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# POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 70**

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

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



## A message from Cllr Jason Smithers, Leader of the North Northants Council

'I am sure you are all as shocked and appalled as I am by the images we see and the stories we hear coming from Ukraine. It is beyond me how anyone could be so barbaric. To help with the response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, North Northamptonshire Council has created a page on its website, clearly accessible from the Council's homepage, entitled 'Our response to Ukraine'. This links to information on the Government's new 'Homes for Ukraine' sponsorship programme, as well as information on how donations can be made safely to help those in Ukraine. We will continue to update this page as the national and local approach develops.'

See: [www.northnorthants.gov.uk/ukraine](http://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/ukraine)

The Leader of the Council moved a motion speaking out against the act of aggression in Eastern Europe.

The motion was seconded by the Labour Group and supported by the Green Alliance, giving cross-party support.

***'North Northamptonshire Council unreservedly condemns the unprovoked aggression of Russia in invading the Ukraine and stands in solidarity with the Ukrainian people and supports the British Government in its diplomatic and economic measures against the Russian State.'***

# PHISHING/SCAM WATCH

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

Going to the EU? Ensure you've a valid GHIC or EHIC - millions expire this year. If you plan to travel to the EU, these cards give you access to state-run hospitals or GPs at the same price as a local. So if it's free for them, it's free for you. If you've the old European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), check it is still valid. If you don't have one, since Brexit it's been replaced by the Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) you can get a GHIC for FREE. Never pay for either card (not even if they promise fast track - that's a scam).

This is the Mum & Dad scam which is sent on WhatsApp



And here is another one  
This comes through on Messenger or WhatsApp

**NHS**

This is to advise you that you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid.  
You must now arrange a PCR test. This is free. Please click on the link below

[\[Redacted Link\]](#)

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## 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 over 1,100 constituent queries, with 881 specific new cases being opened, and with more coming in all the time.

You'll be glad to know that online scam ads are included in the government's upcoming Online Safety Bill. This will place a new legal duty on social media giants and search engines to prevent paid-for fraudulent adverts from appearing on their sites.

It's a huge step forward in protecting you and other consumers against online scams.

# Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes (Association Chairman)

27 Mar 2022

Dear Members,

I must record my horror and shock over the violent invasion of Ukraine by Putin, a power mad despot who seems intent on trying to rebuild the USSR before his time is up. Every day the invasion gets closer to becoming a war of attrition. The resilience of Ukrainians defending their country, their families, their very existence, is incredible.

**Russian/Ukraine War:** This war is impossible to ignore - not only is every news bulletin filled with horrific images of Russian bombings, Ukrainian families fleeing, or soldiers bravely defending their homeland - but on a local level, we can see food prices increasing, energy prices rocketing, and of course the immense efforts everyone is making to "do our bit" and support Ukraine and its people wherever possible. Of course "doing our bit" doesn't even begin to describe the outpouring of kindness and generosity that the people of Northamptonshire, and our entire country, have shown. On a practical level, the difficult task now begins on the resettlement process to ensure it safely meets the short and long term needs of those fleeing this bloody war.

**Homes for Ukraine scheme:** North Northamptonshire Council, like its counterparts, is supporting the Government in its efforts to help resettle refugees from Ukraine. It is an enormous challenge, and one which will require the support and understanding of all members of North Northamptonshire Council.

Some of the details are still being worked through but it has been confirmed that once refugees have been matched with host families, they can begin the visa application process.

The Government is carrying out the visa checks and once these are cleared, applicants will be given leave to travel to the UK.



Local authorities are being provided with £10,500 per person relocated to their area, from which they will be required to cover a number of things including:

- Assessing the host properties
- Carrying out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on hosts - enhanced checks will be required for homes which will be hosting children or vulnerable adults
- Providing immediate financial assistance, potentially until access to benefits and work entitlement is arranged
- Continuing to support the household over the first 12 months and help with access to services and integration into UK systems and processes.

Partner agencies are gearing up to help support on a number of other fronts such as access to health services, social care, and education.

**Support from residents of Northamptonshire:**

Everywhere you look, local people are doing whatever they can to support Ukrainians. In Raunds a local group have collected clothing, medical equipment and food - secured the services of lorries and drivers, and driven the supplies to the Ukrainian border. Similar voluntary work is happening in Corby, Thrapston, Irthlingborough, Rushden and across the length and breadth of our county.

In Oundle, as just one further example, the local schools are working together to support ANY children displaced by what is happening in the Ukraine who may arrive in the Oundle community during the coming weeks and months.

They have committed to work together to offer the children welcome, school places for continuity of their education and support with their transition to the UK, drawing upon the expertise and experience available in their schools. Again this is being replicated by others across the county.

Continued>>>>

**Higher energy and food prices:** Sadly this is inevitable. Whilst the UK are less dependent than most on Russian energy (about 3% of the UKs gas requirements are from Russia, compared to an average of 35% across the continent), the impact of restrictions on the import of Russian energy will be felt by every one of us. Similarly with food, the Ukraine is a major producer of grain, and obviously its exports will be cut massively this year and, no doubt, next. With energy and food prices increasing, the standards of living will naturally fall. There will be global shortages, but we should be mindful that, whilst we will all feel the effects, it is the poorest nations that will be hit hardest.

**Rishi Sunak – Spring Statement:** A few days ago the Chancellor delivered his mini-budget, one that seeks to combat the cost-of-living squeeze. Fuel duty has been cut, national insurance thresholds have been raised, and various VAT rates have been reduced. Councils will get another £500m for the Household Support Fund, which is designed to help vulnerable households with rising living costs. This is on top of the previously announced energy bill rebate. It is difficult to see how much further the Chancellor could have gone with tax cuts, with huge amounts of money still required for the NHS, and maybe defence spending. Mr Sunak gave a stark warning about the 'challenging' global outlook and said the government must take a 'responsible and sustainable' approach to its finances.

He said that Britain was using its might to back Ukraine in the standoff with Russia, and even though sanctions are 'working' there was an impact on the UK's recovery, with growth now only expected to be 3.8% this year rather than 6 % and inflation to average 7.4%.

Either way, it is going to be a difficult period for a lot of people.

**On a lighter note:** Whilst world events are at the forefront of our minds, of course life goes on. I'd like to say a big Thank you to Ray Jackson and Ray Boyd, for putting on the President's Lunch at Glapthorn Village Hall. It was great to finally be able to have a social event where we could meet face to face. The food was delicious as always, the raffle prizes were very well received (thanks Mr President), and everyone enjoyed each other's company. Thanks also to Jason Smithers, Leader of North Northamptonshire Council, for taking a Q&A session from attendees.

**William Powell:** It was incredibly sad to hear the news of William Powell's passing. William, a senior barrister born in Wales, was the first Conservative MP to serve in the newly-created constituency of Corby, and won 3 elections, serving from 1983 to 1997 in which time he was also Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for the Environment. . He has remained a friend and supporter of CENCA ever since, and recently praised Tom for his "excellent work". He will be remembered for the huge contribution he made to local residents. Our thoughts go out to his wife, Elizabeth, and their 3 daughters.

Take care all.

Onwards and Upwards!

Yours,

**Councillor Lee Wilkes**

Chairman – Corby & East

Northamptonshire Conservative Association



## OUR OFFICE OPENING TIMES UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The Corby Conservative Club has opened fully and we are able to man the office at the Club once again from Monday to Friday from 11am to 1pm. Outside office hours you can reach me at: Email: ray.boyd@talktalk.net. The office email address is: office@cenca.co.uk. Both email addresses are monitored 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**

# Leader's Update

Clr Jason Smithers  
Leader of the Council

19th November 2021



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



## Tricky Friends Animation

The video animation has been developed with the aim to help vulnerable adults understand what good friendships are and when they might be harmful. The video is less than 4 minutes long and can be accessed via the NSAB website (<https://tinyurl.com/2upw54dr>).

## LEADER'S UPDATE 18 March 2022

The Executive met on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and considered reports on a range of important local matters, including: an update on Kettering's Alfred East Art Gallery, Library and Museum improvements works; a report on the voluntary sectors grants agreements and programme of works; an annual inflationary uplift in adult social care and support; a business case for a sixth-form college as part of the Corby Town Fund; and reports on the funding for the highways network and War and War Widow(er)'s Pension benefit. You can view the reports and associated material for the meeting online at

<https://tinyurl.com/2p8wssrh>.

### Marking the Council's first birthday

A lot has happened over the last 12 months and although it's been a challenge delivering change whilst tackling the COVID pandemic, I believe that we have a lot to celebrate. During April, we will be marking the first year with a digital marketing campaign entitled 'We are one'. The celebration will be low cost with all material being created by our staff.

### The future of kerbside garden waste collections

The new unitary Council inherited the different approaches to the kerbside garden waste collections from the previous local authorities and would like to harmonise the service across the area to provide a consistent service for everyone and this project will ensure that is the case. You can have your say by completing the online questionnaire - <https://tinyurl.com/2p8anpvf>. Comments can also be made by post at: North Northamptonshire Council, Garden Waste Collection Service Consultation, Sheerness House, Meadow Road, Kettering, NN16 8TL. This consultation will run until midnight on Sunday, 17 April. This new system could be in place by the Autumn.

### New members organisation launches

I was very pleased to be able to join over 100 people who attended the official launch of the North Northamptonshire Business Network (NNBN) as the new and exciting business membership organisation for North Northamptonshire was unveiled. NNBN Membership provides local support, engagement, an advertising platform and exclusive membership discounts and events for businesses, charities and organisations. If you would like to learn more about the NNBN, please visit <https://nnbn.co.uk>

### The new HQ for Great British Railways

North Northamptonshire Council has submitted an expression of interest to Government as a first step in the selection process for our area to become the new national home of railways. We want to host the headquarters of Great British Railways (GBR), a new public body in charge of the UK's train services. The organisation will manage the country's rail infrastructure and set timetables and ticket prices. You can help! Public support is important to help back-up the bid. People can show their support by tweeting a message and using the tags: #backtheNNbidGBRHQ #DestinationGBR Please also email your support for the bid to [luf@northnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:luf@northnorthants.gov.uk)

### Electric vehicle charging project

An innovative scheme to install electric vehicle charging points in residential streets has earned both North and West Northamptonshire Councils a nomination for a national award. The councils have been shortlisted in Public/Private Partnership category at the Local Government Chronicle's LGC Awards for the Virgin Media Park and Charge scheme, which saw 56 new charging bays installed across the area.

With Best Wishes,  
Jason



# RAY JACKSON - 'HAVE HOPE'

29 Mar 2022

## **The Ukraine.**

While we all try to revive our optimism for a durable piece we cannot see how an invader can win the hearts and minds of the county he is trying to occupy by killing its inhabitants and possibly trapping 300 women and children in cellars under a theatre, using its soldiers to gun down anyone who attempts to rescue them. Such cruelty will never be forgotten by this generation of Ukrainians. Yet if the Russians really intended 'war', would they allow the trains to run, bringing fresh troops to the battle, using precision rockets to destroy a large oil depot but only injuring 4 people? We trust our reporters whom we see and have seen for many years on our TVs to the extent we totally trust their accuracy, especially when they occasionally qualify their reports by saying their information is second hand. Should the Russians now 'win', they face guerrilla resistance such as the Nazis had to deal with in occupied France.

Talks for peace against this background are very welcome. The Ukrainians have made some fresh suggestions such as making Ukraine a neutral country, but this would have to have the support of the electorate and be guaranteed by other countries with enough military power to deal with any one breaking agreed rules. There is talk of giving Mr. Putin the appearance of success to take to his people to show he has 'won'. But he does not understand public opinion so this is a waste of time. And anyway it would take a year to organise.

Peace will be found as most countries passionately desire it. Countries like Egypt and India do not oppose the Russians because they are dependent on grain supplies from Russia and possibly do not want to be tied any closer to America. China is ambivalent because it might help them justify taking Taiwan. (This is your Sinophile writing!).



*Ray Jackson*

*We will look back on this present problem and be amazed by how it was solved. Have hope!*

## **North Northamptonshire Council**

What a pleasure it is to have a large council headed by Conservatives and having someone as worthy as Jason Smithers leading it. His talk at the recent 200 Club lunch in Glaphthorn (Tom was on ministerial business in Warsaw!) revealed a freshness of thinking and new approaches to some of our longstanding problems. It feels the future is ours and we have to think carefully before expressing our wishes. This is the time to go to Council meetings, to form more local associations, to get the Policy Forum meeting going again. In fact we want to get Conservatism going again, with a happy face and confidence we can deliver a better life for our electorate.

## **AND NOW**

Spring has come; the sun is riz; I wonder where dem birdies is? Some say the bird is on the wing. Bur that's absurd – the wing is on the bird. (Wm. Wordsworth in a bad moment).

Keen councillors, obviously Conservatives could get their pals out for a couple of hours on a Saturday morning and to clean up their street signs, get rid of graffiti wherever it is and make maps of where the potholes are to get the council to fill them. The people would soon realise

we mean business. Remember our old pal Stan Hegg's and his concern for the roads? Why leave it to the churches to have their annual spring clean?

There is a lot we can get on with while wondering how the Ukraine problem will be solved.

## **Ray Jackson**

President and 200 Club organiser

Pixabay: Ciker-Free-Vector-Images



## THANK GOODNESS LABOUR DIDN'T WIN THE LAST ELECTION

As the threat from Putin was obvious to the whole world in the days before the invasion of Ukraine, Diane Abbott was still insisting: *'The claims that Russia is the aggressor should be treated sceptically. The destabilisation in the entire region comes from a continued eastward expansion of NATO.'*

Stop the War — which counts leading lights of the Left including MPs Diane Abbott and Jeremy Corbyn among its most significant figures — spent the weeks leading up to the current conflict criticising NATO and the West, and parroting the Kremlin's concerns instead of supporting the Ukrainian defenders. Abbott, a former Shadow Home Secretary, did not condemn Russia's war preparations at that 'emergency' meeting of the 'Stop the War' group on 10 February — or even defend Ukraine's right to exist as a sovereign democracy.

The former shadow home secretary backed the Russian narrative and said that NATO was to blame for the current situation.

Ms Abbott told a meeting of the Stop the War Coalition on 10 Feb: *"We see that the United States has decided that it needs to send US and other NATO troops to Russia's borders.*

*"This alone should tell us that the claims that Russia is the aggressor should be treated sceptically.*

*"The destabilisation in the entire region comes from the continued eastward expansion of NATO. "We need to find peaceful solutions to a complicated conflict of identities and national rights.*

*"This was done elsewhere in Eastern Europe as countries were peacefully separated."*

She also blamed the UK of being "gung ho" for war. She said: *"We need de-escalation and dialogue, not militarisation and threats of war."*

Reported by The British Falkland Islands & British Military FB

## A REMINDER FROM TOM PURSGLOVE, MP ABOUT LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF

• Owing to the pandemic, worryingly, there were fewer conversations between men and their GPs about prostate cancer, so troublingly, fewer men were referred for treatment. Prostate Cancer UK is working in partnership with the NHS to find these men. The earlier prostate cancer is caught the easier it is to cure, so finding them as soon as possible is crucial to saving lives. Please take and share the 30-second risk checker and help find them - see: <https://prostatecanceruk.org/pol-risk>.

• Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, yet, sadly, in England, two women die every day from it. Screening can help stop cancer before it starts. So don't ignore your cervical screening invite and if you missed your last one, do book an appointment with your GP practice, as cervical screening saves lives. Find out more at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/cervical-screening/>.

### Home Office @ukhomeoffice

Ukraine Family Scheme visas have been granted so far as of 5pm on 20th March.

It's free, grants leave for 3 years, gives those the right to live, work & study in the UK & access public funds.

Full details & to apply:  
<http://Gov.UK/UFS>

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

# TOM PURSGLOVE

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



24 Mar 2022

**The Ukraine.** On Wednesday 16 March, it was a privilege to lead for the Government in my role as a Home Office Minister during the Opposition Day debate on Ukrainian refugees, my contribution to which you can see here: <https://tinyurl.com/y9x3vtlh>

During the debate, I was able to set out the approach the Government is taking to mobilise successfully the many incredibly kind offers of support we are seeing, through our generous, uncapped Ukraine Family Scheme and the Homes for Ukraine 'sponsorship' route.

Indeed, I salute the solidarity being shown by people across this country towards the people of Ukraine, reflected in the generosity of spirit we are seeing, and as reflected at the vigil outside the Corby Cube recently that I was privileged to attend. I know a similar event subsequently took place in Oundle. I also wanted to share a link to the official gov.uk website page, where there is useful guidance and advice setting out how people in the UK can best practically support the people of Ukraine, including through refugee 'sponsorship'. You can find it, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/news/ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help>.

## **Pen Green Children's Centre.**

I want to give a little more detail about the intensive work that is ongoing to support the Pen Green Children's Centre in Corby



Pixabay: Greyerbaby

with their current discussions with North Northamptonshire Council in relation to their forward funding allocation.

Over the last few weeks, I have had a number of meetings with the leadership team at the Pen Green Centre in relation to their correspondence with the local authority and the Department for Education around their core funding allocations for the coming years.

At this stage, no final decisions have been made by the local authority, but as someone who has long supported Pen Green and proactively assisted them in successfully resolving various funding issues in years gone by, I am again actively supporting them by pursuing the urgent queries that they have relating to their future funding.

Indeed, when raising these matters with Education Ministers and with North Northamptonshire Council, I have consistently emphasised as the local Member of Parliament, my view that the Government's intentions - dating right back to the discussions of 2016 that I helped to arrange - around its funding for Corby children, should be respected and maintained, and that what has been allocated nationally for Corby provision, should continue to be spent here. Suffice to say, I have impressed that the uncertainty around this is causing increasing concern amongst my constituents and is a source of great alarm for some.

As I always have, I will continue to assist in any way that I can in getting to the bottom of this and I can reassure people locally that I know how important this provision is for children and families within our town.

Continued>>>>



**Planning Matters 1.** I recently wrote to North Northamptonshire Council to convey the objections of a large number of local residents from Titchmarsh, Thrapston, and the surrounding villages to planning application NE/22/00151/FUL. I am always happy to help ensure my constituent's concerns are heard clearly. I have also specifically asked the council to take a broader view around prioritising the use of brownfield land for industrial development such as this, as opposed to using greenfield sites that are, rightly, prized so strongly within our rural communities and which should only be developed in extremis. I will continue to work closely with residents to ensure that these views are fed into the planning process and properly taken account of when decisions are made by councillors.



**Planning Matters 2.** I am really pleased the controversial St Christopher's Drive planning application in Oundle has been withdrawn. It was originally due to be decided by the North Northamptonshire Council Area Planning Committee on Monday 21 March but this meeting became unnecessary. This is very welcome news - and an application I have long supported residents in opposing, along with NNC Councillors Helen Harrison and Jason Smithers. Hopefully that's the end of the matter!

**DVLA.** Across the past few months I have been assisting a sizeable number of constituents in their correspondence with the DVLA and a common problem that constituents are encountering is an inability to get in contact with someone to discuss their case. I am acutely aware that in many cases delays can have impacts on people's employment, or can affect important day-to-day life. I'm always really happy to help raise individual cases and to try and get them expedited or looked into in more detail wherever necessary, so please do get in touch with me if you are experiencing problems such as those I have described.

**The Core at Corby.** Recently, I had a catch-up meeting with the Director of The Core at Corby Cube to discuss how the theatre is doing now that restrictions have lifted and how they have dealt with the transition under the new local authority, given its ongoing support. It is a much loved local facility and I'll continue to support culture in Corby in any way that I can - they have a packed programme for the year ahead,

**Small Boat Crossings.** I recently took part in Home Office Questions, answering a couple of questions from MPs on the topics of the Nationality & Borders Bill and our plan to end dangerous small boat crossings of the Channel, as well as the removal of individuals from our country with no right to be here, or who have committed serious criminality.

**Corby Urgent Care Centre.** I recently had another useful call with representatives from OneMedical Group to discuss the Corby Urgent Care Centre. I am always so conscious of just how well used and valued this service is locally and so sustained engagement with its management is crucial. As promised in a previous update, I have been keeping a close eye on progress in recent times to ensure the best service possible for local residents is maintained - and of course, to champion its importance for the years ahead on an ongoing basis.

### **As we make headway into 2022.**

I just wanted to restate that I am always available to hear your concerns and worries, or about any issues that you may be facing and would appreciate some help with. You can get in touch via telephone, letter, or email and can also organise an appointment for one of my weekly surgeries if you would like to have a more detailed discussion.

My website has full contact details.

Sincerely

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



# Northamptonshire PFCC Stephen Mold's Newsletter

25 Mar 2022

## More Bobbies on the Beat

A major new focus on local policing in Northamptonshire means Police officers in neighbourhood teams across rural and urban communities will be doubled, growing from 50 to 100 over the next 18 months, with an aim to add a further 60 in coming years.

These will be additional officers to add to the neighbourhood police and PCSOs already working across the county.

Neighbourhood policing will now be at the heart of our fight against crime, with visible, locally accountable policing to tackle the problems that matter to people.



This new focus has been made possible by the increased number of police officers in the Force. Northamptonshire Police now has 1367 police officers compared with 1170 four years ago.

This means that we can now strengthen our neighbourhood teams without taking resources from emergency response or other specialist areas of crime fighting.

We are also investing in two mobile police stations to give more visible and accessible local policing in our more remote and rural communities.

## Scores are on the doors for licensed premises

Licensed premises of all kinds across Northamptonshire are being encouraged to take part in a pioneering new scheme to help make their venue more safe and secure for the benefit of customers, staff, and the wider community.

I am asking premises to take part in Licensing SAVI (Safety and Vulnerability Initiative), the first ever national policing award for venues that helps them meet their statutory requirements and police and council licensing objectives. The scheme is part of my plans to tackle violence against women and girls and make our towns safer.

*"I want to encourage as many licensed premises as possible to give themselves a health check and take the Licensing SAVI assessment. My ambition is for every licensee right across the county to take part and show their customers that they take safety seriously"*

*"By working in partnership with venues around the county, we can provide safer and more secure places. As Commissioner, I am committed to doing everything practical I can to make women and girls safer."*

Venues that pass the accreditation are awarded a star rating that they can display on their premises to show their customers the effort they have made to improve safety and security.

## Cadet schemes give young people a boost

Working out what you want to do for a living can often be difficult but for young people considering joining the emergency services the Cadet scheme can help set them on their way. The Northamptonshire Emergency Services Cadets helps to arm young people aged between 13 and 18 with some of the key skills they would need to join any of the emergency services – whether it's as a firefighter, police officer or paramedic. Cadets attend weekly sessions in term time to learn the skills of the trade, as well as volunteering within their local community to make a positive impact and take part in events and parades.

When cadets turn 16, they can then specialise in one of the three emergency services. Michelle Bates is the Youth Engagement Officer for Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service and is the Unit Commander for the specialist Fire Cadets.



**STOP HATE UK**  
**0800 138 1625**  
24 HOUR HELP LINE

Michelle said: “We can give transferable skills which they can take into any situation. Support for victims of Hate Crime is vitally important and if they receive a bad response they could be lost to services and never have the confidence to report again. Hopefully this helpline will demonstrate that they can access expert support and be assured that any report they make will be robustly dealt with.”

The Stop Hate Line is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year on 0800 138 1625. The helpline is also available by text message on 07717 989 025 and by email to [talk@stophateuk.org](mailto:talk@stophateuk.org). I urge anyone thinking of joining the cadets to go for it. It really boosts your confidence in every single way, and you can continue to go along that career path if you want to.” To find out more about the Emergency Services Cadets, whether it’s signing up as a Cadet or becoming an adult volunteer leader within the scheme, please visit [www.nescadets.co.uk](http://www.nescadets.co.uk)

The scheme is funded jointly by the Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, West Northamptonshire Council and North Northamptonshire Council. Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

### Carers helping fight against fraudsters

Operation Repeat, a scheme that is training health and social care workers from across the county to recognise doorstep crime and fraud offences, has reached more than 200 care professionals, thanks to funding from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner. The scheme launched in Northamptonshire in September 2021 and will have delivered 12 training sessions to members of the health and social care sector by the end of March.

Numerous offences have already been reported and prevented following these training sessions. Within three days of attending an Operation Repeat session a carer was able to recognise an attempted courier fraud whilst visiting a client and was able to intervene and cut off the call. A romance fraud was also avoided after a carer recognised signs of a scam when a friend spoke about her online relationship. Thankfully the friend did not part with any money and ended the relationship immediately.

### New Smoke Hoods now in use

New smoke hoods that are now on every fire engine in the county have already proven a great investment being first used at a block of flats in Oakley Street, Northampton in the January.

The hoods offer a one-time use for 15 minutes of protection from breathing in toxic fumes during a blaze.

Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service bought 120 smoke hoods using special funding secured from the Government to support developments after the Grenfell fire.

As ever, if you need any help or assistance, I can be contacted at:  
[commissioner@northantspfcc.gov.uk](mailto:commissioner@northantspfcc.gov.uk)

### Stephen Mold

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire



**Cllr Helen Harrison - NNC Oundle Ward** 17 Mar 2022

I am really pleased the controversial St Christopher’s Drive planning application in Oundle has been withdrawn. It was due to be decided by the Area Planning Committee on Monday 21 March and I was set to speak against it as I felt it failed on so many aspects. Good result!

# 200 CLUB AND PRESIDENT'S LUNCH

Our President, Ray Jackson, hosted a Lunch at the Glaphorn Village Hall, Main Street, Glaphorn, nr Oundle, PE8 5BE on Sunday 20th February and invited all members to join him. Members of the 200 Club were specially invited at a discounted ticket price. A superb 3 course lunch was served by our caterer, the well-respected Gloria Ellenton of Classic Catering.



Our President would like to encourage more members to join the 200 Club and he is telephoning as many as possible to ask for their support. Please email the office if you would like to join the 200 Club and details will be sent to you. If you prefer you can pay annually by cheque by writing to: Corby & E Northants Conservative Association, Cottingham Road, Corby, NN17 1SZ. The cost is only £15 a year and there are 11 monthly prizes of £25 with the big prizes of £100 and £50 drawn every February.

The most recent 200 Club winners are: £100 Brian Cromie. £50 Priscilla Padley. The winner of the March draw for £25 was Brian Cromie.

## RAUNDS SATURDAY MARKET

Come down to the Market Square where there'll be a variety of stalls and.....

**CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINER**  
&  
**FREE FACE PAINTING**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>th</sup> April 2022**  
FROM 10am ON THE MARKET SQUARE.  
STALLS OPEN AT 9:30am.

# RAUNDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

**28th April - 1st May 2022**

An incredible line-up & family fun festival!

Ticket Hotline: 07756 015615  
Concerts from £5  
Weekend Saver Tickets from £45!

[WWW.RAUNDSFESTIVAL.COM](http://WWW.RAUNDSFESTIVAL.COM) SCAN ME

**Featuring:** Trials of Cato  
Brooks Williams Megson  
The Rosellys & many more!

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF OUR SATURDAY MARKETS RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT LOCAL TRADERS IN 2022.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE A STALL PLEASE CONTACT 01933 622087 OR EMAIL [INFO@RAUNDS-TC.GOV.UK](mailto:INFO@RAUNDS-TC.GOV.UK)

16<sup>th</sup> April | 21<sup>st</sup> May | 18<sup>th</sup> June | 16<sup>th</sup> July | 20<sup>th</sup> Aug

[@RaundsCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/RaundsCouncil) [@RaundsTC](https://www.twitter.com/RaundsTC) [raundstowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/raundstowncouncil)





# Queen's Platinum Jubilee— update from Cllr Helen Howell

## Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Sport, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

It's been a busy time recently for tree planting. The Council is working hard alongside town and parish councils and other organisations to get their trees planted before the end of March to get the most out of the current tree planting season. To date, the Council has planted nearly 2,000 trees for the Platinum Jubilee and we will be making sure we log these, if you pardon the pun, on the Queen's Green Canopy online map.

### Some key dates:

Thursday 2 June - Light a beacon for the Jubilee. The traditional ceremony of lighting the beacons will take place throughout the United Kingdom. Towns and parishes across North Northamptonshire are being encouraged to get involved.

Thursday will also see the Trooping of the Colour, with 1,400 soldiers, 200 horses and 400 musicians coming together to mark the Queen's official birthday. The parade will begin at Buckingham Palace, continuing through The Mall to Horse's Guard Parade, and closing with a traditional RAF fly-pass.

Friday 3 June - Thanksgiving service. A service of Thanksgiving is to be held at St Paul's Cathedral, with more information to be announced at a later date.

Saturday 4 June - Countywide Jubilee pageant. Plans are under way to organise a countywide Jubilee pageant through Northampton town centre, involving military personnel and community groups.

North Northamptonshire Council is looking for up to 400 community representatives from the voluntary sector to take part in the Jubilee Pageant. If you are interested in getting involved, please do get in touch and let me know by emailing:

Jubilee.pageant@northnorthants.gov.uk

National events taking place on Saturday include:

- Her Majesty, alongside members of the Royal Family, will attend the Derby at Epsom Downs.

- The BBC will be broadcasting a live concert from Buckingham Palace, Platinum Party at the Palace, where some of the biggest names in entertainment will be performing live and celebrating the most significant moments from The Queen's 70 years of service. Details on how to apply for tickets will be released at a later date.

Sunday 5 June - Big Lunch and national pageant

- The Big Lunch, which has helped to bring communities together since 2009, will be inviting communities together as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Providing ideas for hosting an event, The Big Lunch can be as big as a street party, or as small as a garden barbecue. Plans are underway for a The Big Picnic Lunch event in North Northamptonshire. We're pleased to announce this will take place at Wicksteed Park and an official press release will be issued soon providing more details about the event.

- A Jubilee Pageant will also be hosted, with 5,000 performers from the United Kingdom and Commonwealth combining a variety of performance arts to commemorate both Her Majesty, and the collective celebratory efforts of people worldwide.

Local community and voluntary groups can also apply for a series of grants to help fund arts and sport projects commemorating the jubilee, including Arts Council England's Let's Create Jubilee Fund and Sport England's Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund.

If any members would like to submit a letter or an article for the Magazine or comment on our contributors' articles please email the editor at [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net). Letters may be edited. The comments of 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.



Image by Andrew Martin from Pixabay



## A MESSAGE TO STAMP-HOARDERS

Royal Mail is shaking up the rules on stamps, so if you've stocked up some with the Queen's head on them that say 1st or '2nd' class, or any other price - or they're Christmas-themed, then by 31 January 2023 you'll no longer be able to use them. That's because Royal Mail is moving to a new barcode system, which those stamps don't have on them.

### **Royal Mail will let you 'Swap Out' these stamps for free**

You will, however, be able to exchange current stamps for barcoded ones for free under Royal Mail's new 'Swap Out' scheme, which opens on 31 March 2022 and will run until 31 March 2023.

### Corby & E Northants Conservative Association **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on Friday 11th March 2022 at 7pm at Corby Conservative Club.

The following officers were elected:

President: Raymond Jackson (Honorary)

Chairman: Cllr Lee Wilkes

Treasurer: Cllr Richard Levell

Dep Chairman (Pol): Cllr Harriet Pentland

Dep Chairman (Memb): Cllr Helen Howell

CPF Chairman: Vacant

Communications: Ray Boyd

Members approved the annual accounts and a minor rule change involving the election process to the Executive Committee.

The full rules can be read on our website at [www.cenca.co.uk](http://www.cenca.co.uk)

### **Your Association contact details:**

Corby & E Northants Conservative  
Association Office

Phone: 01536 200255

Email: [office@cenca.co.uk](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk)

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

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

See also Office Opening Times on Page 4

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

Contributions and letters from members are welcome but some editing may be necessary by the editor.

You can email the editor, Ray Boyd at [ray.boyd@talktalk.net](mailto:ray.boyd@talktalk.net)

All emails will be acknowledged.

**JUST A THOUGHT:** The war in Ukraine has perhaps made the public realise that issues such as the 'woke agenda' are now as trivial as they always were. Let's start worrying about real things and stop fretting over upsetting people for referring to them by the 'wrong' pronoun.

# HANDPICKED WINE BOX WINE TASTING

In aid of



**Save the Children**

## UKRAINE APPEAL

Thrapston Plaza Centre, Cozy Nook, Thrapston, NN14 4PS  
Saturday 23rd April 2022 6.30pm to 9.30pm  
Tickets £10  
<https://handpicked-ukraine.eventbrite.co.uk>

We've been appalled by the toll that Vladimir Putin's war has taken on the civilian population of Ukraine and want to do something to help try and restore peace and prosperity to the lives of innocent Ukrainians. To this end we'll be donating the proceeds from ticket sales as well as a percentage of wine sales on the night to Save the Children's Ukraine Appeal.

North Northamptonshire Unitary Council

### FIX MY STREET

A new service to report local street problems.

To report a problem go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/ygtabsux>

1. Enter a Northamptonshire postcode, street name and area, or check an existing report number
2. Locate the problem on a map of the area
3. Enter details of the problem. Please enter a single problem per enquiry. The first item described will be taken as the enquiry
4. Confirm the report and Northamptonshire Highways will investigate

### CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB

It is good to be able to report that this excellent Club is picking up again after the dreadful impact of the Covid lockdown.

The Committee team are working hard to attract members with quizzes, entertainment and much more.

There is a band in the bar every other week, a regular Sunday quiz and now, our new Joker's Draw held on Sunday. This is proving really exciting with a jackpot at the end of March standing at over £5,000

## CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB

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



**WE ARE NOW FULLY OPEN**

**[www.the-cons.co.uk](http://www.the-cons.co.uk)**

Photo: R Boyd



## The Association of Conservative Clubs



The ACC takes an active role in

Fundraising  
National Draws Society  
Membership • Campaigning  
Constituency Accommodation

**Join your local Conservative Club  
and help the ACC support the Party**

Chairman: Rt Hon Alistair Burt, MP  
Chief Executive: Lord Smith of Hindhead, CBE

**[www.toryclubs.co.uk](http://www.toryclubs.co.uk) 0207 222 0843**

### 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](http://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](mailto:office@cenca.co.uk) or telephone 01536 742954

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