

# The World and Worthing Matter to Each Other

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President Zelenskyy spoke in the Great Hall at Westminster in clear English. He was heard and understood around the world. He recognised Britain's support against Russia's war to end Ukraine's independence. He spoke of the need to defeat evil and to bring about a world free from war. I was placed in the front row with party leaders and former Prime Ministers.

Language matters. English matters. Locally, host families and the whole community welcome people of all ages. They come to improve their knowledge and language skills.

Our country's advantages include temperate climate and relatively moderate politics. Our time zone overlaps with the growing economies in east Asia and with the American powerhouse.

The first Salvation Army Majors I worked with went overseas to missionary service. Retired Church of England clergy at Ramsey Hall had ministered in provinces overseas.

Our Islamic Society brings together Muslims from across the United Kingdom as well as from around the world, including the former Yugoslavia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, together with many parts of Africa.

A century ago, a number of new leaders determined that secular states could help majorities and minorities best come together as nations. Mahatma Gandhi was on his journey to serve India at independence when an extremist killed him. Ataturk created Turkey, now Türkiye. The new Israel was fairer to followers of other faiths.

Recep Erdogan now has to lead his country's response to the overwhelming tragedy of the earthquake that devastated Syria and his own country.

In the United Kingdom, we are active heirs to growing degrees of understanding and acceptance for traditions and customs different from our own. Presbyterians and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland now know much more about each other than two generations ago. The growth of integrated education has helped.

In Wales the Anglican Church was disestablished. Our King's denomination changes when he crosses the border uniting Scotland with England. Were Charles the First of Scotland, Charles the Third of England to visit Worthing this spring, he would be welcomed by our Mayor, Muslim in faith.

Whatever our heritage, we can say together we are from West Sussex.

Many of our local restaurateurs, known as Indian, have roots in Sylhet, India 75 years ago, then in Pakistan and now part of Bangladesh. In September, world leaders will gather for the G20 in New Delhi.

When visiting different parts of India, year by year we witness economic and social development.

Democracy and social market economics can deliver the results desired by all sensible people.

The aim in India is to get just about every home piped for clean water and waste drainage, to have at least a nurse in every village above 100 inhabitants, and to help everyone share in the benefits that were once for the few.

The Indian Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has set out a Competitiveness Roadmap to achieve high incomes for the country by the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2047. Their 4 'S' pillars are Social, Solid, Sustainable and Shared. When our Chancellor Jeremy Hunt comes to the G20 he can compare his four Es: Enterprise, Education, Employment and Everyone.

I welcome the reduction in local unemployment though we can do better for younger people. Next, the rate of prices rising has to slow.

We must reduce the incidence of aimlessness and habits of violence that are sometimes adopted by a minority. For all the benefits of rising and spreading prosperity, quality of life is affected by crime and the fear of crime. Leave gangs; report trouble to the police and support parents trying to raise their children with respect for themselves and for others.

Around Worthing and throughout the world, we can together do better, supporting each other to live at peace and to prosper.