

THE NEWSLETTER of the NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION.

May 2019.

Herefordshire County Council Elections take place on Thursday 2nd May. We rely on you to maintain our slender Conservative majority on the Council. We face opposition in the form of a coalition of “few of the talents” – a mishmash of Corbyn’s Labour Party, (left wing) Greens, a few wishy-washy politically correct Lib-Dems groping for a policy – and of course the IOC described by some as “Labour in disguise”. Plus a small number of sensible true Independents. Few Councils are perfect – but Herefordshire run by committees of this miscellany of conflicting ideologues - united only in their dislike of the Conservatives and an addiction to spending other people’s money – spells chaos, paralysis, empty promises and higher Council tax. Please remember, this election is about local issues. Please support us.

100 Club. April draw. 1st. prize: £50 to **John Rowe** : Runner up: **Molly Powell**. Congratulations.

Please remember to renew your 100 Club membership @ £30/ticket per year. Cheques payable to NHCA

Supper with Liz Trust, Chief Secretary to the Treasury; 7.00pm - **Friday 24th May.** The Green Man, Fownhope (HR1 4PE). 2-course informal supper. Tickets £25 each or £45 per couple. Contact NHCA office (Tel . **01568-612565** or; e-mail **office@nhca.org.uk**) to book.

MayDay, MayDay, MayDay. One must applaud Theresa May’s perseverance, for her ability to turn the other cheek no matter what the insult and humiliation, to stick to her chosen path – no matter that it is the wrong path – at the risk of losing dignity and respect both for herself and the country with the weakest negotiations squandering all the advantages of a strong hand. Many do not care whether the Prime Minister’s personal self-esteem is damaged or not..... but they do care that our country is humiliated by subservience to the EU – like a child in awe of a paper Emperor. By the Prime Minister’s acceptance of a “Withdrawal Agreement” that stinks and potentially reduces the UK to open-ended vassalage to “Europe”, failure to deliver Brexit as a phalanx of “red lines” have been erased – and even an inability to control the SDP-ish wing of her Cabinet...Messrs. Gaulke, Mundell, the ex(?) -SDP business Minister – plus Amber. A stronger leader would have sacked them for ignoring a 3-line whip – forthwith. The result – real damage to democracy – that 17.4m pro-Brexit voters can safely be ignored by the self-styled “metropolitan elite” – that rather sad “nanny knows best” brigade – provoking a constitutional crisis; the oxygen given to a charismatic Nigel Farage and his Brexit Party that is fast cannibalising the Tory vote. And record low poll readings for our Conservative Party and potentially lasting electoral damage that risk ushering in a far left regime of Commie Corbyn, Marxist McDonnell and the rest of the loony left. Deciding to contract Brexit decision making out to a band of Marxists rather than consult her own party MPs looks daft. With some 70 signatories, The Conservative National Convention will hold a debate encouraging Mrs. May to stand down.

N.B. Clwyd South Conservatives have voted 89% to 4% no confidence in Theresa May. (Source; BBC)

Changes must be made within the Conservative party - and soon - and many believe that change must start at the top. Now. No wonder 1922 Committee Chairman Sir Graham Brady has told Mrs. May bluntly that what is needed is “proper clarity about her plans for departure should the Withdrawal Agreement not be approved”.

As Prit Patel argues. “With our great country facing the threat of hard-left socialism from Corbyn’s Labour Party, we need to give the public powerful and strong reasons to vote Conservative and support the Party that backs freedom, enterprise and opportunity. We must believe in our activists and get behind our members and supporters. Let’s energise our members with the Conservative values we share, to secure a better future for Britain.”

The Euro-elections. What a farce. Over £100m to be squandered on this unnecessary and humiliating exercise; surely this sum could be better used to fund training for over 1500 NHS nurses. Few are likely to see this exercise as useful, fewer are likely to care and fewer still to vote; an empty exercise that could result in more ritual humiliation for the Prime Minister and the Conservative Party – but it seems that is what

the EU big cheeses want. Candidates forced on Party members without any say – and with whose views they may disagree – is surely no incentive to vote. This cost adds to the £39bn. the Withdrawal Act gives to Brussels - £1,258 per UK tax-payer - a sum exceeding annual UK defence spending. The Conservative councillors in Derbyshire have voted to go on "strike" and not help candidates campaign in the upcoming European elections, in defiance of the national party. Other Associations could follow.

But..... “despite” these “problems” the economy continues to perform – the naysayers wrong again – but that’s largely project fear on a cassette loop.

- **UK economic growth.** The consensus view is that the global economy is slowing.....but the Office for National Statistics notes monthly GDP growth jumped to 0.5% in January, the biggest rise since December 2016 – more than double City forecasts with growth continuing into February. It looks as if UK economic growth will be in a 1.2-1.6% range this year and closer to 2% in 2020. Compare & contrast the EU power house - Germany. The German Government’s new 2019 growth forecast is damning. 2019 forecast growth has been slashed to 0.5%, less than a quarter of the 2.1% predicted a year ago and a level not seen since the height of the Euro-zone crisis. It’s also well under half the UK’s expected growth rate. While Remoaner commentators drone on about the UK, the EU’s powerhouse economy is barely keeping its head above water...
- **UK employment rate up again.** The employment rate continues to rise to 76.1% - up from 75.4% a year earlier and the joint-highest figure on record. For men the employment was estimated at 80.5%; it has not been higher since December 1990. For women, a rate of 71.8% is the joint-highest since comparable records began in 1971.
- **Record full-time jobs.** 32.7m people aged 16 years plus in employment, 457,000 more than a year earlier. This 457,000 rise was due entirely to more people working full-time (up 473,000 on the year to reach 24.15m). Part-time working showed a small fall of 15,000 on the year to reach 8.57m. – puncturing the socialist lie that “only” part time jobs are being created. In broad terms, since the Conservatives entered Government, some 1,000 jobs have been created each and every day.
- **UK unemployment down & down again.** At 3.9% the unemployment rate has not been lower since November 1974. For women a rate of just 3.8% is the joint-lowest since comparable records began in 1971.
- **Slashed economic inactivity rate.** The UK economic inactivity rate of 20.7% cut again from 21.2% a year earlier and the joint-lowest figure on record. 213,000 fewer people not working than for a year earlier, 456,000 fewer than for five years earlier and the lowest level since March 1993.
- **Pay up.....** UK average weekly earnings increased by 3.5% - close to double the inflation rate.
- **Job vacancies up.** By end-March 2019, UK job vacancies rose to 852,000, 32,000 more than a year earlier. Fewer excuses for unemployment.
- **Inflation - down.** New forecasts suggest a likely 2019 outcome of under 1.9% - with some forecasts as low as 1.5% - and broadly stable at under 2% in 2010.
- **Sound finances.** The UK budget deficit continues to shrink – faster than forecast – and at just £0.8bn in March. Philip Hammond has a dry reputation but his fiscal management continues to bear fruit. Government borrowing at a 17-year low and the deficit almost halved last year totalling £24.7bn. down by £17.2bn. year-on-year and the lowest net borrowing total in 17 years.
- **CBI data show retail sales up in April.** The balance of retailers reporting year-on-year growth in sales volumes hit +13 vs. -18 in March – way better than forecast. CBI chief economist Rain Newton-Smith said: "It's encouraging to see retailers with more of a spring in their step than in recent months. **The recent pick up in real wages is a welcome support** to the sector, making the pound in people's pockets stretch that bit further.
- **Manufacturing indications more positive.** Purchasing Managers (PMI) manufacturing survey rocketed to 55.1 in March 2019 from an upwardly revised 52.1 in the previous month (above 50 = growth), way ahead of forecasts. The latest reading pointed to the strongest pace of expansion in the manufacturing sector since February 2018.
- **Industrial production jumps...** by 0.6% during February, driven by a 0.9% increase in manufacturing activity, the second monthly rise in a row.
- **UK investment hot-spot.** The UK has been named as the world’s top investment hotspot for businesses, despite Brexit uncertainty. This knocks the US off the number 1 spot for the first time in 5 years, a survey by consultant EY shows. Despite attempting Brexit, the UK remains “an open environment for foreign investors”. Attractions to overseas investors include a weaker pound versus the

US dollar, the English language, a skilled workforce and a strong technology base. Why should that change post-Brexit?

- **Reversing Labour's loss of school places.** 920,000 new school places created since 2010 (after a net loss of 100,000 between 2004-10). The number of children in an over capacity school has almost halved compared with 2010. We look well on course for a million new school places this decade.

Sovereignty, sovereignty and sovereignty. All we hear is the questionable impact on the economy of Brexit from increasingly agitated project fear Remoaners and "confused" cabinet ministers who can't understand the simple meaning of a 3-line whip. Such lack of understanding (a 3-line whip does not mean don't vote but instead gaze vacantly into space like a petulant child) in my book suggests these individuals are not fit to be in Government. Many of us see any short term economic impact as secondary to the question of sovereignty – making our own laws, subject to a national – not an EU Federal - court. Controlling our own destiny – and not acting as the major export market for German manufacturers with whom we run a £55bn trade deficit. And best of all taking Juncker off the TV screen along with the ranting of that floppy-haired Belgian with an unpronounceable name. Sovereignty of the people versus sovereignty of parliament; parliament is out of step with the public vote and opinion – despite 85% of MPs standing on manifestos confirming they would "respect" the referendum result. Indecision and childish Remoaner tantrums risk lasting damage to the country, to trust in politicians and the integrity of the Conservative party. Not an inscription some politicians should want as a political epitaph. Interesting since arch-Remoaner Dominic Grieve, President of the Franco-British society and holder of the Legion d'honneur – an award shared with Peter Mandelson - lost a vote of confidence in his Beaconsfield constituency by a considerable margin; this once regular BBC performer seems to have gone AWOL. Surely a coincidence.

Jewish Labour Movement dissociates itself from Corbyn's anti-Semitic Labour party. To quote the Labour Party organ – the *New Statesman* – "The *Sunday Times* carried some of the most appalling examples of Labour's anti-Semitism crisis seen to date. What was so offensive was not just the ugly, racist insults themselves, but the reaction of the party's and leadership's hierarchy to them. Add them to the pile. Don't fast-track anything. The *Sunday Times* claimed a total of 249 cases of alleged anti-Semitism had been reported to the party and not acted on. It was clear was that the party's defence – that everything had changed since the appointment of Jenny Formby as general secretary last year – simply doesn't hold water. Perhaps the most offensive case reported yesterday relates to a shocking email sent in February to two Jewish MPs: our new parliamentary chair, Ruth Smeeth, and Margaret Hodge. Given the highly misogynist as well as anti-Semitic language used in the email, a junior member of staff allegedly sought to prioritise action against the perpetrator – but was rebuffed by the head of complaints."

No big surprise then that **The Jewish Labour Movement passed a no confidence motion in Jeremy Corbyn** over his handling of the party's antisemitism crisis. This was passed "almost unanimously" at the AGM after an "impassioned debate" over the motion, including "strong speeches" from MPs Margaret Hodge, Ruth Smeeth and Louise Ellman. Subsequently Labour's shadow justice secretary, Richard Burgon, was forced to eat his words, after a video surfaced online showing that he had described Zionism as the "enemy of the peace". Last year, he repeatedly denied making the comments when grilled on TV by Andrew Neil. Requested by Jewish leaders to apologise, he claimed not to recall making the comments but, having been provided with the evidence, now regretted them. Such memory loss surely makes him unfit to be a shadow (of all things) justice secretary – but that is no disqualification in today's Labour Party.

An everyday story at school. (Tongue in cheek & thanks to a Maidenhead member). A teacher asked her class how many of them were Jeremy Corbyn fans. Not really knowing what a Jeremy Corbyn fan was, but wanting to be liked by the teacher, all the kids raised their hands . . . except for Little Johnny. The teacher asked Little Johnny why he has decided to be different . . . again. Little Johnny replied, "Because I'm not a Jeremy Corbyn fan." The teacher asked, "Why aren't you a Jeremy Corbyn fan?" Johnny replied, "Because I'm a Conservative." The teacher asked him why he was a Conservative. Little Johnny answered, "Well, my Mum's a Conservative and my Dad's a Conservative, so I'm a Conservative." Annoyed by this answer, the teacher asked, "If your Mum were a moron and your Dad were an idiot, what would that make you?".....Little Johnny replied, "A Jeremy Corbyn fan."

What you won't see on the leftie BBC....or perhaps read in The Grauniad.

- **Too young to smoke at 21 but able to vote at 16.** A clutch of head in the clouds MPs & peers – members of Action on Smoking & Health – recommend young adults are too stupid to understand the risks of smoking until they reach 21. Fine – but the same MPs & peers suggest teens are so worldly that they should be able to vote at 16. Really? Whether smoking is linked to lung cancer maybe a difficult question to answer until aged 21 but economic theory, the implications of money supply modelling, defence capability and planning are obviously easy to understand for any pre-GCSE student.
- **I confess not to be Socialist life-peer Adonis' greatest fan.....**and seldom have we agreed – but he argues, very cogently **"If you are a Brexiteer, I hope you won't vote for the Labour Party, because the Labour Party is moving increasingly against Brexit. If you want Brexit, you should vote for a party that's going to deliver Brexit, and we're not going to deliver Brexit."** We agree.
- **Marxist McDonnell insists Treasury officials must be re-educated in the left's 'economic theories'.** Reminiscent of re-education camps in China or Russia, Marxist McDonnell would **"order" Treasury officials to be "retrained" in Left-wing 'economic theories and approaches'** were Labour to win power. Officials would also have to consult the public and trade unions in 'listening exercises' around the country. Venezuela here we come.....
- **But Labour HQ staff rebel...over sub-inflation pay rise.** Big time embarrassment at Corbyn HQ as party officials, staff - including those from Corbyn's office - voted unanimously to reject the proposed "austerity / sub-inflation" pay rise. Faced with obvious charges of hypocrisy (nothing new there) Labour bosses must proffer more cash by 3rd. May to avoid a strike. Labour's usual financial incontinence means the party is heading for a budget deficit unless it scraps planned projects or finds other savings.....as history repeats itself.....despite the inflow of cash from new far left "momentum" members. **If Corbyn can't handle party finances – how could he manage those of the country.**
- **EU:shock shortages.** Europe could face shortages of tens of thousands of medical supplies such as pacemakers and blood-test machines within days of a no-deal Brexit, the German health minister has warned. Officials fear it would no longer be legal for EU hospitals to buy many medicines and technologies that are quality-tested in Britain. Jens Spahn, is pressing Brussels bureaucrats to draw up a contingency plan so the devices can still be sold in the EU. NB. Some 25% of new drugs have been discovered in the UK – more than anywhere else in the world.
- **Alastair Campbell of dodgy dossier fame,** he who proclaimed that the will of Parliament alone was enough to take us to war in Iraq, now endlessly calls for a second referendum. An element of inconsistency I fear.
- **(Lord) David Steel** – former leader of that so socially aware Lib-Dem party – suspended – for failing to report the paedophile peccadilloes of former late Liberal Rochdale MP Cyril Smith.
- **Tory MP Nadine Dorries reveals threats received by a typical female Tory Brexiteer.** *"I want to see you, trapped in a burning car and watch as the heat from the flames melts the flesh from your face." Did anyone care? Was anyone bothered? Did anyone understand? No, not a bit. Especially not the Crown Prosecution Service, which appeared to believe that, since as an MP I was accountable to the electorate, it followed, unfortunately for me, that this accountability could manifest itself in a variety of ways. I had to move out of my own home and constituency because I was terrified – and it appeared, I was entirely on my own. I didn't think things could get much worse after that. But then came the EU referendum, and it was as if the floodgates of abuse had now opened to the full. I have barely been able to use my own office for over a year, thanks to the 'Stop Brexit' campaigners outside my window – meaning that, most of the time, I am displaced as I work on a canteen table, or in the Commons library. Month by month, the threats have intensified and they reach the darkest corners of the all-abusable me. The language of social media via the immunity of the keyboard was becoming normalised. However, the abuse became so bad that I felt the need to stop giving media interviews, writing articles and to remove myself from the public arena. The BBC thought they could spout pure unadulterated bias. Give Gary Lineker a free pass as he abuses elsewhere those 17.5m people who agonised over their vote, and believe that there would be no consequence as a result. Broadcasters describe working classes leave voters as "gammon" and thick, and so much more besides. Well, I am gammon. I am working-class and proud. I never for one moment thought that these developments would end in anything but tears, and the very worst is still to come."*
- **Rolling Thunder. Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.** In 2005 former PM, Blair, gave immunity from prosecution to many IRA fugitives and other terrorists wanted in connection with crimes committed before the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. Some IRA members received letters guaranteeing immunity from any future prosecution and investigations into terrorist outrages were dropped. Many argue that, appalling as these terrorist crimes were, Northern Ireland has benefited from the Good

Friday Agreement. **But there is a fundamental imbalance because no amnesty applies to the British Armed Forces.** British paratroopers are still liable to prosecution for one single moment in which they may have made the wrong decision. Thus soldier "F", aged 77, and 47 years later faces prosecution as former IRA leaders walk the streets - and it is suggested some 150-200 former soldiers and police are under investigation – at huge tax-payer cost - for alleged actions taken during the Troubles. It is appalling junior soldiers are being hung out to dry over a split-second decision, soldiers had next to no training in crowd control. Of course no mention by the BBC of some 11,000 retired soldiers "biking" into London in protest demo against the hounding of an armed forces member in April - or the more recent demo in Belfast. But that is what you expect of the BBC these days.

- **Labour endangers dogs.** Eddie, a dog, clearly upset by Labour propaganda, was forced to undergo emergency surgery after his jaws became glued together by chewing a Labour Party leaflet in Birkenhead. The vet was forced to extract Eddie's teeth.
- **Extinction Rebellion.** Over 1000 arrested – and police taken away from protecting the public and fighting London's knife crime; an unnecessary strain on police resources. West-end retail economy sabotaged. Business damaged – tourists repelled - and all unsurprisingly in the school holidays. Police allegedly ordered to "go softly" on the demonstrators by a sympathetic Labour mayor. So keen was Dame Emma Thompson to protect the planet she flew 5,400 miles from America – creating a huge carbon footprint. Simultaneously watching the 23rd. weekend of action by the Gilets Jaunes in Paris – how much more effective the tear gas and police action to clear the streets of this riffraff.

have left an enormous mess on the roads and pavements, expecting other people (ie Council tax payers) to clear up their rubbish."

NB. The UK has cut greenhouse gas emissions by 42% since 1990 – a bigger cut than any other industrialised nation. In terms of emissions China accounts for 30% of the global total, the US 15%, India 7%, Russia 5% & Japan 4% - vs ~1% from the UK – about half that from Germany. Maybe these protesters should open their eyes and widen their horizons.

But human activity cannot be blamed for all global warming....Climatologists estimate that until 11,500 years ago permanent ice covered the UK as far south as the Bristol Channel including North Hereford – and over the past 2.6m. years Earth has experienced extremes of cold ice ages and warm inter-glacials – cycles wholly independent of human activity. No or few humans – no noxious gas emissions – but the cause of these cycles – mainly alterations in the shape of the Earth's orbit around the Sun from nearly circular to much more elliptical; a change in the tilt of the Earth's rotational axis; and variations in the direction of the axis of rotation. Melting ice of course meant higher sea levels and ~10,000 years ago the breach of the land bridge connecting England to Europe. Brexit (1) perhaps?



To quote Guido Fawkes...."All we have to show for this pretence of saving the planet is their rubbish. The eco-protesters dog in the manger attitude to life isn't just limited to their luxury foreign holidays. The extinction Rebellion mobs

- **The Chuka-ers:** Fresh from queuing for the grandstand and still squabbling over their name and logo – the Chuka-ers seem to have perfected the art of choosing "unsuitable" Euro-elections candidates. Most are barely household names, but two picks already turfed out – Joseph Russo after "concerns were raised about old social media posts", since deleted, but which appear to show offensive comments about black women and Catholics. Ali Sadjady, also quit after reports of past social media posts, including derogatory comments about "Romanian pickpockets." Candidate choice as bad as UKIP.....BEWARE