

Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope

Sir Peter Bottomley MP

Worthing Herald Article

27th October 2022

At the Rustington Methodists' Saturday coffee morning, a new resident came in. In conversation, she said she was the last of her family and she had outlived her close friends. When discussing funeral arrangements, I said that were I responsible for someone who left no instructions, I would do what I wanted for myself, leaving a note stating that.

During the past year I have admired the dignity and love at non-religious Services taken by Celebrants. Advances in recent decades include helping people to choose what they want or judge most appropriate. People in all parties and none have cooperated in the good sides of modernisation.

Our society has been changing, often for the better. About 130 years after the first non-white members of parliament, Labour and Liberal Democrats have agreed it is welcome and uncontroversial for a British prime minister to have East African Asian heritage and to be a practising Hindu.

I am inviting Rishi Sunak to come to consider the controversial Persimmon proposal to evade Worthing's protection for the Goring Gap.

Leadership does not just come at the top. This week, after a less-than-necessary series of votes forced by the Scottish Nationalists, I joined the National Service at St Margaret's church, Parliament Square, to celebrate 12 Step Recovery. The All Party Parliamentary Group for the 12 Steps exists to spread the message of Recovery to policy makers, service providers, and the public at large.

Testimonies included the extraordinary joy that 12 Step Recovery brings to so many lives. It may be easier for an MP to speak in public about coming to terms with an addiction. It can be almost impossible for a family member to speak with anyone else about living with the consequences of another's addiction.

Groups less well-known than Alcoholics Anonymous include Nar-Anon for those affected by someone's drug addiction, ACA for adult children of Alcoholics/Dysfunctional Families.

Most of my personal calls in the constituency at the weekend were about intense issues other than addiction. I smile whenever it is suggested that any member of parliament can be out-of-touch with the lives of people in need. All of us, directly and importantly through the endeavours of our teams, give devoted help whenever we can.

Some problems go beyond our shores and extend to succeeding generations. Within the critical issues of climate change are questions of blue carbon and ocean-based solutions. Off our coast, renewable electricity comes from the Rampion windfarm.

Seabed mapping is carried on by the UK Hydrographic Office. There are over 30 government organisations involved in improving knowledge of the oceans and data on changes in outcomes. I welcome the better coordination at the Centre for Seabed Mapping.

Three quarters of the marine environment in our exclusive economic zone has yet to be mapped to modern standards. Unless we step up the pace, it will be completed in 2072; that would be 22 years after we expect to achieve net zero carbon targets.

We can be inspired by how fast Margaret Thatcher and then the world in Montreal reacted to the discovery by British Antarctic scientist Joe Farman of the hole in the ozone layer.

Do look for the new consultation on Rampion 2: the proposers have reduced parts of their plans. Also, I look to the working proposals for the coastal kelp farm in our Sussex Bay, below the South Downs.

On local leadership, celebrate the years Jackie Bligh gave to Worthing Homes. If you missed her retirement party, join me in raising a glass to her at CAMRA'S Worthing Beer Festival at the Guildbourne Centre this weekend. The strength in the range of ales, including the alcohol-free, is an advance on the experience of Watney's Red Barrel. Live in hope.

International consumer surveys appear to show beer matters more than financial services or packaged foods. Our strongest attributes should include our legal framework, world-wide connections, strong international alliances and a good job market. I add political stability and I will continue to try to maintain that.