

# Crewe & Nantwich

## Newsletter



Autumn 2018

### Chair's Comments – Carol Groves

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter and thank you for being here with us tonight. I hope that you have enjoyed the lovely summer. We have made hay while the sun has been shining to get out and about campaigning right across the constituency.

I look forward to meeting more of our members over the coming months and would especially like to welcome those new members with us here tonight.

*Carol*

### DEPUTY CHAIR POLITICAL – VICKY HIGHAM

■ It's been a really eventful time since my appointment in February.

We started by developing our strategy for the next 3 years, including our Ward Leaders approach, and have used this as our blueprint to focus on our activities from April onwards.

We held our first street stall of the year at the end of April, to coincide with the Nantwich Farmers Market, outside of our offices in Churchyardside and haven't looked back since.

We hold a regular street stall on the last Saturday of every month now.

We are now starting to hold regular ward councillor surgeries to tackle any local issues. Look out for adverts for your local ward surgery with your local Ward Councillor and the newly appointed PPC.

**It has been a busy time in readiness for the 2019 elections.** We have completed most of our candidate selections for the wards we currently hold, & some of our target ones, however there are still some vacancies. If you are interested in standing as a Cheshire East Council candidate or as a Crewe/Nantwich Town Council candidate please see the feature opposite.

**On June 4th we welcomed our Campaign Manager, David McNeilage,** to our team and the help and support in building on

our engagement with our voters has been invaluable.

Over the summer months we continued with our regular Street Stalls and then twice a week, Wednesdays and Saturdays, we've been out in our wards delivering newsletters and also gathering information on what's important to our residents through knock, drop and collect surveys. As a result of this we've had feedback from over 1,200 residents in Crewe, Leighton, Nantwich, Shavington, Wybunbury, Wistaston and Willaston & Rope. Over the coming weeks we will be out and about in these areas together with Haslington.

**Thanks to all of those who have been out and about, as well as those who have been behind the scenes printing, preparing the rounds and data inputting – we couldn't have done it without you.**

We have a lot of new faces, so if you'd like to meet some of our newer members, please come along to our campaign sessions, or prep activities – watch out for the weekly email from David.

There's lots of ways you can help out in spreading the word, please see our article further into the newsletter.

Finally, I'm delighted to have been selected as one of our 2 candidates for Nantwich North and West. I have a great affinity to this ward my daughter attended the Wyche, my grandmother lived on Welsh Row in the alms-houses, my mum and dad lived in a flat on Barony Court, and for the last 30 years I've lived in Reaseheath on The Green.



## COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2019

■ May 2019 sees the 4 yearly election cycle for Cheshire East and Crewe and Nantwich Town Councils.

Currently the Conservatives hold Cheshire East, disappointingly, our neighbours in Cheshire West do not, and they are making a concerted effort to win this back.

In Cheshire East we need to hold the seats we have and also to win our target wards. We still have some vacancies for candidates. If you are interested there's a simple process that's not scary

1. Be a member of the Conservative Party – if you're not you can join – please contact John Statham
2. Complete a candidate application form
3. Attend an informal interview to gain approval to be on the candidates list
4. Join some of the weekly campaigns – speak to Vicky or David
5. Apply for one of the candidate vacancies
6. Depending on how many applicants there are for a ward there may be a meeting to decide who is the best candidate
7. Start campaigning with the team!

**We have vacancies for the two Town Councils as well.** The Conservatives currently hold Nantwich Town Council, disappointingly we don't have any councillors for Crewe – 2019 will see a change – but we need you to affect this!

If you feel that you'd like to build your confidence as a councillor, and you live within 3 miles of the town you'd like to be considered for then follow the following steps

1. Complete an application form
2. Attend an informal interview for approval
3. Start campaigning with the team



## DEPUTY CHAIR MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE – JOHN STATHAM

### ■ Growing our membership

Our members are our greatest asset, volunteering their time and skills in countless ways to ensure that our campaigns are successful. That's why both locally and nationally, the Conservative party is working hard to attract new members. **In Crewe and Nantwich we are hoping to continue our recent success in attracting new members.** We have had a good response to our 'Knock, Drop and Collect' surveys which gives people the chance to indicate their willingness to get involved. Often, all it takes to get someone on board is to ask the question: "would you like to join us?".

**Over the Summer, efforts to swell our ranks have been rewarded with a 20% increase in membership.** We have set an ambitious membership target for 2020 which will provide Crewe and Nantwich with a larger, enthusiastic and dynamic team to help paint Crewe and Nantwich blue once again!

### ■ Get Involved

Become a member. If you are not already a member you could consider joining the Conservative party. For just £25 a year (£5 for aged 22 and under, or £15 for serving or former members of the armed forces), you can play a major role in the party.

### ■ Social Events

There is a full programme of social events held throughout the year and we would love to see you and your friends at one soon. All the money raised goes towards local Conservative campaigns, all whilst enjoying the company of like minded people.

### ■ Become a councillor

Becoming a Councillor is a most rewarding experience. It gives you the opportunity to

help your local community, gain political experience, and develop useful skills in public speaking and problem solving. New Councillors bring fresh ideas and fresh enthusiasm to local politics.

### ■ Make a donation

Whereas the Labour Party receive millions from the trade unions, we are reliant on the support of individual donors like you to get our messages out. Any money you donate will be used to campaign locally.

### ■ How could you help?

- **Delivery network.** Just a few hours a month and a little more at election time can go a long way to ensure that we can get our Conservative message out.
- **Display a poster.** Perhaps you have a display space which is highly visible. If so, we would love to hear from you.
- **Administration.** There are always opportunities to help with admin jobs.
- **Campaign days.** Head out with our committed team of activists, canvassing all over Crewe & Nantwich. It's a great way to meet other members and usually ends with a coffee or something stronger in the local pub.



## Portcullis Club

■ This is an inclusive, exclusive club. People from all walks of life are welcome, however it is limited in numbers to 24. This is because the main events are



twice a year there's a meal with a Cabinet Minister, one in Westminster and one in Crewe and Nantwich. There are other events as well.

There's a minimum donation of £500 per person, per annum.

Occasionally there may be an opening for a new member, if you are interested in joining you can put your name down on the waiting list

From time to time, a member cannot attend an event and the 'slot' is made available to 'taste' the club. This is offered to waiting list members who have not yet had a taster in the first instance.

If you are interested in more information on the Portcullis club please contact the office.

## CONTACT CREWE & NANTWICH CONSERVATIVES

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 **Conservatives**

## EVENTS UPDATE

■ August saw our fabulous Garden Party hosted by Mr and Mrs Potter. We raised a large amount to help with campaigning, but more importantly it was a time to catch up with old friends and make new ones, swap ideas & experiences on the campaign trail and have some fun. Thanks to Donald and Eileen for a smashing event.

We have several events in the diary – please see opposite.

If you have an idea for an event that you'd like to host or would like to get involved in helping out please contact John or Vicky. Our new Business Plan approach means that it shouldn't result in individuals having to financially fund events, if they are not in the situation to do so.

## Upcoming Events

■ **Candidate Launch Party – Friday 28th September** - Olive Grove Centre, London Road, Nantwich. Get to know your Parliamentary candidate better over a glass of wine.

■ **Quiz Night (26th October, 7.00 for 7.30.** Richmond Village) with a mouth watering Hot Pot supper and an excellent bar. Quiz teams are a table of 6 and it's £10 pp. If you can't make a full table we can fit individuals together to make a team.

Please email to [dtgretorex@talktalk.net](mailto:dtgretorex@talktalk.net) before the **16th October** to say... "it's in my diary, I will bring a team". Members and their guests welcome

■ **Gin Tasting – 23rd November** at the Olive Grove Centre, London Road, Nantwich

Hosted by an artisan distiller £15 pp. which includes 6 gins to taste and nibbles, oh go on then we'll include mixers too.

Limited to 40 tickets, these are selling fast. Please call the office to secure yours.

Members and their guests welcome

■ **Burns Night – 25th January**, Richmond Village. To commemorate that well known poet Robbie Burns, we have tables of 6 and 10. Tickets are £30 pp for 4 courses and a drink for the toasts. It will be a traditional Burns Night with a twist.

Again if you can't make a full table we will try and accommodate requests to seat smaller numbers together. Members and their guests welcome.