



# HORSHAM CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

January 2020



## Chairman's Newsletter - Adrian M Lee

First of all, a very Happy New Year to you all for 2020!

Welcome to the first quarterly Chairman's Newsletter of the new year, and what an end to 2019 it has been! Of course, I am delighted we returned our superb MP, Jeremy Quin to Parliament for a third successive time. Jeremy secured 35,900 votes to win with a majority of 21,127 and 56.8% of the votes cast on a turnout of 73.3%.



Here he is (left) giving his acceptance speech at the count on the morning of 13 December.

As you know, in his limited reshuffle post the election, the Prime Minister promoted Jeremy to serve in the Cabinet Office as Parliamentary Secretary.

This is a wide-ranging role at the heart of government and comes with the following long list of responsibilities: Supporting the Minister for the Cabinet Office on cross-government delivery and implementation, Controls (commercial, digital, property), Commercial models, Cyber and resilience, Civil Service HR and Shared Services, Fraud, Error, Debt and Grants, Geospatial

Commission, Government Digital Service, Government Security Group, Infrastructure and Projects Authority, Government Property, Government Commercial Function, Public Bodies and Appointments policy and he also Co-Chairs The Inclusive Economy Partnership.

I guess he's going to be a very busy man!

Nationally of course, the general election result was fantastic. A Conservative landslide victory giving the Party an overall majority in the House of Commons of 80 seats – the best result we have had since the 1987 general election victory by Margaret Thatcher. This margin of victory will now allow Boris Johnson to 'Get Brexit Done' and push ahead with the packed legislative programme outlined in the Queen's Speech of 19 December.

Of course, this does not mean there will be all plain sailing ahead for the government. Because of the collapse in Labour's Scottish vote the SNP made gains. Although their vote was below that they secured in the "once in a generation" Independence Referendum and they have fewer seats than in 2015, they will no doubt claim they have a mandate for a second referendum. The Prime Minister has already made his views very clear.

One major indicator of the strength of any political organisation is what we do between elections. As I mentioned in my last newsletter last September, I am delighted by the success of our Survey delivery to households across the Constituency.

Naturally, our levels of activity stepped up a gear when the election campaign was called.

Few expected and (before we knew the result) even fewer wanted a December election! But it was fantastic to see our members turning out to help win the election, whatever the pace of rain or depth of cold; not just in Horsham but also adding resource to Crawley, Eastbourne and Lewes where you will know that we retained the two seats we already held and gained Eastbourne back from the Lib Dems.

The result of these activities mean that Gough House is better able to support campaigning for our candidates than we have been previously. Future elections will be demanding but we are much better resourced and equipped to meet that challenge.

Karen McGovern, our Administration Manager in Gough House acted as Jeremy's Agent for the general election campaign and she will fulfil that role during the County Council elections in May 2021. Also added to the Gough House team is Darcy Lester (right) who has joined us as an Administration Assistant.



## Social Events

Understandably, due to the uncertainty created by the Brexit and election scenario at the end of last year, we only had a handful of functions in the last few months of 2019. Notably, I am grateful to Chairman Simon Torn and Roffey Branch and Chairman Phillip Coote and Crawley Down, Turners Hill and Cophthorne Branch for their social 'dos' in November and December. Thank you to them and also to those who attended and supported them.

Elections are not cheap. This is the third general election we have fought in the past four years. In that time, we have also fought two District Council elections and a County Council election. Although I am genuinely amazed at the extraordinary levels of generosity and support you as our members give to us, we must ensure we continue to support our Branches and our functions throughout 2020 to ensure that our fundraising continues in its usual excellent manner.

Please stay abreast of the range of opportunities on offer to socialise with other members. Jeremy attends most of our events and so they are also an ideal time to meet him in an informal scenario to discuss concerns or issues.

For 2020 we have provisionally booked the Annual Dinner for mid-May. This is the key fundraising event for the Association so please bear this in mind when planning your holidays! We expect to confirm the date by the end of January so please watch out for this.

As always, our website is kept up to date with all events, both social and political, so please click here for further information <https://www.horshamconservatives.com/>

## Patrons Club

Horsham Patrons Club is a separate membership organisation within the Association. The primary focus of membership is to support the Association by being involved, but not committed to its everyday work. Patrons is a fundraiser group, where from time to time we ask for assistance from our Patrons Members.

Three dinners are held per year at a high-quality London venue and the guest speakers are of a high calibre. Last year we heard from the Attorney General, the Rt Hon Geoffrey Cox QC MP, from the Party Chairman, the Rt Hon James Cleverly MP and from the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP. Our 2020 programme will be announced shortly. Anybody interested in joining the Patrons Club should, in the first instance, speak to Karen in Gough House.



I am also pleased to announce that for 2020, Patrons Club has a new Chairman, David Walbank QC. David (left) is one of our newer members, although he has been active in Conservative politics for many years. David will undoubtedly make a significant contribution to the development of the Patrons Club in the years ahead.

## Future Ideas

This year we have much planned. I want to have County Council candidates in place a year ahead of the May 2021 elections. We need to continue expanding our membership. We will improve the offering from Gough House. We will increase the number of our Branches. We will launch the Business Club. All of these things need you, our members, to join in too.

I will be delighted to hear from anybody who would like to contribute their time and efforts in any way to help bring these things about. If you can establish a Branch where we don't have one or bring your skills to bear to help run the Business Club, or even just introduce a few friends to the benefits of membership then I would be immensely grateful.

My contact details are shown below.

We have a thriving and dynamic Association here in Horsham. It is my intention to keep on improving this dynamism and I look forward to seeing more of you involved in the year ahead.

## Stay Connected

Please stay informed with Association news via our website at [www.horshamconservatives.com](http://www.horshamconservatives.com). It is now maintained up to date on a regular basis and is the primary method for the dissemination of information to all our members!

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