

Events, dear boy, events

Published: January 17, 2026, 2:02 am

It is commonplace to think that there is nothing that will prevent a Conservative election win in 2020 now. I disagree. There are, as Macmillan may have said, 'events, dear boy, events' that can blow any government off course. Here are some that might do just that.

* **The NHS failing**

* People dying waiting for treatment

* **Social care failing**

* People dying for lack of care

* **People forced onto the streets by the benefit cap**

* And children, especially

* **Councils going bankrupt**

* And basic essential services being cut as a result

* **Power cuts**

* People dying because there is insufficient capacity to meet demand

* **An increase in interest rates**

* Giving rise to mortgage defaults

* **Rapidly rising class sizes**

* Failure to meet the needs of a growing number of children

- * **Rapidly rising government debt**
- * Spending rising and revenue falling: the end of the Tory dream of a balanced budget

- * **The next economic downturn**
- * All the signs are there

- * **Tax cuts for the well off or large companies**
- * Defying the public mood

- * **No change to migration**
- * A failure to deliver what people thought was the promise of Brexit

- * **Rising unemployment as companies leave the country**
- * No one voted Brexit to see their job disappear

- * **Failure to deliver a negotiated Brexit in two years**
- * The failure that's almost inevitable

- * **No sign that anyone of significance wants to do a trade deal with the U.K.**
- * And most especially a protectionist USA

But of course, the availability of an alternative would help.