

EVENTS 2014

Before the end of the year we will be writing to Branch Chairmen and Secretaries reminding them to arrange their branch AGM's, which must be held before the Association AGM. The Association AGM will be on Friday 21st March 2014.

EVENTS: A chart of both Association and Branch events is being created so that we don't have events that clash with others. Therefore we would ask that branches let us have details of their events for 2014 early in the New Year so that we can plan ahead. Here are the events that we currently have planned or have been told about for 2014.

January 2014:

11th: Lympstone & Woodbury Branch Soup & Pate Lunch with Neil Parish MP. Queen Anne House, Lympstone. Tickets £7.00. Contact: Ian Moody 01395 263189.

19th West Hill Lunch at the Tumbling Weir. Contact Pamela Marks Tel: 01404 813575

25th Topsham & St Loyes Bangers & Mash Evening. More details to follow.

February 2014:

21st West Hill AGM & Supper. Contact: Pamela Marks. Tel: 01404 813575.

March 2014:

6th/7th Rt Hon Owen Patterson MP Fundraising event. More details to follow.

21st East Devon Conservative Association AGM. More details to follow.

APRIL 2014

12th West Hill St Georges Day Dinner. Tel: Pamela Marks 01404 813575

25th East Devon Conservative Association & Exeter Foundation Gala Dinner & Auction at Sandypark. For more information contact Lucille Baker 01395 233503.

JUNE 2014

27th West Hill Summer Ball. At Woodbury Park. Contact: Pamela Marks 01404813575.

Full details of these events and more will be in the January edition of Link. If you would like your event included please email agent@tivertonhonitonconservatives.org.uk

East Devon Conservative Association

E-Link

December 2013

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Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP Update

As you may know I have now been Minister of State at the Foreign Office for well over a year now. My brief is relatively straightforward; I am to help ensure Britain becomes an active member of the global community, promoting our national interests while standing up for the values of freedom, fairness and responsibility. The Prime Minister stressed to me at the time of my promotion that he wanted to see the Foreign Office establish 'new relationships' particularly with the emerging markets and for me to strengthen the Commonwealth, of which

I am the Minister, as a focus for promoting democratic values and development. When I looked at the countries I was given responsibility for, I was initially a bit overwhelmed; apart from the Commonwealth and its myriad countries, it was South and Central America and The Falklands, Asia, South East Asia the Pacific and Australasia and all the islands in between. As a result I feel I have spent most of the last year on an airplane. I have now clocked up visits to Belize, Panama and opened our new Embassy in El Salvador. I have been to Mexico, Chile, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Across the other side of the world I have been to India (twice) Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Burma, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea (twice) the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea where I attended a climate change conference in the Marshall Islands. I have been to New York for the United Nations General Assembly, and returned shortly afterwards for this year's United Nations General Assembly before travelling to Brazil again and on to Paraguay to open the new British Embassy there. Last month I returned to India before heading to Sri Lanka for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting at which Her Majesty the Queen was represented by the Prince of Wales. And I have just returned from a trip to China with the Prime Minister. It might sound glamorous but it is anything but! The honest truth is I get in a car at the airport, attend meetings and then get in another car to another airport to another country for another set of meetings. Sadly, sightseeing is never on the agenda.

So is all this travel necessary? Well, we are determined at the Foreign Office to re-establish Britain's standing in the world which is why we have been expanding our diplomatic network. All Ministers have been travelling much more, certainly more than at any time under the last Labour Government. We believe if the British economy is to recover we need to dramatically increase our exports. That is why much of what I and other Ministers do involves supporting UK Trade & Investment in securing deals for our leading companies and in trying to get more of our Small Medium Enterprises (SME's) to export. And it is working. And no, before some clever person suggests this can all be done on the telephone or by video conferencing it cannot. Establishing and maintaining relationships on a personal level is of huge importance. But it is not all just about trade it is about exporting British values too, be it building on the G8 summit initiative on Trade, Tax and Transparency or encouraging other Governments to sign up to the Bribery Act, the Extractive Industries Initiative or the Open Government Forum all of which are designed to stamp out corruption and make Government and business more ethical and accountable to the people. In New York, the Foreign Secretary spent considerable time promoting a declaration on the Prevention of Sexual Violence Initiative which he had been so tirelessly promoting around the world, albeit with the considerable compensation of being accompanied by the actress Angelina Jolie on some of his trips. It is horrific to think that in the 21st Century people, particularly women, are being used as a weapon of war by rape and intimidation. Examples are, alas, all still too prevalent and it is time the world stood together and hold those responsible to account.

It is of course a great honour to have this job but it is not without its challenges as I have to juggle Parliamentary, Constituency and of course family commitments. But I believe that the majority of my constituents want to see a sustained economic recovery, they want to see the United Kingdom at the heart of international decision making and for our financial commitment to be seen in stamping out injustice, promoting ethical investment, eradicating poverty and trying to make the world a safer better and fairer place. I consider myself privileged to be allowed to play a small role in this however long it may last..

Sasha and the girls join me in wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year!

We are looking for people to fill the following roles on the Campaign Team:



- Distribution Director
- Absent Votes Director
- Fundraising Director
- Community Outreach Director
- Area Co-ordinators (1 per County Council Division).

More details will be available in the January Link but if you are interested in any of these roles please contact Lucille Baker 01395 233503 or Email: agent@tivertonhonorconservatives.org.uk for a job description.



The General Election and District Council Elections will be on the same day, 7th May 2015. This means a lot of work and an even greater need for volunteers between now and May 2015.

The canvassing or voter identification objective in the years leading up to the 2010 General Election was a relatively simple one, Identify Conservative supporters and get them out to vote.

This time round our challenge is more complicated. Firstly we need to differentiate between people who supported us in 2010 and are still strong supporters now from those who voted for us last time but are now genuinely uncertain how they will vote in 2015.

We must clearly differentiate between those who vote Labour, Lib Dem or UKIP as we may need to communicate with them about different issues, focussing on what matters to them the most.

We must also identify Liberal Democrat supporters and their preference for Prime Minister and those who didn't vote for us last time but who might do next time because they agree with David Cameron on one or more of the big issues facing the country, such as the need to tackle the deficit and debt.

And finally we need more emails and phone numbers so we can communicate effectively with more target voters.

In order to achieve this a new Door 2 Door canvassing script has been devised to help us collect as much of this data as possible.

A training event is planned for the New Year where you can come along and learn more about voter identification and the script. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact me.

Lucille Baker

Agent

Tel: 01395 233503 or Email: agent@tivertonhonorconservatives.org.uk

Out & About with Rt Hon Hugo Swire MP...



East Budleigh—Paintings in Parliament Talk.



Remembrance Sunday—Exmouth



Pulling a pint with Cllr John Humphreys in Withycombe



Presenting prizes at Honiton Show



Dotty The Guide Dog with Hugo in Exmouth on a visit to Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.



EAST DEVON
CONSERVATIVE
ASSOCIATION
MULLED WINE AND
MINCE PIES
WITH
RT. HON HUGO SWIRE
MP
FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER
11 00A*M
COURTLANDS HOTEL
LYMPSTONE
TICKETS £7*00
RSVP: EMMA GIBBONS
01395 233503



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East Devon Association Treasurer 2014
At the AGM in March Peter Bowler will finish his term as Association Treasurer. Peter has done a fantastic job over the past 3 years and I would like to pay tribute to him for all his hard work and help to us all here in the Office. Peter was instrumental in introducing Quick Books, which is now used by all 3 Associations within the Group Office. He has trained staff to use the programme and Cathryn Newbery is now our Accounts Administrator. Finding a good Treasurer is never easy but with Quick Books well established, Cathryn fully trained and Peter's offer of support to the new Treasurer I hope that we can find somebody who is willing to take on the role at the AGM. A full job description is available and Peter & I are very happy to discuss what is involved.

Lucille Baker
Agent

For more information please contact Lucille on 01395 233503 or Peter Bowler 01395 446690.