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United Response
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April/May 2017 / Issue 26



General election 2017



Snap general election



A general election takes place every 5 years. The last general election was held in 2015. The next one was due to take place in 2020.



The timings of general elections are covered by a law called the **Fixed Term Parliaments Act 2011**.



On Tuesday 18th April 2017, Prime Minister Theresa May said she wanted to hold a general election this year on 8th June.

This is called a **snap election**.



The Prime Minister, Theresa May, wants to win more MPs in parliament at the general election. She thinks this will make it easier for her to make decisions.

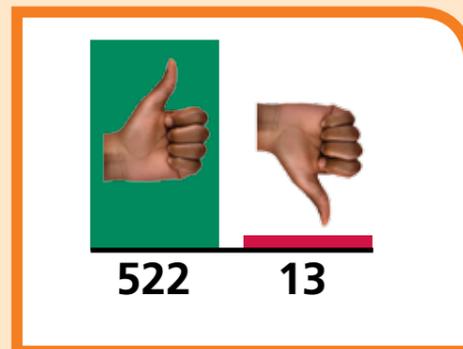


If the Conservative party wins the general election, Theresa May thinks it will help make **Brexit** easier. Brexit is the name for the leaving the European Union (EU).



The Prime Minister needed to get other **MPs** to agree to a snap election.

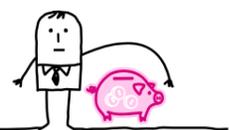
MPs are members of parliament. They help run the country.



On Wednesday 18th April, 522 MPs voted yes for the snap election. 13 MPs voted No.



On Tuesday 2nd May, Parliament stopped working on a day to day business. All the political parties will start working to win people's votes. This is called **campaigning**.



The Budget 2017



Philip Hammond is the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This means he decides how the United Kingdom's (UK) money is spent.



In the Budget an extra £2 billion was promised for **Social Care**. This pays for some elderly people and people with disabilities to be looked after.



On the 8th March 2017, the Chancellor gave a speech about how he plans to use the country's money. This is called **The Budget**.



A lot of people say that social care needs a lot more money and £2 billion is not enough. The Chancellor has said that he and the Government will look into how social care is given money.



The Chancellor did not mention disability benefits. Last year the Government promised not to cut benefits more.



The Chancellor said he would make people that work for themselves pay more **National Insurance Tax**. This tax helps pay for the National Health Service (NHS).



The National Union of Teachers (NUT) says that schools need more money. Some schools will be given money to become **grammar schools**, where pupils are chosen by their ability.



Self-employed people were very unhappy about paying more tax as the Chancellor had promised not to do this. He changed his mind and said they would not have to pay the extra tax.



Westminster terror attack



At 2.40pm on Wednesday 22nd March 2017, a man drove into lots of people walking over Westminster Bridge in London.



At least 50 people from 12 countries were hurt, 31 people were taken to hospital.



He drove his car really fast on the pavement of the bridge and lots of people were hurt. One woman fell into the river and died in hospital later.



The attacker, who died was called Khalid Masood. He was born in Britain. He had been in prison before and police think he may have been **radicalised**. This means he has extreme ideas about politics and religion.



He then crashed his car into railings by the Houses of Parliament, got out of the car and ran into the grounds of the Houses of Parliament, where he stabbed a policeman.



A terrorist group called Islamic State said they were responsible. No one knows if this is true.

Another policeman who had a gun shot the attacker dead.



5 people were killed by the attacker, including the policeman, PC Keith Palmer.



Over 12 people have been arrested and questioned by police in different parts of the UK since the attack. They have all been released without being charged.



President Trump's 1st 100 days



On Friday 20th January 2017, Donald Trump was made the President of the United States of America (USA).

He has been busy in the 1st 100 days of his new job.



Trump tried to ban people from 7 different countries entering the USA but he cannot make this new law. He wants to build a wall to stop Mexican people from getting into the USA. He wants Mexicans to pay for the wall.



When Obama was President he made the Affordable Care Act. It is known as **Obamacare**. This helps poor people in the USA pay for medical treatment if they are sick. Trump wants to change Obamacare and he is looking at a new plan.



President Trump has told North Korea, a country in Asia, that they must stop making nuclear weapons. The leader of North Korea, Kim Jong Un, says they can do what they like with their weapons.



President Trump wants to spend \$54 billion on tanks, ships and weapons. To help pay for these he has stopped giving money to art projects.



Following a gas attack in Syria that killed lots of people, President Trump ordered an American ship to fire rocket bombs into Syria. This was to try and help stop the civil war. The bombs caused a lot of damage and hurt Syrian people.



President Trump also wants to build oil pipelines in parts of the USA. He said it will create lots of jobs, but lots of people are very unhappy as it will damage the environment.



President Trump wants the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and his Government to stop helping the Syrian President.



USA and UK ban electronic devices from some flights



From 25th March 2017, people cannot fly to the USA or UK from certain countries with **electronic devices** in their hand luggage.

Electronic devices are tablets, e-readers, laptops and games consoles.



This is because people are worried about terrorist groups trying to blow up airplanes.

They can do this by hiding bombs in electronic devices.



The devices not allowed are laptops, tablets, e-readers, portable DVDs and gaming equipment.

Mobile phones and medical equipment are still allowed.



The countries this affects are Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia.



The Transport Minister from Turkey said they were not happy with the ban



The UK Government said it was the right thing to do to protect passengers on airplanes.



The UK Government said different airlines can decide when to start using the ban.



50 flights a day from some of the busiest areas in the Middle East, Turkey and North Africa will be affected.



Crises in Africa and the Middle East



The United Nations (UN) has said that there are 4 African countries having a **famine**. A famine is when people can die because they do not have enough food.



In Nigeria, a violent group called Boko Haram has pushed over 2 million people out of their homes and they are hungry.



There are 19 million people in Yemen that need help. A child dies every 10 minutes from disease and hunger. 2 years of war have caused lots of problems in Yemen.



Oxfam, an international aid organisation, has said that the system of getting help to people is too old fashioned. They say it needs more money.



In South Sudan, 40% of the people who live there really need food. The civil war has stopped people planting food to grow and eat. Some people in the UN say South Sudan's President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, is stopping his people from getting help.



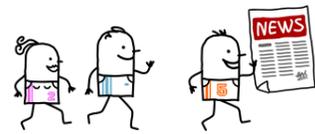
The civil war in Syria in the Middle East has left thousands of children dead. Most children now have to work and cannot go to school. Many are being made to fight in the war.



In Somalia, there has been a **drought**, which means there is not enough water to feed animals and grow food for people to eat. Over 6 million people are hungry.



On 4th April there was a gas attack in Syria which killed at least 58 people, including babies. Many people think the Syrian Government carried out the attack.



Quick News

UK has a new £1 coin

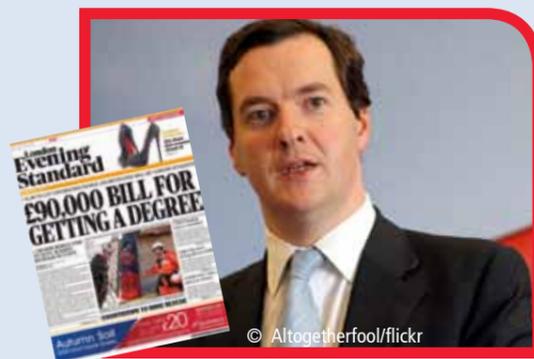


The new £1 coin came into use on 28th March 2017.



People have until 15th October 2017 to spend the old £1 coins.

George Osborne gets a new job



George Osborne has taken a new job as the editor of the Evening Standard newspaper in London. George Osborne used to be the Chancellor for the Conservative Party.



Some people think that he cannot be a newspaper editor and a Member of Parliament (MP) at the same time. He has now said he will not run in the general election and will stop being an MP.

Queen celebrates 91st birthday



The Queen celebrated her 91st birthday on Friday 21st April. This is the date she was born.



The Queen celebrates her birthday twice a year. She will have another birthday in June. Her birthday celebrations in June are called Trooping the Colour.

Serena Williams is having a baby



Serena Williams, a famous American tennis player, has said she is having a baby.



Serena is the best female tennis player in the world. She will not play tennis for the rest of the year, but says she will start playing again in 2018.



Get ready to vote!



The general election is on Thursday 8th June 2017.

This is when adults vote for a **Member of Parliament (MP)**. MPs work in Parliament and make decisions that can affect your local area and the whole country.



To vote you must be over 18 and be on the electoral register.

You must get registered to vote by 22nd May 2017. You can register to vote here:

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote



People with disabilities have the same right to vote as anyone else. By voting in the general election you can help to decide who runs the country. Find out more here:

www.everyvotecounts.org.uk

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