

MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

North West Cambridgeshire Conservative Association

Help Needed in the Battle for Peterborough on June 6th.

15 Candidates now listed to fight for the Peterborough by-election seat.

After our challenging local elections, where three good Conservative Councillor seats were lost to Labour, Green and Liberal Democrat parties, we have another challenge to meet, the by-election in the Peterborough Constituency. The people of Peterborough deserve a good decent local person to stand for the constituency. Paul Bristow has been campaigning in the city as the candidate and also in a local council seat, and needs our support in the campaign to return the seat to the Conservatives. If you can spare any time to go canvassing, leafletting or to help in the other home or office-based roles, then please contact Natasha Allen.

Don't forget the European Elections that are also upon us on [23-26th May](#). Our candidates in the East of England are standing for seven seats. Three are currently held by Conservatives, three are UKIP and one Labour. The electorate is understandably aggrieved that the elections are being held at all, but nevertheless our candidates deserve our support.

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PETERBOROUGH BY-ELECTION

Come and help us...

CAMPAIGN CENTRE:
Peterborough
Conservative Association
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Peterborough
PE1 3AT

CONTACT
Natasha Allen

07833 403629
natasha.allen@conservatives.com



To make sure we are able to use your help in the most effective way, please email us at natasha.allen@conservatives.com to let us know when you intend to come down and the number of people coming.

Peterborough Conservatives

paulbristow.org.uk fb.com/proudofpeterborough



FEBRUARY 50/50 CLUB WINNERS

The 50/50 Club Draw took place on 31st March 2019 and was drawn by John Wreford, a member of the Association, Cllr Irene Walsh, Peterborough City Councillor for Orton Longueville Ward and Michael Perkins, Association Treasurer

3rd Prize - £15
June Lamming (113)

2nd Prize - £25
Ray Bisby (125)

1st Prize £315.
Simon Bywater (11)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO JOIN THE 50/50 CLUB CONTACT THE CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

office@nwcambsconservatives.org.uk



Meeting Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite & The Chief Constable Nick Dean.



Opening Deaf Blind's 1st charity shop & advice centre.



Opening the Yaxley Festival with Warwick Davis.

VARA'S VIEW – NEWS FROM OUR M.P.

"Congratulations to all those elected to Peterborough City Council at the recent local elections. It is however hugely disappointing that some hard-working candidates and councillors lost on the night. This is all the more disappointing because despite their good work, the uncertainty and public anger at what is happening in Westminster had a significant impact on how people voted. I hope it will not be long before those concerned will have the success they deserve.

The Peterborough by-election is upon us and it is vital that we do all we can to ensure the election of our excellent candidate Paul Bristow. All effort, no matter how little it may be, will be greatly appreciated and it will help to make a difference.

Finally, whilst none of us want a general election in the near future, I'm grateful to the Association's Executive Committee for re-adopting me to fight at the next election, whenever that maybe."

New Officers Elected and Appointed to the North West Cambridgeshire Association

The North West Cambridgeshire executive met on a chilly evening at Sawtry Hall. First order of business was to approve the re-adoption of Shailesh Vara as our MP, which was confirmed after a secret ballot. The meeting also confirmed the election and appointment of officers:



Executive Members at Sawtry Hall

Chairman

Gavin Elsey

Deputy Chair Political

Sheila Scott

Deputy Chair Membership **Claire Guyton**

Treasurer

Michael Perkins

President

Peter Hiller

Vice President

Graham Bull

Media & Communications **Andy Coles**

REFLECTIONS ON THE LOCAL ELECTIONS
PETER HILLER
PRESIDENT

I'd like to congratulate all our candidates, their families, agents, fellow campaigners and association members for the colossal efforts expended during our hard-fought campaign for the local elections on May 2nd. After the dust has settled, I think it would be rather pointless reiterating very much of the vast amount of media coverage and commentary before and since that night's count but, at risk of stating the obvious, our local fight was obviously against the Westminster debacle over Brexit not about the need for capable Conservatives in local government. We were punished for representing the traditional political establishment locally.

The result nationwide was our Party's worst since 1995 and on the basis of the detailed voting figures in 40 local authorities, it's estimated that if the pattern of voting in these local elections were to be replicated across Great Britain, both we and Labour would have won 28% of the vote. This is only the second time that this calculation has put both parties below 30%.

The elections always looked set to be difficult. Nationally we were defending seats that were mostly last up for grabs four years ago, on the same day David Cameron won the 2015 general election. That, coupled with the Conservative party's recent freefall in the national polls, clearly pointed to significant losses. But, with over 1300 seats lost, the message from voters was unequivocal: they want to see the issue of Brexit resolved, without further obfuscation and delay. We were punished at the ballot boxes despite being the capable and competent party of local government, and on the night gifted a swathe of our precious traditional support to the frankly lacklustre Liberal Democrat and Green candidates.

We should take small comfort in Labour also failing to garner their much-predicted surge in support,. They too lost seats, and by good candidates campaigning hard and 'working' the wards we bucked the national trend and won some. But what is clear is that we have to target those 'borrowed' council seats and engage with the residents in new targeted wards.

Campaigning on the streets to that end has to start now, not just using social media to publicise ward litter-picks in March/April. Some of the results on 2nd May were frankly bonkers but I know our sitting councillors and future candidates will look hard at and learn what we did well and not so well in preparation for next year's round - hopefully without the Brexit

NEWS FROM THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner's office produces regular newsletters. You can sign up here:
<https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/newsletter-signup/>

NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Mayor James Palmer also produces monthly news. You can sign up here:
<https://us4.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=00bb6e4452888fc8212f47b95&id=fc5dfa9dca>

1**OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

<https://www.facebook.com/NWCamsConservatives>

2**NWCCA WEBSITE**

<https://www.nwcamsconservatives.org.uk>

3**TO CONTACT NWCCA**

office@nwcamsconservatives.org.uk

Tel: 01780 749379

4**TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER, EMAIL:**

nwccamedia@gmx.co.uk

May 2nd - The Results

Congratulations to our successful candidates is tempered by the sobering losses of three seats to our political opponents. It was very sad to see Gavin Elsey, June Stokes and Nigel North being defeated by candidates from other parties, delivering the Council into no overall control.

However, Peter Hiller and Brian Rush were both returned with improved majorities.

It was heartening, however, to welcome two brand new Conservative Councillors to the chamber. John Howard and Louise Coles both fought tough campaigns in their wards, made marginal by the "Brexit Effect". For Louise it was a nail-biting count, but despite a stronger showing by the smaller third parties, Louise pulled through with a lead of 70 votes and now joins her husband, Andy Coles to represent the same ward. Both had previously fought in Peterborough Constituency wards and brought their experience of the harder fights there to win through and become the second married couple sitting in the chamber together.



Louise Coles congratulated by Gillian Beasley



Hempsted and Hargate's team celebrate a win

John Howard reflects on his own close battle in Hempsted and Harrogate. "I think being recognised as someone involved in local groups was a good start", he said. "I already had a profile as someone who was active locally.

The initial campaign was to raise awareness on Facebook and through InTouch magazines. When we stepped up to canvassing, we worked hard on the doorstep with the help of a lot of volunteers. The ward is a varied one: it compromises six very different communities. The same pledges would not have worked in all areas, so I made sure my conversations and pledges were tailored to the area specifically, which proved a great help.

We doorstepped postal votes hard, and posted the postal vote cards at least twice everywhere, some places three times. Cllr Farooq covered telling duties as he knows so many residents in the ward. It's impossible to say what one thing clinched it out of all the things we did; I think you have to do everything well and really push local issues that people can relate to."