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for the East of England

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Britain on the wrong side of history



For me the triggering of Article 50 was a deeply sad day and as Britain prepares to leave the European Union I fear for our future prosperity and place in the world. This is a backwards step which ultimately will make our country weaker, poorer and more isolated. I certainly didn't come into politics to make people's lives worse so when I see our country hurtling headlong down the wrong track I call it out.

Right across our region people need answers. A recent report by the New Anglia LEP has shown that two of our counties received £365 million of European funding. How will European funding be replaced? What's the future for EU citizens living in the UK? Who will pick fruit and veg on our farms?

How will groundbreaking research collaboration fare?

It is clear that the Tory Party has once again been seized by the hard line Europhobes. That Douglas Carswell thinks May has not put a foot wrong must sound the alarm bells. The hard Brexiteers have the ear of the Prime Minister. They are not appeasable.

The prospect of no deal at all is becoming more likely, uncertainty is hitting our economy, workers rights' and jobs are threatened, EU doctors and nurses are starting to leave Britain, in Scotland the SNP are demanding another referendum: our country is being torn apart. I say not in my name, and not in Labour's name. It's time to expose this Tory Brexit.

Best of luck to all our candidates in the forthcoming county council elections and to Kevin Price our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough mayoral candidate. I'll be knocking on lots of doors with you all over the next few weeks. It's also been great to join you all campaigning across the region over the last few months and especially on our NHS Campaign Day.



Out and about in the constituency

"Transformational": that's how the director of SeaChange Arts in Great Yarmouth described £330,000 of EU funding and the collaboration they have enjoyed with European partners. It has helped them to become one of the leading organisations in the UK for Street Arts and Circus. Visit my Facebook page to see me speaking about the organisation in parliament and also trying out some circus skills...

Across the region I've heard so much about the positive benefits of being in the EU as well as Brexit concerns. In Stevenage I visited the Bioscience Catalyst and heard about EU scientific partnerships. At the Cambridge Museum of Archeology and Anthropology I found out how global cultural research is made possible by EU funding.

Meanwhile in Luton the Vice Chancellor told me how current students benefit from Erasmus but there were no guarantees for the future.

In Loddon, I popped into The Kings Head to hear about concerns about the takeover of Punch Taverns by Heineken. I have urged the European competition chief to take into account the enormous role pubs play as community hubs and to look closely at any reduction in the choice of beers for pub goers before making her decision. As you can see they also got me pulling pints behind the bar.



East of England visitors come to European Parliament

It was great to welcome a group of visitors to the European Parliament. The trip was five time oversubscribed.

I'll be running the next one in the Autumn. Watch out for updates.

Hopping Mad

Across the region 20,000 people emailed me about rabbit cruelty, and this great



picture hopped into my office, ahead of a crunch vote. I voted to end the cage age. You can see my speech at <http://bit.ly/2nHxXsi>

Also in Parliament...

I spoke on the big opportunities and big challenges of big data. You can see this speech at <http://bit.ly/2nco3LQ> as well as voting for a ban on conflict minerals, to back recycling and cooking up a storm in the great MEP Bake Off!



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