trail.

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 from 28th February to 4th March and on 17th and 18th March.

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 as there is a spam filter fitted). 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

PRESIDENT'S LUNCH

Our President, Ray Jackson, is holding a Lunch at the Glaphorn Village Hall, Main Street, Glaphorn, nr Oundle, PE8 5BE on Sunday 20th February and invites all members to join him. Members of the 200 Club are specially invited at a discounted price as we will be holding the annual draw for the big prizes of £100 and £50 after the lunch.



Image: pixabay/photosforyou

The Lunch will be two courses (casserole or fish main and hot pudding—with vegetarian option on pre-order) and will cost £14 per head. Table wine is included in the cost. Our caterer is the well-respected Gloria Ellenton of Classic Catering. There will be a raffle with prizes donated by our President.

The Hall will be open from 12.30pm and lunch will be served at 1pm.

Tickets are limited to a maximum of 30 people due to the size of the Hall.

Our President would be delighted to welcome as many as possible of our members to come along to this, our first function for over two years, where they will have the opportunity to meet up with old friends again.

Please let our office know if you would like to attend. Email to: office@cenca.co.uk or you can write (and enclose your cheque) to: Corby & E Northants Conservative Association, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ.

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: How lunatic this reconstructing of history to suit modern sensibilities has become. It is not a mass movement, though. What we see is the tyranny of the minority. The desire to rearrange the past is driven by members of the liberal elite, aided and abetted by half-witted protesters whose knowledge of the history of the British Empire is often close to zero.

Stephen Glover 2 Dec 2021



Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

21 Jan 2022

Despite the Christmas break, work on the 2022-23 budgets continued as we look to take our proposals to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in February. The budgets for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and Northamptonshire Police are made up from central government grants and the policing and fire precepts, which are part of the local council tax. Around 18% of the total council tax bill paid by a Northamptonshire household goes towards policing and fire services, 14% for policing and 4% for the fire service.

This year, the Government is expecting Commissioners across the country to raise the policing precept by £10 a year for the next three years. An increase of that level is lower than inflation but would allow the investments that have been made over the last five years to be sustained. These investments have included giving Northamptonshire Police more officers than it has ever had, up from 1170 to around 1500 by March 2023.



The Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has been given flexibility to ask for an additional £5 a year - less than 10p a week - for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, because it is one of the lowest-funded in the country. A £5 a year increase would bring financial stability so that the Fire and Rescue Service can plan to modernise and extend the work it does to keep the community safe.

I recently asked the public to tell me their priorities for fire and policing and overwhelmingly, they said that visible and effective response from the two emergency services is most important to them. People have clearly told me that they want to see more police officers in their neighbourhoods, and that they want fire services that are able to respond quickly when needed. I know this is another challenging year and the financial decisions that I have to make will be tougher than ever. Work will continue to finalise my budget plans and will be available to view on my website at the end of January.

In addition to this work, The Fire and Rescue Service have published their new draft strategy for the next three years which outlines how they will keep communities safe and tackle potential risks. The new Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) has taken a detailed look at what risks are present in Northamptonshire and identifies how NFRS can provide an outstanding service and deploy resources to reduce those risks and make the county a safer place for everyone.

Firefighters from 22 stations, plus teams from the Prevention and Protection departments, deal with a whole host of risks that have been identified in the Plan, made more challenging by Northamptonshire being one of the fastest growing counties in the country yet still being a significantly rural area. As well as fires at domestic and commercial properties, other risks identified include the county being at the heart of the country's strategic road network, a sharp growth in the number of logistic hubs, and many waterways and rivers.

The Plan outlines three major projects to help meet future pressures:

The Green Agenda - Ensuring that NFRS considers environmental risks - such as flooding and wildfires, while also attempting to become greener through a more efficient estate and vehicles within its fleet.

Stephen Mold— continued>>>

Digital and technological - Updating systems to drive change.

Emergency cover review - Taking a detailed look at how resources are managed.

The Community Risk Management Plan plays a major role in driving forward improvements and outlines our strategy on how we transform the Service and ensure that this county remains a safe place for everyone to work and live in. There is still time for you to have your say on the Community Risk Management Plan as the consultation ends on January 31, 2022 and can be accessed at northantsfire.gov.uk

Over the Christmas period, I have been very proud of the reaction that our new Safer Nights Out van, or SNOvan has received. The SNOvan has provided a base for volunteers to support hundreds of people in Northampton's night-time economy since it launched early in December 2021.

The SNOvan is based in Northampton town centre between 10pm and 5am on Fridays and Saturdays. On the first weekend alone, more than 200 people engaged with the SNOvan volunteers who provided help such as warmth and water, first aid, phone charging, or reuniting them with friends. The SNOvan is used as a hub by more than 13 volunteers from groups including Northampton Guardians and the Street Pastors, who have given more than 500 hours of their time in the first three weeks of operation.

I want people using the night-time economy, especially women and girls, to feel safe and be safe. The SNOvan is there to help anyone who feels vulnerable on a night out and to keep them safe. I am full of gratitude to the volunteers who have given hundreds of hours of their time to help others.

As you may know, prevention and early intervention is one of my key priorities and the work of our Youth Outreach Team is proving to be vital in delivering that priority. The Youth Outreach Team, which I established in 2019 has been commended for its work with young people in the north of the county. Superintendent Adam Ward who is the Head of Local Policing for North Northamptonshire, has now given our Youth Team a formal commendation for helping to transform the lives of young people who are in most need of support.

The Youth Outreach Team has helped young people have a voice and an opportunity to explain the issues they face in their communities, which has then influenced Policing activity across the county. They have led on engagement work in Op Revive, aiming to build trust between young people and the police, and have worked with partner agencies to help with engaging school curriculums on neighbourhood issues in North Northamptonshire.

They have also focussed on work to educate young people about the risks of being groomed into a gang and the repercussions of carrying a knife, as well as setting up forums to work with schools in identifying early warning signs of gang involvement. The Force are now getting better levels of youth engagement and intelligence coming through to when which hopefully will help them to build a lasting trust with this generation of young people.

As ever, if you need any help or assistance, I can be contacted at:

commissioner@northantspfcc.gov.uk

Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire

JUST A THOUGHT: *More observations on the idiocy of 'WOKENESS'.* So every citizen has the right to, as George Orwell famously wrote, 'tell people things they do not want to hear'. This is supposedly enshrined in laws such as the Human Rights Act. However Professor Luckhurst of Durham University was suspended from public roles because he arranged for outspoken Rod Liddle to speak at a student dinner. Apparently this caused a number of students to be 'distressed' and 'emotional' due to Liddle's remarks (even some of those weren't even there were upset). The stupidity goes on. (Prof Luckhurst is now back at work although the results of an inquiry by the college are confidential.)

RAY JACKSON - 'DISPOSING OF *SOME* NUCLEAR WASTE'

21 Jan 2022

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.



Ray Jackson

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.

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

TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE JOINTLY
AT THE HOME OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

25 Jan 2022

My latest thoughts on COVID-19 as we deal with the Omicron variant. The key point remains: when you get the call, get the job!

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 progress through the winter period. Whilst the relatively minor added regulations of early December are highly undesirable, as has been made clear, these will be continually reviewed, such as when they last were on the 5th January, and as they have been at every stage of the pandemic. I would just add here that I strongly supported the Prime Minister in his decisions over the festive period not to introduce further restrictions, unlike those we saw in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. I believe the approach that was taken here in England has been measured and responsible over recent weeks in response to Omicron and that must remain the case. Unsurprisingly, like the vast majority locally, I believe we must return to normality without any unnecessary delay.

Meeting with constituents in Gretton to discuss local traffic related concerns: It was great to meet recently with some constituents in Gretton to discuss traffic and speeding related concerns that have been building in the local community and to hear about a piece of work that is going on in the village, spearheaded by the Parish Council and a small working group, to look at these matters in detail. It was good to discuss their early thinking, their ideas around the 20mph



speed limit policy nationally in residential areas, and next steps with their work. I shall continue to show a keen interest in this.

Nationality & Borders Bill passes through the House: Since taking on my new ministerial role in September, much of my time in Parliament has been spent taking through the Government's flagship Nationality & Borders Bill. You can also find a recent video I made talking about the Bill, here: <https://tinyurl.com/ybonnbph>.



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 gravely endanger.

To remove more easily from the UK those with no right to be here.

Continued>>>>

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 was very pleased to see the Bill passed by MPs and it is currently still under consideration in the House of Lords, who I hope will pass it quickly.

Appearance on BBC Politics East: On 16th January, I appeared on BBC Politics East to discuss a number of subjects and had a good debate with my fellow panel member on various issues, which included recent events involving reports of 10 Downing Street gatherings, post-Brexit trade, the forthcoming Southend West By-election and local government finance. As ever, I appreciated the opportunity to take part in this edition, where we were able to have a wide-ranging and frank discussion. You can find the full episode and my views on the various matters we debated, <https://tinyurl.com/yakxh3jy>



GP access difficulties in Oundle: During my various sessions out and about over the last few weeks, listening to local people about the issues and concerns that matter to them, a troubling number of conversations have centred around access issues to GP services in Oundle – an issue I have been actively

raising over recent months and which I am now doing so again following that feedback.

I wish to be clear that this is most certainly not a criticism of the staff at the surgery, who I know are working very hard in challenging circumstances and have been for some time, with COVID-19 in particular serving as an unprecedented source of difficulty. Ultimately, however, it is vital that people are able to access the care that they need and see the right medical professional at the right place, at the right time. That doesn't always need to be a GP, and we should utilise technology where appropriate and advantageous, but all residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, must have confidence that they can see someone in person if that is what they require, whilst obviously taking into account any infection control measures that may be required at any particular time, given COVID-19 concerns.

I shall certainly keep pressing for just that and I have already urged over the weekend that relevant senior health and local government figures locally work together to draw up a comprehensive action plan to rapidly help the surgery to improve public confidence around both capacity and access.

More widely, I am keen to understand any such similar issues people have faced across Corby & East Northamptonshire in recent weeks, so that I can make appropriate enquiries and assist where I can to resolve any specific difficulties, should that be required.

Yours sincerely

Tom Pursglove Member of Parliament
for Corby & East Northamptonshire



Home Secretary Priti Patel:
The independent ONS stats show our approach to cutting crime is working. 29 Jan 2022



MAKING OUR STREETS SAFER:

- KNIFE CRIME DOWN 13%**
- NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME DOWN 33%**
- FIREARMS OFFENCES DOWN 18%**

BEATING CRIME

From June 2019 to the year ending Sept 2021

200 CLUB NEWS

The Lucky winners of the latest Draws:
January: PW Long £25.00

Next draw: The Big One £100 and £50

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 receive 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

Our Annual Lunch is on 20th February where you will get a chance to meet other members and make new friends. You can read full details about the lunch elsewhere in this Magazine. The discounted price for the lunch for 200 Club members and their friends is £10 a head.

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

Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries has notified Parliament that the annual £159 fee for the next two years, until 15 Jan 2024 has been frozen.

The current Royal Charter for the BBC ends on December 31, 2027 and Nadine is studying whether to discontinue the Licence system at that time. It is likely that the Licence will increase in line with inflation from 2024 until the Charter ends.

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

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.

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)

Conservative Policy Forum



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

The topics for our next consultations papers will be:

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

As always, all members and friends are invited to our meetings which are friendly and informal and do provide feedback for the Party. Our CPF Chairman, George Whittaker will let members know of suggested meeting dates soon.

OUR PRIME MINISTER

We can now see the fulfilment of the Labour Party's plans to get rid of our democratically-elected Prime Minister. For some time the Labour Party has abandoned its efforts to come up with new ideas realising that they couldn't compete on policy issues, instead they decided to attack the man instead of the Party. Basically, forget policies and concentrate on personalities. This is why we have the drip, drip, drip of disclosures, probably fed to the Labour Party by disgruntled past-insiders.

Maybe we should be asking why all this stuff is suddenly being revealed just as the pandemic is disappearing. There can't have been many leaders in the past who faced such a dreadful crisis just a few months into their period of office, and when you look at how advanced we are in getting over this virus compared to the rest of the world we should be thanking our lucky stars that Boris and the Conservative government made so many good decisions, particularly in approving and stocking up on the vaccine. Would Labour have done this? Of course not—under Labour we would have still been stuck in the EU waiting for a committee decision. And Labour would probably still have us in permanent lockdown.

But, in hindsight, it would seem that there was a culture at Number Ten of staff drinking after work. There cannot be many businesses where alcohol is seen as a reward at the end of the day. However, this attitude should not still exist in government offices.

Boris must stay but he must clamp down on this if he is to regain trust. And if he doesn't then his successor must do the same.

Whatever happens we are sure to see more snippets of gossip about alleged shenanigans appearing in the media. And at a time when we are facing an increased threat from Russia and a cost of living problem surely there are bigger things to be concentrating on.

And if Boris is forced out then we face the threat of the Lawyer - every bit as bad as the Jeremy.

This is a personal comment by the editor which does not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Conservative Association or its management.

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held on Friday 11th March 2022 at 7pm.

The venue will be Corby Conservative Club, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

None but paid-up members may attend this meeting. A list of members will be manned at the door to ensure compliance.

An email reminder will be sent via Mailchimp to all members.

Any member wishing to stand for office must contact Ray Boyd for details of how to do so at office@cenca.co.uk or write to CENCA, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ

THE SUE GRAY REPORT: 'The excessive consumption of alcohol is not appropriate in a professional workplace at any time. Steps must be taken to ensure that every Government department has a clear and robust policy in place covering the consumption of alcohol in the workplace.' 31 Jan 2022

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.



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

LEADER'S UPDATE 25 Jan 2022

The budget consultation is well under way. We have an Executive meeting on 10 February that will be dedicated to considering this important issue, along with a Full Council meeting on 24 February where councillors will make the final decision on the budget. The Council has an annual net budget of over £290million and the services it provides are essential to the wellbeing of all who live and work in the area, not to mention the many visitors who enjoy what North Northamptonshire has to offer.

Street scene improvements began this week in Kettering as part of a project to revitalise and improve the look and feel of the town centre. Balfour Beatty began work on behalf of North Northamptonshire Council on Monday 17 January. The work is due to be completed this summer when visitors to Kettering town centre should see significant improvements to the area, including new trees, seating and pavements, all designed to complement the town's heritage.

All updates and news will be available on the 'This is Kettering' website at <https://tinyurl.com/yacevfxk> and their social media platforms. An artist impression and drone footage have been created to show you what Meadow Road and High Street are intended to look like. You can view this on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/y9oqfcgx>

The Domestic Abuse Act places a statutory duty on Tier One Local Authorities like North Northamptonshire Council to provide support a co-ordinated response to Domestic Abuse, improving services and outcomes for all those affected in North Northamptonshire. The aim is to improve health and wellbeing of local communities across North Northamptonshire. We are keen to develop a community-based programme to support communities to improve their knowledge, confidence and ability to grow, cook and eat healthy food. This is a key part of the whole systems approach to tackling obesity.

Afghanistan citizens. I gave a commitment last year that North Northamptonshire Council would support those citizens that we owe a debt of gratitude to in helping them relocate from Afghanistan.

I am delighted to say that we are helping the first family settle in North Northamptonshire, but we are keen to respect their privacy and support them as they settle into their new home and local community.

Future Ways of Working strategy. I presented a report to Executive Members at our meeting on 13 January. This was one of the many actions set out in the Corporate Plan recently adopted by Council. The Future Ways of Working Strategy aims to build on some of the changes in practices adopted so that the Council can learn from what has worked well. The strategy aims to promote a culture of working in the most appropriate way to deliver the best outcomes to service users, rather than being constrained by how services have traditionally been delivered in the past. North Northamptonshire Council wants to become an 'employer of choice'.

Our Leisure Membership at Corby East Midlands International Pool and Lodge Park Sports Centre includes many benefits, including:

- Unlimited Gym at both sites.
- Unlimited Swimming at Corby East Midlands International Pool.
- Unlimited Group Exercise Classes across both sites (approximately 195+ per week!)
- Unlimited Virtual Group Exercise Classes with Les Mills Virtual in our Conditioning and Cycle Studios at Lodge Park Sports Centre.
- Unlimited Sauna, Steam Room and Spa Pool at Corby East Midlands International Pool.
- Unlimited Free Gym Programmes and Reviews with Fully Qualified, Friendly and Motivated Personal Trainers.
- 20% Off Personal Training (when compared to Non-Members).

This is a limited time offer and can end at anytime.

Due to our online joining system undergoing an update, to redeem this offer, you simply need to bring your £10 and Direct Debit details with you on your first visit and we will set this up for you at reception. You will be able to use our facilities immediately after setting up. Any questions, please call us on 01536 400033 / 464643.

Boundary Commission for England

Guide to the public hearings

A review of Parliamentary constituencies is taking place to ensure each one has roughly the same number of electors. As part of this process, the number of constituencies in England will increase to 543. The Commission is required by law to make sure that each constituency in England has between 69,724 and 77,062 electors.

Due to population changes, the number of people registered to vote is much higher in some constituencies than in others. The 2023 Boundary Review will therefore rebalance the number of electors represented by each MP. It's an important process, and one which requires considerable change to the existing map of constituencies.

Our task is to redraw the map of constituencies in England so that it represents local communities as best as possible, while keeping to the legal requirements outlined above. In June 2021, we published our initial proposals for new constituency boundaries and names, and asked for your feedback. We have gathered all the responses we received during this first consultation, and will publish these on our consultation website, bcereviews.org.uk.

During our six-week secondary consultation, which begins on 22 February, you can tell us what you think about our suggestions as well as the responses already submitted. To give us your views in writing, send your comments via bcereviews.org.uk, letter, or email to reach us by 4 April 2022. We are also holding a number of public hearings throughout the consultation period, where you can have your say in person.

Nottingham* 7-8 March

Nottingham Council House, The Old Market Square, Nottingham, NG1 2DT

Leicester 10-11 March

Leicester City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Northampton 14-15 March

Northampton Guildhall, Saint Giles' Square, Northampton NN1 1DE

Day One: 10am to 8pm

Day Two: 9am to 5pm

*Lead Hearing for Political Parties on 7-8 March at Nottingham

Search online for bit.ly/bcepublichearings. Or, go to the Boundary Commission for England website: boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

Click on the 2023 Review tab, and from there you'll be directed to the public hearings webpage.

The information you provide during the hearings helps us to improve our suggestions for the new map of constituencies across England. Your feedback is valuable, and we take every representation made into account. During the previous review, we changed over half of our original proposals based on the responses we received in our consultation periods. We attach just as much significance to the feedback we receive at public hearings, as to that we receive in writing via our website, or by email or letter. If you attend a public hearing, and wish to submit your response in writing as well, please remember that the secondary consultation deadline is Monday 4 April 2022. Responses that reach us after this deadline cannot be taken into consideration.

After the secondary consultation has ended, the Commission will consider all the representations received during the initial proposals and secondary consultations. We will produce a report deciding on whether the initial proposals should change and which details any suggested changes.

Alongside this report, we will publish all the written representations we received during the secondary consultation, as well as the transcripts from public hearings.

Our constituency is likely to have significant changes and our local Party representatives will therefore be attending the Lead meeting to present our suggestions. It is extremely important that the Commission take note of our proposals to avoid considerable disruption to our present boundaries and the support of our members is therefore requested so please make every effort to attend the local hearing.

Other political parties will be presenting their case and these will no doubt be framed to maximise their voting support in our area.

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'I DON'T LIKE IT - SO I CAN DESTROY IT?'

28 Jan 2022

Four people: Sage Willoughby, Rhian Graham, Milo Ponsford and Jake Skuse (what wonderful names!) were charged with illegally removing a statue of Edward Colston which they pulled down and then threw into Bristol's harbour last June during a Black Lives Matter protest in the city. They have now been cleared of criminal damage.

Apparently, the defendants declared that their stupid act of vandalism was a protest against slavery and racism. They don't seem to have heard that the slavery they talk about ended in this country over 200 years ago. And what does the killing of George Floyd in America have to do with Bristol?

Three of the four defendants wore T-shirts designed by lefty street-artist Banksy featuring a stencil of the toppled statue's empty base.

Of course, the Guardian loved this odd verdict which would seem to open the floodgates for any 'woke' person or group to rip up old monuments, tear down statues and violently vandalise public displays that offend them.

And it won't stop there. Don't like a book? Destroy it (and while you are at it destroy the author - e.g. JK Rowling). Don't like a film or TV programme? Remove it from the archives so it can never be seen again. Just as examples: the BBC won't show the episode of *Fawlty Towers* featuring 'The Germans' or certain episodes of *Til Death Us Do Part*.



Raj Chada, who represented two of the Colston Four and has also acted for Extinction Rebellion activists, insisted at a press conference after the defendants were freed, "the verdict did not set a precedent and did not mean people could take the law into their own hands."

"[The defendants] had a number of defences, but broadly they have a lawful excuse as to why they committed the acts that they did," he said.

"Those valid excuses included their right to free speech, their right to conscience, and that a conviction would be disproportionate interference with those rights. And that they were preventing a crime - it was a criminal offence to keep that statue up because it was so offensive. It is really beyond belief it was up for so long."

The world of 'wokeness' has now got beyond a joke. Are we going to see protesters with a woke cause, such as Extinction Rebellion or BLM being treated differently to those protesting against, for instance, the abolition of the free TV licence for over 75s?

Wokeness, like Climate Change (*led by High Priests David Attenborough and Greta Thunberg*), has almost become a religion where the believers are certainly and completely 'right' and the rest of us are criminals.

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 in another Northants constituency

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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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