

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

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**BREXIT**

You would have to be living on the dark side of the moon to not be aware that we continue to have votes in Parliament on the way forward for Brexit. I have regular discussions with the Prime Minister about what needs to happen to address the concerns of residents.

Throughout this process, I have always sought to represent the views of my constituents, as I best understand them from the correspondence I have received and the conversations I have been having on the doorstep. As ever, I do not believe that we should have a second referendum, nor extend or revoke Article 50. A second referendum would bring even more uncertainty and division and would be seen as a betrayal of the result of the first. Extending Article 50 merely prolongs the agony and would achieve very little.

We will be leaving on 29th March, with or without a deal, as this date of exit is already established in statute. I will do my utmost to deliver Brexit within that timeframe.

**Check my website for regular updates: <https://www.gileswatling.co.uk/>.**

**Or email my office to get on the distribution list: [giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk)**

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**OLDER PEOPLE'S INFORMATION FAIR**

I am delighted to announce that I will be hosting an Older People's Information Fair.

Having been the Member of Parliament since 2017, I have met with a large number of organisations and businesses that offer services to the over 55's. However, all too often, few people are aware of the great work that these local organisations do.

I wanted to pull together companies, charities, businesses and support groups so they can showcase their services to local residents.

The Older People's Fair is being held on 18th June 2019 at Princes Theatre. If you are interested in exhibiting at this event please contact my office and we can reserve you a table, remember the event is free to exhibit and free to attend.

And if you want to attend, email my office and we will let you know the details when possible.

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**ONGOING CONSULTATIONS**

I am opposed to the proposals to close some of our local libraries and Essex County Council are currently consulting on this. Make sure you contribute to ensure that your views are heard. [Read more here](#).

Until 13<sup>th</sup> March, the Post Office is consulting on the proposal to relocate the Clacton branch. I know that many have concerns, and I am passing these on to the Post Office, but it is crucial that those same residents contribute to this process. [Read more here](#).

## [NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT](#)

I recently questioned Ministers on the Parking (Code of Practice) Bill, which will introduce a code of practice for the operation of private parking facilities. This will directly benefit residents but is taking longer than usual to pass through Parliament. [Read more here.](#)

I was pleased to learn that the UK has maintained its status as a global leader for delivering girls' education around the world. This is an issue I have raised regularly during my time in Parliament, and as a father to twin girls I am keen to ensure that all girls are able to attend school, whatever the culture of their country. [Read more here.](#)

This month I signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment. In doing so, I pledged my commitment to Holocaust Memorial Day and honouring those who were murdered. I also attended the memorial service in Clacton. [Read more here.](#)

A few weeks ago, I learnt about the Blues Programme, run by Action for Children and funded by Royal Mail. This great course aims to combat mental health issues in young people. [Read more here.](#)



*With colleagues supporting Action for Children and their great work!*

Along with 164 colleagues from across Parliament, I co-signed a letter to the Chancellor calling for further education funding to increase above inflation in 2019-20. It is important to support these vital services. [Read more here.](#)

I also questioned Minister on further education funding recently, to ensure that all the high skilled jobs being created in our area can be filled. [Read more here.](#)

The Pensions Dashboard is an online portal that lets you see your investments. This potentially transformative idea that can help to ensure the savers of today have enough for a comfortable retirement. Worryingly, younger savers aren't saving enough, and I recently contributed to a debate to discuss how we can address this. [Read more here.](#)

As an animal welfare advocate, I have launched a campaign to ban the consumption of dog and cat meat in the UK, which is, surprisingly, still legal. The UK is a nation of pet lovers, they are our friends and companions. Luckily, none of these animals have suffered such a fate in the UK, but that is not the case everywhere. By changing the law here, we will send a strong message across the globe, encouraging others to also ban this horrific practice. [This was recently covered in the Sun](#), and I look forward to seeing what steps will be taken for the UK to maintain this position. [Read more here.](#)

## [NEWS FROM CLACTON](#)

I have been advised that Essex Police will be recruiting a further 215 police officers over the next year to focus on visible, frontline policing. This is in addition to the 150 officers recruited in 2018/19, and both positive developments result from my two successful campaigns on police funding. [Read more here.](#)

And I recently went on patrol with PCs Matthew Clark and Richard Brennan in Clacton. Really impressed with their almost psychic nose for wrongdoing and their dedication to service. [Read more here.](#)



*Out with PCs Matthew Clark and Richard Brennan.*

I am delighted that The Jolly Roger Project, at Clacton Pier, is to receive a grant of £50,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund. Clacton Pier is a local asset that could be doing more to bring tourists, and prosperity into our area. [Read more here.](#)

Openreach is creating 7 new jobs in Clacton. This investment will help bring faster and more reliable broadband to homes and businesses across the country. [Read more here.](#)

I am encouraging local charities and good causes to apply for over £3million of funding that has been raised by the players of People's Postcode Lottery. Applications close tomorrow! [Read more here.](#)

On 27<sup>th</sup> February, the North Essex RSPCA are offering a neutering and microchipping service for cats. The service includes collection and drop off from either Jaywick Community and Resource Centre or Coppins Community Centre to the clinic in Colchester where the neutering and microchipping will take place. [Read more here.](#)

I visited St Helena and met with Chief Executive Mark Jarman-Howe to discuss the future of the hospice and their Clacton centre. The services offered will not change – all that will change is the location from where these services will be provided. [Read more here.](#)

Amazing to hear that £3.056 million of National Lottery funding has gone to projects in Clacton over the last five years. Thank you to all the players for supporting great local causes! [Read more here.](#)