

NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

September 2019

NEWSLETTER

A new dawn – a new day – a new Government.....

Time to congratulate Boris Johnson on his appointment as Prime Minister... following a refreshing leadership campaign and a strong endorsement from the growing Conservative Party membership. What a breath of fresh air – a sense of purpose, strategy, energy, optimism, vision, determination – what a change from the grey introverted managerial style of his “remainer” predecessor. Much of the criticism of Theresa May has been unjust – she is far from the worst Prime Minister of recent times – that field is very crowded – and few could compete in these stakes with prime candidates Edward Heath and Gordon Brown – or with Blair (of dodgy dossier fame) and Major (parodied as the grey man in Spitting Image who presided over the disastrous local election results of 1995) both strong second division contenders. Sadly, historians may portray Theresa’s legacy as a lost Parliamentary majority - thrown away in an appalling 2017 election campaign potentially opening the door to Marxist maniacs who have taken over the once patriotic and now anti-Semitic Labour Party - keen to usurp the Venezuelan economic model of disaster. Past kow-towing to unelected federalist EU careerists has given the “lost tribe” an entirely false sense of importance and stoked the arrogance and disdain of “remoaner” MPs fixated on betraying the democratic result of the 2016 In/Out referendum.

It is natural that a new PM – with a new cabinet - should seek to introduce a new legislative programme and not accept with humility the flawed policies of his predecessor; Boris must introduce a new Queens Speech on 14th October reflecting a wholly different dynamic - an energetic and optimistic programme. We members voted for change not becalmed continuity. It is utterly disgraceful those Conservative MPs Ian Duncan-Smith describes as a “lost tribe” and who won seats on a Brexit manifesto (see below) should actively consider attempting to bring down a Conservative Government. The attempts by Remoaners to undermine and overturn the majority referendum result only replicates the same contempt and arrogance of EU bureaucrats. It is unlikely that local Conservative Associations will see these antics positively – and quite rightly so. Sadly the disgracefully biased BBC and C4 will sanctify these renegades.

Meanwhile UK economic data compares brightly with data coming from the increasingly sluggish EU – but less well with the US where imaginative tax cuts have provided a greater economic boost...

- **Record tech funding.** A sign of the times – as the ever more biased BBC would report “despite Brexit”..... UK tech companies attracted £5.5bn. of new funding over the past year - a 50% increase over last year - with the UK voted the best place in Europe for global technology companies.
- **Record employment rate of 76.1%** - the highest since 1971. 32.8m. people aged 16 years and over in employment and 425,000 more people in employment than a year ago.
- **Record low unemployment** - steady at 3.9% - a record low. In June 2019, an estimated 1.33m. people were unemployed, 732,000 fewer than 5 years earlier. In Herefordshire numbers unemployed have fallen 35% in the last 5 years – to a level around half the national average rate.
- **Female employment rate**at 72.1% the highest on record.
- **Highest wage growth for a decade of 3.9%....**and for the public sector as a whole also 3.9% - the highest rate since 2010, driven largely by pay rises for NHS staff. Meanwhile in the construction sector, average earnings rocketed by 5.9%.
- **Real GDP growth of 0.5% in the first half of 2019** – equalising the impact of the stock building/de-stocking cycle between the quarters. This compares with Germany on the brink of recession (despite Brexit that could yet hit the key German car industry) where GDP declined by 0.1%. The IMF is forecasting UK GDP growth of 1.2% in 2019 compared with a still bullish 0.8% in Germany (but EU economists look for a more niggardly 0.5%) and a laconic 0.1% for ailing Italy against a background of slowing global growth. By June 2019 German business confidence had plunged to the lowest level for 7 years indicating a 3rd quarter economic contraction and a formal recession – the first since 2013 - in this EU “power-house”. Both the German manufacturing and services sectors are now under the cosh. Maybe the appreciation of the Euro is also damaging German competitiveness in global markets. Maybe this might explain the mildly more emollient approach taken recently by La Merkel to Boris and Brexit.

- **Consumer spending up** 0.2% in July in the UK.
- **Inflation under control**....hovering in a 1.9%-2.1% range...despite a stronger dollar and Euro.
- **Government borrowing negative**... Another budget surplus in July of £2.0bn. Excluding state-controlled banks, the public sector had a borrowing surplus of £1.3bn. Tax receipts were slightly up, while government spending increased 4.2% driven by purchases of goods and services and higher staff costs. Solid finances despite higher investment.

Contrast with the Marxist McDonnell's approach to enterprise..... summarised by a leading journalist..... *You put your home on the line to borrow the money you need and you use up all your savings. And then, with your fingers crossed, you get up at 5am and begin. If it doesn't work, you're on the street. If it does, you make a few quid and you use that to hire staff. And then one day, you need to expand, which means you take more risk. Then you need to borrow more money for new equipment and bigger premises. And what's the point when every penny you make will be stolen by Corbyn? You might as well just stay in bed. Add up all the money he's promising to spend..... it means every household in Britain will have to cough up an extra £6,471 a year. To get that, he's going to tax your savings, your house and your income. He's going to make your pension so worthless, you'll have to burn the paper it's written on just to stay warm.*

We now know – thanks to the *Financial Times* survey - that Marxist McDonnell's plan to confiscate 10% of the shares in any company in the UK with over 250 employees will cost £300bn. – that's £300,000,000,000. In broad terms that's the equivalent of total annual spending on Defence, Education and Health

More Government investment announced. Solid finances and strong underlying fundamentals have supported rising public sector spending since 2015 and which have allowed the new Johnson administration to increase investment in essential areas. Expect more explicit meat on the bones in the spending review brought forward to September.

- **The NHS.** An extra £20bn.
- **Security.** Funding for 20,000 more police.
- **Education.** Funding to level- up per pupil spending across the county – a likely £14bn. boost.
- **Income tax promise.** The promise of fairer income tax rates that do not stifle initiative...

And....unless the EU wakes up and smells the coffee the avaricious recipients of UK-taxpayers cash will (sadly) forgo much of the ludicrous £39bn “divorce settlement” – thus freeing up additional funds for domestic investment. And..... listen to the ranting tantrum from that floppy-haired Belgian with the unpronounceable name warning Boris the EU will not negotiate a Brexit deal until the UK agrees to pay in full the £39bn. divorce bill. “If the UK doesn't pay what is due, the EU will not negotiate a trade deal.” So....it really is all about our tax-payers money.

Perhaps over-paid EU careerists haven't noticed trade between Euro-member states fell by 6.6% in June – the fastest contraction rate since 2013 – whilst Euro-zone exports to the rest of the world fell by an accelerating 4.7%. Contrast with the UK performance – exports of goods and services up a mirror-image 4.5% whilst rising sales of machinery and transport equipment boosted exports of goods by 7.6%. Perhaps Euro-land exporters are beginning to see the impact of an over-valued Euro damaging competitiveness.

SNP-EU love in. Surely it is a trifle inconsistent that the SNP hates Westminster but loves the £2,000 per head subsidy provided by English tax payers. Scotland, in recent history, has not managed to fund Scottish spending with Scottish revenues, suffering a steady 7% fiscal deficit; thus a brave decision (I guess not all Scots may fully appreciate being asked to dig deeper into their “independent” pockets) to advocate going it alone. Maybe the Anglo-phobic SNP is just driven by its dislike of the English; maybe it hankers for the “auld alliance” with France; maybe it sees the EU as a sugarplum Daddy – keen to shower subsidies on grateful vassal state....grateful for the SNP's efforts to derail Brexit. A mooted Labour –SNP alliance looks wholly tactical and wholly damaging – a Commie Corbyn regime potentially propped up by the separatist SNP and the break-up of the UK.

Ireland ... in 1922 opted for independence from the UK and in 1999 and 2009 for Euro-Federalism. No problems with this change of heart which is the Irish democratic right; but they must surely realise recent choices are likely to mean the EU will dictate their border arrangements potentially against the national Irish consensus. This is what being part of a federation means and it was Irish resistance to this kind of imposition that led to Irish separation from the UK. Incidentally, whilst the UK “illiberal elite” criticise Boris's

route to the premiership – we don't hear too much about the internal Fine Gael election (members only) of Ireland's EU-worshipping Prime Minister Varadkar – and even less about Gordon Brown's unchallenged route to the financially incontinent Labour premiership.

A reminder for recalcitrant Conservative MPs from the 2017 election manifesto.

Conservative Manifesto 2017

- **The days of Britain making vast annual contributions to the European Union will end.**
- **We continue to believe that no deal is better than a bad deal for the UK.**
- **We will make sure we have certainty and clarity over our future, control of our own laws.**
- **As we leave the European Union, we will no longer be members of the single market or customs union.**
- **We will enact a Great Repeal Bill. Our laws will be made in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast, and interpreted by judges across the United Kingdom, not in Luxembourg.**
- **Controlled, sustainable migration, with net migration down to the tens of thousands.**

At the entrance to the Visitors Centre of the European Parliament, there is a plaque that reads: "National sovereignty is the root cause of the most crying evils of our times....The only final remedy for this evil is the federal union of the peoples." Composed by Philip Kerr, (Marquess of Lothian) a British diplomat and arch 1930's appeaser. Like the modern Europhile zealots, he failed to drop his doctrinaire views. Even on the eve of the 1940 Battle of Britain, he was reportedly urging Winston Churchill's to reach a peace deal with Hitler's regime. As Ursula von der Leyen, successor to Jean-Claude Juncker, wrote: "My aim is a United States of Europe, modelled on federal states like Germany, Switzerland or the US". Thankfully the UK will not be part of this sovereignty destroying machine. EU membership stifles prosperity just as it prevents the UK governing itself. It saddles the UK with regulations that protect large incumbent businesses from competition, harming innovation and reducing efficiency. It prevents the UK from forming its own free trade deals with the outside world. This protectionism increases prices paid by consumers and diverts capital and labour away from their most productive uses. It makes us poorer.

Herefordshire Council Elections. There is no denying the results for the Conservatives were disappointing and the slim majority was lost. Although the Conservatives are the largest single party on the Council, the Conservatives are in a minority with 13 seats. Encouragingly in North Herefordshire many Tory Councillors increased their share of the vote. Net losses were limited to three wards where local factors played a part or where Conservatives were unseated by a series of anti-Conservative pacts.

- **Yes – skull-duggery** – an anti-Tory pact between otherwise incompatible "parties" – Independents, Independent Independents, IOC, Lib-Dreamers and Greens – which led to the loss of a number of seats. And just weeks later the inevitable squabbles have started – and surely no time at all before there is metaphorical blood on the carpet to the detriment of the governance of Herefordshire. But at least Corbyn's ultra-lefties made zero headway.
- **Cited on the doorstep – failure to deliver Brexit.** Indisputable – seen by many as a betrayal. Many leading politicians have seldom been so disliked. The Brexit party took almost 40% of the vote in the unnecessary and money wasting Euro-elections..

- **And why oh why** did the saintly Theresa decide to sack Gavin Williamson on the eve of the local elections leaving this Tory psychodrama to dominate the media headlines all day.

It's easy to criticise Councils.....but the last Tory administration left the incoming unstable joke of an "administration" with a balanced budget and strong finances, ambitious plans for the new university, roads in a better state than for many years and a substantial road repair budget thanks to interventions from Herefordshire's two Conservative MPs. I guess that credit will not be given. Meanwhile it seems probable that the Hereford by-pass will be shelved – so look forward to more traffic jams on the A49.

Sad but true.

- In 2011 a certain **Dr. Sarah Wollaston** co-sponsored a Bill calling for MPs who cross the floor to face a by-election automatically. Could this be the same Dr. Sarah Wollaston who does not intend to seek a new mandate for herself having crossed the floor not once – but twice. Feel sorry for Caroline Voaden, who had already been chosen by Totnes Lib Dems to contest the seat. No wonder local activists feel a tad disgruntled by a latter day "Vicar of Bray". Will anyone take a bet on where this serial floor-crosser will land next....we hope out of Parliament.
- The EU's Chief Negotiator **Michel Barnier** has let the cat out of the bag, saying when it comes to the Irish border if there's a No Deal: "We will have to find an operational way of carrying out checks and controls without putting in place a border." So it is possible after all.
- Remember **Ed Millipede** and his Ed-stone.....the socialist who hid his smart kitchen in his smart London house whilst being interviewed in the servants quarters.... he has alighted on a new cause – a climate emergency – he tells the Today Programme – necessitating new taxes on flights and flight rationing – no less than a call to sacrifice those holidays in the sun for the rest of us. Could this be the same Labour politician E. Milliband who (according to *Guido Fawkes*) has clocked up 19,000 air miles in ~18 monthspumping 3.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. And not just failed Labour leader Ed.... the BBC's favourite environmentalist too. As *Guido Fawkes* reported, Chris Packham's concerns with climate change and capitalism are not incompatible when it comes to his involvement in "Travel with Chris Packham " This website outlines a number of luxury trips to Kenya, The Gambia, Alaska, Antarctica – or to South Georgia in November 2020 - packages taking tourists thousands of miles round the world on luxury wild-life tours – all described as accompanied by Chris. Last year you could have spent – 2 weeks headlined as "Explore Antarctica with Chris..... a special Antarctica photographic charter with Chris..... a remarkable opportunity to explore the Antarctic Peninsula and see the incredible wildlife". Hate to think what the CO₂ footprint looks like but *Guido Fawkes* estimates a 16,740 mile return flight to Ushuaia with a full 110 passenger complement could spew out a massive 588 tonnes of CO₂.
- **Cambridge University** is funding two grievance archaeologists to go through its archives in order to discover how guilty it needs to feel about slavery and assess compensation seemingly put at ~£200m. You never know, these clever-clogs might even discover the leader of the slavery abolition movement was William Wilberforce – an alumni of.....St John's College.....Cambridge.

The Kington Show.

We are delighted to be running our stand at the Kington Show on 14th September. Members are very welcome to join us on the stand for a cup of tea and a piece of cake. If you would like to help by volunteering or making a cake, please do let us know. We look forward to seeing you there!

Promoted by Dan Hurcomb on behalf of North Hereford 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