



HORSHAM CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

GOUGH HOUSE, MADEIRA AVENUE, HORSHAM, RH12 1AB

Dear Member

Given the time of year and the recent general election I thought now was the perfect time to send a final message for 2019.

General Election

What a truly fantastic result on 12 December! The return of a One Nation Conservative Government with a landslide majority of 80 seats is an outstanding achievement. To have delivered this in a manner that has crushed the opposition parties so spectacularly, demonstrates unequivocally the appeal of our Prime Minister and Party Leader Boris Johnson as well as the broad appeal of our policies.

We now have Conservative seats in places where there has never been a Conservative Member of Parliament. Communities built on the steel industry, like Consett and Redcar, plus former mining areas like Blyth Valley and Bishop Auckland have placed their trust in the Conservative Party and are now represented by Conservative MPs for the first time ever. The Labour Party Chairman Ian Lavery, a former miner himself, survived by the skin of his teeth in Wansbeck. Laura Pidcock, a Corbynite who could have been in the running to be the next Labour Leader, saw North West Durham's voters reject her and instead elect a Conservative MP. Margaret Thatcher never had as many MPs in this region as Boris Johnson now has.

Wales saw a real sea-change. Ynys Môn returning a Conservative MP (Virginia Crosbie) for the first time since 1983 plus an additional six gains taken from Labour and the Lib Dems.

Locally of course, we are delighted to see the return of Jeremy Quin as our outstanding MP in Horsham. Jeremy polled 56.8% of the votes cast on Thursday getting 35,900 votes and a majority over the Lib Dems of 21,127 votes. Labour were well beaten into third place with less than 9,500 votes.

I have written to Jeremy to congratulate him on his victory on behalf of all the members of this Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who contributed to the campaigning effort over the last five weeks of this election campaign. There are too many to mention individually but thank you to those who contributed, whether through stuffing envelopes, delivering leaflets, canvassing on the doorstep or coming out at weekends into Horsham, it was quite something! A thank you to those of you who spent time in neighbouring constituencies too, helping them to secure their Conservative MPs. Lewes remained Conservative, as did Crawley. In Eastbourne, the seat was taken back by the Conservatives from the Lib Dems.

An additional thank you to those who helped with posters, with ferrying people around, to our polling station tellers and to those that came to the count and steadfastly remained throughout the night to see the result declared at 0630 on Friday morning! And of course, a big thank you to our superb Gough House staff of Karen McGovern and Darcy Lester.

As Jeremy's Agent, Karen has worked tirelessly to ensure the campaign ran smoothly and compliantly. Darcy has ensured the usual business of the Association has continued despite the distractions of the campaign and I am hugely grateful to them both for their fantastic efforts.

Finally, can I thank all of you who contributed so generously to our Fighting Fund. Elections cost money and this was our third general election in four years. Without your kind and crucial financial support, we would not be able to do the campaigning we do. Thank you all again for your generosity.



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Now then members, I sincerely hope that we do not have to fight another general election until the summer of 2024 at the very earliest!

Gough House Christmas Closure

Would all members please be aware Gough House will be closing for Christmas at 1400 on Friday 20 December 2019. It will re-open at 1000 on Monday 6 January 2020.

All that remains is for me to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year for 2020. I am proud to be your Chairman and I could not ask for a better set of members in our Association. Thank you for all that you do.

Note: the next quarterly Chairman's Newsletter will be issued in early January.

Best regards

Adrian M Lee
Chairman

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