

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Constituent,

As this is the first newsletter of 2019, I wanted to take the opportunity to wish you a very happy New Year. We are certainly in for a busy year! I will, of course, keep you updated on any necessary developments in these newsletters.

And if I can assist you with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me. If I do not hear from you, I hope that you have a wonderful and prosperous 2019.

With best wishes,



Giles

BREXIT

Last week, I voted to oppose the Government's Brexit deal, and my reasons for doing so are set out in my statement, [here](#).

As I have said in that statement, 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. I believe that my decision reflects the views of the majority.

This is the first time that I have voted against the Government, and I understand that some may find that disappointing – I too have struggled with voting against a Prime Minister who has worked so hard to deliver this deal. But my absolute priority is to secure the best outcome for the Clacton constituency, and indeed the country. The Prime Minister's deal was not the best.

Make no mistake, rejecting this deal does not mean that there will be 'No Brexit', as some have suggested previously. We will still be leaving on 29th March, with or without a deal, as this date of exit is already established in statute. I am determined to deliver Brexit within that timeframe, and we must not have a second referendum, nor extend or revoke Article 50. The British people voted to leave, and we must deliver on that instruction, rather than delay or prevent it.

What we need to do now is reopen negotiations with the EU and address the issue of the backstop. That backstop is all that is preventing me from supporting this deal, and I believe that Theresa May, as our Prime Minister, is best placed to secure those changes quickly.

The Prime Minister will update the House on next steps later today. Check my website for regular updates: giles.watling.mp@parliament.uk or email my office.

ARMED FORCES PARLIAMENTARY SCHEME

Throughout 2018 I have been able to regularly visit our armed forces, both in the UK and abroad, as part of the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme. This has been an incredibly rewarding, and often humbling, experience.

I am now completing a course of visits to RAF bases, and just this past month was able to visit: RAF Waddington, RAF Wittering, and the RAF Benevolent Fund in London. There are some great pictures below of these visits.

In the coming weeks I will be visiting RAF Cosford and RAF Honnington. I also look forward to visiting the Falkland Islands during the February Recess, at the invitation of the British Consul.



Getting hands on with the kit at RAF Wittering.



Signing the visitors book at RAF Waddington



With cross-party MPs at the RAF Benevolent Fund – they do great work!

[NEWS FROM CLACTON AND PARLIAMENT](#)

Just this morning, I welcomed Holland Residents Association to Parliament, where they were scheduled to have a tour. It was great to meet them and to answer their questions – they certainly chose an interesting day to visit!

I am disappointed that my efforts so far have not seen sustained improvement across the ACE practices, but I want to assure all patients that I will continue to work tirelessly to achieve a better service. I will not rest until we get the service we expect. [Read more here.](#)

Great news that the Government has decided to allocate additional education funding to support children with special educational needs (SEND). [Read more here.](#)

As part of my ongoing commitment to visit every school in the constituency, I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Ravens Academy before Christmas. They recently visited me in Parliament and it was great to be able to meet them back at their school. [Read more here.](#)



Meeting staff and students at Ravens Academy.

The Government has now launched the NHS Long Term Plan. This 10-year plan sets out what the NHS will do to get the most out of the additional £20.5 billion being injected into the system over the next five years, which will enable people to live healthier lives for longer. The plan also means that the NHS, which is there for us at some of our most difficult moments, can overcome its challenges and seize the huge opportunities that are increasingly available. [Read more here.](#)

More funding is also being made available for adult social care – this is on top of the £5.9m that Essex recently received for adult social care this winter. [Read more here.](#)

Last week, I had an introductory meeting with Chief Superintendent Andy Mariner, where we discussed the local priorities for our police force. [Follow his work here.](#)

My advice surgeries have also resumed after the Christmas break. If you would like to attend, please contact my office.

Finally, if you want to visit Parliament, or have me visit you, please email my office and we can arrange a suitable date.