



## Ken Clarke steps down

Our ever popular friend and Member of Parliament for Rushcliffe has stepped down from his office of Minister without Portfolio to end what has been a phenomenal record of holding a ministerial post since just two years after he was elected as an MP. Ken was elected to Parliament in 1970, became a minister in 1972 and in subsequent years held high offices in the government, notably, as Chancellor or the Exchequer and Justice Secretary.



In his letter to David Cameron announcing his retirement from the government he said that

there were plenty of other people who could take on the work he was doing in government. Having just turned 74 he had been opening red boxes for a high proportion of his adult life and thought that the time had come for him to return to being a veteran back bencher.

I am sure we all wish him well in this new role and it goes without saying that he will make his presence felt with his usual vigour whenever the need may arise,

## Promoted



Broxtowe MP, Anna Soubry was given promotion in the July re-shuffle to become Minister of State for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans. She was formerly a Secretary of State at the MOD

## Strikes are wrong

July's strikes disrupted the lives of millions. Schools were shut, damaging children's education and forcing parents to take time off work or scramble round for childcare.

Libraries and other public services were closed, causing difficulties to families across the country.

We are clear: these strikes are wrong writes party chairman Grant Shapps.

Labour left our economy in a mess. We have taken difficult decisions that have reduced the deficit by over a third - and we need to keep on dealing with our debts to safeguard the economy for the long term.

We can't go back to Labour's way of more spending, more borrowing and more taxes. It would wreck the recovery and put jobs at risk.



Yet Ed Milliband refuses to condemn these strikes.

There is only one conclusion we can draw from his silence: he is too weak to stand up to the union paymasters who have donated £23 million to his Party.

## Nottinghamshire Area Annual General Meeting

**The Nottinghamshire Conservative Area Annual General Meeting will be held at Rushcliffe Conservative Offices, 17-19 Rectory Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 6BE on Friday 8th August 2014 at 7.00 p.m.**

**FREE REFRESHMENTS (Wine and Nibbles)**

Whilst only two representatives from each Association will be entitled to vote, if need be, any paid-up member of the Party belonging to a Nottinghamshire Constituency Association is entitled and encouraged to attend.

Will all Associations therefore notify the date, time and venue of this meeting to their members?

**Those wishing to attend should register their interest with their local Association before Monday 4th August** so that numbers attending may be ascertained. Numbers to Debbie Mason by e-mail (masondebb@gmail.com) or letter (c/o Nottingham Conservatives, King Edward Court, King Edward Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW) together with any apologies, please.

The current Area Chairman (Debbie Mason) being eligible offers herself for re-election. All positions (Chairman, Deputy Chairmen Political and Membership and Treasurer) are open to nomination and such nominations, proposed and seconded with the nominee's approval should be sent to Debbie Mason as above no later than **Monday 4th August 2014.**

## Comment

It is always interesting to hear people say they have no time for politics and politicians are all the same anyway!

But then life is all politics and whether we like it or now "they" are all not the same. Like all walks in life there are good ones, bad ones and indifferent ones. But what is politics?

Daily politics intrude into everything we do whether it is through a political party, defined by big business or bureaucracy for that is the way the world spins.

We must look at the Oxford Dictionary definition of the adjective "politic", meaning "sensible and wise in the circumstances, prudent and shrewd". We then look at the adjective "political" which relates to "the government or public affairs of a country". There would appear to be no connection between the adjectival definition of the two words.

Never should we believe that all politicians are shrewd or even prudent and there are many examples of where they have not been sensible or wise.

But whatever we may think in just ten months time we have to choose a bunch of them to run our future for the next four years and that choice has to be prudent.

Past performance shows us there is little doubt that a Conservative government is better for this country for we still have stark memories of how those 12 years of Labour left us - we are still sorting it out!

The road to success is a long one but the road to ruin is even longer and that is what will happen if Labour hold the reins again. Ed Milliband may well be trying to keep out the unions but there is little chance that he will kill the dog that is currently bringing home the fat bone of finance for him.

Ten months of hard campaigning by us can see that Ed Milliband, oh! and of course Nigel Farage, will be kept out in the cold with little to give them solace.

*Any of the views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Conservative Party.*

## Biggest union promises to fund Labour

The country's biggest union leader - Len McCluskey - has promised to give Labour millions and millions of pounds of union money writes Party Chairman Grant Shapps.

He'll pay for their posters, their call centres, their leaflets - their campaign to get Ed Miliband into No. 10.

And if he gets his way, Britain will have a Labour government set on more spending, more borrowing and more taxes - putting the recovery at risk, crushing British businesses and costing jobs.

Don't let Labour and Len McCluskey drag Britain backwards - donate £10 to our campaign today and you can go on line to do it by going to [www.conservativeparty.com](http://www.conservativeparty.com).

Unlike Labour the Conservative Party is not bankrolled by the unions. Instead, it's individuals such as you that fund our Party and help us to campaign for a better future for Britain.

Labour and the unions want to try and outspend us in order to win the next election and make Ed Miliband Prime Minister.

We can't let that happen.

Donate £10 today and let's secure Britain's future.

## Old friend speaks at Millbank

The last Millbank Club Dinner held in July at the Yew Lodge Hotel, Kegworth, saw as its guest speaker Lord Taylor of Holbeach.

As a member of the Millbank Club he has been a regular attendee over many years but on this occasion he was a very welcome guest speaker as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Criminal Information.



John's Taylor's long service on the voluntary side of the Party has seen him rise from Young Conservative to parliamentary and Euro candidate, to office at regional and national level. He was created a Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1992 for political service. He served as Chairman of the National Conservative Convention from 2000 to 2003.

John was created a life peer as Baron Taylor of Holbeach, of South Holland in the County of Lincolnshire, on 31 May 2006 and in the House of Lords until 2010 he held several opposition spokesman positions. Following the General Election he was Government Spokesman for the Cabinet Office, DECC and DWP until 2011 and he then served as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Resource Management, the Local Environment and Environmental Science in Defra until his current appointment in 2012.

He is an honorary member of Conservative Friends of Poland, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and speaks French and Dutch, the latter no doubt because of his business life connections with the bulb growing industry.

## An evening with Robert Jenrick

On Thursday 18th September - 7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Newark MP Robert Jenrick will be the guest at an evening organised by Nottingham Conservatives at the Masonic Hall, Welbeck Road, West Bridgford, NG2 7QW

Guests will be able to enjoy a specially selected three course meal, a well-appointed bar, great company as well as a speech and Q and A with our country's newest MP.

Tickets are £25.00 and selling fast. Please call 0115 948 4533 to book yours.

## Last Party Conference before the election

Sunday 28th September to Wednesday 1st October at the ICC Birmingham

This is the last major Conservative Party Conference before the elections in May 2015 and it is the ideal occasion for you to get a taste of what is to come and listen to major speakers lay out our party's plans for the future

For full details and registration contact Fingerprint Events Accreditation Team on 020 7099 9639

[accreditation@fingerprintevents.com](mailto:accreditation@fingerprintevents.com)

## Help make Britain a safer place says Theresa May

We want to make Britain an even safer place to live, work and raise a family.

Parents want to be sure their children are safe, pensioners want to feel secure in their neighbourhoods, and people deserve to be protected so they can work hard and get on in life.

Under Labour, the police were bogged down with too much paperwork, meaning cases were often not dealt with and the victims of crime neglected. People didn't feel safe on the streets.

But thanks to our action plan to tackle crime, and the hard work of police officers, crime is now down by more than 10% since 2010.

We need everyone in the country to get behind our plan - so please add your name today. Go to [Conservative/backouractinplan](http://Conservative/backouractinplan) to tackle crime.

Our action plan to tackle crime is helping to give people greater security by:

1. Freeing the police to fight crime by cutting red tape and scrapping unnecessary targets
2. Giving criminals tougher sentences so communities are protected and justice is done
3. Giving the police the powers they need to tackle criminals, using the latest tools and techniques
4. Stopping people from becoming criminals by tackling the root causes of crime
5. Making the police answer to the community to help drive down crime in your area

[Good doorstep points](#)



### The area team



Area Chairman Debbie Mason



Deputy Political James Spencer



Deputy Membership David Lloyd



Treasurer Francis Purdue-Horan



Communications Philip Ingall

## Former UKIP leader stands as conservative

A former UKIP leader and Medway councillor has been selected as the Conservative candidate for Thanet South in Kent in the 2015 General Election.

Craig Mackinlay has been selected to fight the seat which is being vacated by Conservative MP Laura Sandys.

UKIP leader, and South East MEP, Nigel Farage said he had no comment to make about the selection.

Mr Mackinlay was leader of UKIP in 1997 before serving as deputy leader between 1997 and 2000.

He joined the Conservative Party in 2005 and stood for the party in the Kent police and crime commissioner elections in November 2012

## Hard work rewarded

Nottingham Federation's Elliott Johnson visited CCHQ and Number 10 Downing Street with other hardworking Team 2015 co-ordinators from across 40/40 target seats. The trip was a thank you for the outstanding effort Elliott and his colleagues are making towards the 2015 General Election campaign.

It's great to see the party rewarding their dedication and unwavering commitment.