

POLITICAL LIFE **ISSUE 81**

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

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www.cenca.co.uk

Stay 'In Touch' with the

Corby & E Northants Conservative Association

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THIS IS LABOUR'S SMALL BOAT POLICY

WHICH CONTINUES THE WAR CRIMINAL'S PLAN TO DESTROY BRITAIN

Image by Dmitry Abramov and OpenClipart-Vectors from Pixabay—edited by R Boyd



UK WARNED IT WILL 'PROBABLY' HAVE TO TAKE QUOTA OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM EU AND GIVE MONEY TO BRUSSELS IF IT WANTS TO SEAL KEIR STARMER'S RETURNS PLAN UNDER A LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

Keir Starmer's plan for a returns deal with the EU if he wins power will 'probably' mean the UK taking in a quota of asylum-seekers, a senior French politician has warned. French MEP Fabienne Keller said Britain would also have to make a financial contribution to bloc-wide immigration efforts if it wanted to set up the opposition leader's scheme. Daily Mail 1 Dec 2023

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

TalkTalk
For Everyone

**E-Mail Report for Mailbox
Ticket#478536790235**

- The webmail system failed to process new emails for your mailbox.
- Ten (10) valid email messages were held and quarantined for deletion. Review the messages below and restore valid emails back to the inbox folder.
- Review Messages Now >>
- Note: Quarantined emails will be automatically deleted after 3 days

SCAM

HMRC Scams

There's a rise in the number of fake HMRC emails going around.

These fake emails will try to grab your attention with urgent language or 'too good to be true' offers. The hooks criminals use will vary, but here are some of the common ones:

- tax credit renewals deadline: 31/07/23.
- update your records
- a £460 discount offer under the Energy Bill Support Scheme, but you need to add your card details.

Each email will ask you to click on a link and fill in your personal and financial details. The scammers will use time sensitive scenarios in their emails to make you enter your personal details without thinking.

Just remember: HMRC will never send emails about rebates or refunds

Never click on a link in an unexpected email and enter your details

You should always contact HMRC to verify any payment request using the number on the gov.uk website or through your online tax account.

SCAM

CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE

Cover. Come on in.

2. Scam Watch

3/4. Association Chairman's report/Corby Town Fund

5. Wellingborough By-election

6/7. Stephen Mold PFCC

8. CPF Report/200 Club/Puzzle

9. Membership

10/11. Join our Team/Fun Day at CCC

12/13. Tom Pursglove Report

14. Office contact details.

15. Party Conference

16/17. Council Leader's Report

20. Napoleon Complex

21. By-election in Corby

22. Contact Tom

23. The Miserable Old Git

24. Corby Conservative Club

A scam post on Facebook advertising discounted stamps

Royal Postal Mail

Only £25.9 for 80x2nd Class Stamps

Clearance Sale for 3 days only

Ships in 3-5 days

Enjoy up to 60% off

Buy before the deadline

Buy your #stamps #mail

#postoffice #shipping #letters

#royal mail #postal here.

<https://www.the.royalmailshop/products/1stand2ndclasstamps>

SCAM

A text message from HalifaxUK claims you've requested a password change and directs you to a copycat website.

The text reads:

'PAYEES passcode - Do not tell anyone. If you did not request it please visit us on [halifax-onlineuk.com/mobile]'.

The one scam giveaway in this case is that Halifax is spelt incorrectly in the URL.

SCAM

Conservative Association Chairman's Report to Members

Cllr Lee Wilkes ((Association Chairman)

30 Jan 2024

A Happy New Year to you all. It has been a very busy start to 2024, with budgets being set, committees catching up on Christmas backlog, and a by-election in Wellingborough to fight.

Government funding boost for local councils

It is no secret that every Council across the country is under financial pressure to deliver the 2 big demand-led services – Adult's and Children's services. Those services tend to make up the majority of a council's overheads, and they are increasingly difficult to predict. It was therefore very welcome indeed to hear the Government's Levelling Up Secretary announce on 24th January 2024 that a further £600 million local government support package was being launched, with £500 million of that being directed specifically to bolster social care budgets. This funding builds on the £64 billion package already announced at the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2024-25.

The Minister for Local Government, Simon Hoare, stated "This injection of funding will help ensure services which people rely on can continue – and demonstrates how important we view local government. We have listened to various organisations and considered their views seriously and I'm grateful to those who reached out to me. The funding offers something for all of our hard-working councils, with additional funding for social care as well as help for rural authorities to deliver essential services."

The £500 million increase in social care funding is in addition to the £1 billion in additional funding announced at Autumn Statement 2022 and in July 2023, to enable councils to continue to provide crucial social care services for their local communities, particularly for children.



Local Culture, Tourism and Heritage

We are very lucky to live in North Northamptonshire, with its open spaces, cultural assets, theatres and historic buildings – all helping to bring tourists and revenue into our region.

In September 2022, under the leadership of our very own Cllr Helen Howell, North Northamptonshire Council undertook a significant reorganisation with the establishment of the 'Culture, Tourism, and Heritage' Service. This strategic initiative streamlined multiple departments under the umbrella of the Communities and Leisure Directorate. This move underscores NNC's unwavering commitment to safeguarding, promoting, and celebrating the rich cultural heritage and vibrant tourism assets that distinguish North Northamptonshire, whilst making best use of resources to optimise income and providing a seamless and integrated experience for both residents and visitors. The plan also presents the outlined future projects that will support the future sustainability of the service.

Continued>>>>

HALVE INFLATION | GROW THE ECONOMY | REDUCE DEBT | CUT WAITING LISTS | STOP THE BOATS

These include the restoration of the Kettering Museum, any possible relocation and expansion plans for Corby Heritage Centre, and the continued business development of the Chester House Estate. This will focus the team to explore grants and funding opportunities.

The Chester House Estate and the Northamptonshire Archaeological Archive heritage regeneration project opened in October 2021. The site has attracted an estimated 500,000 visitors over the past two years and has had a successful first two years of operation, meeting income targets & winning numerous awards. The council contribution set in 2021-22 for the operation of the Chester House estate for its first 5 years will, as predicted, no longer be needed from the 2027/28 financial year. The site will then be financially self-sufficient.

The Cornerstone project encompasses improvements to the Alfred East Art Gallery in Kettering, including a new state of the art store for the collection, along with a new café, multi-functional conference and community facilities, offices, a brand new Business and Intellectual Property Centre supported by the British Library to support new and small businesses, and enhanced public accessibility.

The Corby Heritage Centre, located in the heart of the Old Village, currently attracts an estimated 600 visitors annually. We are currently exploring options for the future development of the Corby Heritage Centre.

Launched in March 2023 with the support of the Shared Prosperity Fund, the Discover Northamptonshire Hub at Rusden Lakes operates seven days a week, serving as a dedicated space for residents and visitors, the Tourism Information Centre showcases the cultural offerings and attractions of Northamptonshire through interactive tools,

exhibits and events. Along with this, a new tourism strategy and Local Visitor Economy Partnership, in conjunction with West Northants Council, is being developed to maximise the potential for the County's visitor economy.

For more information see the Council web site (www.northnorthants.gov.uk)

Wellingborough and local canvassing and leaflets

The Corby and East Northants Conservative Association has a long and happy history of successfully working with the Wellingborough Conservative Association – we have partnered on numerous by elections, joined forces to raise funds, and members regularly support each other at events. The Wellingborough Association is currently organising and fighting a parliamentary by-election, with Cllr Helen Harrison standing to be the next Conservative Wellingborough MP. Many of you will know Helen, as she has given years of effort in supporting CENCA, and is a North Northamptonshire Councillor for the Oundle Ward. Helen needs any support you can give to help deliver leaflets or canvass for the by-election. CENCA specifically has offered to manage the delivery and canvassing for the Higham Ferrers part of the Wellingborough constituency. Helen will make a superb MP, so if you can help, even with just an hour of time, please let us know.

Thank you to all of those who have already been out delivering leaflets or campaigning with Harriet Pentland in Higham and across the CENCA constituency over the last month.

Onwards and Upwards

Yours,

Councillor Lee Wilkes

Chairman

Corby & East Northamptonshire
Conservative Association



Wellingborough and Rushden

By-Election

*Come and help Helen Harrison
with delivery and canvassing.*

LISTENING. CAMPAIGNING. DELIVERING.



Monday-Friday: 10:00am – 6:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm

Sunday: 10:00am – 4:00pm



CAMPAIGN CENTRE

**Campaign Office, Rushden
Conservative Club, 44 High
Street South, Rushden NN10 0QX**

Contact

Rosemary Armstrong 07876 846752

rosemary.armstrong@conservatives.com

Parking: There's limited short stay parking opposite the HQ but the nearest free public car park is on John Street, Rushden, NN10 9NL. Just a 5 minute walk to the office.

Train: The nearest station is Wellingborough.

Taxis are often available at the station but you can book one with:

Brian's Taxis, 01933 355555

Mamarias Taxis, 01933 270027

BY-ELECTION

THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2024

Members of Corby & E Northants Conservative Association can help our friends in Wellingborough to get Helen elected by delivering leaflets and canvassing. If you are unable to travel but would still like to help you can contact residents by phone using the Connect Calling system. Full training is given.

We need your help to get our message out. Helen would love you to join her in Wellingborough, but if travelling is not an option please help us to help Helen by joining one of our online Connect Calling Session.

If you haven't made calls before and want to know more, or need assistance with getting started then please

The above images are reproduced by kind permission of Rosemary Armstrong, Area Campaign Manager

LABOUR DON'T HAVE A PLAN

Rishi Sunak's plan for the country is delivering results. And Labour are worried because they don't have a plan.

Rather than presenting their own plan to the challenges the British people face, Labour just snipe and can't say what they would do.

The choice at the next election remains clear, stick with Rishi Sunak's plan, which is working, or risk it all with Labour and go back to square one, with Keir Starmer.

Keir Starmer has had four years to set out what he would do differently, but he hasn't because he doesn't have a plan.

That means Labour would undo the progress that we've made on the economy. Progress that has allowed us to cut taxes by £450 for the average worker.

And our progress on stopping the boats, with crossings going down by 36% in 2023.

Supporters make all our victories possible, from defeating Jeremy Corbyn. To cutting taxes and recruiting 20,000 police officers and 50,000 nurses.

Don't let Keir Starmer and Angela Rayner take us back to square one.



Northamptonshire PFCC

Stephen Mold's Newsletter



25 Jan 2024

We start 2024 where we left 2023 with the work of the OPFCC being recognised nationally as we work to improve the lives of people across our county. I was very pleased that the success of our bids to the Government's Safer Street Fund continues with the recent announcement that our work with Northamptonshire Police has won a regional award for their work in tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) presented the 'Making Spaces Safer' award in recognition of our joint efforts in making areas in the county safer, particularly for women at night. One such award-winning measure was the introduction of Operation Kayak, a policing initiative to keep people safe on weekend nights out.

Operation Kayak patrols first began as a pilot, funded by the OPFCC, and have proved to be extremely effective at reducing offending behaviour and in safeguarding the vulnerable. The patrols have since been adopted as a core operational activity. Officers working in the night-time economy are briefed to be proactively on the lookout for suspicious activity, sexual aggression, harassment, inappropriate or predatory behaviour.

The NPCC award also acknowledged the effectiveness of the Safer Nights Out (SNO) vans, which were set up and funded by my office to be a haven for anyone who needs support while on an evening out. The SNOvans are customised minibuses, staffed by trained volunteers, who give practical help to anyone who needs it.

Preventing violence against women is central to my priorities for this county. We have worked hard with Northamptonshire Police and other partners to put practical measures in place to prevent crime and make people safer in the night-time economy. It is very satisfying that this work has been recognised and is making an impact.

The SNOvans are part of a wide-ranging programme of initiatives that work together to create safer spaces, including enhanced CCTV and better lighting; safer walking routes and funding licensed premises to join the Licensing Savi scheme and promote high standards in venue safety. We have also created the most extensive network of ID Scan technology in any night-time economy in the country, to help premises deter anyone intent on causing trouble. We will continue to work together to tackle Violence against Women and Girls, and to reduce alcohol related crime, violence and disorder and create spaces for everyone to enjoy.

The issue of retail crime and violence and abuse against shop staff is also a growing concern for many across our county. With this in mind, I helped to organise a roundtable discussion to give retailers the opportunity to share their experiences of retail crime in Northamptonshire. The meeting, involved representatives of major retail chains, shopping centres and independent stores along with the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership, and officers from Northamptonshire Police.

Continued>>>>

At the meeting we heard about the challenges and exchanged ideas to work towards solutions. Colleagues from the Force also updated those present on the work of Operation Elegance, which is a countywide policing operation that is targeting prolific and violent retail crime offenders. Op Elegance sees police working alongside the Northamptonshire Business Crime Partnership's two specialist civilian investigators, which are funded by the OPFCC. Their work is to support retailers and gather the best possible evidence to help police in the Retail Crime Team follow up on incidents.

The roundtable event ended with a commitment from everyone that they would continue to talk together and ensure that the views of businesses and partners are fed into the work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. They agreed to meet again within the next six months. This was a very constructive meeting and we have agreed that we need closer collaboration and stronger dialogue to make an impact. The voice of the businesses matters if we are going to be able to improve how we work, and I am meetings such as this will help to strengthen our response to retail crime.

As the PFCC for Northamptonshire, bringing people together to collaborate on combatting serious issues is a key aspect to my role. Recently over seventy-five representatives from partner organisations, community groups and voluntary sector organisations attended an engagement event hosted by the Northamptonshire Serious Violence Alliance (NSVA). The event marked a significant step forward in fostering collaboration to develop a joint response to tackle serious violence and knife crime across the county. As part of the Serious Violence Duty, the NSVA was formed to develop a joint approach to tackling the root causes of serious violence.

NSVA partners include the OPFCC, Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire

Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service, Youth Offending and Probation Services, Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board, North Northamptonshire Council and West Northamptonshire Council. The event focussed on identifying strategic priorities outlining communications and engagement strategies and approaches to communicate with young people and adults, and the ways in which partners can collaborate to prevent youth violence and knife crime. The insights gained from this work will support our Strategic Needs Assessment and inform the Serious Violence Reduction Strategy.



We will only begin to make a difference to violent and knife crime if we work as one. It was powerful that partners across Northamptonshire came together for this event, to share and learn. The voice of the community will be at the heart of everything we do to tackle knife crime. This opportunity to listen and share is an important step towards a Strategy that will really make an impact and reflect the views of the people who best understand what works in the communities we serve.

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

OUR NEXT BRIEFING

As we anticipate the forthcoming General Election, some time in the coming year, the CPF want to look ahead by taking a moment to look back. Since the last General Election, CPF membership has more than trebled; members actively participating in consultations has grown by a quarter; and the number of constituencies participating in consultations has increased by almost a third. Since September 2022, CPF Groups have provided Ideas for the Next Manifesto and have helped to Make The Case for Conservatism—applying the Conservative values of capitalism, freedom and responsibility to the most immediate challenges facing the country: that is, the cost of living, energy security, healthcare and our global engagement. Members also helped the Party's policymakers and leadership to understand their views on some of the longer-term challenges: deregulation, artificial intelligence, transportation and the welfare state.

In this new consultation, we will invite groups to reflect on Conservative policies introduced since Rishi Sunak became Prime Minister, on 25 October 2022.

The date of the next CPF meeting will be notified on our webpage and to all members via Mailchimp.

From late-March to early-May, we have a break from our consultation cycle.

THE FUTURE OF THE WELFARE STATE

Our recent well-attended meeting of the CPF discussed the above topic. Our response is on an extra page at the end of this magazine. All who attended will receive a copy automatically.

What is the CPF?

The local Policy Forum meets to discuss the Conservative Party policies. It is open to members and supporters for a friendly informal discussion session. The summary is sent to the Conservative Party Headquarters where results are collated and ultimately fed through to the Prime Minister's Policy Consultation Office.

Many of the suggestions put forward are ultimately incorporated in our Party's policy.

The Chairman of the CPF, Cllr Adam Fernley invites all members and friends to attend these important meetings.

200 CLUB

Members can join at any time and will be entered in all draws from the month of their first payment.

The cost is £15 a month.

The February prizes of £100 and £50 and the January and March prize of £25 will be drawn at the Annual General Meeting in March.

Contact the office for a standing order form.

PRESIDENT'S PUZZLE

The winner of our competition was Peter Kerruish who won 6 bottles of wine. Peter generously donated 2 bottles back. The answers:

The campanologists' drink? BELLS

A bird lover? CAT

Mixed up Cilla? Lilac

Thank you to those members who took part.

CCHQ AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP

A year ago CCHQ made a decision to increase the cost of Party membership subscriptions and began to enrol new members only through their website. Payment is now only available by direct debit.

Many of our members had always paid their subscription by standing order to CENCA so we had to begin a process of updating payments. Around 100 members were contacted during 2023 and almost all have changed their payment method. However we still have a small number paying by standing order and we shall now contact these members to ask them again to complete the DD forms.

Also a few members now paying by direct debit have forgotten to cancel their standing order to CENCA. If you are one of these please let the office know and you will be refunded.

And if you are one of those who have not yet changed and are still paying the old fee, don't worry - we will pay the difference in fees to Central Office for you for this year to keep your membership going.

Many thanks to all those members who have kept the faith during these difficult few years. Their support is gratefully acknowledged.

#TeamMylan
CORBY CONSERVATIVE CLUB
Charity family fun day
Saturday
10th
February
11am—3pm
AT CORBY CONS CLUB
*BOUNCY CASTLE *PSYCHIC
*CANDY FLOSS *CAKE SALE
*FACE PAINTER *TOMBOLA
*HAIR BRAIDER *HOOK A DUCK
*GUESS THE TEDDY *CLOTHES SALE
*SWEET STALL *TEA/COFFEE
*HOT DOGS *RAFFLE
*LUCKY DIP *STALLS
& MUCH MORE
Leicester Hospitals Charity
More info on our fb page #TeamMylan ❤️



Tom Pursglove MP

It was such an honour and a privilege to serve as the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work at the Department for Work & Pensions until the end of last year. During that time and through that work, I met some of the most inspiring people I've ever met, as well as passionate disability advocates and charity representatives. I'm proud to have contributed to the crucial effort to enhance the lives of disabled people in the UK and am proud of the steps forward we've taken. I must say that my commitment to deepen inclusion and broaden opportunity is one for life, and I very much look forward to working on this agenda in life and in politics, particularly here in Corby & East Northamptonshire, in the years ahead. FB 20 Jan 2024

Just a Thought: ON WOKISM. The viral spread of woke ideology is eating into the moral fibre of the next generation. Ayaan Hirsi Ali

TOM PURSGLOVE

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CORBY & EAST
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Minister of State for Legal Migration and the Border

Jan 2024

My new ministerial role as Minister of State for Legal Migration and The Border - an important brief and much work to be done!

It was a huge honour to be asked by the Prime Minister recently to serve as the new Minister for Legal Migration and the Border in the Home Office. Having served previously in the Home Office in multiple roles, with specific previous experience relating to immigration, I know how vitally important this policy area is to the country as a whole, but also to local people - which is regularly borne out in my conversations on the doorstep. I am therefore honoured to have been asked to serve, to help ensure we continue to deliver on our promises and to make further progress on this vitally important agenda - not least in getting net-migration down, closing hotels, and drastically reducing the asylum backlog.

While I am saddened to be saying farewell to my previous role as Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work and the brilliant team at the Department for Work and Pensions, I'm proud to have contributed to the crucial effort to enhance the lives of disabled people in the UK. I must say that my passion to deepen inclusion and broaden opportunity is one for life, not just in the ministerial role, and I very much look forward to working on this agenda in other capacities in the years ahead.

Participating in the Home Affairs Select Committee session in my new ministerial role

Only a few days into the new job, I was pleased to appear before the Home Affairs Select Committee, outlining progress and next steps around cutting net-migration, exiting asylum seeker hotels and drastically reducing the asylum backlog, all against the backdrop of the Government's new legislation to deliver on our partnership with Rwanda to help stop the perilous small boat crossings and to break the business model of the evil criminal gangs. I know this complex and difficult issue is a huge priority for the British people and I will do all I can to help the Government to deliver on the promises we have made



It was great to be back at Progress School in Thrapston, to meet their wonderful new Head of School and the dedicated staff team, and of course some of their learners, to talk a bit about my work as your local Member of Parliament and to hear more about how their work is helping to prepare them for their next chapters, finding fulfilling careers they are really passionate about. I was interested to hear about the range of activities they take part in during a school day, including cooking and sports competitions to help build useful transferable skills. They asked some really insightful questions too on a whole range of important local issues, including around policing and the importance of eradicating knife crime and why it is vitally important that Corby continues to produce steel, something myself and people across the constituency are rightly very proud of. They also expressed interest in a range of rewarding career paths, including in construction and education, and I look forward to supporting them moving forward to help ensure that this vital provision continues to go from strength to strength.

It was lovely to celebrate the opening of the new Crazy Hats Waiting Lounge and Garden at Kettering General Hospital last Friday. This is a brilliant new facility, that I know will make a big difference to so many patients and their loved ones locally in the years ahead, making their experience of the hospital all the more comfortable. Crazy Hats has been such a force for good locally over the years, raising over £3.4 million to help support those suffering from breast cancer and their families - and Glennis Hooper, who spearheaded the effort for two decades, is one of the most inspirational people I have ever met, with all of her boundless energy, passion and enthusiasm.

Tom Pursglove, continued>>>>

I recently had the chance to cover the Adjournment Debate in the House on the issue of tackling violent crime in Battersea, and respond on behalf of the Government, outlining the difference that our additional 20,000 police officer uplift has had in making our streets safer, as well as the significant resources we are putting in behind efforts to get knives and other offensive weapons off of our streets. I know that people here in Corby & East Northamptonshire care so strongly about these issues too, and this continues to be a priority of mine locally, working with policing leaders in our area, as well as for the Government nationally. Indeed, we have more police officers now than at any time in Northamptonshire Police's history, but we must never be complacent in our efforts to make our streets safer and keep people of all ages from harm.

It was fantastic to visit Irthlingborough Junior School to speak to their wonderful school council as part of their Community and Charity Week. It was lovely to hear more about all their hard work volunteering with some local organisations which support people of all ages, from those in nursery right the way through to the elderly, and about what they've learned about democracy here in the UK and the importance of standing up for what you believe in, and how important it is to work with people regardless of their views - something I strongly believe in too! They posed some brilliant (and often quite tricky!) questions, from how our laws are made, to what my office looks like, to name just a few. I also very much look forward to answering the pile of insightful letters some of the students wrote - with them representing the next generation, the future for our local community looks very bright!

Further to my recent work on the A43 crossing in Weldon, in which I wrote to almost 3,000 homes in Weldon and Priors Hall Park, to hear their thoughts on the need for a



Image by Ciker-Free-Vector-Images from Pixabay

pedestrian crossing on this dangerous and fast-paced stretch of road, I am pleased to say that I have now collated the results and am so grateful to all those who took the time to share their feedback. I can confirm that over 98% of all those who got in touch believe that a pedestrian crossing is required between Priors Hall Park and Weldon, with over 97% of residents also believing that this is a medium to high priority issue. It is very clear then that the A43 presents many

legitimate safety concerns for the majority of residents in the Parish of Weldon, many of whom are elderly, or have young children in their families, and do not feel that the road is a safe or viable place to cross.

This is undoubtedly a significant local issue and I very much look forward to hearing what actions will be taken to address this, and I will be pressing for sensible collaboration between Weldon Parish Council and North Northamptonshire Council to finally see this project through and I have sought a meeting to discuss the feedback in that vein with both in attendance. You can see the results in full above, and I will of course provide further updates as I have them.

I visited the Hope Church's 'Big Blue Bus' soup kitchen outside the Cube in Corby recently, to meet some of their wonderful and hard-working volunteers and hear more about how they're working to support those in need,

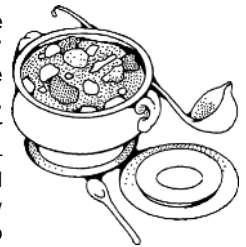


Image by OpenClipart-Vectors from Pixabay

especially during the colder winter months. Their team of community volunteers and those from the Rough Sleeping Team at North Northamptonshire Council and the Hope Church, meet every Friday evening, and have been doing for a year or so now, to provide hot food, support, advice and a chat to those who need it - all with a view to working with people to resolve the challenges they are facing and to put durable solutions in place.

My work never stops on behalf of local people, and 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 - please see details of contact numbers in this magazine.

Sincerely

Tom Pursglove Member of Parliament
For Corby & East Northamptonshire

Notably, in November, my office received over 1,900 emails from local residents and 1,066 specific new cases were created for individual constituents. Further, in December, my office has received over 940 emails from local residents so far, and 565 specific new cases have been created for individual constituents.

OUR OFFICE OPENING TIMES

A MESSAGE FROM RAY BOYD AT YOUR
LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICE

The office is open from Monday to Friday
from 11am to 1pm. Outside office hours
you can reach me at:
Email: office@cenca.co.uk. This email

address is
monitored
seven days a
week.

The office
telephone
(0 1 5 3 6
200255) is
manned during
the above
hours.



Image by GraphicsMama-team from Pixabay

Please note that this BT landline has now
been removed but the number has been
retained and is now rerouted to the office
mobile phone.

If I am not available when you phone and you
will receive replies from a telephone number
ending in ...760. Don't leave a message - I
will see you have phoned and call you back.

For emergencies 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. Please check the
website for office holiday closure dates.

You can also contact the Chairman, Cllr Lee
Wilkes. Email me if you need to get in touch
with Lee and I will pass on your details to
him.

Kind regards and keep well,

Ray Boyd

Communications Officer



Image by Gino
Crescoli from Pixabay

PLEASE
CHECK YOUR
EMAILS
FROM
MAILCHIMP

Our office sends out regular emails to all
members via Mailchimp. Unfortunately it
seems many of these end up in the
recipients' Spam box.so please make a
point of checking your Trash/Spam boxes
to avoid missing our emails.

This is particularly important now as we
are sending out regular updates on our
local campaigning. These give details of
our weekly schedule of meetings for our
volunteers.

**In January last year, Rishi Sunak made
5 promises to the British people - and
progress has been made on all of
them:**

- **Halve inflation:** more than halved
- **Grow the economy:** better
performance than predicted,
outperformed Germany
- **Reduce debt:** on track to fall as a
percentage of GDP
- **Cut NHS waiting lists:** currently
coming down
- **Stop small boats:** down by a third in
2023

Just a thought: At a recent meeting with our MP and officers the editor
suggested that actually stopping the inflatables getting to the French
coast was worth investigating. He also suggested sending the people
smugglers to Rwanda instead of asylum seekers. Shadow Home Secretary
Yvette Cooper must have been eavesdropping as she has now endorsed his
suggestion about the inflatables. (Laura Kuenssberg BBC TV 21/1/24)

RICHARD HOLDEN, MP, ON THE PARTY CONFERENCE

With over 25,000 responses to our new membership card design – congratulations Union Flag design voters – it's clear to me that you want to be involved.



Today, I want to know your thoughts on all things Party Conference. On the costs, where you think it should be, what's on at conference – everything.

I want Conference to have you, our members, at the heart of it. To ensure the best Conference experience for you and other members – even if you've never been before - please let me know your views in our Survey today.

Go to the webpage or use the QR code to fill out our survey Whether it's good or bad, or a bit of both, your feedback matters to me.

It will let me and our conference team know what we are doing well and where we can make some improvements to your experience.

So fill out our survey today and help us address the issues that matter to you!

Let us know

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Richard Holden MP

Chairman of the Conservative Party

PS. Tickets for CPC24 in Birmingham will go on sale in April, but make sure you save the dates: 29th September – 2nd October.

OUR NEW LIFETIME PLASTIC MEMBERSHIP CARD

<https://tinyurl.com/yrf3alx5>



Just a Thought: 'The problem with Socialism is you eventually run out of other people's money.' Margaret Thatcher

Leader's Update

Cllr Jason Smithers
Leader of the Council



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

January 2024

The Executive met on Thursday 18 January. You can watch the recording on our YouTube channel. You can also view the agenda and papers on our website or read the live tweets on X (formerly Twitter).

Executive: Thursday 18 January from 10am.
Full (Budget) Council: Thursday 22 February from 10am.

The agenda and papers will be published on the Council meetings section of our website in the week before the meeting.

These meetings will be live streamed on our YouTube channel.

North Northamptonshire Council is a well-managed and financially responsible authority. The council has worked proactively to balance its budget since its inception nearly three years ago, which includes identifying £42m of savings since 2021.

In common with many councils across the country, we are not immune to national, unprecedented financial and service pressures, particularly in our demand-led services in both Adult Social Care and Children's Services.

As a well-run organisation it is important the council takes prudent and proactive steps to manage these challenges. The council will continue to strengthen its approach to enable it to stay within budget, provide quality services and deliver value for money in all that it does.

Introducing measures to tighten spending controls is exactly the sort of thing a well-run, responsible council does and is common practice in the sector.

We have a healthy balance of reserves, which helps insulate us from veering towards reaching a very precarious position but rather than dip into them, we've made the sensible decision to tighten our belts.

Please be assured that we are not considering issuing a Section 114 notice as the former County Council did.

Cllr Helen Harrison is to step down from her position on North Northamptonshire Council's Executive with immediate effect.

Cllr Harrison, who is the authority's Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, will continue to work as a ward councillor for the Oundle area.

An announcement on who will replace Cllr Harrison on the Executive will be made soon.

I would like to thank Helen for her hard work and commitment as a member of our Executive - she has been with us since the authority came into being in April 2021.

The position as lead member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing is an important component of the Executive and we will move swiftly to fill the vacancy.

The council was asked to approve plans to adopt a series of walking and cycling routes across Corby at the January meeting of the council's Executive.

A draft Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for Corby was consulted on in 2023 for six cycle and 13

walking routes and now councillors will review the findings before discussing whether the plan should be adopted.

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) provide a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements at local level. The 10-year walking and cycling plan outlines proposals for a network of safe routes across the area



Image by PublicDomainPictures from Pixabay

including dedicated cycle infrastructure, new footways, safer crossing, traffic calming and locations for cycle parking. The work on LCWIPs across North Northamptonshire has also been developed considering the North Northamptonshire Greenway strategy.

If the report is approved by Executive, a final version of the Corby LCWIP will be published on our website. Subject to funding being available, preliminary designs for the priority route/improvements will be developed to form the basis of future bids for capital funding from the government's Active Travel Fund or other suitable funding sources.

The Corby LCWIP is the second in a series of LCWIPs to go through formal approval, following on from approval of the Kettering LCWIP in 2023. The final LCWIP for the Wellingborough and Rushden area is currently under development.

Having good cycling and walking infrastructure in place has numerous benefits for residents, as well as environmental benefits, including helping to reduce car journeys.

The council helps rough sleepers to access accommodation and support as quickly as possible, regardless of weather conditions.

Due to the weather forecast predicting sub-zero temperatures across North Northamptonshire, the council triggered its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) on Monday 8 January.

SWEP is an extra layer of assistance to ensure anyone not

engaging with the support available or any new rough sleepers have access to shelter during periods of extreme weather.

SWEP was operational for two nights. The Rough Sleeping and Housing Options Teams worked closely to ensure that all known and

verified rough sleepers were offered accommodation.

Please report the whereabouts and identity of any person sleeping rough to the Rough Sleeping Team so we can help them.

Rough Sleeping Team Hotline: 01536 464630

Rough Sleeping Team Email: roughsleepingteam@northnorthants.gov.uk

Out of Hours Service: 0300 126 3000.

For further information, please visit the Homelessness and rough sleeping section of our website.

The council is running and supporting the Warm Spaces initiative.

Warm Spaces are safe places where people can go to for free, to get warm, have a hot drink.

Community organisations, volunteer groups and public bodies have opened their doors to offer a Warm Space to local residents in need.

A map of Warm Spaces across North Northamptonshire can be found on our website.

If you know someone who you think might benefit, but doesn't have access to the internet, please let them know about their nearby Warm Spaces.

Residents can attend for activities at these locations without any need to discuss their personal circumstances, which will help reduce the stigma that often exists around poverty and asking for support.

All attendees will be treated with respect and dignity, without judgement and in confidence.



Image by Paolo Chieselli from Pixabay

*With Best Wishes,
Jason*



Jason's full latest report can be read via the QR code or at <https://tinyurl.com/ynkpfukc>

A message from Alan Mabbutt,

.Registered Treasurer and Legal Officer - The Conservative Party

I remember Keir Starmer when **he was fighting to make Jeremy Corbyn Prime Minister.**

I remember Keir Starmer when **he was calling Jeremy Corbyn a friend.**

I remember Keir Starmer when **he was fighting to stop Brexit**, hold a second referendum, **keep the boats coming**, keep foreign criminals in this country, and keep spending out of control.

But now Keir Starmer wants the British people to forget all of that by claiming he didn't really mean what he said and did.

Do you think that's the sort of leadership our country needs?



SOME THOUGHTS ON METRICATION AND GOODBYE NAPOLEON COMPLEX

An Act of Parliament passed by Lord Salisbury's Conservative administration in 1896 allowed any trader who wanted to use the metric system to do so but left the choice up to individuals. Traders were permitted to sell their goods in any way they felt was best and as the imperial system was the one known by everyone at the time that is what became the norm.

America went metric at the turn of the last century but, again, didn't make it compulsory and there is no problem there.

However, with the dominance of the EU it was inevitable that their preferred measuring system, i.e., metrication, would be imposed on all member states. And, of course, the local jobsworths made it their business to ensure everyone fell in line. Hence we had the 'metric martyrs' who were prosecuted for having the imperial measure on the scales in larger letters than metric numbers. One wonders what it is in the human psyche that turns ordinary people into little dictators.

We saw this same effect with the No Smoking rules. No doubt this was a good, healthy step but once again we saw the rise of the minor official puffing himself up to become all-powerful. They seemed to take

great delight in persecuting anyone who they felt was not complying fully with the law.

Now the country is out of the EU surely it is time for the government to announce that all metric compulsion in matters of trade should cease.

We still measure distance in miles, in spite of some local councils. Milk is sold in litres with the size in pints clearly stated. Beer is sold by the pint, even in Spain, as that is the most sensible measure and apparently, some new small concessions, such as allowing champagne to be sold in half pints, have been made - but surely the time has come for traders to be allowed to sell goods in any way they think will generate trade.

Weighing machines flip happily from metric to imperial at the touch of a button so where is the problem?

In a survey, up to 80% of respondents thought the metric system should not be rigidly imposed. Let's sack the jobsworths.

Of course, there are some areas where the metric system is better. Engineering springs to mind. Decimal is so much better than fractions and leads to fewer errors.

BY-ELECTION IN CORBY

An election is to be held for a Councillor for Corby Town Council, Kingswood Ward.

Corby Town Council is a local government body that serves the residents of Corby, Northamptonshire, England. The council is made up of 17 councillors who are elected every four years to represent the four wards of Corby. The council is responsible for providing a range of services to the community, including waste collection, recycling, street cleaning, parks and open spaces maintenance, planning applications, and community grants.

Our candidate is Mark Smith and the election will be on the 22nd February. Mark has previously stood as a candidate for us in the last Corby Borough Council election.

If you live in the Kingswood ward please make sure you come out and support Mark. Or if you have a postal vote please use it.



Image by ArtRose from Pixabay

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUR THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT?

From Tom Pursglove MP

Like a tour in '24? One of the biggest privileges of being your Member of Parliament is being able to help local people of all ages to experience Parliament, whether that's for a tour, a trip to the galleries to see either House in action, or a visit for schools to the Education Centre. Parliament really is the heart of our democracy and I'm keen to share this experience with any local residents who might be interested. If this sounds like you, do drop me a line at pursglovet@parliament.uk and I'll be delighted to help make the necessary arrangements!

THE LAST TIME LABOUR WERE IN POWER THEY CHARGED YOU TAX ON YOUR BANK INTEREST. HOW MANY OF US GOT 10 PENCE INTEREST A MONTH AND HAD 2 PENCE TAX TAKEN OFF BY THE BANK?

HOW MANY MILLIONS OF POUNDS WERE SPENT BY THE EXCHEQUER SO THEY COULD STEAL OUR PENNIES?

THE CONSERVATIVES CHANGED THE RULES TO ALLOW YOU TO KEEP UP TO £1,000 IN INTEREST PAYMENTS WITHOUT INCURRING TAX. THIS WILL PROBABLY BE REPEALED BY THE NEXT LABOUR GOVERNMENT.

SINCE 2019 NEIGHBOURHOOD CRIME IS DOWN 50%

Across England and Wales

- ▼ Robbery down 81%
- ▼ Theft from the person down 44%
- ▼ Domestic burglary down 57%
- ▼ Vehicle related theft down 39%



Image by Clker-Free-Vector-Images from Pixabay



TOM PURSGLOVE, MP's WEEKLY ADVICE SURGERIES



As your local MP, Tom believes it is extremely important to be as accessible as possible, in order to be able to best help with any problems or concerns that his constituents have.

As such, he holds weekly advice surgeries.

To book an appointment, please telephone 020 7219 8043, or email pursglovet@parliament.uk, or go to <https://www.vote Pursglove.co.uk/weekly-advice-surgeries>. as he operates his surgeries on an appointments basis, utilising virtual, telephone and face-to-face methods - ensuring that his constituents do not have to rush through their concerns and to best meet people's individual circumstances and requirements.

Tom's work never stops on behalf of local people, and he just wanted to restate that he is 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 his weekly surgeries if you would like to have a more detailed discussion.

Please do get in touch if you have any issues or concerns.

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

Tom Pursglove – More Nurses for the NHS

18 Dec 2023

New data from NHS England reveals that there were 51,245 additional nurses in September 2023 compared to 2019, thereby hitting the Government's manifesto commitment to recruit an additional 50,000 nurses six months early.

**50,000 MORE
NURSES
DELIVERED**



Image by Pete Linforth from Pixabay

We've met this commitment by boosting training and education routes, recruiting overseas, and boosting retention rates. We're also providing a financial package for eligible nursing and midwifery students with grants of £5,000 per academic year to help meet this target, and ensure that Corby & East Northamptonshire has the frontline staff it needs.

This development represents the largest ever sustained growth in the NHS nursing workforce, which will help deliver hundreds of thousands of extra appointments, tackle waiting lists, and improve care for patients.

TOM PURSGLOVE'S THOUGHTS ON HS2

I think the Prime Minister was absolutely right to scrap the second leg of HS2, not least because it frees up £36 billion of funding to make much quicker improvements to transport connectivity in England, including distributing a big portion of the money to local authorities to scale-up repairing potholes, which I know is a big priority locally and allowing the £2 bus fare cap to be extended to the end of 2024.

THE MISERABLE OLD GIT - 'I'M BACK !'

WHO REMEMBERS THE 'NICE VIEW' TAX?

In the recent past a Labour Chancellor was always looking for new ways to raise tax from the population. He became known as 'the Tax-tinkerer' as he was constantly fiddling with tax rates to increase the income to the Exchequer

He came up with idea (or more likely one of his 'advisors' did) of changing the property rating system. At the time houses were rated with a band letter from 'A' upwards and there was a distinct charge for each level of rating.

This tax-tinkering chancellor went on to become, thankfully for only a short time, the prime minister. I refer to Gordon Brown, of course.

His new idea was to look at each property and see if a supplementary charge could be added for any extras such as conservatories, etc.

During his period in office it seems he did start to instruct local rating officers to begin looking at every single property with the aim of increasing their rates.



I have heard they had a tick box chart which listed all possible improvements, such as a conservatory, a garage, a loft conversion, good parking, etc. **Incredibly, it is alleged that 'having a nice view' was on the list.**

Happily he was kicked out of office before he could put all this in place, but these ideas haven't gone away.

Don't think this is alarmist. Somewhere, lurking in the background, is a scheming Labour advisor waiting to put this idea to the next Labour chancellor who will always be looking for ways to increase tax.

Just look at some examples below.

THE TURN OF THE SCREW

Published by:
The Social, Historical &
Investigative Taxpayer Society
(Turning up Forgotten Facts)



Labour's Climate Change Levy. This 5% tax on the gas or electricity bill of all companies is paid by every business.

Largely unnoticed, this tax is, of course, passed on to all customers by way of increased bills.



Window tax was a property tax based on the number of windows in a house. It was introduced in 1696. Happily repealed.

The first 'temporary' income tax in the United Kingdom was introduced by Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger in 1799, to raise money for the Napoleonic War with France.

Several attempts have been made to remove this immoral tax but all have failed.

MOG's comments are obviously his own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Conservative Party, our members, the Conservative Association or its management team.

CORBYS CONSERVATIVE CLUB

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



**COME ON IN – MEMBERS AND
GUESTS WELCOME**

www.the-cons.co.uk

01536 203711

Photo: R Boyd



CORBYS CONSERVATIVE CLUB

COMING EVENTS

SAT 17th FEBRUARY	OUT OF ORDER
SAT. 2nd MARCH	DOOZER
SAT 16th MARCH	CODE 44
SAT 30th MARCH	HIGH POINT FLYERS
SUN 31st MARCH (EASTER)	CONUNDRUM

EASY QUIZ EVERY SECOND SUNDAY

Hosted by John Headley

from 11th FEBRUARY Please check dates in Club

Between 3pm and 6pm. Quiz starts at 4.15pm

Just £1 a person - All welcome.

**MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME AT ALL
OF OUR EVENTS.**

(GUESTS MUST SIGN IN).

**IF NOT YET A MEMBER PICK UP AN APPLICATION FORM
ON YOUR NEXT VISIT**

**THE CLUB'S HALL AND LOUNGE ARE AVAILABLE
FOR YOUR PARTY AND FAMILY RECEPTIONS**

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 our magazine regularly will need to join the Association. Please contact our office by email at

office@cenca.co.uk or telephone 01536

742954

Our address is CENCA,
Cottingham Road,
Corby,

NN17 1SZ

**OUR WEBSITE IS AT
www.cenca.co.uk**

CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM REPORT

I was delighted to see such a great turnout for the CPF meeting regarding The Future of the Welfare State. Considering that welfare is one of the largest areas of government spending, second only to Health, it was a real privilege to have a wide ranging discussion on the long term future of the welfare state.

A number of excellent points were raised throughout the meeting, with an emphasis on more independent monitoring of all sectors of the welfare state. This included better surveillance of those on benefits and fairer evaluations of those with disabilities. Alongside this, streamlining of the welfare process was called for with faster access to the welfare state for those genuinely in need and reduced levels of bureaucracy to minimise the long term impacts on people wishing to access welfare services. Investment and innovation in technology was widely agreed to be the way forward in managing this transition.

Another key area of debate was pensions. With an ageing population and the current stagnation of the U.K. economy, it was agreed that investment into pensions was needed to avoid a reliance on pensioners continuing to work. To alleviate this issue, the approach of requiring an extra year or two regarding state pension qualification was discussed as well as making the state pension means-tested.

Finally, the issue of mitigating the impact of low U.K. birth rates was raised. Two contrasting approaches with excellent supporting points were shared with the group. Some argued that a low birth rate was good for the country and the environment and that efforts should continue to keep the birth rate low. On the other hand, some argued that a higher birth rate was necessary to ensure the future of the welfare state. Proposals included more house building, better child benefit, and tax incentives for women who choose to have multiple children, similar to the policy in Hungary.

A huge thank you to all those that attended the CPF this time round. The next CPF meeting will be held on Thursday 14th March at 7:30pm at Corby Conservative Club. The topic is "My Policy Story" and will focus on policy in the lead up to the general election. I do hope you can join us.

Cllr Adam Fernley