



# Portsmouth South Conservatives

Members & Friends Newsletter: Spring 2011

## We've been here a Year!



Photo: The Official Opening by Nicholas Soames MP last March

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### Welcome to a new look Members and Friends Newsletter for Spring

**2011**, which has been kindly compiled by Chris Hirst, City Council candidate for Milton ward, to whom I would like to say a big thank you for all the work that he has contributed towards it.

The Newsletter has largely been produced on a new printer within the office which was presented to us by Tony Woodford in memory of his late wife Rita Woodford, both former stalwarts of the Association

and I offer a big thank you to Tony also.

The City Council elections on May 5th are fast approaching and our seven selected ward candidates are now beginning to gear up their campaigns. Any assistance which you may be able to provide to them in terms of canvassing, leaflet delivery or simply a donation to a proposed campaign fund would be much appreciated.

Regarding membership, the organising secretary Cheryl Jewitt, has worked extremely

hard in liaison with Association Officers in order to bring the membership data base up to date. The Prime Minister David Cameron has signalled his intention to make Membership a priority and we in common with other Associations need to raise our membership numbers. It would be appreciated therefore, if any of your friends/acquaintances may be interested in joining us, that they be encouraged to do so.

*David Hammond*

## POLITICAL COMMENT: NATIONAL

**By Flick Drummond,**  
**Our Parliamentary Spokesperson**

We are now 8 months into the coalition and it seems to be going well. It is certainly good for the country to see political parties working together in the best interest of the nation and I think David Cameron is doing a sterling job keeping everybody focussed on getting the economy right. We had five years of research and decision making about how we want to see the country develop and these ideas are now being put into practice. It is disappointing to arrive at the Treasury and find a note from the previous Labour minister stating that there is no money left, but we knew that there would be 18 months of horrendous decisions to put the country back on its feet.

As a university city, there will be plenty of people talking about tuition fees. **It is important to make clear that no student has to pay up front as they do at the moment but will pay the loan back through their taxes when they begin work** – this is very similar to a graduate tax but at least there is an end date to the loan when it has been paid off. Students from poorer backgrounds, and there will be some of them from Portsmouth, will not have to

pay as much as they do at the moment. I don't like the thought of having to pay for education, but we cannot afford to send the present numbers of young people to university without a financial contribution. The universities will now have to ensure that their courses are worth the money.

The changes in the NHS will give back control of the budgets to the GP's which is similar to the practice before the Labour Government bought in Primary Care Trusts. This will mean that **GP's have more choice on where to send their patients which I think will be a lot better for us all.** It will mean that there will be more competition in providers which should lead to higher standards.

I am also delighted that Secretary of State for Education, **Michael Gove MP, has been talking about the curriculum and giving choice back to teachers.**

Under the Labour Government the curriculum was very tightly controlled, and I hope this will mean that teachers can get excited again about how they plan their subjects which should lead to more interesting lessons for pupils.

Lastly, we may have a referendum on how we vote

on May 5<sup>th</sup> if the Bill does go through. I was in the House of Lords the week that they had to stay up all night discussing the Bill and I saw some very tired peers! Changing the voting system to the Alternative Vote system is not the way forward and we will be mounting a robust campaign against it.

**We will send you a briefing note nearer the time so you can inform your neighbours and friends exactly what AV really means.**

Some of you will know that I am now working part time for the Conservative Middle East Council in London which is really interesting as we engage Conservative parliamentarians about issues in the Middle East. I am also working for one of our new peers so if you want to contribute to any of the debates or have some views, let me know and I will try to include them in one of the speeches.

I am really pleased that we have some excellent candidates standing in the local elections and I will be working hard to help them get elected as I am sure you will be too.

**Conservative Women's  
Organisation  
AGM : 8th February,**

## POLITICAL COMMENT: LOCAL

By Cllr Luke Stubbs,

Eastney and Craneswater

Local elections are once again upon us and with the LibDem administration facing pushing through potentially unpopular budget cuts, there's all to play for.

Being in government is starting to put some downward pressure on our vote, but

that's nothing compared to what's happening to the **LibDems, who are recording some of their lowest poll ratings since 1989. Combine that with Mike Hancock's difficulties and a number of problems at the Civic Offices that have yet to come to light and we have a real chance to put in our best performance in years.**

## NEWS FROM: THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE

**Profile: Cheryl Jewitt**

**Association Organising Sec**

Cheryl was born in Portsmouth and loves the city. A member of Friends of Old Portsmouth, The



Portsmouth Society and a lifelong Conservative. She joined Portsmouth South as a volunteer before taking on the role as

Organising Secretary.

Cheryl started her career working for Lloyds Bank & then went on to work for Portsmouth City Council before taking a break to have her two sons. She resumed her working life with Southern Electric, finally becoming a Domestic Energy Adviser.

**An Update from the Deputy Chairman (Political):**

With the Association's AGM set for March 8th, all Branches should soon be arranging their Annual General Meetings - in advance of the Association AGM - to elect their Officers, Committee and representatives to the Executive Council.

The main campaign effort at the end of last year was the delivery of a Conservative newspaper. We have now selected candidates for all Wards. Most candidates have now created their own Survey Forms which will be used during canvass calls. **We have a very promising set of candidates and look forward to recovering some of our lost ground at the Local Elections in May.**

**Website: News**

[www.portsmouthsouthconservatives.com](http://www.portsmouthsouthconservatives.com)

This is a completely new site and still under development. There are a number of new facilities (such as 'dynamic maps') which make the site more interesting. To keep it up-to-date we will need a constant flow of stories and events. Contact Angus Ross if you have anything of interest for the site.

## ASSOCIATION AGM DATE SET:

Following a recent meeting, the Association Officers are happy to announce that The Annual General Meeting will be held on **March 8th at the Conservative Club, Albert Rd.**

## **Charles Dickens Ward: Matt Davies**



Matt has lived in Portsmouth his entire life, and is running for the Charles Dickens seat on Portsmouth City Council. As a lifelong resident, he understands the problems facing the local community and is campaigning to ensure that his neighbours get the help that they need.

Matt has seen, first hand the problems that day to day brings, and wants more than the local and national solutions on offer. He is committed to helping the people in his local community, and he will work day and night to offer them every opportunity possible.

Matt has plenty of experience, he has helped to re-launch the Portsmouth Conservative Future, currently acting as Deputy Chairman, and was heavily involved in helping voters at polling stations at the last General Election. Outside of politics, Matt is currently training to be an accountant at Highbury College, which has opened his eyes to the problems and challenges facing young people in education.

Matt wants to start a wave of change at Portsmouth City Council, helping the next generation get the help and support that they need. He understands the needs of one of the city's most important resources – it's young people – and is committed to ensuring that the next generation can fulfil its promise.

Matt Davies – looking out for Portsmouth's future.

## **Eastney and Craneswater Ward: Gerry Oldfield**



Eastney and Craneswater's candidate is Gerry Oldfield. Gerry contested the seat in 2008, coming just 14 votes and two re-counts away from taking it. He has previously stood in Charles Dickens and was the candidate for the Fratton during the 2007 by-election there.

Gerry came to Portsmouth to teach. His early career was spent at St Luke's, but he's best known as a popular teacher at Mayfield, where he won recognition from the City Council with a Civic Award for engaging with children. He is now semi-retired.

Originally from Nottinghamshire Gerry remains a committed Mansfield Town fan. He has lived in his Elm Grove home for over forty years and has been a party member since the 1960s.

## Milton Ward: Chris Hirst



Chris made Portsmouth his home in 2001 after realising it was the perfect place to continue his work with the Tall Ships Youth Trust (a charity offering training and support to young people by teaching them to sail). Realising the potential of the local University he enrolled for a degree in Criminology and has never looked back.

In 2008 Chris moved to Milton, where he engaged with the local community. Chris is standing in the City Council Elections in May 2011 to represent the community and give something back to the people of Milton. With his experience and passion for the city, he is confident that he can make a real impact by helping real people, improve their lives and solve real problems.

Chris has committed himself to the local community and with his commitment to hard-work, planning and your support he will make a real difference for the people of Milton.

## St Thomas Ward: Andrew Rothwell



Andrew Rothwell comes from a well-known Old Portsmouth Naval family. He is married with three young boys. He started work in Southsea at 16 as an apprentice engineer and now runs his own businesses - one in property and the other in restoration of vintage cars.

He is standing for the first time for St.Thomas Ward in the City Council Elections in May 2011. He feels that he now wants to put something back into this great and vibrant City - and he believes that his business and management experience can make a difference on the City Council. He lives in Old Portsmouth and spends his spare time with his family and sailing from the Camber during the summer months.

## Fratton Ward: Terry Judkins



I am very passionate about Portsmouth, having lived here most of my life and for the last

twelve years in St Andrews Road, Southsea.

I have been an active member of the association since 1999 and an experienced campaigner working on every campaign

including two General Elections. I enjoy getting involved with things like delivering leaflets and have spent many a Saturday morning helping out at street stalls, handing out literature and just putting our point across.

My background is in Tourism and Hospitality previously running restaurants and bars in Southsea, but for the past six years I have been employed as a retail

manager by Greggs the Bakers and although my main jobs takes a lot of my time I attend most Full Council meetings as a spectator in the public gallery and spend a lot of time with sitting Councillors talking about how we can improve our city and move forward.

I am looking forward to working with the team and am confident we will have great success across the city.

## St Judes Ward: Linda Symes



I already know a lot of you, but for those I don't know, I was born and have lived in Southsea nearly all my life, my husband has a business here and my three children grew up and were educated locally. We have lived in our present house in the heart of the ward for the last 26 years. When my children had grown up and I had more time on my hands I decided I would like to work in and for the community.

Until last year I had been a Councillor for 12 years four of those as a City Councillor, when I failed to regain my seat on the city council at the General Election last year I wasn't sure I would want to stand again. But I have missed working in the capacity as ward Councillor and helping my community.

Southsea is such a diverse area and needs a lot of looking after, it is a tourist area which earns the city millions of pounds in revenue each year, has 7 Conservation Areas some of which are attributable to Thomas Ellis Owen a famous Architect who built amongst other things St Jude's Church. Several Ancient Monuments, and the jewel in

the crown Southsea Common, it has the most houses in multiple occupation, and more under 4's and most over 65's than anywhere else in the city. 19 different ethnic minorities live here making it truly multicultural. I have gained a lot of experience in the last 12 years and would like to continue to use that experience for the benefit of the residents and to help Keep Southsea Special !

**Membership  
Focus:**

**Do you know  
someone who  
should be a  
member?**

## Central Southsea: Massoud Esmaili



My name is Massoud Esmaili and I am a self-employed electrical engineer with an independent business in Albert Road, Southsea. I have been a resident of central Southsea for thirty years. I am well-known in the local community and my regular customers have encouraged and supported me in my endeavour to take a active part within the local community.

I belong to the Albert Road Traders Association which supports the interest of the independent traders.

I came to Portsmouth in 1978 and studied at Highbury College (OND), Portsmouth University (Polytechnic) HND in Electronic Engineering and an MSc in Information Systems.

I am married and have three grown-up children. My children attended state schools and two of them went to Portsmouth University. My wife and I have always been active parents throughout our children's education. A good education is a priority and I have been an active Governor in a local primary school for the past four years, the role has allowed me to see an insight into how a school functions and appreciate the hard work that teachers undertake on a daily basis.

I have recently become a Conservative candidate for the Central Southsea area as I would like to represent the people in my area and ensure that the issues they are concerned about are listened to and acted upon within the local council forum. I have assisted in talking to the residents and canvassed my area during previous local elections and during the General Election last year, I formulated a questionnaire, campaigned with residents to encourage the Council to put in speed restrictions in the area. The local newspaper printed a story and pictures to raise the issue.

Therefore, I am prepared to be a pro-active Councillor for the residents and will work hard to ensure that the residents in Central Southsea will have an elected voice in the Council working on their behalf.

**REGISTER TO HELP  
WITH THE 2011  
ELECTION CAMPAIGN**

**Contact the office now  
and let us know how  
you want help...**

**Tel: 92827450**

**WE NEED HELP FROM ALL  
MEMBERS FOR:**

- **Delivering Leaflets + Newsletters**
- **Writing Letters**
- **Displaying Posters**
- **Recruiting New Members**
- **Holding Fundraising Events**

**Whatever time you have - Please inform the Office  
and we will find you a role !**

# FUTURE EVENTS

**February 10th**    **Coffee Morning (Milton Ward)**

**Time** - 10.30 am

**Venue** - At 59 Goldsmith Avenue Milton kindly hosted by Jean Russell

**Price** - £3. Everyone welcome, please contact the Office number below to leave your name to reserve a place, so that we cater for you. Raffle (Prizes welcome).

**Feb 24th**    **Supper and Skittles (St Thomas Ward)**

**Time** - 7.00 pm.

**Venue** - 'Melvilles' Caravan Park Club, Eastney.

**Price** - £8 per person. We need your food order which can be:  
Chicken & Chips, Sausage & Chips or Fish & Chips.

Please contact the office to confirm interest before February 19th

**March 8th**    **Association AGM**

**Time** - 7.00 pm

**Venue** - Conservative Club, Albert Road, Southsea.

**March 23rd**    **Afternoon Tea and Bingo. (CWO)**

**Time**            2.00 pm.

**Venue** - Alexandra Court 31—33, South Parade.

**Price**            £3 plus small additional price for a fun bingo.

**April 13th**    **A Turkish Meal (St Jude Ward).**

**Time** - 7.30 pm.

**Venue** - Istanbul Restaurant Osborne Road.

**Price** - £12.00

**For the latest Event information please visit**  
[www.portsmouthsouthconservatives.com](http://www.portsmouthsouthconservatives.com)

## PSCA Contact Details:

**Phone:** 02392-827450    **Email:** portsmouthsouth@tory.org

The Office is normally open weekdays from 0900 - 1200

(except Wednesdays).