

# NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021



SIR GRAHAM BRADY

Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West

Dear all, welcome to March's newsletter. Another busy month comes to an end, but in many ways the only thing that's mattered since January came almost at the end with the debates and vote on extending the government's 'emergency powers' last Thursday.

I told the House that the danger is we risk normalising an extreme policy response and asked: 'Whose rights are they? Does the government have the right to decide whether people see their children or grandchildren? My answer is an emphatic 'No!'.... This habit of control leads to coercive laws. There is no public health argument for fining people £5000 for *leaving* the country!'

Double click on the link below to listen:

[https://scontent-lht6-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t66.36240-6/10000000\\_460710488465621\\_8146607236728883738\\_n.mp4?\\_nc\\_cat=103&ccb=1-3&\\_nc\\_sid=985c63&efg=eyJ2ZW5jb2RlX3RlZyI6Im9lcF9oZCJ9&\\_nc\\_ohc=FutXaptyNNEAX89Qh8z&\\_nc\\_ht=scontent-lht6-1.xx&oh=1e5f551f05d7c79afa99b5d33b0644b6&oe=608900C3](https://scontent-lht6-1.xx.fbcdn.net/v/t66.36240-6/10000000_460710488465621_8146607236728883738_n.mp4?_nc_cat=103&ccb=1-3&_nc_sid=985c63&efg=eyJ2ZW5jb2RlX3RlZyI6Im9lcF9oZCJ9&_nc_ohc=FutXaptyNNEAX89Qh8z&_nc_ht=scontent-lht6-1.xx&oh=1e5f551f05d7c79afa99b5d33b0644b6&oe=608900C3)

In the event, the Commons voted overwhelmingly to extend lockdown restrictions to the end of June and the Coronavirus Act at least until October. I worry that this massive shift of power over peoples lives to the state may take decades to reverse.

I ended February speaking to Bracknell Conservative Association. At the beginning of March I had a Zoom interview with Palatinate ; the student newspaper for Durham University <https://www.palatinat.org.uk/sir-graham-brady-the-government-has-gone-too-far/> I was interviewed by Paul Ray, a young Durham student who asked me about my time at university amongst other things. Shockingly Paul is the son of Victoria's roommate in her first year at Durham!

<https://youtu.be/xt5rDt6wVUI>

Those of us who have been vaccinated are able to attend parliament and get a few things done. 3<sup>rd</sup> March was Budget Day and Rishi came along to the '22 to talk to colleagues about the economy and answered all their queries.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March I was at a Cities Restart roundtable for business leaders on the safe restart of international travel. On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March I spoke via Zoom to the Conservative East Midlands conference. On 9<sup>th</sup> March I had a very useful briefing from a company which will soon start making sustainable aviation fuels in the North west – Fulcrum Bioenergy.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March I was on Talk Radio with Julia Hartley Brewer:

<https://m.facebook.com/talkRADIOUK/videos/sir-graham-brady-if-youre-being-led-by-data-not-dates-you-need-to-be-balanced/1098515490560973/?locale=ro> RO

followed by Gavin Williamson at the 1922 Committee – the week the schools were finally back.

The next day I was again on Talk Radio with Julia Hartley Brewer; I was also part of a podcast with Major Roberts, a former army major. Making the case for freedom and normality.

The following day I was pleased to join Altrincham Chamber of Commerce for their Business Awards.

13<sup>th</sup> March I spoke to Vale of Glamorgan Conservative Association; they had just spent the evening telephone canvassing.

17<sup>th</sup> March I hosted a meeting between Transport Minister Rachel Maclean and Friends of Carrington Moss.



Rachel Maclean MP

After that I welcomed Andy Street, West Midlands Mayor and Ben Houchen, the Conservative Mayor of Tees Valley, to the '22.



Andy Street



Ben Houchen

The following say I had an interview with That's TV and spoke at an evening event for Laura Evans, the excellent mayoral candidate.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March I joined my former colleague Michael Portillo on his Times Radio programme. <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/radio>

The next day I joined another former colleague, this time Nick de Bois, on his Talk Radio show. <https://talkradio.co.uk/nick-de-bois>

In the Commons, double click for full exchange.

15<sup>th</sup> March:

- [Policing and Prevention of Violence against Women](#) 15 Mar 2021

Graham Brady Chair, Conservative Party 1922 Committee

I will try my best, Madam Deputy Speaker. {In response to the chair's request for brief interventions} The Home Secretary rightly said that the right to protest is a cornerstone of our democracy but, as she also said, on 6 January the House voted for swingeing powers to control protests for the period of the coronavirus restrictions. May I ask her to work with concerned Members across the House to ensure that the legislation we are about to pass protects that right of peaceful protest and stops only serious disruption?'

- I was in the chair for the following business:
- [Backbench Business: Covid-19: Community Pharmacies — \[Sir Graham Brady in the Chair\]](#) 11 Mar 2021

In order to allow the safe exit of hon. Members participating in this item of business and the safe arrival of those participating in the next, we will suspend until half-past 3. Sitting suspended.

- [Backbench Business: Covid-19: Community Pharmacies — \[Sir Graham Brady in the Chair\]](#) 11 Mar 2021

I thank everybody for keeping to time so well, making sure that we have sufficient time left for each of the Front-Bench spokespeople to have up to 10

minutes to wind up, and for the hon. Member for Thurrock (Jackie Doyle-Price) to have at least a couple of minutes at the end to sum up.

21<sup>st</sup> March I wrote a piece for the Sunday Express, picture and link below



I link here: Time for extreme powers to end, time to take back our freedoms, writes SIR GRAHAM BRADY

<https://www.express.co.uk/comment/expresscomment/1412624/Preserve-our-freedoms-campaign-sir-graham-brady>

And appeared on Times Radio: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/radio>



On 25<sup>th</sup> March I was on Politics Live on the BBC, interviewed by Jo Coburn about vaccine passports and extending the coronavirus

powers: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000tj4v/politics-live-25032021>

I wrote a piece for the Sun on Sunday, pictured below:

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• Loss of freedom creeps up on you. Don't surrender it for any longer.

**SAYS GRAHAM BRADY**  
Chairman, 1922 Committee of Tory MPs

By DAVID WOODING, A

**THE great lockdown of the nation - with family and MPs divided over restrictions.**

Many believe that giving up and restricting our lives is necessary to protect us from a virus. Others say it is a right to protest, demand of children and destroy lockdown laws for a... Last week MPs voted to... leaving many asking what... Here, two leading figs... of the debate answer th... Their conflicting views... among the public, acco... Sun on Sunday poll. Mo... should... PM... and... Boris... and... mor... A... Mr... right... two... we... to... 24... should get on with... the over-40s have be... But six in ten peo... ions kept in place... has had a job, a... Redfield & Wilton S... Four in ten admit... to work from hom... continue for a few... More than a thir... working and dread... routine. Two-thirds... been effective in pr... It has also had... environment becau... traffic and flights... bad for job se... treatment of othe... life, mental healt... schoolchildren's t... Seven out of te... a summer holid... expect to travel...

“WHAT do you get when you kiss a girl? You get enough germs to catch pneumonia... I'll never fall in love again.”

Burt Bacharach is a great songwriter but I don't think he expected anybody to be different enough to take the lyrics to his hit as a roadmap for life.

It is a measure of the crazy world of lockdown that the Government actually did make a criminal offence to kiss someone unless you'd shared their germs for long enough to be in an established relationship already.

The trouble with losing freedom is that it often creeps up on you unnoticed.

A year ago the Government introduced extreme measures for a three-week lockdown to stop NHS critical care capacity being overwhelmed. Some of us felt uneasy about what was being done but accepted it as a temporary emergency measure.

This week, the Government took the Coronavirus Act, that was introduced at a time of emergency and extended it so it will be in force at least until October.

In a tussle between life and liberty for a few weeks, saving lives will always win. If you are making the same calculation about the way you will live for the foreseeable future, the answer must surely be different. That's why people through the ages fought against invaders, rather than just inviting them to take over without a fuss.

Most of us would prefer to live long and healthy lives - but are we willing to forego the things that make life worth living to eliminate all risk?

That is the policy of the lockdown extremists who want normal life shut down for as long as possible.

It's not just the fact that lockdown has cost the country ten per cent of its wealth (with hundreds of thousands of jobs already destroyed), we have also seen millions of health screening appointments missed, tens of thousands of cancers not diagnosed and a massive crisis in mental health, especially among children and young people.

The longer this goes on, the bigger the damage that we normalise an extreme policy response and people's tolerance for coercion and control by government increases.

In January, we were told that we needed one more lockdown to take us to the point when all of the most vulnerable groups had been vaccinated.

We reached that milestone in the middle of February.

Since then needles have been plunged into millions more of us in lower-risk groups, but where is the return to freedom that the vaccination programme was meant to deliver?

From tomorrow, you will be "allowed" to have one of your children and their household over for a barbecue, and outdoor sports such as tennis (which were entirely safe and should never have been banned in the first place) can resume. We are meant to be grateful.

**With us for ever**

Unlocking so slowly, however positive the data and however many of us have been vaccinated, might make sense if the aim was to eliminate Covid altogether. But no one thinks that is a runner.

The truth is that Covid will be with us for ever like other seasonal viruses. We can hope that, in time, it will become no more dangerous than flu, but the sensible policy response is to work out how to live with the virus while mitigating risk.

Vaccines and hand hygiene will be important parts of this strategy. What we mustn't do is surrender our freedom, our agency, our ability to make decisions for ourselves because we choose to live in fear for ever.

Never falling in love again is too high a price to pay.

• Sir Graham Brady has been Conservative MP for Altrincham and Sale West since 1997 and is chairman of the 1922 backbench committee.



Sir Graham Brady MP Cllr Nathan Evans, local campaigner Dr Kaushik Chakraborty

I am backing the opposition to the proposals to build on Trafford College's outside sports pitch and car park; We have lost too many playing fields to development over the years, they are a vital resource that can never be replaced. With massive over

development threatened on green belt at Carrington Moss and the Timperley Wedge, this threatens still more congestion and pressure on local services.

Today I met with the Prime Minister at No 10... we talked over current events but of course I can't divulge what was said...

That's all for now, I wish you and your family a healthy and peaceful Easter.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Graham Brady".

Sir Graham Brady MP