

ASSOCIATION NEWS

How to contact us



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Members Newsletter

April 2014

NEXT EVENT:

Annual Association Dinner *With Chris Grayling MP*

We are happy to announce that we will be welcoming Chris Grayling MP, the Secretary of State for Justice, as our guest speaker at our Annual Association Dinner on **Thursday 24th April** at **Clandon Regis Golf Club**. Tickets cost £40 each for a three course meal.

Please contact **MVCA** on **01306 883312** or **Events Officer David Sharland** on **01372 274795** for more details on the event and how to book your place.



ASSOCIATION AGM UPDATE

Following our AGM on Friday 21st March, we are pleased to introduce our new Officer team. We have a fresh new team to take us forward into the 2014 Local and European Elections and power on through towards the 2015 General Election!

President: Helyn Clack

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Chairman: Alan Reif

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Deputy Chairman Political: Duncan Irvine

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Deputy Chairman Membership: Neil Watkinson

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Treasurer: Duncan Mountford

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Events Officer: David Sharland

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Branch Liaison: Jean Pearson

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Councillor Liaison Mole Valley: David Mir

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Councillor Liaison Guildford: Richard Billington

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CWO Chairman: Pam Pulling-Smith

milehousecottages@googlemail.com

CF Chairman: Helen Davies

helen_davies1989@hotmail.co.uk

NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER

Those members who attended the recent Association AGM will remember my speaking on the work and challenges which we face in what is now the start of the run up to the 2015 General Election. As Prime Ministers Questions unfolded last week I felt that many of the key aspects of this upcoming election were being displayed in the chamber and we gained some useful insight into what 2015 will look like as a contest.



We saw first and foremost a clash between two men – and the contrast between them has never been more pronounced than it was last week. The Prime Minister was assertive and persuasive both at rejecting Labour attacks and making the case for our genuine long term plan to improve the economy. By contrast Ed Miliband appeared entirely out of his depth, his awkwardness and inability to strike a serious rhetorical blow clear for all to see. This is the first point which will sit in our favour come 2015, David Cameron is in every sense a Prime Minister. Ed Miliband by contrast is clearly not. This view has been heavily supported in recent polls. As the PM put it, ‘...the right hon. Gentleman is flailing around, a man with no plan and, increasingly, no future.’

Of course, more important than personality is policy. Last week gave a clear example of where



Conservative policy is succeeding and Labour are falling far short. The key exchange of the session was an attempt by Ed Miliband to suggest his policy of freezing energy prices had been vindicated by a recent announcement that SSE (Scottish & Southern Energy) will be freezing its prices for twenty months. Even as the words came out of his mouth it was clear that this was a poor line of attack which failed to differentiate between a private company choosing to freeze its rates and the state forcing them to do so. The Prime Minister quickly made this point and Miliband was routed back to his usual lines about ‘the cost of living crisis.’ What this exchange shows us though, is that Labour not only have a personality problem, they have a very serious problem shaping and even

understanding serious policy. I feel we can be confident that as 2015 gets ever nearer and Labour ideas are scrutinised more closely we can expect a series of policy embarrassments for the party which once declared it was re-examining its policies ‘starting from a blank sheet of paper’ – and seems to have made little progress since.

All of this is contributing to a crushing pessimism which is dominating the Labour Party at present. In my experience Labour may be politically tone deaf and often out of touch, but far from stupid. They see as clearly as we do that they have a weak, rudderless leader, a dangerously “Old Labour” Shadow Chancellor and no coherent message they can offer Mole Valley when on the doorstep. We have a real chance now to take advantage of their demoralized state and lack of momentum. With sufficient effort we can out campaign our opponents both here in Mole Valley and in surrounding areas and play our part in securing a Conservative majority in 2015. That is my goal, and I know it is the goal of the new Association officers elected last week – who I both congratulate and look forward to working with in the future.

Sir Paul Beresford

THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PLAN

Our plan builds a stronger, more competitive economy and secures a better future for Britain by:

- 1 REDUCING THE DEFICIT**
so we deal with our debt, safeguard our economy for the long term and keep mortgages low.
- 2 CUTTING INCOME TAX AND FREEZING FUEL DUTY**
to help hardworking people be more financially secure.
- 3 CREATING MORE JOBS**
by backing small business and enterprise with better infrastructure and lower job taxes.
- 4 CAPPING WELFARE AND REDUCING IMMIGRATION**
so our economy delivers for people who want to work hard and play by the rules.
- 5 DELIVERING THE BEST SCHOOLS**
so the next generation can succeed in the global race.

SECURING BRITAIN'S FUTURE

Go to www.your2014budget.com and find out what the budget means for you and your family!

EU REFERENDUM

It's official: Labour won't give you a referendum on Europe!

Ed Miliband has made his position crystal clear - there will be no referendum under a Labour Government.

Our relationship with Europe isn't working and needs to change.

Unlike Labour, the Conservatives have a plan to negotiate a better deal for Britain in Europe then let the British people decide in an in-out referendum by the end of 2017.

Show your support for a referendum by signing the petition at www.letbritaindecide.com.

LABOUR AND THE LIB DEMS
WON'T GIVE YOU A SAY

UKIP CAN'T
GIVE YOU A SAY

ONLY THE CONSERVATIVES
CAN AND WILL GIVE YOU A
REFERENDUM ON EUROPE

BACK OUR CAMPAIGN AT LETBRITAINDECIDE.COM