

SAVE THE DATE. A formal dinner with **Jacob Rees-Mogg**. Friday 1st March 2019. Tickets £65 each. To **reserve tickets** and for further details please contact the office on 01568-612565 or e-mail office@nhca.org.uk

CHRISTMAS Drinks Party. By kind permission of Mark & Jennifer Higgins. 6.30pm Saturday 1st. December at Littlehales End, Storrridge, Malvern WR13-5EW. Tickets £10. Please contact us on 01568-612565 or e-mail office@nhca.org.uk for tickets or further information.

100 Club.

- Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Boughton – the £50 winner in our last monthly draw in NHCA 100 Club – a cheque is on its way..
- The second prize of a bottle of whisky goes to Ewen Sinclair



CANDIDATES WANTED.... Have you ever thought of standing for Herefordshire Council in the 2019 County elections. Your experience could make a big difference. For a preliminary chat contact NHCA Chairman Dan Hurcomb by e-mail..... at www.nhca.org.uk

The long hot summer is long past..... and Autumn is upon us as the first frosts beckon winter. No need to water the hydrangeas but time to bring in the geraniums. Whilst the seasons change “politics” continues.

The Prime Minister may have experienced a torrid time, but the economy continues to flourish. As the lefties carp the Conservatives deliver.

- **Unemployment of 4%** at the lowest level for 43 years and 47,000 lower than in May 2018 and 80,000 less than a year ago. The long term unemployment rate is just 1.1%. This compares with 8.1% in the Euro-zone where youth unemployment still exceeds 17% (YES 17%..... but over 34% in Spain and 31.6% in Italy ... no wonder the Italian electorate is rebelling against Brussels bullying. When Brussels orders Italy, a sovereign state, to rip up its budget – a budget viewed positively by 60% of the Italian electorate – you know national sovereignty is severely under threat from the Federalist camp).
- **32.4m Brits in work** – another record figure and 289,000 more than 12 months ago.
- **Average monthly wages up 3.1%** - the biggest hike since 2009. Average high skilled wage rates up 10% and unskilled wages up 11.8%. (*source: Trading Economics*). UK average wage growth is now almost twice that in the Euro-Zone.
- **35,000 more job vacancies** – 40,000 more than a year ago – and 832,000 in total.
- **Inflation down to 2.4%**; core inflation down to 1.9%. If, out of the EU, tariffs now protecting EU clothing and footwear manufacturers from non-EU competition are abolished, then expect lower prices in some of these necessities. In contrast Euro-Zone inflation has doubled since January now hitting a 6-year high.
- **UK exports rose** to an all-time high of £55.1bn in the last reported month. Sales to non-EU countries rose 1.7% with substantial gains in sales to America, Switzerland, India and South Korea – compared with a rise of just 1.1% to the EU. Imports from non-EU countries rose 7.8% compared with a 0.5% fall in EU imports – a move consistent with the long term decline in the proportion of UK trade with the EU.
- **Government net borrowing requirement plunged** from £4.1bn in September last year to £3.2bn this year - the lowest September borrowing since 2007. Improving UK public finances were driven by solid growth in sales and income tax receipts. In the first 6 months of this financial year, the budget deficit fell to £14.7bn. from £23.2bn. Public sector debt continues to fall as a proportion of UK economic output.
- **UK economic growth forecasts raised** 2018 to 2022 from 12.9% to 14.4% (Source: OBR).

The Budget. This year's budget comes against the background of a British tax burden hitting a 49-year high. This year, taxes will account for 34.3% of GDP, the highest since 1969-70. The UK by most standards is already over-taxed and it is against this record level of taxation that the Socialists want to confiscate more of your money. Personally, and it might seem niggardly, I find it difficult to rationalise why more UK tax-payers money (~£14bn.) is spent on overseas aid than the £12.3bn spent on policing.

But what a delightful sight to see so many Labour MPs so grim faced as Chancellor "spread sheet" Phil revealed a big improvement in UK finances, poured £20bn. into the NHS which will now consume a massive 38% of the total UK tax take; though hopefully this injection will be allied to an efficiency drive. In addition, some £1bn. has been added to Defence budgets, extra cash to improve the roll-out of Universal Credit, frozen fuel duty for the 9th year running and accelerated income tax cuts by raising income tax thresholds for both basic and higher earners – taking the 20% threshold to £12,500 and the 40% threshold to £50,000 – effective from April 2019. And for Herefordshire electors – welcome extra money to repair pot-holes – and even cash to relieve some of the business rate burden for smaller city-centre retailers. As Labour's unreconstructed trots and lefties bleated, Hammond delivered, simultaneously providing a modest economic stimulus - spending some of the money generated from higher tax receipts but keeping to medium term deficit reduction targets.

Post Budget how many times have you heard the Socialists condemn the Singapore model of economic growth as a modern day Realm of Hades. Burnishing "our" free market entrepreneurial credentials it's worth looking at the Singapore corporate/investment tax model and compare it with the UK.

	UK	Singapore
Corporation tax	19%	Effective 8.5% on first £175,000 of profit then rising to 17%.
Dividend tax	7.5-38%	Zero
Capital gains tax	20-28%	Zero
GDP growth	1.7%	3.6%
Tax as % GDP	34%	14%
Unemployment	4.0%	2.1%
Manufacturing as % of GDP	10%	20%
Home ownership	64%	91%

Singapore adopts a clear pro-business, pro-investment model promoting entrepreneurial flair.... with impressive results. Post Brexit a model to study - not one derided by the tax-and-tax again Corbynite Comrades. Corroborating the Singapore model, UK corporation tax receipts have increased by 25% in real terms since headline tax rates came down from 28% in 2010-11 to 19% in 2017-18. Slam dunk.

PS... Brotherly divergence... As Comrade Corbyn condemned Hammond's income tax cuts, Marxist McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor and wannabe Corbyn successor, endorsed them. A Labour groupie explained "...John is desperate not to create the impression of being seen to clobber middle earners on tax". Note.... only the *impression* not to clobber. Rumours gather pace the two comrades are now less comradely, citing rising tension between Corbyn's and McDonnell's offices to the extent that McDonnell is now making "policy announcements" behind Corbyn's back. So far 2 Labour MPs have resigned the whip....let civil war commence.

Non-disclosure Agreements..... Let he who is without sin cast the first stone. Without commenting on Sir Phillip Green let's look at the Labourites.

- *The Times* reveals...dozens of staff have been forced to sign NDAs to ban them from speaking out about sexist and racist behaviour – including anti-semitism. *The Times* notes that since a change of management control these gagging orders "...stop (individuals) going public on the scale and severity of sexual harassment, bullying and anti-semitism". Would you really be surprised that this is the same organisation where the head honcho said "the next Labour Government will commit to legislating to prevent making any contractual clauses (NDAs) which stop disclosure of future discrimination, harassment or victimisation". Yep – the Labour party is reported to be only too familiar with NDA issuance. Hypocrisy? Don't do as we do – but do as we say.
- Go back to 1996 (*The Times* reports) and guess who insisted on confidentiality in a settlement involving a defamation claim against this individual by a Scotland Yard detective. To cut a long story short the individual was cleared of snatching £490 from a bank in Putney, but he then accused a detective of having been part of a conspiracy to frame him. The policemen instructed well known lawyer Jeffrey Gordon, to sue this individual. Jeffrey Gordon has told *The Times* that the defamation claim was settled very quickly and that a Mr Hain had asked for the terms of the settlement to be kept confidential. Surely Mr Hain – then the Young Liberal leader, should not be confused with respected Labour peer Lord Hain who broke the confidentiality clause by "outing" Sir Philip Green in the Lords. Sauce / goose / gander.

You couldn't make it up....

- **Labour in the dock....** As the Israeli UN ambassador branded Corbyn an anti-Semite saying “....Corbyn gives oxygen to racism by embracing his terrorist friends” the Labour Party now finds itself being investigated by the police – on the 80th. anniversary of Kristallnacht. Clearly no comment is necessary from us but, quoting the media “... **police have opened an investigation into allegations of anti-Semitic hate crimes within the Labour Party. The move, which was announced 2nd. November, comes after a dossier of information detailing 45 cases of anti-Semitism was handed over to police by London-based radio station LBC last month.** A Metropolitan Police spokesman confirmed a criminal investigation had been started to examine a number of allegations within the document”.
- **Aid.** An intriguing thought... we give almost £100m. financial aid to India (reports the *Daily Express*) – although India now reportedly distributes more foreign aid than it receives. Generous UK tax payers will be delighted to learn that areas of essential spending by this needy country include £95m on a moon rocket (Chandrayaan-2) and splashing the cash on, at 182 meters (almost 600 feet), a £330m statue – unveiled modestly in October with showers of rose petals from military jets flying overhead.
- **Deutsche Bank highlights Brexit upside.** Investment gurus at the bank predict that the UK stock market would out-perform EU counterparts on a (clean break) hard Brexit, citing the defensive nature of the UK market and weaker growth on the Continent. It also suggests a “hard” Brexit would slash a third from EU GDP growth. Underlining the negative impact of Brexit on the EU – contracts for German-made goods are already falling. But.....China has offered to begin formal trade talks with the UK post Brexit, whilst it is reported a plan is underway for a seamless UK-US trading bloc.
- **Farewell Sir Nic....** Yes – British politics will surely be impoverished by Sir Nic Clegg’s absence from the League of Remoaners, soon to experience exile in sunlit Palo Alto, California on a rumoured £1m. per annum pay packet as apologist in chief (sorry...VP Global Affairs & Communications) for Facebook. A timely move as Facebook faces yet more problems controlling posts by terrorists, child groomers, on-line bullies, the delusional, election meddlers and more – and not least the fall- out from the data-mining scandal. Hopefully the company will have forgotten Sir Nic’s attack on it for not paying enough tax. His time as leader of the Lib-Dreamocrats will surely provide the considerable experience needed in his new job. Tory MP James Cleverly added “it looks a good fit”. We wish him well in his new long term Facebook career as he sacrifices his £115,000 per annum UK “public duty” allowance.
- **Auntie rapped.....** what a surprise the BBC has been censured for anti-Tory bias (*The Times* 1-11-18). Who ever suspected that leftie luvvies were prominent at the BBC.
- **Don't fall ill in Wales...** Healthcare in Wales has been the responsibility of the Welsh Government since 1999. Prof. Siobhan McClelland a top Welsh NHS manager and policy maker said the Welsh NHS was flawed from top to bottom. Adding....”we have a void in Welsh Government where robust, rigorous, innovative health policy should be made...There is neither capacity, nor I'd suggest capability, in Welsh Government to be making really good health policy”. Prof. McClelland is moving to England so that her husband can receive much improved cancer care.
- **Macron falters....** the Napoleonic wunderkind parachuted into the lime-light on the Brussels stage is faltering. Shock horror – his popularity in France has plummeted with an approval rating collapsing to just 33% - and forecast to fare badly in the 2019 EU elections. To hear him disparage the UK you might think all is fine and dandy in the Paris salons where some describe him as “the President of the rich”. Sadly not. National debt 98.6% of economic output and reform decades overdue; unemployment 9.1%; youth unemployment 20%; lacklustre economic growth and a raft of cabinet exits. 1812.....relived?
- **Gandhi must fall....**the Indian doyenne of peaceful resistance has been accused of racism with an acute hostility to black Africans because “...he thought he was superior to us” said one Malawi protester. A Gandhi statue has already been relegated to the scrap heap in Ghana. How times change – it was not long ago that Gandhi was a key influence on and model for the South African ANC and Nelson Mandela in its struggle against apartheid.
- **Time to be offended... Cowboys banned.....** many of the current crop of under-graduates seem to wallow in “offence” particularly at the University of Kent. Cowboys and Indians outfits have been banned from fancy dress parties by 'snowflake' university students. Mexican-style sombreros have also fallen foul of the politically-correct rules, which student leaders say threatens people's 'safe space'. Among the other costume ideas hit by the edict are dressing up as 'chavs', priests and nuns or IS bombers. Oh dear....
- **Fairy Tales.** Feminist Keira Knightley has banned her daughter from watching Disney epic Cinderella ...why....“because, Cinderella waited around for a rich guy to rescue her” clearly a breach of feminist etiquette. Of dear – what happened to childhood. Parodying - Giles Coren wrote in *The Times* about the potential impact of the film *Pretty Woman* in terms this sisterhood might use “*No darling you can't leave school and become a prostitute so that you can meet a nice handsome businessman.*”

EU “negotiations”. One constant is the sheer arrogance, intransigence and outright hostility from the EU “negotiators” towards the UK, appearing as ingrained as it is petty and rigid. No wonder Portugal, Hungary and

Italy are putting pressure of Barnier to wake up and smell the coffee. Italy's Deputy PM Salvini has accused the EU of trying to "swindle" Britain out of Brexit. As the newly enfeebled Frau Merkel (mother of the far right AfD now presiding over the collapse of her "ruling" party in state elections) so endearingly put it whilst heading towards her sunset as Chancellor – **the UK must suffer a little**. Clearly goodwill is not on the table. For those of us that lost relatives to the German armies in two world wars maybe she forgets that the UK has suffered significantly at the hands of German aggression. Maybe she forgets that the UK is the largest single export market for the German motor industry. Maybe she forgets that Germany "enjoys" a ~£50bn trade surplus with the UK but, perhaps, uses threats to disguise her latent fears that opened up global competition – and perhaps an equalised tariff playing field – could hit German industry and trade surpluses hard and where it hurts most. After all, despite the EU, the UK is the 9th or 10th largest exporter in the world and the US is our largest single geographical market with which we trade on WTO terms.

Maybe the EU bureaucrats forget that as the EU's share of world trade declines steadily, that the EU as a whole sends some £340bn. of goods across the Channel and makes a surplus on trade of ~£70bn. One thing however unlikely to be forgotten is our money: £40bn. is demanded from us. Few will shed tears that Germany must chip in an extra E15bn. each year into EU coffers once we leave?

Wandering through Spain and Portugal this summer, the extent to which "EU money" (aka British tax-payers cash) has been used for such *essential* projects as renovating commercial holiday lets, floodlighting churches - plus contributions to building unused roads to deserted villages.... is nothing short of scandalous whilst UK public services and infrastructure suffer.

One thing that the "negotiations" have revealed is the extent to which the UK economy and political structures have become enmeshed within EU Federalist structures and just how far the Federalist agenda has progressed in a way hitherto hidden largely from the public gaze.

Bill Writes. I welcomed the announcements made by the Prime Minister in her speech to close the Party Conference in Birmingham. Those of us in North Herefordshire who drive will benefit from the continued freeze on fuel duty. This is vital for those of us in rural communities where we need our cars or to have things delivered. This also applies to our Emergency Services which have large fuel bills; practically everyone benefits from a fuel duty freeze. I also like and support the new Cancer Strategy as part of a long-term plan for the NHS, this will speed up diagnosis and save more lives.

I disagree with those calling for a "people's vote" on Brexit. We had the largest vote ever in the referendum. It cannot be like a "best of three?" if we don't like a result. I would like us to have an amicable agreement with the remaining EU countries which offers us a good deal for the £39 billion divorce settlement and is better for trade than WTO - which in turn is better than a bad deal.

I welcomed the Budget that rewarded the hard work of the British people. The Government's careful fiscal management allied with the hard work of County Councils which have made tough decisions, has allowed the Chancellor to spend money where it is needed most. At least four of the most pressing areas for which I have campaigned in North Herefordshire have all been boosted by this Budget announcement.

Hereford Hospital will benefit from the fulfilment of the Prime Minister's NHS commitment as the Government have fully-funded the cash settlement which equates to £20.5 billion more in real terms by 2023-24, and an average real growth rate in the NHS's budget of 3.4 per cent a year.

The Chancellor listened to my concerns by **freezing duty** on fuel as well as beer, cider and spirits duty for another year, supporting patrons of the Great British pub.

Road repairs. North Herefordshire residents need our roads, so the Government will make £420 million available immediately to help tackle potholes, bridge repairs and other minor works.

Elsewhere there will be **£200 million provided for full fibre broadband** rollout. This will be used to pilot new approaches to fibre rollout in rural areas such as North Herefordshire and will help those of us whose broadband speeds unfortunately remain a big frustration.

Cutting tax for over thirty million people and taking the lowest paid out of tax altogether while making work pay is another success which has come a year earlier than expected. Another winner is defence spending, a particularly important issue as we have many businesses here in that industry. So I welcome the announcement of £1bn. for defence across this year and next. This will help ensure our world-class Armed Forces can face new threats, and build on the UK's record of spending more on defence than any NATO member save the USA.

Despite all the good news there are still areas where we would like to spend more such as sixth form colleges and higher and further education. It's clear that by living within our means we can look forward to continuing record employment, business growth and a prosperous future. Adopting a better and sustainable way of funding our needs compares with Jeremy Corbyn's version of ending austerity – spending £1 trillion – leading to more debt, higher taxes while ultimately taking us back to paying Foreign Governments interest on our debt.

Promoted by Dan Hurcomb on behalf of North Herefordshire Conservative Association, both of 8, Corn Sq. Leominster HR6-8LR Tel. 01568-612565; e-mail office@nhca.org.uk; web site www.nhca.org.uk