

Charnwood Chronicle

For members and supporters of Charnwood Conservative Association

MAY 2013

The Charnwood Conservative Association records the death of Baroness Thatcher with great sadness. There are huge lessons to be learnt by the coming generations from her approach to the job she took on and the way she carried it out. She put the great back in Great Britain



From an email received:

Had 65 people taking part in a pub quiz that night, at the beginning I announced that we would have a minutes silence in memory of the sad death of Margaret Thatcher. You could have heard a pin drop and after there was spontaneous applause.

It was a lovely moment that shows what I think will be a good influence on the weeks ahead. It made me proud to be a tory.

And so say many more of us.....

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Charnwood Conservative Association

See www.charnwoodconservatives.com

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Association Notices

The office is always busy. Talk to the office about your needs well in advance so we can be ready for you.

If you could offer occasional help in the office, give Steph a ring she will be pleased to hear from you

The opinions expressed in this edition of the Charnwood Chronicle are not necessarily those of the Conservative Party.

Association Annual General Meeting

March 8th seems a long time ago now, however this well attended meeting set the Association off on a new year with a strong support for the work the officers are doing. All were re-elected. Reports were given by the Chairman and each Deputy Chairmen and the Treasurer. Each report was full of detail showing clearly the hours of work put in by the officers as team and individually. The process of selection of persons to stand for the county election had been long and time consuming. Thanks were expressed to all the candidates and interviewers for their detailed work. We learnt that we had 32 members who had not renewed or resigned membership. Reasons were unclear and were causing concern. What was clear is that the officers were working well as a team and that they met frequently and had common aims.

The Charnwood Trophy – this is in the gift of the Association Officers and was presented by Stephen Dorrell to Percy Hartshorn for his commitment and dedication to organising the Association fairs for the past seven years. A new organiser is required for 2014.

The Mike Halliday Cup for the most improved branch was awarded to the Queniborough Branch who have raised a large amount for the Association funds, and for their support of the Association. Brenda Brayshaw and Daniel Grimley accepted the trophy on behalf of the branch.



Dan Grimley with the Mike Halliday Trophy given to

Queniborough Branch for work done in 2012

Hanif also thanked Norman Pratt for his dedication and hard work with arranging the CPF events, and presented Norman with a bottle of champagne as a token of appreciation from the officers.

The President invited Mr Dorrell to address the meeting. He began by thanking the Association and officers for their support over the past twelve months. However thoughts are now turning to the 2015 General Election, and the forthcoming County Council Elections, and to re-elect the Conservative Party Majority.

He explained why he had joined the Conservative Party, and the values they stood for, and then explained why he voted the way he did in the marriage vote, and stressed there were other pressing issues which needed addressing, however as subject had been raised in Parliament, it had to be addressed.

Peter Fothergill – advised that issue could not be agreed or disagreed on at an AGM, After questions he closed the meeting.

Stephen Dorrell was with us at the count in Loughborough and recognises that this year's county council elections have given us plenty to think about. He writes:

First the good news. It was good to see the majority of our councillors re-elected, contributing to a re-elected Conservative majority in the County Council. The fact that the new group will be able to deliver on its pledge to hold down Council Tax at the same time as improving job prospects and public services in the county is good news for the people of Leicestershire as well as providing a secure political base for Conservatives in the county.



It was good to be able to congratulate Iain Bentley on taking Birstall from the Liberal Democrats – although these congratulations were dampened by the loss of Thurmaston to Labour despite Paul Harley's record of hard work in the village.

But the big story of this year's elections was the rise of UKIP and Charnwood was not immune; UKIP candidates polled well across the constituency, and were successful in Glenfield.

The important question for Conservatives is how to respond.

The first point is obvious - if a party attracts the support of more than 20% of voters it is not clever to insult either those voters or the party they support.

Democratic politicians need to start from the assumption that the voters are always right. The challenge is to ensure that they are presented with real choices, and that the implications of those choices are properly understood.

UKIP's claim is that it says what "the politicians" won't say, and that it is breaking up a cosy Westminster Club.

It is not difficult to see why it is an attractive idea, especially in a prolonged economic downturn, but unfortunately real life is rather different. UKIP is not "anti-politician"; it is another group of politicians making unrealistic promises to increase spending while at the same time cutting taxes and reducing borrowing.



Their answer to every difficult question is to say that the circle can be squared by leaving the EU but their arithmetic doesn't come close to adding up, even if we assume that business did not suffer as a consequence; in fact the majority of British business leaders believe we would be worse off outside the EU – with the result that the gap in UKIP's arithmetic would be even bigger.

These are the facts which need to be spelt out in the months ahead.

Recovery from Labour's recession was always going to be long and frustrating, and people will obviously look for short cuts. But the uncomfortable truth is that the laws of arithmetic apply to us all – even UKIP.

Charnwood seats at County Council Election

BIRSTALL DIVISION WIN

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Bentley	Conservative	1152
Sansome	Liberal Dem	975
Smith	Labour	659
Tilson	BNP	258



BRADGATE DIVISION



CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Bilby	Liberal Dem	247
McCallister	Labour	580
Snartt	Conservative	2023
Taylor	BNP	297

ROTHLEY & MOUNTSORREL DIVISION

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Bye	UKIP	730
Maynard Smith	Labour	695
Osborne	Conservative	1308



SHEPSHED & THE WOLDS



CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Ali	Labour	492
Oatley	BNP	205
Sharpe	Liberal Dem	213
Shepherd	Conservatives	1396

SYSTON FOSSE

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Duffy	BNP	258
Houseman	Conservative	1070
Jenkins	UKIP	476
Rose	Labour	457



SYSTON RIDGEWAY

Denham	BNP	206
Hampson	Conservative	1154
McLoughlin	Labour	488
Scotton	UKIP	569



THURMASTON

Lost to Labour by 123 votes.

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Derrick	BNP	242
Harley	Conservative	971
Knaggs	Labour	1094

GLENFIELDS

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Breckon	Conservative	815
Cheesman	BNP	76
Springthorpe	Liberal Dem.	448
Thurlby	Labour	285
Yates	UKIP	881

Lost to UKIP by 66 votes

KIRBY MUXLOE & LEICSTER FOREST EAST



CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Blunt	Conservative	1484
Fox	Labour	1118

RATBY & GROBY

CANDIDATE	PARTY	VOTES
Fraser	UKIP	573
Gallagher	Labour	326
Hollick	Liberal Dem	418
O'Shea	Conservative	1459



NORMAN'S TALKS

Initially the theme of these talks was 'Knowing the past understanding the future'. We can understand his reason when he produced the following: Quote of the Past.....

"The Budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, Public Debt should be reduced, the arrogance of Officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the Assistance to Foreign Lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt." People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance."
- Cicero , 55 BC

So, evidently we've learned nothing in the past 2,067 years.



Norman was given a bottle of Champaign at the AGM by Stephen Dorrell as a thank you for the most successful series of talks and the continuation of the series this year.

On 26th March he had invited our **MEP, Emma McClarkin** to debate the IN or OUT situation over European membership. Norman opened the debate by saying:

"You appreciate that the tenor of this evenings discussion is to

enlighten us all on the pro's and cons of EU – In or Out ? Although participants, by their arguments, may be in favour one way or the other, it is still of interest to be informed of the affect any decision might have on this country's future so that we can decide for ourselves come referendum day where we, individually stand." "It is worth noting that over the time we have been members of the EU, our manufacturing industries have declined drastically and, as a result, our export of manufactured goods has collapsed by many millions of pounds per annum. This, of course, was not the EU's fault for they have suffered similarly, but it is against this background that we must consider our future.

The EU's exports which include the UK are forecast, to decline by another 30% over the next 20 years.

Currently Germany, Netherlands, France, Ireland, Belgium, Italy and Spain account for more than 40 % of UK's total exports. However, the UK buys considerably more from the EU than that group of nations buys from us, so you can say, they need us more than we need them". It also indicates that 60% of our total exports go to the rest of the world.

Emma McClarkin and Leon Hadjinikolaou were on the top table. Emma was quite forthright in her comments on the undemocratic commission although she reiterated that Cameron was trying his best to negotiate change. Leon was able to explain some of the background to his own country's, (Greece) predicament to illustrate what can happen when you cannot control your own currency and economy.

Other point raised were:

Because we object to the EU's interference in our democratic right to govern ourselves it does not mean or indicate we are anti European. Just anti the undemocratic EU.

We do not export to the Commission but to firms and individuals residing in Europe. They are not going to suddenly stop buying from us. Why should they?

We, along with Germany and France are contributors to the massive EU



budget while the rest are mainly recipients. Of course they want us to remain on the inside.

But Britain is a World Trading Nation and Trading Blocs are becoming more and more "Old Hat" in a Global Market Place.

There were 39 people at the talk and at the end a vote was taken. The result was 38 to get out and one to remain in.

Norman Pratt

The best events that are a must.



Luncheon Club June 7th 2013
Guest is MEP Emma McClarkin.

Emma is standing for reselection as one of the Candidates for the 2014 European election . Your ballot paper to vote for her candidature will be in the POST SOON.

Non members of the club are welcome. Make sure Eleanor Hudson knows you are coming on 0116 232 2889

Association Summer Lunch July 5th 2013

Guest is

Member of Parliament for Loughborough
Nicky Morgan,
Assistant Government Whip

Tickets are available now at £15.00
12.00 for 12.30



Association Annual Reception & Dinner

Friday December 6th 2013

Guest is Secretary of State for Health
Jeremy Hunt

Member of Parliament for South West Surrey

Tickets will be as last year £25

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY



QUENIBOROUGH SUPPER EVENING

I have reported before that it is Queniborough Branch's custom to hold a Supper Evening after their AGM Meeting – so in 2013 as usual this was to be so. (plus it would give us an opportunity to display the Mike Halliday Cup which we had been awarded for our consistent fund raising).

The date chosen was Friday, 22nd. March – all arrangements were progressing well – until about mid-week before the

weather forecasts started to threaten heavy snow falls in our region. Would anyone turn up ?? If they did how would they get home ?? However, we are a stalwart group of supporters and most of those who said they would turned up, and of course this group included Stephen Dorrell himself. It turned out to be a very convivial evening, with slightly fewer guests than usual very much a private party, everyone being able to chat with one another – all of us made very welcome by our excellent hosts Colin

and Suzan. Finger buffet was well up to scratch as were the

takings on the Raffle and our 100 Club winners , Mrs Connie Winterton, Mrs. Margaret Winterton, Mr Ivor Meares and Mr. Chris Sawday were delighted. Stephen when addressing the meeting did say that it was an annual event that he always looked forward to – also adding that I had once reprimanded him for not attending !! Nevertheless an excellent evening with Stephen and members.. And younger members.



ROTHEY & MOUNTSORREL SUPPER EVENING

19th April was a special day for the host and his branch friends wanted to celebrate it. Stephen Dorrell, when saying thank you for having us at your place, got his arithmetic wrong, quite deliberately wide of the mark. The result was a great evening with a house full of people, including, Officers, Councillors and members from across the

constituency all in deep consultation about these pictures on the walls. What does that mean?"

"What is this?" The answer could be a high IQ? The answers to Jo's quiz were given at the end and with prizes!

Food, Oh yes. We all ate well, a plentiful variety of good cold buffet dishes and wine. In all, Lovely, Thanks, Pete.



Charnwood Conservative Association

SPRING FAIR

At

The Rothley Centre

Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley.

Sat 11th May

10am till 12 noon

Admission 50 pence

Raffle, Tombola, Books, Cakes,

100s of Bedding Plants,

Produce Stalls,

Bric a Brac, etc

Many members have put a great deal of time an effort into making this fair well worth coming to. So please do.....