

# Simon Hart MP

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Nov  
2018

## Welcome to my latest newsletter:

### Brexit...

As far as Brexit goes I am conscious that whatever I write this morning will probably be out of date by this evening, but I will give it a try anyway!

After months of speculation a proposal has been agreed and is now subject to feverish scrutiny. Then comes the hard part. MPs will need to compare this option against other possible outcomes and decide what is in the local and national interest before voting. As I have said many times, this is ultimately about Parliamentary maths. In other words, it is the option that gets a majority that counts.



For example, if we vote down the current proposals some would suggest that we simply proceed to a 'no-deal' Brexit by default. There is some 'technical' truth in this, but a large chunk of Parliament (a majority at present) is already looking at ways of preventing this happening. Why? Because they feel that such an outcome is economically damaging. We can argue whether that assertion is correct, but at the moment that is what numerous colleagues, across all parties, believe.

Added to this is the fact that we know the Government is against a 'no-deal' option; we know public opinion is currently against it, and as I have said, we know that there is no Parliamentary majority for it. Therefore it would be extraordinary, although not impossible, to see the implementation of a policy which carries no Government, public or MP support - but we do live in strange times!

If we vote down the deal but require the Government to change its policy (e.g. to the options known as EFTA, Norway, Canada+), then it is still possible that we will have to defer our departure in March 2019 by delaying Article 50.

Some see delaying A50 as the beginning of the end for Brexit as the old saying 'time is the weapon of opposition' kicks in. We are then at the mercy of events and an emboldened European Commissioner; and the dreaded maths is raised again, as some of these new options don't have a Parliamentary majority either.

And all with less than 100 working days until our departure date.

There is one last point. It is wrong to think that March next year marks the end of the process. Our relationship with the EU changed drastically between 1975 and now which is largely what people were objecting to when they voted in 2016. It will continue to change and evolve post our departure too. So what can we bank now?

- An end to vast monetary contributions
- Out of CAP and CFP
- End of free movement
- Freedom to sign new trade deals
- NI border resolution
- End of the jurisdiction of CJEU in the UK

I fully accept that this falls short of what some readers voted for, and yet goes too far for others. My fear remains that if we reject the current offer out of hand then we risk ending up with no Brexit at all (at odds with the 58% of local voters who chose that option), or potentially a stalemate that only a further referendum or election can resolve - if indeed either could. Neither outcome is satisfactory or conclusive, which is why I am committed to trying to find a route through all of this, up to and beyond our departure date.

### In other news...

Latest jobs figures show that despite Brexit and the start of Universal Credit, the UK **unemployment figures are now about half of what they were in 2010.**

I joined hundreds of people to take part in the rally recently held outside **Withybush Hospital**. The strength of opposition to the plans to downgrade the hospital is as strong as ever.

## Here in Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire I have:



Visited the **Magstim factory in Whitland** (pic left) - the company is a pioneer in Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation which uses magnetic pulses to stimulate nerve cells in the brain to reduce the symptoms of depression. It sells stimulators like this one all over the world.

Continued **campaigning for the Red Roses and Llanddowror junctions off the new by-pass to be made safer**, the Red Roses junction is an accident crash spot and the Welsh Assembly Government is refusing to be clear when any action will be taken to improve matters. Almost weekly I hear of crashes and near misses at these two junctions. I have now written to the Welsh Assembly six times and the answers are still vague and non-committal, but I will be keeping up the pressure. If anybody has their own story to tell about this junction then please do get in touch.



Met **Carmarthen youngsters Cai Phillips and Laurie Thomas** (pic right) to wish them luck in this year's Youth Parliament Wales elections.

Welcomed a new chapter in broadcasting in west Wales with the opening of the **S4C headquarters Yr Gegin in Carmarthen**, and closed a chapter by recording my last ever **Radio Pembrokeshire** interview in Narberth with the **Rev Peter Lewis** whose Sunday morning shows are coming to an end.



Awarded a **Points of Light certificate to winner John O'Connor**, from Martletwy, (pic left) who won the Prime Minister's community award for creating an app which protects local coastlines and reduces the impact of marine litter.

Met **Hywel Dda HB Chief Executive Steve Moore** to discuss concerns regarding the changes to our health services, and also met the new police Superintendent for Pembrokeshire, Ross Evans.

## In Westminster I have:

Continued, as a member of the **Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee**, to take evidence regarding the Live Music industry inquiry we are conducting. More information can be found [here](#) including how to make a submission on the issue of secondary ticketing and also the benefits of live music.

Supported the **Armed Forces charity, Combat Care**, which was set up by comedian Jim Davidson to help servicemen serving jail sentences transition into civilian life. (pic right)

Conducted numerous local and national press interviews on the issue of Brexit.

Joined representatives from Milford Haven at the annual reception for the **British Ports Authority**. These events emphasise the importance of the relationship between ports and the MPs for port areas.



Enjoyed the inaugural **Eat Game Awards** - an exciting initiative aimed at celebrating all that is best about wild British produce by recognising great culinary achievements and other contributions to the cooking and eating of game. The public nominated the people or businesses that they felt embodied the criteria of each category and the winners are announced at a gala dinner. Further details can be found [here](#) - there were a few Welsh nominations, but sadly none from our area.

## And finally...



I had never seen Llanddowror spelt this way until this sign popped up in Tavernspite!

It is right on the border of our two counties, but after investigation it turned out that Carmarthenshire County Council were responsible and it was quickly corrected.



## What's coming up:

I will be holding surgeries in a number of locations in the coming months. To find your closest one and make an appointment please ring the office.

Contact me by emailing [simon.hart.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:simon.hart.mp@parliament.uk) or call 01994 242002. Up to date information and news can be found on my website [simon-hart.com](http://simon-hart.com)

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