

The Good News List - AGM 22nd March 2019

A United Nations study into happiness has measured a decline in global happiness, but UK has become happier and moved up from 19th to 15th place in 2018.

We are ranked Number 1 in the world for Soft Power - culture, language, international engagement - remember the Oscars?

Labour left a budget deficit of over 10%. Budget deficit is now in primary surplus - down to 1.1% this year. Borrowing is at its lowest for 17 years. 111 different tax avoidance loopholes closed mean that we've raised £200 Billion in extra tax revenue.

We've cut taxes by letting people have the first £12,500 tax free and higher rate doesn't start until £50,000.

We've frozen fuel duty, saving the average driver £1,000.

Labour always leave office with higher unemployment and they also created youth unemployment. Since 2010, 3.6 million more people are working, taking the total to 32.71 million or a record high of 76.1% employed. And zero hours are falling, only 1.4% (lowest ever) are working less than 6 hours, and 54% (highest ever) are working 31-45 hours a week. Youth unemployment has fallen 439,000.

It pays to work, with the National Living Wage at £8.21 and more tax free. The National Living Wage has risen by 8% more than inflation and there are 854,000 job vacancies.

NHS is getting record funding - £394 million a week more. There are 17,300 more doctors and 15,400 more nurses. Breast cancer deaths have fallen 18%, faster than anywhere in Europe.

The troubled families programme is succeeding. There's been a 32% fall in looked after kids and a 38% fall in juvenile custody for families in the programme.

The social housing waiting list has fallen 30% from 1.7 million to 1.2 million. 1.3 million new homes have been built, 30% affordable. Last year 222,000 new homes built, highest for all but one year in last 30. 241,000 first time buyers since stamp duty ended.

Schools have added 800,000 new school places. Better results. Good or outstanding up from 66% to 86%. Fairer funding for local schools sees budgets rise by 3.5% - 5.5% this year in Worcestershire. Attainment gap between those on free school meals and others is closing.

Climate change. Our carbon emissions per capita are at levels last seen in 1858. We are leading world on plastic waste reduction, renewable energy and have a 25 year environment plan.