

BROXBOURNE CONSERVATIVES' NEWSLETTER

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first of hopefully many newsletters which will keep you informed as to what is happening with the Association.

We have had an extremely eventful and successful year. In the Broxbourne Borough Council elections in May, we won 12 of the 13 seats and in the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council elections, Cllr Adrian Prest won the Northaw and Cuffley seat. We also campaigned strongly to try to keep the Cheshunt Urgent Care Centre open and won the Cheshunt Central by-election with the hard work of our excellent candidate Cllr Tony Siracusa and the Cheshunt branch.

SOCIAL EVENTS

We have had a large and varied number of social events throughout the year which I thank you for supporting.

In February, we had our Association Annual Dinner with The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, who was an excellent guest speaker. We have also had a barbecue in Broxbourne, a golf day, excellent good fun quiz nights in Cheshunt and Bury Green and Audrey has continued to do sterling work with the Strawberry Tea Party, Cuffley Bank Holiday Summer Lunch and Conservative Womens Group lunches. An extremely fun evening was had by all at the Blue Ball where our guest speaker The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, gave a superb speech full of humour and passion for the vital work he is doing in reforming the welfare state.

Looking forward to next year we have a number of events lined up including a Gala Dinner on Friday 24th February with Mr Mark Prisk MP, Minister of State for Business and Enterprise, at Cheshunt Park Golf Course. This should prove to be a very interesting evening to hear how Mark Prisk MP interacts with Vince Cable MP, the Liberal Democrat Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills. Tickets include a three course meal with coffee

and are only £23 per person, please contact Sue at the office to book your place.

MEMBERSHIP

We have had two large membership drives this year in Broxbourne and Goffs Oak with a view to increasing members. I hope to make these much more regular events. In these challenging times, Broxbourne needs a strong Conservative Association capable of supporting an independent minded MP who puts his constituents' interest ahead of his own career. We want to make sure that our Conservative voice is heard within the Coalition. In our excellent MP, Charles Walker, we certainly have that.

Your continued membership is of vital importance because unlike Labour (who are 85% bankrolled by their union masters), we depend upon our members for fundraising as well as also having lots of fun!

GOVERNMENT

Although times are tough, I do have faith in our Prime Minister David Cameron and Chancellor George Osborne to take the necessary difficult decisions to dig us out of the large economic hole that the last Labour Government created.

It never ceases to amaze me that it is always us Conservatives that need to come along and sort out the problems caused by a Labour Government. Astonishingly, Labour seem to be advocating more debt and higher spending as a way of getting out of a crisis caused by too much debt and spending.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you soon.

Paolo Caruso

Chairman - Broxbourne Conservatives

Please feel free to call me on 07813 479297 or e-mail me at paolocarusobroxbourne@gmail.com.

PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE

Let me start by saying how aware I am of many of your frustrations. Quite rightly, you probably want things to be moving at a quicker pace and you want to see the Prime Minister implementing a Conservative agenda. Yes, me too. However, I have to constantly remind myself that our Party did not win the last General Election, so we don't have a Conservative Government. What we have is a coalition Government, led by a Prime Minister who is a Conservative. When you head a Cabinet that contains Nick Clegg, Chris Huhne and Vince Cable, politics really does boil down to the art of the possible, over the ambitious pursuit of the impossible. However, the Prime Minister is providing firm leadership and good judgement in the execution of his duties. We are making key "Conservative" progress in the areas of education, welfare and of course, the economy.

The past few months have been extremely challenging for this great nation of ours. There is no doubt that the economic storms buffeting the world's developed economies are some of the most serious of the past eighty years. The Euro zone countries are paying the price for the rushed introduction of the single currency and the inclusion of many countries in this construct that were palpably unready for admission. Thankfully, the UK made absolutely the right choice to remain outside this currency union. But if left unaddressed, the troubles afflicting the Euro will cause not just the UK great harm but also the economies of the USA and China. We live in interesting times and they are going to remain interesting for some years to come.

I am convinced that the Prime Minister and his Chancellor are right to be focusing on reducing our deficit. Under the previous Government, we lived beyond our means for far too long. Spending money we hadn't got, on things that we probably didn't need. Anyone who has run a business or a household knows that you can't exist on credit indefinitely – sooner or later you have got to pull your horns in. For almost the past hundred years, it has been the duty of the Conservatives to clean up after a Labour Government. Now is no different than before. But I do recognise that we are asking people to make significant sacrifices. Pensioners are seeing the value of their savings reduced by inflation, matched to low interest rates.

The cost of fuel is going up and shopping is becoming more expensive. Those planning for retirement in the public sector will have to pay more towards their pension and work longer. They are also being asked to bear a pay freeze. People in the private sector face uncertainty about their future and are also struggling to juggle their family finances. None of what is going on is easy and I didn't go into politics to make people's lives more difficult. However, if we don't act today then tomorrow will be more difficult and the day after that, will be worse.

Outside the economy, the Coalition Government has continued to tackle the culture of "entitlement" which

MEET THE ASSOCIATION OFFICERS



President The Rt Hon
The Lord Parkinson



Vice President
Mrs Audrey Hearn



Vice President
Mr Brian Perry

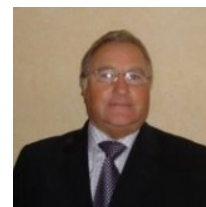


Chairman
Mr Paolo Caruso

allows too many people to live off the state, without contributing to the state. Working for a living should not be something that people can duck out of if they don't fancy getting up in the morning. There simply is not the money around to support idleness. In addition to breaking the benefit culture, the next objective for the Coalition must be for it to make some real progress on reducing the levels of immigration into the UK. This is something that we, as Conservatives, will be rightly judged on at the next General Election.

I end with my usual concluding comments which are that it remains a great privilege to be Broxbourne's Member of Parliament, representing a wonderful part of this Country of ours in the House of Commons. Thank you for your continued support.

Charles Walker MP
Member of Parliament for Broxbourne



Deputy Membership
Mr Michael Jackson



Deputy Political
Cllr Martin Kennaugh



Treasurer
Cllr David Lewis



Campaign Manager
Cllr Miss Dee Hart



Secretary
Mrs Susan Harding