



### Chairman's Newsletter

May 2021



Dear Adrian

My previous Newsletter was in December last year and so it has been a while since I last updated you on developments in your Association. As we emerge from Lockdown, there is a good deal to update you on and so I will be covering the following:

- Councillor Andrew MacNaughton
- HCA Private Members Facebook group
- AGM Report - 19 March 2021
- Local Elections - 6 May 2021
- Applications to stand as a Councillor
- Resignation
- Gough House vacancy

As ever, if anyone has any questions on any aspect of this Newsletter then do please feel free to come back to me directly using the following contact details;

e: chairman@horshamconservatives.com  
m: 07717 175384

**Adrian M Lee**  
Chairman

#### Councillor Andrew MacNaughton



With deepest regrets, it is my sad duty to advise members that Councillor Andrew MacNaughton passed away over the weekend.

Andrew had been a member of Mid Sussex District Council for 34 years representing the Ward of Ardingly and Balcombe. He was first elected to serve in 1987.

Andrew had been an enthusiastic member of our Association and was well known and much loved by many. He will be deeply missed.

I'm sure you will join with me in relaying our deepest condolences to his widow, Jane, at this difficult time.

#### Private Members Facebook Group



I previously advised I have established a private members Facebook group for HCA members. So far, we only have around 30 odd members in their group. I am asking you all to join. It provides a safe, private and confidential space for members to talk to one another.

It cannot be seen or read by anybody not a member and it provides an excellent forum to communicate with fellow Conservatives in an open and enjoyable manner.

**In particular, I would like to see all our elected representatives in here as it facilitates interaction between the elected and the electors.**

This group is also intended to augment Association communications so that you can feedback to us your thoughts, ideas and suggestions.

Click on the link below to join!

[Join HCA Private Members Facebook Group](#)

#### AGM Report - 19 March 2021



The HCA Annual General Meeting for 2021 took place on Friday 19 March 2021 via the Zoom platform. This is the second year we have had to hold our AGM in this way and I sincerely hope it will be our last. As per 2020, the AGM was well attended and members were able to hear from the Chairman and other Officers of the Association about the progress your Association had made during 2020, despite the challenges the pandemic had thrown our way.

As Chairman, I reported on a small decline in membership although this was against the backdrop of a significant increase the previous year. Whilst all of our planned social events were cancelled, members had nonetheless remained steadfast in their support and were thanked for this by the Chairman. Of course, the cancelled functions have meant a significant decline in income for the Association; but we are looking forward to getting together again as the Lockdown measures are progressively eased in the weeks ahead.

This year Mr Brad Watson OBE stepped down as our President having served for five years. The Chairman paid tribute to his circa 60 years of political contribution to our Association and to Horsham District and West Sussex and thanked him for his excellent service as our President. The Association presented Brad with a fine Waterford decanter which we hope he will enjoy for many years to come.

The Association also sent flowers to Lin Watson who, of course, has supported Brad throughout his long involvement with the Horsham Conservative Association.

This year we also saw Mr Bill Roff step down as our excellent Deputy Chairman (Membership and Finance). Bill has steered the Association's finances admirably for over three years and has passed on his duties to our newly elected Treasurer about whom there is more below. The Association also made a presentation to Bill of a pair of fine whisky glasses and sent flowers to his supportive wife, Michelle.

Of course, these retirements have meant some new people coming on board. The first of these is our new President, Mr Michael Prideaux. Michael has been a supporter for many years and is one of the founding members of our Patrons Club. More information on Michael can be found [here](#).

The new Deputy Chairman (Membership and Finance) is Sally Pavey. Sally and her husband, Ronnie have been fantastic supporters of this Association over a number years. Sally brings with her enthusiasm, originality and her communications skills crafted over many years in PR. Her background will be a real boon to us in taking on this Association to the next stage.

This year, in reflection of the growth of this Association, we have added the role of Treasurer to our Officer team. This effectively separates the accounting part of the Deputy Chairman (Membership and Finance) role and makes it a stand-alone position. I am pleased to inform members that Robert Nye has agreed to take on this responsibility and I am looking forward to working with him to ensure the continuing probity of this Association's finances.

In addition, we have a new Chairman of the Conservative Women's Organisation in Tahli Boscawen. Tahli lives just outside Rudgwick and is already arranging functions for our members. The first of these is an online discussion with Gillian Keegan MP about the role of Women in Politics and I urge as many of you as possible to attend this free event on Thursday 13 May. More details on this are below.

We also have Sam Howard taking over from Miles Jordan as Chairman of the OFCs and I know that Sam has a range of new ideas to help drive forward our offering to our younger members. As soon as we are able, Sam will be arranging events and I urge our members to give him, Tahli, Sally and all our Officers their support by attending and promoting them to family and friends.

A full list of the Association Officers along with pictures can be found by clicking the link below.

[HCA Officers](#)

#### Elections 2021



On 6 May across our constituency residents went to the polls for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner election and for elections to West Sussex County Council. Here in our constituency, we actually fought four distinct elections;

1. The West Sussex County Council elections
2. The Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election
3. A local by-election for Trafalgar Ward on Horsham District Council
4. A local by-election for Copthorne and Worth Ward on Mid Sussex District Council

#### Council Elections

On West Sussex County Council, we were contesting all 9 Divisions wholly in our constituency. I am pleased to be able to report that in 6 of these we successfully returned Conservative Councillors to serve. They were Amanda Jupp in Billingshurst, Christian Mitchell in Broadbridge, Andrew Baldwin in Holbrook, Nigel Jupp in Southwater and Nuthurst, Katie Nagel in St Leonard's Forest and Bruce Forbes in Worth Forest.

You can see our County Councillors by clicking the button below.

[Our County Councillors](#)

For Bruce it was a double success as he was also successful in the Mid Sussex District Council by-election in Copthorne and Worth Ward!

Congratulations to these successful candidates - they will all make excellent Councillors.

Unfortunately and despite campaigning really hard and working their patches so very well, Ross Dye, Tony Hogben and David Thompson were unsuccessful in their Divisions and Aaron Courteney-Smith was unsuccessful in the Horsham District Council by-election in Trafalgar Ward. Our commiserations to these excellent candidates.

#### Police and Crime Commissioner Election

I am also pleased to be able to report that our fantastic Conservative PCC Katy Bourne OBE was re-elected for her third term with a total of 244,810 votes. She is now the longest serving Police and Crime Commissioner anywhere in the country and we can be rightly proud of her. She defeated her Labour rival who polled a total of 128,259 votes. The turnout of nearly 35.8% was significantly up on the same elections back in 2016.

Our congratulations to Katy on a well-deserved victory.

We are now starting to plan for the District Council elections in 2023. If you wish to be considered as a candidate please read below!

#### Do You Want To Be A Councillor?

For those who wish to be considered as potential Council candidates, in mid-2021 we will be starting our selection process for candidates to stand in the District Council elections due in May 2023. Elections are being held for Horsham District Council and for Mid Sussex District Council.

If you have ever thought about serving your local community as a Councillor then this could be the opportunity for you! Read [here](#) to learn more and contact us via the link below to register your interest. We want as many applicants as possible - we have a lot of vacancies to fill!

[I'm Interested in Becoming a Councillor](#)

#### Forthcoming Events

Before I end, I would like to draw your attention to the FREE CWO Zoom event this Thursday.

#### Gillian Keegan MP - Women In Politics

One of West Sussex's highest profile female MPs is exclusively joining our Horsham Association via Zoom to talk about women in politics. She will talk about her professional background and route to parliament and her ministerial portfolio.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and perhaps whet the appetite to learn even more!

For more information and to reserve your place follow the link below.

[Events](#)

#### Resignation

With regret, I have to advise you all that with immediate effect Councillor Andrew Baldwin is stepping down as Deputy Chairman (Political and Campaigning). I wish to emphasise that this is absolutely NOT in any way related to our election campaign.

Andrew has strong personal reasons which I fully understand and support. I want to pay tribute and state that I consider him to have been an excellent DC(P&C) of this Association over the last couple of years and I shall miss his contribution and counsel.

I can advise members that Ross Dye has agreed to step into the role in his stead and I will be asking the Executive Council to formally approve this at the earliest opportunity.

#### Gough House Vacancy

Finally, do you know of anybody looking for a part-time job? We have a vacancy for 12 hours per week (plus some overtime) working in Gough House to support the work of our Association.

Please email me directly to register interest.

Best regards

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