

THE CLACTON CONVERSATION
NEWS ROUND-UP FROM GILES WATLING MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR CLACTON

SAVE THE DATE: OLDER PEOPLE'S INFORMATION FAIR

Just a reminder about the Older People's Information Fair that I am holding soon:

Details: Princes Theatre, Clacton, 10am – 2pm on 18th June. Turn up, no appointment or pre-booking necessary. [Find more information here.](#)

BREXIT

I am disappointed that the UK's departure from the EU has been, provisionally, delayed until October. I will always remain true to my manifesto commitments and, whatever proposal comes forward, I will oppose it if it does not take us out of the Customs Union and Single Market. I will also vote against a Second Referendum, and any further delays to our exit.

Regrettably, some of my colleagues, even those who campaigned on the same manifesto I did, do not see it this way and have successfully frustrated our withdrawal. I have no power to compel or instruct any other Member how to vote and can only account for my own actions at this time.

And for greater transparency, the links below set out how I voted in the recent rounds of indicative votes, and my views on possible Brexit outcomes.

[Speech: Indicative Votes Debate](#)

[Voting History: Indicative Votes \(Round One\)](#)

[Voting History: Indicative Votes \(Round Two\)](#)

[Brexit: Possible Outcomes](#)

RECENT VISIT TO RAF SHAWBURY



I recently visited RAF Shawbury, which contains Air Traffic Control Training and Defence's Helicopter Training School, as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. This year, I am visiting several RAF bases, here and around the world to see for myself the great work our armed forces do to keep us secure.

NEWS FROM CLACTON

Essex Police are ahead of their target for police recruitment, and there are now 3,062 full time equivalent officers serving. In Tendring, there will be an extra 23 officers in place and this is thanks, in part, to the precept increases that I secured. [Read more here.](#)

I am pleased that the Animal Action Day in Jaywick, organised by RSPCA, was a great success. It is good to see people caring for their animals!



The very successful Animal Action Day. I hope to see similar events in other locations across the constituency soon.

Great to visit Clacton Enterprise Centre recently. They have a great ethos and do all they can to help nurture new businesses. [Read more here.](#)

Essex is in line to benefit from £663,000 in Government funding, which may have a positive impact on the Sunshine Coast of the Clacton constituency. I have written to Essex County Council to determine how this funding will be spent – our area has been overlooked for too long in similar funding schemes, and we cannot let that happen again! [Read more here.](#)

Pleased to attend the Pride of Tendring Awards in March. I appreciate all the dedicated people who were, rightly, recognised at this prestigious event. [Read more here.](#)

The Dementia Action Alliance is a fantastic cause, and I am excited to be working locally with them. [Read more here.](#)

Great to visit Tendring Technology College recently, to speak to students about refugees and immigration. [Read more here.](#)



With students at Tendring Technology College – they are supporting a wonderful campaign!

NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT

I contributed to a well-attended debate on further education funding recently. We have many local businesses crying out for a skilled work force, and I know that there is a real appetite amongst local residents for further education opportunities. [Read more here](#).

I have tabled an amendment to the Agriculture Bill to create mandatory labels for meat products, which will indicate the method of slaughter used, and whether the animal was stunned during slaughter. I am now discussing this matter with Ministers. [Read more here](#).

I also attended a recent Westminster Hall debate on non-stun slaughter, and you can read a full transcript of the debate [here](#).

With colleagues, I met the Taiwanese Ambassador and Minister for Science and Technology as they made a flying visit. This was great for our bilateral relationship. [Read more here](#).

I am proud to be a part of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry in 'Disinformation and fake news'. I know that this content can be poisonous and potentially dangerous! Encouragingly, the Government are now looking at this too. [Read more here](#).

Following on from the tourism funding announcement above, I have also questioned Ministers from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on how the Clacton constituency can, once again, become a visitor destination. [Read more here](#).

Recently, I also questioned Ministers on protections for businesses as we leave the European Union. [Read more here](#).

I have added my voice to the Earth Hour campaign, the world's largest annual event to protect the planet. This movement safeguards nature and sets it on the path to recovery. [Read more here](#).



Showing my support for Earth Hour, an event that does so much to protect our planet.

Finally, I continue to engage with the Great Eastern Main Line Task Force. Thankfully, things are starting to happen – Delay Repay 15 has been introduced, reliability is now 94%, and weekend bus services will soon be a thing of the past. And thankfully, the works at the south end of the line are now complete! [Read more here](#).

Until next time!