

ASSOCIATION NEWS



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Members Newsletter

October 2013

ASSOCIATION NEWS: UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Reflecting on 2013 it would be fair to say that it has been both challenging and rewarding. We have taken further steps to strengthen the financial position of the association, including renting additional space from our Dorking premises to the tenant who was already occupying the ground floor units. We are also increasingly moving towards email as the primary means of communicating information, so if you have not given us your address then call the office on 01306 883312 and we will add you to our mailing list! This will let us keep you informed of news from our MP Sir Paul Beresford, our local council groups and the association itself - including details of the events we run throughout the year.

On the subject of events, it has been fantastic to see so many members coming along to the various functions the association has arranged this year, feedback I have received from those attending branch events, the Lunch Club, the Patrons Club or any other event this year has been uniformly positive. If you are a member who has not taken the plunge and come to an event yet, I would strongly urge you to do so - the chance to meet like minded conservatives and hear interesting speakers should not be missed!

Finally, I would like to extend my particular thanks to all those members who supported our efforts in the run up to the County Council elections in May. Your generous donations of both time and money allowed us to secure the brilliant results described in more detail in the article below.



POLITICAL REVIEW FOR 2013

Mole Valley Conservatives enjoyed a resounding success in the May 2013 Surrey County Council elections, with all five seats previously held seats retained. Association chairman Helyn Clack staved off strong competition from the Liberal Democrats and retained her seat in the Dorking Rural Division following strong campaigning effort. Clear margins of victory were also achieved by Tim Hall and Claire Curran in the Leatherhead & Fetcham East and the Bookham & Fetcham West divisions, respectively. Conservative candidates were only defeated in two divisions in this district, with both narrowly missing out on claiming the seats already held by the Liberal Democrats

Elsewhere in the constituency Bill Barker continued his astounding level of support in the Horsleys with almost three times more votes than the nearest challenger, whilst Keith Taylor was also comfortably re-elected in Shere. These victories showed the Conservatives remain, by far, the most popular party in the constituency and ensures that the Surrey County Council will continue to work in the best interests of this area.

Unfortunately Duncan Irvine was unable to win a seat on Mole Valley District Council, narrowly losing out to the Liberal Democrat candidate in the Mickleham, Westhumble and Pixham by-election which came in September. As a newcomer in the ward he achieved a strong result which bodes well for the next election there in 2015.

News From Parliament

Sir Paul Reviews The Year From Westminster

This year has been especially exciting and busy year for me and the national party as a whole. First and foremost, I would emphasise that the feeling coming Westminster is that safe and prudent Conservative management is starting to lead to a visible and marked improvement in the economy - we have not fully recovered yet, but the economic indicators are most encouraging.

I have also been pleased to see the commitment made by the Prime Minister to hold an in-out referendum on Europe in 2017. It is an absolute necessity to have a debate on the pros and cons of the EU, and following this debate, the people of Great Britain will have the chance to make a choice which will dramatically effect the future of this country. ONLY the Conservative party is offering this choice, because only the Conservative Party trusts the people to MAKE that choice! This is why I am fully backing James Wharton's Private Members Bill to make sure the public gets its say after the next election.

It has been a busy year for me personally as well. In the House I have made best possible use of the Private Members Bill system to bring in much needed changes to laws relating to child protection, closing loopholes used by those found to be in possession of various forms of child pornography, and prisoners ability to communicate using mobile phones. I have received really excellent support from ministers and others on these topics and am confident that I will be able to go even further in the months ahead.

Locally, I continue to meet constituents at my regular Friday surgery sessions where a wide range of issues are discussed. Weighing particularly heavily on my mind at the moment are the outrageous proposals published by Guildford Borough Council which would see many of the beautiful villages of Mole Valley lose their protected Green Belt status. I can assure you that I will fight these plans with all the power at my disposal.



Association Future Events List

- **New Members Gathering:** Recently joined us? Then why not come along to our lunch time get together from 12.30pm - 2pm on Saturday 30th November 2013 at Mickleham Village Hall. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. Mrs Julie Iles who is the Regional Chairman of the Conservative Women's Organisation and Surrey Police Commissioner candidate, will give a short presentation. There will also be an opportunity for questions from the floor. Entry is free but donations at the door welcome. Do come and meet your local fellow Conservatives and members of the Conservative Officer team.
- **Clandon, Effingham & Horsleys Branch Christmas Drinks:** This year this event will be held at Hallcroft, Lower Farm Road, Effingham, Leatherhead KT24 5JJ on Sunday 15th December. Time 12-2pm The cost of a ticket will be £10, this includes free drinks and nibbles. Tickets from Julie Iles on **01372 459483** or by email at julie_iles@btinternet.com.
- **Patrons Club:** The Patrons Club offers members the chance to meet with and hear talks from central figures in the political world, our next speaker will be Philip Hammond MP the Secretary of State for Defence. Any member interested in joining the Patrons Club or finding our more details is welcome to contact the office on 01306 883312.

Christmas Lunch Club With Chris Grayling MP

On the 29th of November the Association will be holding a Christmas Lunch with Chris Grayling MP, all members are welcome to attend. Please call the office on **01306 883312** to arrange places.

Venue: Clandon Regis Golf Club

Time: Noon

Cost: £24 per ticket, all places must be reserved no later than the 20th of November.

Candidate Recruitment for 2014 & 2015

We are now in the process of planning both for Mole Valley District Council elections in 2014 and Guildford Borough Council elections in 2015. If you are interested in making a real difference in your community by standing for election then please contact the office on **01306 883312** to find out more.