



Chairman's Newsletter - Adrian M Lee

Introduction

I hope you are all staying safe and well during the Coronavirus Covid-19 outbreak. Please remember the simple steps put in place by our Government to ensure we come through this together;

- ✓ Stay at home
- ✓ Protect the NHS
- ✓ Save lives

By each doing our part to slow down the spread of this virus, we can ensure we protect the NHS plus potentially save thousands of lives by avoiding unwittingly spreading the disease. Remember, you can only leave your homes for the following four reasons;

- ✓ To get essential food supplies
- ✓ Any medical need to provide care or to help a vulnerable person
- ✓ One form of exercise per day
- ✓ To travel to and from work but only where you absolutely cannot work from home

Both Horsham District Council [here](#) and Mid Sussex District Council [here](#) have Covid-19 support pages as does West Sussex County Council [here](#).



In terms of other support, there are a number of Facebook groups across the Horsham constituency offering help and support.

If anybody needs help and support, please let us know so we can co-ordinate resources to provide assistance.



In addition, I have set up a dedicated Covid-19 page on our website. This provides links to Government information, support and guidance as the effects of this virus develop. It can be accessed [here](#).

HCA Operation

From my previous communications, you will know Gough House is now closed to visitors and staff alike until further notice. Both of our Association staff, Karen and Darcy, are working from home. We have put in place mechanisms and systems to allow our office@horshamconservatives.com email address to be accessed remotely as can VoteSource and our office files can be accessed via the cloud. We have also set up a phone divert from the Gough House number to allow us to take members' calls although I would please ask members to use email in the first instance unless your query is more urgent in nature.

Clearly, with these revised working practices, response times may be longer than normal but in the circumstances, I trust members will understand and be patient.

HCA Events and Meetings

With the ban on gatherings of more than two people, very obviously all social events and meetings have been cancelled. You will know we had to postpone the AGM and we are looking at a provisional rescheduling for the end of June; although this will be subject to official Government guidance and may very well be postponed again.

Also cancelled is the first Patrons Club dinner of the year and the Holbrook Branch event that was going to take place last weekend. All other planned events are under constant review including the Association Annual Dinner currently scheduled for June as well as the next Patrons Club dinner planned for the same month plus the Horsham Carfax Branch Evening Supper scheduled for May.

In terms of meetings, all HCA meetings are now suspended until further notice and I will issue a notice to relevant members when specific meetings are cancelled. Also note that the Conservative Party Spring Forum that was going to take place in Harrogate early this month is also cancelled.

The Police and Crime Commissioner elections scheduled for 7 May this year have been postponed until 6 May 2021. Also postponed until further notice is the MSDC by-election in Cophorne and Worth.

Please review the Social Events and Meetings tab of our website [here](#) for the latest information.



And now a message from our MP, Jeremy Quin.

A Message from Jeremy



I am grateful for the opportunity to touch base at this extraordinary and challenging time.

I write on 31st March 2020 - the date on which under the terms of the Fixed Term Parliament Act the parliament elected in 2015 was due to be dissolved and face its first re-election.

History has proved rather different. We never know what “events” will be thrown at us. We simply need to rise to the challenge. For the country there has been no deeper challenge in recent times than that which we now confront.

I can assure you that Government is stretching every sinew to support our people at this time.

As you will have seen (and in many other ways less visible) Defence is playing its role to the full as it always does. I need not tell you how deeply impressed I am with the dedication and professionalism not only of our armed services at every level but in the civil servants in the MOD who are helping drive the response in a myriad of ways. It is keeping us intensely busy, as it should, but we are all grateful to be able to contribute in our different ways to what is a national endeavour.

There are so many of our fellow citizens in every aspect of life going the extra mile to help.

However, above all we are aware of all the staff of our NHS - including those leaving training early to get to the frontline and the 20,000 who have returned from retirement to help their colleagues.

We know that all of us can help them by sticking to the NHS advice.

Through the darkness of the current nightmare there shines a sense of shared determination and community. We will help each other and we will get through this together.

Keep well - and I look forward to our future events in happier times.

With best wishes

Jeremy



Closing Thoughts

When I wrote my Chairman's Newsletter in January, I told you about how much we had planned for 2020. Inevitably, much of this will now be put on hold until our lives and our country return to normal. I am pleased to be able to tell you we have now selected all of our prospective Conservative candidates to stand in the West Sussex County Council elections scheduled for 6 May 2021.

As for expanding the Branch network, growing our membership and launching the Business Club, very clearly these activities will be severely restricted for now, but I am extremely grateful to all those who contacted me on the back of my last Newsletter to offer their support.

In particular, a tremendous amount of work has been done on the Business Club by Robert Nye, Sarah Payne and Trevor Hodsdon and I hope to be able to bring you more positive news in my next Newsletter.

All of us are affected by this pandemic. Our freedoms have been severely curtailed and our way of life altered in ways we could not have imagined only a few weeks ago; but, I believe our Conservative Government, led by Boris Johnson, is providing strong leadership and fantastic reassurance through economic, financial, medical and other measures to all of us. On behalf of our members, I wrote to him offering our support and he has replied passing on his, "warmest good wishes to all the Horsham Conservative Association."

Stay safe all of you. Together we will beat this.

Adrian M Lee
Chairman
2 April 2020