



Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 62; October 2012

Welcoming Note

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

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact us through the website 'Contact us' page with a subject line of 'unsubscribe'.

We hope you enjoy reading the October issue.

News from the House of Commons

The UK Economy



This government inherited the worst national deficit since the Second World War. Since the 2010 election Britain has been brought out of the financial danger zone and has cleared a quarter of Labour's deficit.

Obviously the virtually worldwide recession has hit UK PLC hard. The USA sliding into recession and the ongoing difficulties in the euro zone have made our own economic recovery exceptionally difficult. Public expenditure has been curtailed drastically but there has been a move towards helping those who wish to work.

24 million UK citizens will benefit with most basic rate taxpayers seeing a gain of £220. By 2013 the government will have taken 2 million people out of tax altogether.

The Welfare Reform Act introduced, for the first time, a cap on benefits at £26,000. No longer can out of work families get more benefits than the average working household gets from going out to work. The aim is to make it more financially beneficial to work.

There are signs of real hope. Unemployment is falling with the proportion of working age people in work at a similar level as before the crisis. UK payrolls have increased by more than 700,000 since the first quarter of 2010 where employment reached the bottom.

Over the last few months the numbers of new mortgages has risen by 9% over the same months last year. Overall retail sales rose strongly in the year to August with new car registrations up 3.3% this year. Corporation tax has been cut to 24% this year. It will be reduced to 22% by 2014–2015. Real disposable income is rising by a respectable 1.5% a year which is a great improvement on last year when it was shrinking.

Efforts have been made by the government to increase the opportunity of productivity. Most of the



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tax hikes in the government's deficit reduction plan were front-loaded in 2011. This fiscal squeeze is therefore proving less painful this year to householders. The new Bank of England facilities designed to ensure banks do not suffer a sudden loss of funding is appearing already to help the flow of credit and certainly make companies less anxious. This is assisted by the Enterprise Finance Guarantee which is making available £2 million to viable small companies over the next four years.

A drive to reduce regulation and certainly the cost of regulation has meant identifying 887 regulations to scrap or substantially overhaul. Of course as an island trading nation we are still vulnerable to the difficulties of other nations. Perhaps after the Presidential elections in the United States some stability and continuation of the emerging growth in the USA will continue. The worry of the Euro and the Euro nations does make us vulnerable to economic buffeting.

The Labour opposition's proposals of higher public spending and higher borrowing indicate that they have still not learnt the errors of their ways which produced this quite enormous deficit.

Paul Beresford
Member of Parliament for Mole Valley



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Feature Article

Mole Valley's Health Profile



Sir Paul recently had a meeting at the House of Commons with an oncologist who was discussing new drugs for skin cancer. He was given a Health Profile for Mole Valley which was produced by the Department of Health.

It gives a picture of health in the constituency and is designed to help local government and health services understand their community's needs, so that they can work to improve people's health and reduce health inequalities.

It was reassuring to read that the health of people living in Mole Valley is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average although 1330 children live in poverty. Life expectancy is higher than average and not significantly different for people in the most deprived areas of Mole Valley than in the least deprived areas. Early death rates from cancer and from heart disease and stroke have also fallen and are better than the England average.

A more worrying statistic is that 13% of Year 6 children are classified as obese with a lower than average percentage of pupils spending at least three hours each week on school sport. Over 21% of adults in the constituency are obese.

Higher risk drinking is more of a problem in Mole Valley than the England average and unfortunately there were 1391 hospital stays for alcohol related harm in 2009/10. Mole Valley is also slightly above the England average for road injuries and deaths.

The reason this report was brought to Paul's attention is due to its figures on the incidence of malignant melanoma. Sadly, Mole Valley has nearly double the incidence rate than the England average and therefore tackling this type of cancer must be a priority for the NHS locally.



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News in brief

Signal success

Paul's Private Member's Bill completed its committee stage last week in record time. To mark the achievement, Mark D'Arcy of the BBC wrote the following article:

If speed legislating was an Olympic event, Tory backbencher Sir Paul Beresford would be a sure-fire gold medallist. His Prisons (Interference with Wireless Telegraphy) Bill was given a second reading by the Commons on 6 July, without any debate at all - when it was nodded through at the end of the day's business by the whips. Yesterday, it completed its committee stage in 12 minutes flat. Veterans believe this is a new Commons record. I wonder if the report stage proceedings, due to be held in the Commons tomorrow (Friday 19 October) will keep up the pace?

The bill, incidentally, would allow prisons to block mobile phone signals within their walls, so preventing prisoners from making illicit contact with the world outside. It's amazing what MPs can do, when they know how to make the system work for them...

The Bill is racing through its stages with Report Stage and Third Reading completed on 19th October and the First Reading in the Lords on 22nd October.

See Psoriasis Look Deeper



On 17th October, the See Psoriasis Look Deeper campaign – a collaboration between The Psoriasis Association and The

Mental Health Foundation – launched in the House of Commons at an event hosted by Sir Paul Beresford.

Psoriasis is a multi-faceted condition that can affect people in many ways. There are physical symptoms such as flaking, itching, redness, discomfort, even pain, but there are also impacts on mental wellbeing and quality of life, as well as social lives, careers and relationships.

People with psoriasis were asked to write a postcard to their psoriasis or draw a picture describing how it makes them feel. Some were moving to read, some were laugh-out-loud in their frankness, but all were true and very real representations of what living with psoriasis or psoriatic arthritis is really like. The See Psoriasis Look Deeper collaboration published a report of these findings, which not only quotes directly from these patient-created works of art, but also backs these experiences up with hard statistics: up to 1.8 million people in the UK have psoriasis. 77% of those affected describe it as a 'problem' or 'significant problem' in their lives. One third experience depression and anxiety. 26 workdays a year may be lost per patient, because of psoriasis.

The launch was attended by MPs, Dermatologists, GPs, Professors, members of the Health Select Committee, the media and patients. The event was a great success, and many were greatly moved at the postcards on display. The See Psoriasis Look Deeper report calls for better multi-disciplinary care for people with psoriasis, encourages healthcare professionals to take into account the impact of psoriasis on a person's life, and offer psychological support where needed, and to fully implement the upcoming NICE Guideline on the management of psoriasis.