

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021



SIR GRAHAM BRADY

Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West



Spotted in a window in High Street, Altrincham...

Dear all, welcome to 2021. Let's hope that the successful programme of vaccinations is accompanied in the near future by steps towards restoring normal life, given that the vaccination of the most vulnerable groups is due to take place by 15th February and should reduce the risk of mortality from covid by nearly 90% bringing it into line with seasonal 'flu. Obviously, we don't shut down peoples' lives every year for that.

One of the many frustrations of lockdown is that parliament is being diminished: Westminster Hall debates as well as Private Members Bills have been suspended. Westminster Hall is supposed to be a parallel chamber to the Commons Chamber, but clearly not! The overall effect is to reduce the opportunities for Members of Parliament to hold government to account or to raise concerns on behalf of their constituents. As you know, I have been working in the House of Commons as normally as possible since April last year and I will continue to do so but if the only way we can get parliament fully functioning again is by vaccinating all the lobby

journalists, Commons staff and MPs: then we should do it. We in this country are probably unique in valuing our democracy so little.

I am continuing to do constituency surgeries over the telephone, but it would be good to see people in person again. Like most people I am heartily sick of looking at screens while people fail to unmute themselves.

After an exciting end to 2020 with a 'future relationship' agreement with the EU, the House was recalled on 30th December to vote the necessary legislation into statute. It is clear there have been some teething problems for some goods going to Northern Ireland and some, especially small-scale trade with the EU – there is work to be done on securing further improvements. It is also clear already that the scenes of Armageddon predicted by some have failed to materialize. A few days later I was very pleased to meet with the French Ambassador; a welcome sign that now the Brexit battles are over there is a will to build stronger bilateral relations.

I had a pleasant surprise at New Year when this appeared on the Conservative Home website:

Brady is our Panel's backbencher of the year



By [Paul Goodman](#)

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'... it is perhaps unsurprising that Brady, who is also a bit of a spokesman both for constitutional and party norms and niceties, has topped this section of the poll, with Dehenna Davison coming a very creditable second among the named options...'

I am delighted to have won this award and hope in particular that it might have been won because of my campaign to restore parliamentary democracy after months of rule under emergency powers.

On a related theme below is a link to my contribution to the debate over the suspension of Westminster Hall

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-01-13/debates/BDD82430-348B-4DA0-AEB1-A64C363367B2/details#contribution-78380BBC-E140-4210-9960-BCF06A973906>

On 6th January we debated and voted on yet another 'National Lockdown' which had already come into effect the day before. I took the opportunity to raise again my concerns about the erosion of fundamental human rights and the stupidity of some of the specific lockdown restrictions (why should it be illegal to sit alone on a riverbank with a fishing rod?) but in particular I pressed once again for proper parliamentary oversight. In my view the House of Commons has failed in its most fundamental duty by granting lockdown powers to the Government for a full three months.

I spoke in the Public Health debate on 6th and called for greater accountability:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-01-06/debates/06F079A7-0E76-4320-997D-61ABB2F5A441/details#contribution-8D7D8698-471A-450C-82B8-4F891927E110>

I also spoke in the debate on covid 19:

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-01-06/debates/F28A020C-8CF9-4D5E-9C9A-CC75D540D7C8/Covid-19#contribution-E508D466-9400-4A91-BB55-82276F1E8F33>

Following my interventions in the Commons I made a number of media appearances, including speaking to Nick Ferrari on LBC and Julia Hartley Brewer on Talk Radio.



I appeared on 'Planet Normal with Allison Pearson from the Telegraph:

<https://youtu.be/VL56Ad067L4>

I also appeared on Radio 4 Broadcasting House on 24th:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000rm8r>

I was also asked to contribute to a short documentary of liberty. The interviews took place last autumn, but the principles are enduring.

Friday, 15 January 2021 Graham Brady and Clare Fox take part in documentary on liberty:

<https://twitter.com/marcsidwell/status/1341320800880701441?s=21>

One important issue relating to covid 19 is the number of treatments that appear to be effective around the world, but which are not in use in the United Kingdom. A number of constituents have contact me about a drug called Ivermectin which has been in use for decades to combat parasitic infections, is cheap and safe and according to many doctors around the world, can reduce covid mortality by as much as 75%. I asked the Department of Health for its assessment of the efficacy of Ivermectin

In the Commons: speaker: Graham Brady : 1 Written Answer

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Written Answers - Department of Health and Social Care: Coronavirus: Ivermectin (25 Jan 2021)

<https://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2021-01-20.140747.h&s=speaker%3A10062#g140747.q0>

Graham Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what assessment his Department has made of the efficacy of ivermectin as

a (a) prophylactic and (b) treatment for covid-19.

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I was more than a little surprised to see the Minister's response that they would come to a conclusion 'in the next few months'. Not much evidence of urgency!

I gave my support to Us for Them: a community of tens of thousands of parents across the U.K. campaigning to #ReopenSchools. UsforThem is calling on the Government to reopen schools immediately or at the very least to publish the work it has done to show that the schools shutdown is proportionate and takes account of the huge amount of harm we know we are causing to our children both today and in the future. <http://www.usforthem.co.uk>

On 24th I contributed to BBC Broadcasting House on Covid, light at the end of the tunnel and was asked what I would do if I ruled the world: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000rm8r>

Wednesday 27th January, I chaired a meeting of the 1922 Committee, our speaker was Rishi Sunak, the Chancellor of the Exchequer who continued a very welcome arrangement that I started 10 years ago when George Osborne was Chancellor where the Chancellor comes along well ahead of the Budget to hear views and representations from colleagues before final decisions are taken.

I spoke in the debate on 27th January on health measures at UK borders. There is a link to my contribution below, I asked the Chancellor to support the aviation sector to prevent a massive haemorrhaging of jobs and prospects.

https://scontent-lhr8-2.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t66.36240-6/51270564_133007501918946_4888552661089085114_n.mp4?nc_cat=101&ccb=2&nc_sid=985c63&efg=eyJ2ZW5jb2RlX3RhZyI6Im9lcF9oZCJ9&nc_ohc=Pv2WY3LstUgAX9Nf4vT&nc_ht=scontent-lhr8-2.xx&oh=76ac1959470c0c643e3a2633da687d09&oe=603A1A3E

Sir Graham Brady

(Altrincham and Sale West) (Con)

Victory in Cambridge!

Last night I was delighted to speak in a Cambridge Union debate in support of the proposition: This House believes lockdown was a mistake. I was delighted to be on the winning team alongside Richard Tice and Toby Young. Cambridge students voted by 362 votes to 309 to approve the motion.

That's all from me for now, I'll be back with more news next month. With best wishes,



Sir Graham Brady MP