

# Cherry Willingham War Memorials

EAST MIDLANDS  
WAR MEMORIALS



by Rupert Matthews MEP



European  
Conservatives  
and Reformists  
Group



## HELLO AND WELCOME

As Conservative MEP for the East Midlands, I was delighted to become Chairman of the East Midlands War Memorials Association.

Here in the East Midlands our war memorials are important reminders of what we owe to previous generations. But they are also stark reminders of the evils of war and why it is so important that we never let up in our efforts to maintain peace and understanding between the nations of Europe. And in their day the war memorials played their role in fostering reconciliation. The crosses, angels and other features that adorn war memorials in Britain, Italy, Germany, France and further afield show how much we have in common.

In the European Parliament I spend much time seeking to improve understanding between the member states of the European Union. The same cultural underpinnings that make war memorials in England so similar to those in Belgium or the Netherlands also help to build friendly relations in the European Parliament between myself and my fellow MEPs.

Far from the usual admonition of "Don't mention the war", I find that the shared history and experience of warfare brings us together in a shared determination never to allow such horrors to happen again in Europe. My role as Chairman of the East Midlands War Memorials Association helps to build bridges to MEPs from other countries. My father's cousin was killed in 1944, the father of the German MEP whose office is opposite mine was killed that same year. We both remember men we never really knew at war memorials.

Where war once divided nations, war memorials can now bring them together.

*Rupert Matthews.*

## PART ONE THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The summer of 1914 was glorious across the East Midlands. The sun shone, crops ripened in the fields and the factories hummed with booming production that guaranteed work to the thousands who toiled away within them. If anyone noticed that an Austrian Archduke had been murdered in the Balkans, it did not really register. That sort of thing went on in the Balkans all the time.

When the Austrians invaded Serbia in supposed outrage over the murder – though in truth they had been seeking an excuse for years – only the mildest of alarm bells rang. But then Russia invaded Austria to support Serbia, Germany attacked Russia to support Austria and France invaded Germany to back up Russia. Finally, Germany invaded France. On 4 August German armies poured over the Belgian border as part of a great, sweeping march to outflank the main French armies on the Franco-German border. And then Britain declared war on Germany to honour a treaty defending Belgium

At this date, the counties of the East Midlands, as with most counties across the UK, had their own local regiments: The Lincolnshire Regiment took precedence, having been raised in 1685 and was numbered 10th in the Army List; the Leicestershire Regiment dated to 1688 and was numbered 17th; the 48th Northamptonshire Regiment was raised in 1741 and also drew recruits from Rutland. The final East Midlands regiment was the Sherwood Foresters, which had been created in 1881 by the amalgamation of the 45th Nottinghamshire Regiment and 95th Derbyshire Regiment.

Men from our counties served not only in their county infantry regiments, but also in various cavalry regiments and some were to be found in the Royal Navy. But in wherever they served, these men marched off to war.



British infantry attacking near Thiepval, 7 Aug 1916, during the Battle of the Somme. This photo was taken from the firing step of the trench that they've just left. Note the wooden stakes supporting coils of barbed wire. Before an attack such as this, military engineers would have cleared paths through the wire.



British infantry advancing in support near Morval on 25 September 1916, part of the battle of the Somme. Note the man carrying a stretcher in the centre, while the others carry rifles and the standard pack, in which would be ammunitions, food and a blanket. The spades were used for repairing trenches.



**British wounded returning from fighting on Banezin Ridge on the Somme, July 1916.** Walking wounded were expected to make their own way back to field hospitals for initial treatment where medical staff decided if they could return to their units or had to be evacuated to hospitals in the rear. Note that the man fourth from the left wears a German uniform and is presumably a prisoner, which may explain the unwounded man with a rifle behind him.

The fighting of 1914 involved rapid advances, cavalry charges and sweeping infantry attacks, but neither side delivered a knockout blow. When the bad weather of autumn set in, the armies dug defensive trenches to hold their position through the wet, dismal winter weather, confident in the expectation that come the good spring weather more mobile warfare would resume and the war would soon be over.

Meanwhile, the regular regiments were thinly stretched along the line. Massive recruitment drives began to raise new troops. Some were drafted into regular battalions, but others were put into special battalions formed to last only for the length of the war. All of the East Midlands regiments gained these additional units.

The battles of 1915 – at Neuve Chappelle, Ypres and Loos – soon revealed that there was to be no easy breakthrough leading to a quick victory. Instead, the war was likely to descend into a murderous war of attrition. The victor would be the side willing to spend the most money and most blood to gain triumph.

Efforts were made to break the stalemate in secondary campaigns. In both Mesopotamia and at Gallipoli attacks aimed at knocking out Germany's ally Turkey took place. Romania and Italy were induced to attack the Austrians. These ploys failed, but men and resources were sucked out of Germany to prop up their allies.

In 1916 the Germans attacked first, assaulting the famous French fortified city of Verdun. They inflicted vast casualties on the French. It also caused the planned Allied attack on the Somme to take place sooner than planned and without adequate resources. The bloodbath that was the Battle of the Somme was the result.

Back in the East Midlands the demands of war were making themselves felt with increasing impact. Day after day, week after week the local newspapers carried the

names of local men who had been killed, wounded or decorated for gallantry. Men coming home on leave spread the news about the conditions in the trenches, discussed the role of new weapons such as machine guns or aircraft and passed on legends, rumours and gossip. Factories were re-equipped to make weapons instead of tractors, furniture or tools.

Above all there was a need for more and more men to join the army. Throughout 1915 volunteers had kept up the numbers, but in 1916 conscription was introduced. All men aged 18 to 40 were liable to service.

As the men went off to fight, their places in factories, farms and other workplaces were taken by women. Young, unmarried women without family ties were encouraged to work in factories far from home. Working class girls volunteered in large numbers to earn the top wages on offer. Middle class girls preferred the more genteel, if less well paid, roles of nurse or teacher. Right across the East Midlands gender roles were becoming more fluid.

In 1917 the USA entered the war to support the Allies and hopes of victory rose, only to be dashed a few months later when the Russian Empire collapsed into a chaotic revolution that took her out of the war.

By the spring of 1918 the Germans launched three massive offensives that came close to breaking through the British lines and gaining victory for Germany. In the event the attacks were just held. On 8 August the British, French and Americans launched their own massed assault. The German Army high command told Kaiser Wilhelm that defeat was inevitable and



**British machine gunners near Arras, 1917.** The heavy machine gun dominated the battlefields of the First World War and effectively made infantry attacks so dangerous as to be impossible.



**A Sopwith Camel of the Royal Flying Corps.** The Camel was primarily a fighter designed to shoot down enemy aircraft, but it could strafe enemy trenches with its guns or carry light bombs under the wings.



**British Mark V tank.** The Mark V entered service in 1918 and was a far more reliable and improved version of the Mark I of 1916 and Mark IV of 1917. It was armed with four machine guns and two 6 pounder guns. Bovington Tank Museum

advised him to seek an armistice as quickly as possible. On 11 November 1918 that armistice was signed at 5am, and came into effect at 11am – the symbolic eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The Great War was over.

In popular imagination, the First World War was a nightmare of mud, trenches and inhuman barbarity in which brave men were led by incompetent generals. As with many stereotypes, there is some truth in the popular image, but only some.

The image of mud comes mostly from a few weeks of hellish conditions in 1917 during the Battle of Passchendaele. The heavy casualties of the Battle of the Somme in 1916, during which some units were effectively wiped out in a few hours of fighting, created the image of sudden, massive casualties.

For most men, the daily routine rarely changed. The men would be called to 'stand to' an hour before dawn in case of enemy attack. Then breakfast would be served before the men were given their tasks for the day – latrines had to be cleared out, food had to be cooked, weapons needed cleaning. At night, men would go into no man's land out on patrol. The barbed wire in front of the trenches had to be checked and, if necessary, repaired.

Sometimes a night-time raid would be carried out on the enemy. This might involve as few as a dozen men sneaking forward to hurl grenades into enemy trenches, or larger raiding parties would leap down into the enemy front line to kill sentries and set demolition charges to blow up enemy trenches.

Nor were the men in the front line all the time. Units spent a few days in the trenches, then moved to a rear area for rest and training. After a period that might be a week or so, or sometimes as long as a month, the battalion would be moved up to the reserve trenches before going forward to the front line again.

During the course of the war, tactics changed dramatically. The British devised a plan of co-ordinated action between aircraft, artillery and infantry that was deployed on the Somme in 1916, and which failed. The French tried more daring dash-and-hold tactics, but they too proved abortive. In 1917 the Germans came up with the stormtrooper tactics. This saw small units of fast-moving elite infantry dash forward to penetrate through weak points before spreading out in the rear areas to assault enemy command posts, artillery positions and communications links.

Aircraft were used to direct artillery fire to make it more accurate, then to drop bombs with even greater accuracy. Poison gas was deployed to clear entire sections of the enemy front line. Artillery barrages became heavier, then creeping barrages were developed to move just ahead of attacking troops. New weapons made infantry fighting in trenches more murderous – grenades, sawn-off shotguns and flamethrowers were just some of the new inventions put to use.

In the end the answer to the stalemate of the trenches came in the shape of the tank. First deployed by the British in 1916 these behemoths were still rather unreliable and slow by the war's end, which made them less useful than they would be in 1939.

## PART TWO

# THE LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT



Cap badge of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 caught the British military rather by surprise. Although a Franco-German conflict was considered fairly likely few expected it in 1914. And most people thought that British involvement would be restricted to supplying France with weapons and cash. It was the German invasion of Belgium on their way to France that brought Britain into the war.

The Lincolnshire Regiment was one of the oldest, proudest and most senior in the British Army. It had been raised in 1685 by the Earl of Bath and, after various incarnations, had settled down in Lincolnshire in 1751. Thereafter the regiment fought in the American War of Independence and the Peninsular War under Wellington (where it distinguished itself at Tarragona) before going to India and other parts of the British Empire.

In 1914, the Lincolnshire Regiment consisted of two regular battalions and one reserve battalion plus two territorial battalions.

The Reserves were made up of men who trained for four weeks per year, having undergone six months of training when they first signed up. These units were equipped with weapons and kit identical to that of the regulars, and were expected to be posted overseas in wartime, though not to serve in front line duties except in an emergency.

The Territorials, by contrast, were made up of men who had enlisted for four years. They were expected to attend 20 days of training each year, mostly at weekends with only seven days spent away from home and under canvas. They were equipped with old rifles and other equipment considered obsolete by the regular army. It was expected that they would take over routine home defence tasks in time of war, freeing the regular and reserve battalions to go to war.

The 1st Battalion landed in France within days of the outbreak of war and was immediately thrown into the desperate fighting at Mons. That was followed by the terrible Retreat from Mons, carried out with the German army snapping at their heels. Having stopped the Germans at the Marne, the regiment then moved to

Ypres – or Wipers as it was popularly known – where more fighting took place before the fighting subsided into a trench stalemate.

In the spring of 1915, the newly raised 4th and 5th Battalions arrived in France, while the 6th went to the Mediterranean to take part in the disastrous Gallipoli Campaign. In 1916, the 10th Battalion, raised mostly in the Grimsby area, arrived in France. That unit had the misfortune to be in the first wave of attackers on the first day of the Battle of the Somme, 1 July 1916. In all, 502 men of the unit were killed or wounded that one day alone. By sunset only two officers were fit for duty.

It was this sort of carnage that prompted the erection of war memorials. But some villages were lucky. Bigby and High Toynton were what became known as "Thankful Villages". All 10 men from Bigby who marched off to war came back safe and well, as did the 14 men of High Toynton. To this day, neither village has a war memorial.

## THE BATTLE HONOURS OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE REGIMENT

**FIRST WORLD WAR:** Mons, Le Cateau, Retreat from Mons, Marne 1914, Aisne 1914, La Bassee 1914, Messines 1914, Messines 1917, Messines 1918, Ypres 1914, '15, '17, Nonne Bosschen, Neuve Chapelle, Gravenstafel, St. Julien, Frezenberg, Bellewaarde, Aubers, Loos, Somme 1916, Albert 1916, '18, Bazentin, Delville Wood, Pozières, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Thiepval, Ancre 1916 '18, Arras 1917 '18, Scarpe 1917, Arleux, Pilckem, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917 '18, St. Quentin, Bapaume 1918, Lys, Estaires, Bailleul, Kemmel, Amiens, Drocourt Quéant Hindenburg Line, Épéhy, Canal du Nord, St. Quentin Canal, Beaurevoir, Selle, Sambre, Suvla, Gallipoli 1915, Egypt 1916.

**SECOND WORLD WAR:** Vist, Norway 1940, Dunkirk 1940, Normandy Landings, Cambes, Fontenay le Pesnil, Defence of Rauray, Caen, Orne, Bourguébus Ridge, Troarn, Nederrijn, Le Havre, Antwerp-Turnhout Canal, Venruij, Venlo Pocket, Rhineland, Hochwald, Lingen, Bremen, Arnhem, Sedjenane I, Mine de Sedjenane, Argoub Selah, Salerno, Vietri Pass, Capture of Naples, Cava di Terreni, Volturno Crossing, Garigliano Crossing, Monte Tuga, Gothic Line, Monte Gridolfo, Gemmano Ridge, Lamone Crossing, San Marino, Donbaik, Point 201 (Arakan), North Arakan, Buthidaung, Ngakyedauk Pass, Ramree.

More details about the war service of the Lincolnshire Regiment can be found on the excellent website: <http://www.wartimememoriesproject.com/greatwar/allied/registry.php?pid=17628>

## PART THREE WAR MEMORIAL

The village of Cherry Willingham lies a couple of miles east of Lincoln, sandwiched between the River Witham and the railway line. Despite this unpromising situation, it a charming little place that really does evoke the memories of rural Lincolnshire. The heart of the old village is Church Lane, site of the medieval fish ponds and of the parish Church of St Peter and St Paul. It is here that the rather unusual war memorial of Cherry Willingham is to be found.

Although this church dedicated to the two key evangelists is first mentioned in writing in the Domesday Book of 1086, the current structure is much more modern. The church of 1086 was built of wood. The good villagers of Cherry Willingham repaired, rebuilt and updated this structure many times over the years, but always in wood. Eventually, the structure went up in flames and the village was left without a place of worship of its own.

Then along came Thomas Becke, a famous and wealthy lawyer from Lincoln. Like many successful townsfolk before and since, he fancied a rural retreat, so when the Cherry Willingham Estate came up for sale in the 1740s, he bought it. Along with the village and its fields, Becke acquired the right to appoint the vicar of the parish church. Spotting the glaring problem that there was no village church for a vicar to use, Becke built the village a fine new church in the very latest architectural style. The Church is built of high quality Ancaster limestone and stands on a commanding mound. At the foot of which is the spring line, a problem in some gardens but at one time the water was famous for the care of weak eyes. When Thomas Becke died in 1757 his son, John, put into the church a massive tomb with a flamboyant and self-congratulatory epitaph. It is a great monument to the dead lawyer, and to a son's devotion to his father.

One thing that the church lacked was a lychgate. In medieval times it was normal for a corpse to be washed and wrapped at home, then placed in the shelter of the lychgate to be watched by mourners taking turns until the funeral a day or two later. These days they serve as ornamental entrances to the churchyard, and somewhere for churchgoers to shelter from the rain or hot sun.

After the Great War of 1914-18, the villagers of Cherry Willingham decided, like many others, that they needed a war memorial. Being practical folks they did not fancy having a stone cross or statue, but opted for a new set of gates for their churchyard instead.

**The Lincolnshire Chronicle of 22 April 1922 carried a report on the formal opening of the gates:**

“ The unveiling and dedication of the War Memorial took place on Monday afternoon. The memorial takes the form of a lynch gate at the entrance to the churchyard and bears a tablet with the names of those of the village who fell in the Great War. A short service was held in church conducted by the Rev. R.A. Marsden, assisted by the Rev H.W. Hall (South Carlton) and Canon Vines (Fiskerton).

After the service the dedicatory rites were read by Canon Vines, and Captain Newsum of Lincoln performed the unveiling of the gates and made an appropriate address. The hymn ‘O Lord our help’ was sung by a very large gathering. Mr. R. Tindall, of Reepham presided at the organ and played suitable music for the occasion. The ‘Last Post’ was sounded at the close. After the ceremony a meat tea was provided in the day schoolroom, and in the evening a whist drive and dance was held there being a large number present .”



The memorial itself takes the form of a pair of wooden gates with cast iron hinges and two cast brass plaques on which are written the names of those men who were killed in the two World Wars.

It is worth noting in passing that Canon Vines was a wealthy man who devoted much of his money to beautifying Fiskerton parish church. Captain Newsum, who went on to become High Sheriff of Lincolnshire three years later, had lost a son during the war. Captain Clement Newsum of the 5th Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment, was killed on 26 September 1917. He has no known grave so is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

**The original plaque has the names of those who died in the First World War, the newer one carries the inscription: “To the Glory of God and in memory of Lt Thomas Henry Goodchild RNVR 1939-45”**



Benjamin Brumpton was a private in the 4th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment, though he was attached to the 468th Field Company of the Royal Engineers when he died of his wounds on 23 October 1917. More than in any war before or since, the Royal Engineers were vital in the First World War. It was the engineers who were responsible for the deep dugouts, field fortifications and supply infrastructure that kept the fighting men going through the long years of war. While infantry could, and did, dig and maintain the fighting trenches, the more elaborate defensive elements of the Front Line and the defences in depth behind them were down to the engineers. Perhaps Brumpton had shown some aptitude for this sort of work. Brumpton's body was recovered and lies buried in the Bethune Cemetery.

Robert Smalley Kennedy (his middle name is not on the plaque) was a resident of Cherry Willingham at the time he joined up. He was not, however, a native of the village. He had been born in Broxholme, ten miles to the northwest. When he was still a boy his parents died, so he moved to Cherry Willingham to live with a relative, Jane Clay. Kennedy joined up in Lincoln and was posted to the 4th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was killed in action on 18th October 1916, a day on which 983 other British soldiers also died.

At this point the British Army was engaged in the third and final phase of the Battle of the Somme – the struggle for the high ground around Ancre. Field Marshal Haig had made plans for the Third Army to take the area east of Gommecourt, the Reserve Army to attack north from Thiepval Ridge and east from Beaumont Hamel-Hébuterne and for the Fourth Army to reach the Péronne–Bapaume road around Le Transloy and Beaulencourt-Thilloy-Loupart Wood, north of the Albert–Bapaume road. The Reserve Army attacked to complete the capture of Regina Trench/Stuff Trench, north of Courcelette to the west end of Bazentin Ridge around Schwaben and Stuff Redoubts, during which bad weather caused great hardship and delay. The Marine Brigade from



Flanders and fresh German divisions brought from quiet fronts counter-attacked frequently and the British objectives were not secured until 11 November. As with so many actions on the Western Front, the fight cost large numbers of casualties for only limited gains. Kennedy is buried in the Berles Position Military Cemetery. His parents asked that the words "Jesu Mercy" be carved on to his headstone. Tragically, he was only 18 years old at the time of his death.

Private John Thomas Cliff Taylor is something of an enigma. There are no records of a man of that name serving in the British army during the First World War, nor of a grave bearing that name. There were, however, several men named John Taylor [with no middle names recorded] who served in the Great War, and three of them were killed fighting with the Lincolnshire Regiment. Two of those John Taylors are well known, their names are recorded on the Louth and North Thoresby war memorials. It therefore seems likely that the third John Taylor is the one from Cherry Willingham.

If that is correct, we know a little more about John Taylor from Cherry Willingham. He served in the 2nd Battalion and was posted to France early in 1915. He went 'over the top' at dawn on the First Day of the Battle of the Somme. Taylor survived unwounded, but many of his comrades were less lucky. Of 22 officers who attacked that day, all were killed or wounded. The Lincolnshires failed to capture their objectives. On 23 October the battalion attacked again on the Somme. This time they suffered even worse from two German machine guns emplacements that had not been spotted before the attack. John Taylor was killed just moments after climbing out of his trench to attack.

Charles William Whitlam might have similarly remained enigmatic, but we know for a fact that he is the same man referred to in army records as Charles William Whitlam. He had been born in Binbrook in 1896, but the entire family moved to Cherry Willingham a few years later. He joined up in Lincoln and was posted to the 4th Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was killed on 18 October 1916, also during the Battle of the Somme. In the same action that Robert Kennedy was killed. He is buried at Berles Position Military Cemetery alongside Kennedy.

After the Second World War a new plaque was added to commemorate the sole man from Cherry Willingham to have been killed in that conflict. The man in question was Thomas Henry Goodchild. Goodchild was a native of the village. Unlike most men from Lincolnshire, he chose to join the Royal Navy and by June 1941 had attained the rank of Lieutenant. He was posted to the destroyer *HMS Gurkha* when that ship returned to duty after being damaged in March 1941.

*HMS Gurkha* was an L Class destroyer, meaning that she had three pairs of 4.7-inch guns, eight torpedo tubes and four depth charge launchers. These ships also had 12 anti-aircraft guns, which made them among the most effective anti-aircraft destroyers in the Royal Navy at the time. For several months after Goodchild joined her, *HMS Gurkha* escorted convoys to and from British coastal waters in the eastern Atlantic – the Western Approaches area. Late in 1941, she transferred to the Mediterranean to escort convoys to Malta – one of the most dangerous tasks facing the Royal Navy at this stage of the war.



On 30 September, HMS Gurkha was part of a flotilla of 11 destroyers north of Algiers when they were attacked by torpedoes. The destroyers at once fanned out to find their attacker. HMS Gurkha located a submarine using asdic and attacked with depth charges. She successfully sank the Italian submarine Adua, which went down with all hands. On 17 January she was cruising off Sidi Barani when her stern was rocked by a massive explosion. This turned out to be a torpedo fired by an unseen submarine [later discovered to have been the German U-boat U-133]. The destroyer caught fire and despite the efforts of her crew she sank an hour later. Goodchild was killed by the initial explosion and his body went down with the ship.

The parish council has recently erected a history display board in the village, which also mentions the fallen of the two world wars.

### THE NAMES ON CHERRY WILLINGHAM WAR MEMORIAL FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR ARE:

Benjamin Brumpton

Robert Kennedy

John Thomas Cliff Taylor

Charles William Whitelam

### AND FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR:

Thomas Henry Goodchild

## ABOUT THE EAST MIDLANDS WAR MEMORIALS ASSOCIATION

The Association was founded to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

There are thousands of reminders to the fallen of the First World War and later conflicts all over the East Midlands. We believe that these war memorials should be cared for and respected.

- We will fundraise for repair or improvement works to war memorials.
- We will look to tell the story of those brave individuals named on our memorials.
- We will work to ensure that all worthy war memorials in the East Midlands are listed by Historic England.
- We will create an educational program for schools in the East Midlands where we will be offering lesson plans to schools on the importance of Remembrance Day.

To keep up-to-date with our work, please visit our website at  
[www.eastmidlandswarmemorials.com](http://www.eastmidlandswarmemorials.com)

where you can learn how to: sign up for our email newsletter, nominate a war memorial for listing, join our fundraising activities, join us when we visit war memorials.



## WHO WE ARE

The East Midlands War Memorials Association is a not-for-profit company limited by share guarantee.

PRESIDENT: Her Grace Frances Duchess of Rutland

CHAIRMAN: Rupert Matthews MEP

VICE CHAIRMAN: Squadron Leader Andrew Smith

HON. TREASURER: William Scott

HON. SECRETARY: Simon Whelband



RUPERT MATTHEWS MEP



European  
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# The European Conservatives and Reformists

Rupert Matthews MEP is a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) Group within the European Parliament.

## About the ECR

The ECR Group is a political group within the European Parliament that includes the British Conservatives and like-minded political allies from several other countries. We are the only group in the European Parliament that believes the EU should decentralise power back to national capitals, town halls or to families and individuals.

We were created in 2009 to bring about major reform of the EU based on Eurorealism, a decentralisation of powers, more openness and a focus on supporting Europe's economic growth.

We promote principles like open markets, lower tax, the transatlantic alliance and the family.

As the third largest group in the European Parliament we put forward an alternative agenda for the EU to bring together all MEPs who believe the EU cannot go on as it is and needs to change.

## EU Reform

The ECR becoming the 3rd largest group in the European Parliament and the success of our member parties in elections across Europe show that our calls for reform are resonating with the growing skepticism of European voters across the continent.

The current policies and structures of the European Union, largely designed to meet the needs of the 1950s, make it unfit to meet the challenges of the 2050s. This must change.

Europe needs a fresh approach. It needs new policies to modernise the economy so its industries and business can be competitive in the global marketplace. It needs reform so it is able to generate jobs and prosperity in the century ahead.

## Contact the ECR

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