

Sir John Major at Nottingham fund raiser



Former Prime Minister Sir John Major KG CH will be Guest of Honour at a City of Nottingham Conservative Federation Dinner on Friday 19th February at the East Midlands Conference Centre when it will be raising funds for the Federation and target seats in Nottinghamshire, namely Nottingham South, Broxtowe, Gedling, Sherwood and Bassetlaw.

Tickets are £50.00 each to include a sparkling wine reception, three course dinner and coffee. £15.00 from every ticket sold will be donated to the target seat of your choice.

Memorabilia auction

In addition to a raffle, Charles Hanson (BBC TV's Bargain Hunt and Flog It) will be conducting an auction of political memorabilia.

There will be an opportunity to join Sir John at his table for dinner (details on application to Nottingham Federation Office - 0115 948 4533). Sir John is only able to undertake a few regional tours in advance of the next General Election and we therefore hope to raise as much money as possible from his visit.

Tickets available from the City of Nottingham Conservative Federation Office, 1 King Edward Court, King Edward Street NG1 1EW (Telephone 0115 948 4533).

Early application is advised in order to avoid disappointment.

Do you know?

Tony Blair is a distant cousin of the Queen. Well we all have our cross to carry!

By-election fever hits the county

Five by-elections are to hit the polling stations during February including the Mansfield South Division of Nottinghamshire County Council where Mansfield and District Conservative Association deputy chairman political Drew Stafford is to fight the seat on 25th February. On the same day Fraser McFarland will fight the Mansfield District Council Portland Ward by-election and Brian Hyatt will fight the by-election in the Mansfield District Council Sherwood Ward.

Sherwood Conservatives have chosen Mick Murphy to fight the Ashfield District Council, Hucknall Central Ward by election on 11th February.

Broxtowe fight a by-election in the Broxtowe Borough Council Eastwood Ward on 25th February when Adrian Limb will be their candidate

By-election Action Days

Sat 6th Feb Mansfield
(Mansfield South County Council seat) contact Drew Stafford on 07540 643 581

Sat 13th Feb Eastwood
(Broxtowe Borough Council) contact James Poland 07764 966677

Please try and get a car load together for a couple of hours during the day so we can blitz these by-elections,

Please contact Drew and/or James so they have some ideas of the number of helpers coming. Your help will be appreciated

Curry Club

The next Curry Club meeting will be on Wednesday 24th February 2010 when guest speaker Chris Heaton-Harris now PPC for Daventry will talk about "Life after the EU".

The meal at Nottingham's Mogul E Azam Restaurant will be £20 with £5 retained by the Area and £10 given to the Association where the diner is a member.

Application for tickets should be sent with cheque payable to Notts Conservatives to Neale Mittenshaw-Hodge c/o Gedling Conservative Association, 222 Carlton Hill, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 1FY



Chris Grayling at Area dinner in March



The Shadow Home Secretary Chris Grayling will be the chief guest at the Notts Area "Nottinghamshire Can Do It" fund raising dinner on Wednesday 17th March.

Tickets will be £35 each with profits going towards funding for the General Election.

The venue is to be confirmed but application for tickets may be made to Area Chairman Philip Ingall on chairman@nottinghamshireconservatives.com

Rosettes for hire

The Area Executive has purchased a quantity of rosettes which may be borrowed by Associations in need. Any missing when returned will be charged for.

Contact Neale Mittenshaw-Hodge on 07860 483893 for more details.

Comment

Many people consider February as their worst month of the year. Winter depression has set in and dark mornings, cold weather and missed opportunities in the sales all make it a month to get over as quickly as possible. That's probably why it has only 28 days (leap year excepted).

But what of this February? Despite everything else there is one thing that must be uppermost in Tory minds - the forthcoming general election and the need to win. We are clear points ahead of Labour and the double figure lead in the polls, although eroded at the moment, will come back.

The red top press, as is their wont, is trying to tell us there is a split at the top of the Party but we are as united as never before in the task of winning the seats we need to gain power. And Conservative power is what is needed to bring our country back on to its feet after this disastrous Labour government. Stealth taxes, the mis-managed NHS, education in chaos and more silly knee-jerk laws than you can poke a big stick at. Yet Gordon Brown, the Daily Telegraph tells us, is determined to go on.

This all means that we in the Voluntary Party have to work harder than ever to win the seats that add up to victory. Not only the target seats in the county but more as well. We must support our less well off Associations with both cash and help so that they too can put up the best show and give our opponents a run for their money.

All of the county's PPC's are now in place and the newest ones in Ashfield and Mansfield have already started making their presence known.

It's only a few weeks away and it's the **Year for Change**
Any views expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the Conservative Party.

Keep in touch

Keep up to date with county affairs by keying into our own website on www.nottinghamshireconservatives.com.

It contains links to the county Association sites as well as to MP's and PPC's.