

BUILDING ON SUCCESS

Thomas Ashton | Association Chairman | Local Farmer (Wrangle)

It is a great privilege to write to you as Constituency Chairman for the coming year, and I am very grateful for the support which members gave to me at the AGM last month.

For us Conservatives in Boston and Skegness, 2016 is the first year of our electoral super-cycle with elections each year through to 2020, excepting only 2018. Every one of the results will impact on the next. It is my ambition build on the success we had with Matt and local Councillors last year to deliver Conservative success right the way to the next general election.

Victory for Marc Jones as PCC this year will much improve the task of winning County Council seats next year; likewise winning those County seats will

give us a solid platform for Matt's re-election campaign thereafter.

In June, we will have a referendum on membership of the European Union for which many people have campaigned over the last 25 years. Whichever side of the debate you may take, this once-in-a-generation opportunity was delivered by the Conservatives.

However, we must not allow ourselves to forget that once the referendum results are in, the biggest challenges we face remain ensuring that a Labour Party led by Jeremy Corbyn is kept as far away from the reins of government as possible; and that those absentee UKIP County Councillors are replaced by committed and hardworking Conservatives next year.



CLLR. THOMAS ASHTON
ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN



LOCAL CONSERVATIVES HAIL RISING MEMBERSHIP FIGURES IN ELECTION RUN-UP

Boston and Skegness Conservatives welcomed a significant rise in membership at its recent 2016 AGM, and elected a new team of officers to encourage further growth and secure Conservative Councils and a Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner over coming years.

The AGM was told that in 2016 the Association had seen welcome improvements in membership levels and fundraising. But outgoing chairman Mr Mike Gilbert said it would continue to focus on getting new members and raising further funds to campaign.

Mr Gilbert said last May's elections had been a bigger success than local Conservatives could have hoped for,

returning a Member of Parliament in Matt Warman and a strong or ruling presence on local councils. But he added: "Elections cost money and there is a need to replenish reserves. We have the Police and Crime Commissioner elections in 2016 and the county council elections in 2017."

MP Matt Warman said "The annual Conservative Party AGM provided a chance for me to ask members what they felt about government policies to cut taxes and raise wages, as well as reform welfare. I emphasised that, as in the campaign, I want to be an accessible, local Member of Parliament who is available to all my constituents, from Ingoldmells to Fosdyke, and who is a real

part of the local scene. I know that that, along with local confidence in Conservative policies, an active Association with excellent social events is what's driving our successful membership increase and improved fundraising, and will continue to do so in the future."

How to contact us

Boston and Skegness Conservative Association
16c Main Ridge West
Boston
PE21 6QQ
01205 351 804
bostonskegnessconservatives@outlook.com

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Find us on Facebook





RECOMMENDATIONS aimed at ensuring the Conservative Party will thrive and grow in the 21st century have been announced by the Party Review Panel.

The panel, led by party chairman Lord Feldman (pictured), has reported following a ten month consultation period involving all sections of the party.

The panel comprised volunteers, councillors, MPs, MEPs and peers. Twenty-five panel meetings for party members were held across the country, more than 60,000 people took part in an online survey, and thousands of submissions were made to the panel.

These are some of the report's main recommendations:

*The creation of a centralised membership system, administered by a dedicated team at Conservative Campaign Headquarters.

"The establishment of three levels of membership – Member, Silver and Gold – with different subscription rates.

*A new members-only area on the Party's website – www.conservatives.com

*Pilot schemes for establishing multi-

constituency Associations, staffed at least by an Agent or Campaign Manager. (Associations with more than 100 members and a fully operational structure will be able to opt out of a pilot scheme where a majority of their members vote against.)

*Creation of a candidate outreach programme to improve the diversity of candidates across all levels of government.

As part of the ongoing consultation, the report will be discussed at the Party's National Convention on April 9 before the final recommendations are submitted for approval to the National Convention at the Party Conference in October.

You can see the full review on the Conservative Party website - www.conservatives.com/partyreview



From the Editor | Daniel Elkington | DCMF

Welcome to the first edition of the freshly revamped Conservatives' Constituency News.

Check out the calendar on the back cover and make sure to pop over to bostonskegnessconservatives.org.uk every now and again for more details.

We have wide variety of events planned in the programme.

I would highlight the Liam Fox fundraiser. We're expecting around 100 people there as Liam is a very entertaining speaker and has a long and varied history—not only in the party but as a charitable founder.

He started life as a Doctor of Medicine, and in his party life he contested for the leadership against David Cameron and David Davis.

He has served in the Shadow Cabinet and is Secretary of State for Defence.

In the party he has been party chairman and has served at most levels within the party. It promises to be a most entertaining evening and I look forward to meeting with you all there.

This issue is pretty much all about AGM season.

We're also revamping and relaunching the website as well as putting together a friendly press office and press team to help you release news to the media.

If anyone has any news or events they would like us to publish online let me know. In addition, if anyone wants help crafting a press release feel free to get in touch.



On the trail | Marc Jones | Conservative candidate for Lincolnshire police and crime commissioner

E: marc@marcjones.org.uk

P: 01522 283014

T: @MarcforLincsPCC

F: MarcJonesforLincsPCC

W: www.marcjones.org.uk

It feels like a matter of days have passed since my selection to be the Conservative candidate for the Police and Crime Commissioner elections. But the postal votes are now only days away (April 20) and the main event on May 5 is fast approaching.

I still encounter far too many people who do not understand why these elections need their support to get the Conservative vote out.

The new commissioner will be responsible for setting the £115m police and crime prevention budget; putting in place a published police and crime plan; holding the Chief Constable accountable for delivering policing on behalf of Lincolnshire residents; deciding on which victim support services should be funded

and what services they should provide; and very much more besides.

These elections really do matter to the lives of every one of us.

The campaign is gaining momentum all of the time. I still need the help and support of you all to help with leaflets, attend local hustings when they are held in April and spread the word among your family and friends about the importance of voting for someone who has the experience of managing large budgets, partnership working and has some great ideas for the future of local community based policing.

Please feel free to get in touch to help or to learn more about the campaign.

CERTAINTY DELIVERED AT ASSOCIATION AGM

President Dudley Bryant opened proceedings and chaired the meeting.

The Report from the outgoing Chairman, Mike Gilbert, was well worded and reminded us of the huge challenges we have seen over the last year.

Mike said "At the last AGM, I was accompanied by Mark Simmonds and Matt Warman, one as current MP and the other as Parliamentary Candidate. At that time it was still very uncertain as to what the future of the constituency was. Through hard campaigning and sensible choices by the local electorate we have returned control, largely, to our party."

Thomas Ashton delivered a rousing report regarding the campaign over the last year and John Cowpe delivered reports pertaining to current membership levels.

There were only single nominations for posts and the officers for the upcoming year are to be as follows:

Elected President: Dudley Bryant

Chairman: Thomas Ashton

Deputy Chairman Policy and Campaigning: John Cowpe

Deputy Chairman Membership and Fundraising: Daniel Elkington

Treasurer: Geoff Wray

CONTINUITY IN LOCAL BRANCHES

John Cowpe | Association Deputy Chairman Policy and Campaigning | Skegness



There was little change among the officers when Boston branch held its AGM.

Mike Gilbert continues as chairman with Tom Ashton as deputy chairman (policy and campaigning) and Paula Cooper as deputy chairman (membership and fundraising).

Paul Skinner handed over the treasurer's position to Dan Elkington who continues to organise Boston's Conservative Policy Forum (CPF).

The branch now has a fundraising committee, chaired by Paula Cooper.

Mike Gilbert says: "The aim is to establish a programme of new events which we hope will become established favourites as well as running the traditional events in the Boston calendar such as the Stilton and Mince Pies evening at Ruth and Graham Street's and Dudley Bryant's Summer Barbecue."

"Events in the future include summer cream teas at Fydell House and a Murder Mystery evening in the autumn."

PRAISE for "our superb new MP" Matt Warman came at Skegness Conservative Branch's AGM.

Chairman Cllr Carl Macey reported on the "fabulous" success at the General Election when new candidate Mr Warman won the Boston and Skegness seat.

He added: "Since his election Matt has certainly hit the ground running and shown all within the Constituency his passion for the area he represents."

Nationally, by giving the Conservatives an outright majority, the voters had made the only decision they could to keep the country moving forward in a positive way, said Cllr Macey.

Locally, the Conservatives had achieved great success, gaining overall control of East Lindsey District Council, and winning all eight seats they fought on Skegness Town Council.

Cllr Macey reported a highly successful year for the Skegness branch. It had increased its membership and exceeded its fundraising targets.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: president, Mrs Mairi Perry; chairman, Cllr Carl Macey; deputy chairman (policy and campaigning), Cllr Steve Kirk; deputy chairwoman (membership and fundraising), Miss Beve Ford; secretary, Cllr Dick Edginton; treasurer, Mr Richard Tooze; press and publicity officer, Mr John Cowpe; Conservative Policy Forum chairman, Mr John Cowpe; strategy committee chairman, Cllr Steve Kirk.

Elected to the committee, in addition to the officers, were: Cllr Neil Cooper, Cllr Pauline Cooper, Cllr Wendy Bowkett, Cllr Colin Davie, Mrs Theresa Walker, Mrs Michelle Martin, Cllr Sid Dennis, Mr Michael May, Mrs Anne May, Miss Gail May, Cllr Elaine Freeman, Cllr Jim Carpenter and Cllr Daniel Kirk.

(For further information contact johncowpe@yahoo.com)



Boston & Skegness Conservative Association			Time and Venue		Organiser	Type	
April	21	Skegness Branch	7.30pm	Vine Hotel, Skegness	Dick Edginton	Official Meeting	
	29	MEP's Lincolnshire Roadshow	TBA		Andrew Lewer	Meet and Greet	
May	4	Boston Branch	7.30pm	Boston Conservative Club	Mike Gilbert	Official Meeting	
	5	POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS					Election—Turn out!
	12	Skegness Supper Club	7.30pm	Suncastle	Beve Ford	Formal Dinner (lounge suit)	
	19	Buffet/Reception: Rt.Hon.Liam Fox MP	7.30pm	Boston & County Club	Dan Elkington	Formal Social	
	26	Skegness CPF Group - Discussion on Housing	7.30pm	Vine Hotel, Skegness	John Cowpe	Policy Discussion	
June	1	Boston Branch	7.30pm	Boston Conservative Club	Mike Gilbert	Official Meeting	
	TBA	Boston Chairman's Challenge Quiz & Supper			Paula Cooper	Casual Social	
	23	EU REFERENDUM DAY				David Cameron	Referendum—Turn out!
	TBA	Post referendum get-together	7.00pm	TBC	Dan Elkington	Casual Social	
July	6	Boston Branch	7.30pm	Boston Conservative Club	Mike Gilbert	Official Meeting	
	10	Morgan House BBQ	12 noon	13 Somersby Green, Boston	Paula Cooper	Smart-Casual Social	
August	TBA	Trip to Houses of Parliament & Theatre			Paula Cooper	Casual Social	
Sept.	2	Murder Mystery Dinner		Fydell House, Boston	Paula Cooper	Smart-Casual Social	
	16	Boston Supper Club	7.30pm	Boston & County Club	Dudley Bryant	Formal Dinner (lounge suit)	
	17	Boston Autumn Fayre	10am	Boston Conservative Club	Ruth Street	Casual Social	
Oct	21	Autumn Game Supper		Bubblecar Museum	Paula Cooper	Casual Dinner	
Nov	18	Boston Supper Club	7.30pm	Boston & County Club	Dudley Bryant	Formal Dinner (lounge suit)	
Dec	TBA	Stilton & Mince Pies		42, Linden Way, Boston	Ruth Street	Casual Social	

The list of events being arranged over the next year is many and varied.

We are also working on resurrecting several events that have proved popular and successful previously and have been overlooked in recent history.

We'd encourage members to attend as many events as possible across the constituency as there is always a good variety of events and speakers at events.

The MEP's roadshow is being organised by Andrew Lewer MEP, who is campaigning for a Brexit. As the party line is to remain neutral on the referendum the association is taking the party line and is not involved with this event other than to let you know Andrew is in town.

The first Skegness supper club of the year is being organised by Beve Ford and they have secured Mary Powell as the speaker, Mary is an expert on local tourism and has raised £22m for the regeneration of Lincoln Castle.

The Liam Fox fundraiser on the 19th of May is almost as mandatory as we can get! Liam Fox is going to come and speak to us about his varied career. He ran against David Davis and David Cameron for leadership of the party and has operated at pretty

much every level within the party, as well as this he is a doctor of medicine and has practised in this field. The evening promises to be fantastic and will offer a buffet and complimentary drink on arrival. Please contact Dan Elkington for application forms and tickets. This is an association fundraiser and we need as many of our friends and members to attend as possible.

Boston has already run its CPF on housing, and we'd encourage all that missed this event to attend the Skegness CPF, ably run by John Cowpe, later on in May. CPF stands for Conservative Policy Forum and is a way for activists to directly get involved on national policy matters, with the overall CPF feedback collated centrally which is then discussed with the minister in question. It is very much policy focussed and is for those who are interested in that aspect of the party.

The Chairman's Challenge in June is always a lot of fun, teams of people set off from a random location and, following clues and answering quiz questions, meander around Boston attempting to get as many correct as possible, ending up with a meal at the final quiz question location. It is actually a lot easier than you'd think and a great way to learn a bit about the history of the town.

After The Referendum on the 23rd we are going to arrange a bit of a casual social get-together to re-harmonize after a non-political campaign. The party line is that there is no line on the Referendum as party membership is split right down the middle on the issue. Whilst David Cameron is firmly on the remain side, there are many notable figures on the leave side; such as Boris. We are all free to campaign whichever way we feel is best.

In that vein, one side will lose and therefore there will be some bruises that need healing—the best solution being the old fashioned British knees-up. We'd anticipate this to be very low cost and involve some kind of food. Contact Dan Elkington if you want to get involved with this.

We are also arranging a whole host of events over the rest of the year; the summer Barbeque at Dudley's, a trip to Parliament with Matt, a murder mystery at the Grade 1 listed Fydell House, The normal programme of supper clubs, autumn dinner, Ruth's Stilton and Mince Pie evening and the Skegness Autumn Ball are all in the works.

Get in touch for more info and we look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as you can make it to.

Key Voluntary Party Contacts				
Association	bostonskegnessconservatives@outlook.com	Our office	02105-351804	
Dudley Bryant	dudleybryant@tory.org	Assoc. President Elect	01205-364017	07768-695845
Mike Gilbert	mike.gilbert1961@hotmail.com	Boston Chairman	01205-355006	07981-699273
Dan Elkington	inquisextremis@hotmail.com	Assoc. D. Chairman Membership Fundraising Lincolnshire Area Chairman CPF	01205-350850	07737-358247
Paula Cooper	mentalmickey2@btinternet.com	Boston D. Chairman Membership Fundraising	01205-280037	07989-433101
John Cowpe	johncowpe@yahoo.com	Assoc. Chairman Policy Campaigning Skegness Chairman CPF	01754-762826	07936-209774
Carl Macey	carlmacey@yahoo.co.uk	Skegness Chairman	01754-766249	
Tom Ashton	thomas_r_ashton@hotmail.com	Assoc. Chairman Boston D. Chairman Policy Campaigning	01205-870300	07812-522372
Ruth Street	ruth@street42.orangehome.co.uk	Assoc. Vice President (Hon.)	01205-368344	
Steve Kirk	steve@skegnesstown.com	Skegness D. Chairman Policy Campaigning	01754-766258	
Dick Edginton	david.edginton@e-lindsey.gov.uk	Skegness Secretary	01754-765308	
Beve Ford	beve.tooze@gmail.com	Skegness D. Chairwoman Membership Fundraising	01754-610545	

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