

# The Bostonian

April 2022

BOSTON CONSERVATIVES BRANCH NEWSLETTER

## BRANCH CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

By Neil McCafferty



Welcome to this the April issue, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Monthly edition of the Boston Conservatives Branch Newsletter.

As you will see we have now launched the Branch Lottery which we hope will grow as we go through the year and will become a major source of funds for the local party, especially as we head into Local and Parliamentary elections in the next few years.

Our local Borough Councillors pay into a separate campaign fund for their elections, but as a constituency we have to find the monies to fight Parliamentary elections and ensure that the day to day running of the Local Branch and Constituency office is funded.

Fundraising is entirely voluntary and like all other voluntary organisations, the

National Trust, the Red Cross and many others, donations and active participation in events designed to raise funds has been severely affected by Lockdowns and COVID, and it is only now that we are able to take stock and review what can be started up. It is recognised that people may still be wary about Face to Face events, and that was one of the reasons why the Branch Lottery was felt to be a good means of raising funds and allowing members and supporters to contribute safely, and to also have the opportunity of realising a return on their subscription.

Initial take up has been disappointing but given the past two years with COVID, the Partygate scandals, the reversal of manifesto pledges and the current cost of living rises as a result of the Ukraine conflict, and the fact that we have witnessed a decline in the membership of the Conservatives in Boston it is not entirely unexpected.

Early feedback from past members suggests that lifting the Triple Lock Guarantee for pensioners and the raising of NI contributions has left some disillusioned and angry.

Our task then is that much harder to not only retain our current members, but to find new members.

We will be contacting all current members over the next few weeks and months to

confirm that we have your correct details on file and to encourage participation with the party. We have about a third of the membership for which we hold no electronic (email) contact details for, and who are therefore missing this newsletter, and are not able to receive any digital communications.

To ensure that communications do not go into your junk or spam please add us to your address book.

We have our AGM coming up in May and when dates and details have been confirmed I would encourage you all to attend, the party is only as strong as its members. This year we are hoping to go back to in person meetings and not Zoom.

We are also arranging social events for members to meet and talk with Matt Warman MP, the first one we are hoping to hold in the Swineshead area, and members will be contacted direct and invited to attend.

We will be arranging future events in other areas of the constituency, and I would encourage as many as possible to attend as this is your chance to raise your concerns with Matt in person.

If there are any other issues that you feel warrant mentioning or raising in future newsletters please let us know.



## THE CONSERVATIVE POLICY FORUM (CPF)

By John Maltby



### **An explanation of what it is and what it stands for.**

The Conservative Policy Forum is the Conservative Party's policy discussion network.

We are here to give Party Members the chance to discuss the major policy challenges facing Britain. Our work feeds into the manifesto preparation. CPF groups are active in constituencies in every region and areas.

**How it works.** Each month, the CPF national team publishes a Discussion Brief on a broad topic such as housing, health, credit, skills or poverty. Groups of 2 to 22 or more meet regularly across the country, in our case usually in the Boston County Club, to discuss our papers, answer some of the questions set and feed this into the policy making process. Submissions are read by the national CPF team who then send a detailed summary to the relevant Minister.

**Who is listening.** Ministerial responses are posted on the CPF website and distributed to members. Copies are fed direct to our MP Matt Warman.

In the longer term, our summaries will play an important role in preparing the next manifesto.

### **Reaching Out.**

We want to engage as many people as possible in the policy process, so the CPF also has a role in engaging with non members. We hold events across the country including Lincolnshire and some of our most successful groups reach out to non members who are experts on a topic. We have been successful, when submitting our thoughts and recommendations, to be invited down to Downing Street **twice** to discuss these issues further.

### **Join the conversation**

If you want to get involved with the Conservative Policy Forum, by joining our group please e-mail John Maltby our co-ordinator at [Johnsmaltby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Johnsmaltby@hotmail.co.uk) or [CPF@Conservatives.com](mailto:CPF@Conservatives.com) or take a look at the website [www.conservativepolicyforum.com](http://www.conservativepolicyforum.com) where you can find details of our latest briefings, Ministerial responses and blog posts from politicians, think tanks and members of the team. I can assure you of a very friendly reception here in Boston from, dare I say, a fabulous and diverse group.



When you get an invite to go to 10 Downing Street to have a chat or pop onto Zoom, there is one simple

answer. Just recently Boston's Conservative Policy Forum, where members and supporters get to put forward their ideas on specific policies, was invited to present them at a meeting at Downing Street. It was the second time in a year that a representative from Boston was invited to run through suggestions with Number 10's policy advisors.

This time, we were asked about our suggestions to improve transport, especially the lack of public transport in rural areas. We put forward the idea to expand 'on demand' small bus services like the 'Call Connect' system in Lincolnshire. We felt that could be expanded, using Uber style apps and organisation where you can fix up a shared ride, more or less on demand and at reasonable cost. Living in a village, I am more than aware that the bus schedules work around the school runs and it is very difficult to use public transport to commute to work in Boston, or head out for an evening.

The example we used was Switzerland, where some of the districts run their on-demand ride-shares and some buses well into the night. People can get to and from the regional centre or nearest town with relative ease. In many cases the system is self-funding and runs without subsidy. How did the Swiss and others do it? By removing much of regulation which comes with operating public transport.

What was also interesting was seeing the contribution we can make as a party locally to get our ideas listened to nationally. The local Policy Forum, which meets regularly, does get listened to, and if you have ideas you want to put forward it is well worth attending. We send out invites to members and supporters, so do look out for them in the future. You could find yourself discussing them in the cabinet room with people who really can do something about it.



## BOSTON CONSERVATIVES SUPPER CLUB

By Dudley Bryant MBE



Our March Supper Club was again well attended, and we welcomed our Guest Speaker, Mr. Toby Dennis, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire.

Mr. Dennis gave us a most interesting insight into the history and workings of his important role of representing HM The Queen in Lincolnshire as well as his family farming business originally based in Kirton and Frampton. Official duties amongst many others include hosting all royal visits, Hon. Colonel of Lincolnshire Army Cadet Force, presentation of medals and awards, appointment of magistrates.

The Dennis farming business based on potato production was started by William Dennis whose bronze statue stands proudly outside Kirton Town Hall, the local community centre which he donated to the people of Kirton.



The next Supper Club will be held at Boston & County Club on Friday 20th May 2022 with Guest Speaker Karl McCartney, Member of Parliament for Lincoln.

Contact Dudley Bryant for details and tickets ; [dudleybryant@tory.org](mailto:dudleybryant@tory.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS By Michael Cheyne



### Curry and Quiz Night. The Sequel. Friday April 22nd

After the success of last year's event, we've decided to do it again. Grab a ticket now for an evening of food and fun: Curry followed by a quiz!



The event's hosted by Boston Conservatives Branch at the County Club on Friday April 22nd at 7pm for 7.30pm.

### Curry and Quiz night at Boston County Club

You can join with a team of 4 for the quiz, but bookings from individuals and smaller groups are welcome. We'll organise the quiz teams on the seating plan.

Tickets are £17 per person and you can book by contacting Michael Cheyne. Email: [m.s.cheyne@icloud.com](mailto:m.s.cheyne@icloud.com) or click on the box below.

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT DETAILS?

we will be contacting all members to ask them to confirm their details and provide us with valid contact points

This month we are publishing an extract of feedback received from a former member, does it sound familiar and represent what you too may be feeling or do you disagree?



*'It saddens me that at present I cannot be a member of a party that, despite maybe disagreeing on some social issues, the party who should best represent my economic philosophy is one that at the time of writing, I couldn't vote for. It might have surprised you that for someone in generation z, at 23 years old having been to university in a very left wing department could state political feelings such as these but I do fear that it won't just be voters of my age that feel this way, but I'm now, like I suspect many, I'm politically homeless. This worries me dearly as I fear that this will lead to a terrible outcome at the next election, a nation whose policy is dictated by far left extreme Twitter activists and SNP MP's and a huge majority thrown away by incompetence and a failure to truly deliver what was promised at the last election. However, I will stress that as feedback the next 12-18 months seem crucial to me to outline what the next 10+ years of governance in this country could look like. At this moment in time I don't regret voting for a Conservative government in 2019 (despite the backlash that I received at university for doing so), but I regret not currently getting a Conservative government.'*

Tell us what you think, does this former member have a point or do you think they are wrong in their assessment. If we are to grow and engage, then we need to understand what our members are feeling and why. Are there any other issues you feel should be discussed in future issues. We can't promise to print every one that we receive, assuming that we do receive any, but we will endeavour to respond.



# Boston Conservatives Branch Lottery

## THE LOTTERY RESULTS

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### BOSTON CONSERVATIVES BRANCH LOTTERY



### What is the Boston Conservative Lottery?

The Boston Conservatives Lottery supports the Conservative Party in Boston in sustaining and promoting the objects and values of the Conservative Party in the Parliamentary constituency of Boston and Skegness and to help promote and organise local recruitment campaigns, communications with members, social events and to secure the return of Conservative Candidates in Regional, Police Crime Commissioner and National elections by raising the necessary funds to achieve these objectives.

Our elected Conservative representatives work tirelessly on behalf of the Boston community but they can only continue this vital mission for as long as we are successful in getting them elected, and we are increasingly aware that we need an organisation to improve our communications with our members both in person and electronically, all of which is an increasingly expensive business.

### How to play the lottery

Entries for the draw must be received by the 1st of the month and funds must have been cleared by the bank. Entry (s) for the lottery cost just £10 per month per line (the equivalent of £2.31 a week). Each entry will consist of 6 numbers and each number will be from 0 and 9, (duplicate numbers can be used). There will be a monthly draw, using a Random Number Generator when a 6 digit winning number will be generated. The winning entry(s) will be those which match the drawn numbers, in any order.

Multiple winners will receive an equal share of the prize fund. In the event that there is no monthly winner, the prize fund for that month will roll over into the next available draw until a winning combination is drawn. The winning person(s) will be notified by e-mail or telephone call and the prize amount will be paid into the nominated bank account(s) of the winning individual(s) within 3 working days of the draw or despatched by Cheque.

### How do I start playing the lottery?

Following the launch of the Boston Conservatives Lottery, you can now find details on how to join, and the Rules and T&C's on the Boston and Skegness website.

To play the lottery simply complete the form return it to: Boston Conservatives Branch Lottery Manager, 16c Main Ridge West, BOSTON, PE21 6QQ