

## Arun, Worthing, West Sussex and Westminster

*Sir Peter Bottomley MP*  
*Worthing Herald Article*  
*02<sup>nd</sup> May 2019*

Most MPs give most to the local area. On Tuesday I joined Salvationists, socialists and assorted peers in the House of Lords for the memorial meeting celebrating the life of Lord Foster. As Derek Foster MP for Bishop Auckland, he was the longest serving Labour chief whip with four Labour leaders.

A Russian general was told that Derek's army motto was Blood and Fire – he relaxed a little when told it inspired the Salvation Army. Commissioner William Cochrane, territorial commander of Norway spoke. Another said that age and experience defeat youth and enthusiasm. My experience of the Salvation Army is that they combine each of those merits.

Derek's possible disappointment was in failing to progress to the euphonium from the trombone. I commend reading both about him and about that Army's dedicated work for us on the south coast and their contributions around the world.

My week started in Ferring. Thanks to the hosting of ASDA, my team and I met constituents to discuss public issues and private problems. A bonus was meeting Bill Kelsey BEM who chairs the Chaucery Group and holds senior roles in RAF Associations. He has registered the Rustington 1945 Plane Memorial and the R.N.A.S. FORD Memorial in Clymping churchyard in the UK Inventory of War Memorials.

The Arun and Worthing Armed Services Champions are Terence Chapman and Tom Wye MBE. Tom Wye gained the help of youngsters in caring for the grave stones for military casualties buried in civilian grave by local churches. Bill Kelsey reports that the Ford prison governor's inmates keep tidy the Clymping church yard grounds around the memorial there.

The girls and boys at Ferring Church of England school were impressive. Teachers should be pleased to teach them. During discussions lasting just thirty minutes, we shared insights in geography, maths, the purposes and practices in politics before dancing around the sounds of English spelling.

Try this sentence that has the letters ough eight times with eight different sounds. 'The rough coated dough faced ploughman went coughing and hiccoughing thoughtfully through the borough.' (I know the hiccoughing may be thought archaic.)

Virginia and I were honoured to be by the Mayor of Worthing, Paul Baker with the Mayoress Sandra. We sat by Robert Smytherman; we were close to Hazel Thorpe who will soon succeed him. As the local elections conclude, let us unite in thanking those who retire from local public service, thank those who offer themselves for election, and let us combine in giving support as councillors together discuss issues before coming to decisions that they judge are for the public good.

West Sussex County Council and MPs continue to work together on shared interests, including transport, social care and school education. Quality education requires dedication, inspiration, resources and parental support for teachers.

In comments following an article by Alice Thomson in The Times newspaper on Wednesday, I contributed five possibly helpful actions by parents. Perhaps more usefully, a teacher wrote that in their 26 years of teaching and teacher training there was not an hour on either parenting, family life and the development of children, nor an hour on finance or the basics of management in school.

At Westminster I sometimes talk of the teacher I have most admired. Peter Dawson was the head who inspired Michael Frayn's film *Clockwise*. Peter knew how to lead an inner city comprehensive; he went on to run the Professional Association of Teachers. He is a Methodist minister, almost bringing me around to Derek Foster.

[Note: there was another Peter Dawson, leader of NATFHE.]