

## Items from The Queen's Speech

When we came to office in 2010, Britain was on the brink. Our task was urgent: to rescue our economy from the mire. With that economy now going in the right direction, we are once again on the brink - but this time, on the brink of something special. We have a golden opportunity to renew the idea that working people are backed in this country; to renew the promise to those least fortunate that they will have the opportunity for a brighter future; and to renew the ties that bind every part of our United Kingdom. We now have the mandate to deliver that renewal. And it starts with today's Queen's Speech: a clear programme



for working people, social justice, and bringing our country together - put simply, a One Nation Queen's Speech from a One Nation Government.

The first task of a One Nation Government is to help all working people have security. And nothing is more crucial to that than a job. A new Bill will help to create two million more jobs this Parliament. That means there should be a job for everyone who wants one - in other words, full employment. To help people get those jobs, we'll train them up; three million more will start apprenticeships over the next five years. We will also reward work by letting people keep even more of the money they earn - for the first time putting it into law that the Minimum Wage is and always will be tax free. That will be alongside a five-year tax lock which means there will be no income tax, VAT or National Insurance rate rises in this Parliament.

The second big focus of this Queen's Speech is championing social justice. That starts with education: a decent schooling for every child, no matter where they're from. Our school reforms in the last Parliament

were bold; one million more children are now learning in good or outstanding schools. In this Parliament they will be bolder still: taking over and turning into Academies not just failing schools but coasting ones too, as part of our new Education and Adoption Bill; opening not just a few more Free Schools, but 500 more. Of course, there is nothing that embodies the spirit of One Nation and the cause of social justice more than our NHS, which is there for everyone, whoever they are, regardless of their ability to pay. So we will continue increasing spending on our health service, by at least £8 billion a year by 2020, and make it a truly seven-day NHS.

We will also continue our welfare reforms that help people into jobs, reducing the benefit cap further, to £23,000. Our reforms will incentivise work - so people are always better off after a day at the office or factory than they would have been sitting at home. That's true social justice - not handing people benefit cheque after benefit cheque with no end in sight, but turning workless households into working households; the misery

*More on next page*

## Comment

So its all over and perhaps time to reflect. But to reflect on what we have to do and particularly in our own county of Nottinghamshire.

We still have to spread the word and to keep the Party in everyone's minds for there are more elections to come. The county is still out of our control and that has to be one of our next targets. The County Council elections are not until 2017 but our candidates need to be in place before too long so they can make themselves known to their electorate. Currently Labour has 32 seats to our 21 so there is work to do to get back as the ruling party.

The right candidates are sometimes hard to find so if you believe you can make the difference then contact your local Association to make your interest known.

The items from The Queen's Speech alongside this column reveal some of the things that we want to do which in the previous government was prevented by the coalition. Things that will make our country better and legislation that will have an impact on people coming into this country.

Reflecting back to the May elections there has to be big a thank you to those volunteers who so gamely spent their time pounding the streets delivering leaflets, sitting in crowded rooms stuffing envelopes, manning stalls in market places and doing the many other jobs that led to our success.

Without those volunteers the Party would be hard pressed to move at all and they are invaluable at all times - even when we get down to the mundane times of just manning our offices or attending branch meetings.

In reality the work of the volunteers never ends for they are the backbone of the Party and often they cease to be acknowledged when a particular task is achieved.

Just that little word of thanks is all they need to keep their interest from flagging and if it is done on a personal level then it is all the better.

*Any of the views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Conservative Party.*

### The area team



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# The Party Conference

The annual Conservative Party Conference, in Manchester from Sunday 4th to Wednesday 7th October is a chance for our members, the press and the public to come together and hear about our ideas, policies and plans for the year ahead.

This year, we're returning to the Manchester Central and the Midland Hotel for four days of speeches, debates and receptions, and a packed schedule of fringe events, including our busy exhibition. All Party Members and Activists will also get to hear first-hand the Prime Minister's highly-anticipated closing speech. For information contact

Conservatives, 4 Matthew Parker Street, London SW1H 9HQ

or email:  
[registration@conservativepartyconference.com](mailto:registration@conservativepartyconference.com)

## The Queen's speech

of unemployment into the purpose and dignity of employment; and the welfare system into a lifeline, not a way of life.

Third, this Queen's Speech will bring every part of our United Kingdom together. Our legislation will make sure this recovery reaches everyone, from the oldest industrial towns to the remotest rural villages. Our High Speed 2 Bill will help bring our great northern cities together in a Northern Powerhouse that rivals the biggest cities in the world.

For our different nations and regions to coexist as One Nation, people must have more direct power over the areas in which they live. So our Cities Devolution Bill will allow them to bid for an elected mayor, with far more sway over planning, transport, policing and health. We will have a Scotland Bill, a Wales Bill and a Northern Ireland Bill, and will put into practice our promises on devolution - making Holyrood the most powerful devolved Parliament in the world. Governing with respect means respecting the wishes of the English too. That's why we will address the fundamental unfairness devolution causes in England, by introducing English votes for English laws. And

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- The 40p tax threshold will increase to £50,000 by 2020 - and will always rise at least in line with inflation
- Your family home will be taken out of inheritance tax by lifting the threshold for married couples to £1m

### Five year tax lock

We will also introduce a five year tax lock, meaning that between May 2015 and May 2020 there will be:

- No increases in income tax rates
- No increases in VAT - nor an extension of its scope
- No increases in National Insurance - nor an increase in its ceiling.

**Let people know this is what Conservatives do.**

# John Major reflects on the SNP

Prior to the election Sir John Major made a keynote speech which included some forthright views on the Scottish National Party and its ambitions.

After the election those views are just as meaningful today with the SNP now having a considerable number of seats at Westminster.

Sir John Major said, "The SNP at Westminster will have one key objective: To entrench SNP popularity in Scotland ahead of next year's Scottish Parliament elections.

And if the SNP do win next May, what will they do with their victory? I can tell you – they'll demand a further Referendum on independence. They will either put that in their Manifesto, or claim it as an entitlement of their win. The once-in-a-generation vote will become a once-in-a-Parliament vote. That is their plan.

The SNP has a second tactic. It is to drive a wedge between Scotland and – especially – England. They will manufacture grievance to make it more likely any future Referendum would deliver a majority for independence. They will ask for the impossible and create merry hell if it is denied. The nightmare of a broken United Kingdom has not gone away. The separation debate is not over. The SNP is determined to prise apart the United Kingdom.

I am a Unionist. More than that, I admire Scotland and would hate to see us part.

Separation would not only be a leap in the dark for Scotland – it would diminish the UK. If chunks of your country fall off, you lose prestige and power".

The unhappy truth for the Scots is that the SNP are promising what they cannot deliver. They are misleading their own people. For they are more focused on gaining political power than on the long-term wellbeing of their country.

I warned again and again – in 1992 and in 1997 – that devolution would lead towards the break-up of the UK. For their own partisan electoral advantage, in the Referendum, belatedly – but to their credit – Labour fought for the Union. The Union was battered, but survived. Now, it is at risk again.