



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 54; November/December 2011

Welcoming Note

Welcome to the November/December issue of the Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter from the House of Commons.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please enter your email on the homepage and select 'unsubscribe'.

We hope you enjoy reading the November/December issue.

News from the House of Commons

Daylight Saving Bill 2010-11



As you will recall, last month I wrote about the progress of my Private Member's Bill and I thought you might be interested to hear about another Bill which has caused much debate. Private Members' Bills are Public Bills introduced by MPs and Lords who aren't government ministers.

One way of introducing Private Members' Bills in the House of Commons is through the Ballot. Ballot Bills have the best chance of becoming law, as they get priority for the limited amount of debating time available. The names of Members applying for a Bill are drawn in a ballot held at the beginning of the parliamentary year. Normally, the first seven ballot Bills get a day's debate. Rebecca Harris MP has the fourth ballot Bill, the *Daylight Saving Bill 2010-11*.

This particular Private Member's Bill would require the Government to conduct a cross-departmental analysis of the potential costs and benefits of advancing time by one hour for all, or part of, the year. This is known as a 'money resolution'. Clearly, the cost of implementing new legislation is a big factor when debating a Bill.

The review would include a breakdown, as far as possible, of the costs and benefits for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It would also assess whether the current dates on which summer time begins and ends are optimal.

If a new Independent Commission found that a clock change would benefit people in the UK, the Bill requires that the Government hold a trial clock change for three years to determine the full implications.

The Bill will need to be passed by both Houses by the end of the first session of Parliament, which ends in April 2012.

The UK currently follows British Summer Time (BST) in the summer, which is GMT plus one hour. In winter, the UK reverts to GMT. Meanwhile in Europe, Central European Time (CEST) is



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 54; November/December 2011

followed in the summer, which is GMT plus two hours. In the winter, Europe reverts to GMT plus one hour.

For over a decade there have been many proposals to put the clocks forward, which have ranged from GMT+1 all year round to GMT+1 in the Summer and GMT+2 in the winter.

Three Peers introduced Private Members' Bills on the subject, and Bills were introduced to the House of Commons. Previous to this current Bill, was the *Energy Saving (Daylight) Bill 2008*, sponsored by Tim Yeo MP, which was unsuccessful as it ran out of parliamentary time.

Over the years many advantages to changing the clocks have been mooted:

- 80 fewer people killed on the roads each year
- Improved health and wellbeing through more sunlight and increased time for leisure and sport activities
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions of at least 500,000 million tonnes of carbon dioxide each year
- Increased tourism revenue
- Improved trade with Europe
- Energy cost savings of around 0.6% in winter

Specific concerns have been raised about the impact of the prospective change on various parts of the country, such as Scotland and Northern Ireland where residents would not get light in mid-winter until 10am. However, the Bill seems to have garnered favour in the House of Commons with MPs voting 92 to 10 in support of the Bill.

Now that the Bill has gone through the Committee Stage on 7 December, we await the Report and Third reading Stages on 20 January 2012.

Sir Paul Beresford
Member of Parliament for Mole Valley

[Feature Article](#)



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 54; November/December 2011

The Autumn Statement



Recently Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne delivered his Autumn Statement to a packed out House of Commons chamber.

With Europe in turmoil and tough financial challenges at home, the country was keen to hear the Government's measures to help Britain weather the storm.

The key message was to continue working towards sustainable future growth rather than rely on quick fixes and spending our way out of problems. The Government will support growth and improve fairness and continue to invest in education, whilst striving to help families with the cost of living.

Osborne looked at facts, figures, forecasts and fiscal targets produced by the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). The OBR has downgraded their short-term growth forecasts for both the UK and the rest of the world due to higher inflation, the euro crisis and the significant impact of the 2008-9 financial bust.

Osborne's measures to protect the fragile economy include raising the state pension age to 67 between 2026 and 2028, halting his plans to increase elements of Child and Working Tax Credits, setting public sector pay awards at an average of 1% after the current pay freeze finishes and committing to two further years of fiscal consolidation.

Despite the financial climate, the government will ensure that there are measures in place to support infrastructure and enterprise by helping businesses. Furthermore, an extra £600 million will fund 100 new Free Schools by the end of this Parliament and 40,000 new classroom places will be created. Fairness measures include freezing fuel duty for a period, limiting the increases to travel fares on London transport and trains and encouraging businesses to take on young people either for employment, apprenticeships or work experience.

There are region specific projects too. In the South East, we will see road and rail improvements and a managed motorway scheme on the M3 in Surrey.

National news in brief



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 54; November/December 2011

All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin

In his role as Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Skin (APPGS), Sir Paul hosted the Launch of Quality Standards For Dermatology. The event was well attended by medical professionals, skin disease charities, pharmaceutical companies, and those who helped to develop the standards.

The Standards will hopefully help to improve the lives of those affected by skin conditions, who often feel they are given insufficient consideration for the psychological and social impact of their skin complaints.

Every year 24% of the population go to their GP with a skin problem and skin disease is the most prevalent disease in under 16s and the second most common disease in adults. Therefore it is vital that these new guidelines are received and implemented well.

Baroness Masham of Ilton, the President of the Psoriasis Association and a Member of APPGS wrote in her foreword, "To deliver care of this order, commissioners, clinicians and patients must know what constitutes an acceptable level of service and be enabled to develop services that meet the needs of everyone with a skin condition.

Paul Beresford's letter to *The Times*

Paul wrote to *The Times* recently following an excellent article they wrote about the grooming by gangs of young teenage girls for sex. His letter was published on 25th November:

Sir, Your leading article ("The Case for

Honesty", Nov 23) was very apposite. For many years a number of MPs, myself included, have been pushing Government to strengthen the law protecting children and dealing with child sex crime perpetrators. Ministers have been responsive, in the main.

The protective forces, be they police, social services or children's charities, are much more able, active and successful than a very few years ago. They are much better armed legally against paedophiles or gangs.

It is now down to us as individuals, communities and religious groups to face the evidence of growing abuse and help these protective forces to act. This must be where honesty is required. Your campaign must help.
Paul Beresford MP, House of Commons

David Cameron's veto

Unsurprisingly, there has been huge press coverage surrounding the European Council Summit earlier this month and the UK's veto of a new EU Treaty.

David Cameron has been clear from the outset that he would do what was best for Britain and the national interest. It is in our national interest for the countries with the euro to fix their problems. However, the Government said it could only agree to a new treaty if certain modest, reasonable and relevant safeguards were obtained.

The Prime Minister couldn't get those safeguards. A treaty within a treaty without safeguards wasn't right for Britain, so the Prime Minister said no.

Progress has been made and the UK will encourage Eurozone colleagues to continue to



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 54; November/December 2011

take decisive action to fix the problems with the euro. The discussions the Prime Minister has had with his Eurozone colleagues, has enabled them all to understand each others' national interests, but ultimately David Cameron's judgement was that what was on offer was not good enough for Britain.

The UK remains a committed member of the European Union. The Government needs to ensure the single market works with greater deregulation, particularly for small businesses. It is only by keeping our economies open, expanding our trade and making EU laws more business friendly that we can get economic growth in Europe.

Local news in brief

Key facts about our constituency

Loyds Banking Group has sent some interesting facts and figures about the constituency Mole Valley. It is reassuring to see that in many factors we are better than the average figures in the UK. It is unsurprising to see just how high Mole Valley's house prices are. The average house price in the constituency is £384,201 compared to the national average of £164,310 whilst mortgage payments as a % of disposable income are 47.6% against the national average of 29%. It is good to see that Mole Valley's unemployment rate is 3% lower than average. Gross annual average earnings for Mole Valley's full-time workers are £44,131, significantly higher than the UK's average of £32,178. Residents are also better at saving money and male life expectancy is 80.6 years.

Christmas Recess Dates

The House of Commons will rise on Tuesday, 20th December 2011 and return on Tuesday, 10th January 2012.



**SIR PAUL BERESFORD MP
AND HIS STAFF AT THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS OFFICE**

**WISH YOU A
VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

