



# Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter

Issue 14; May 2008

## Welcoming note

Welcome to the May issue of the Mole Valley Conservative Association's Newsletter.

To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please contact us through the website 'Contact us' page with a subject line of 'unsubscribe'.

Our aim is to provide you with a monthly update on the work of the Conservative Association and your elected representatives. We would value your feedback or comments.

We hope you enjoy reading the May issue.

## A word from the Chair

### Disaster for Newt Lovers



The wonders of modern technology resulted in the London count taking almost as long as the campaign – just as well only 45% of the electorate voted! The liberation of London seems to have been greeted with genuine enthusiasm by the papers. The only cloud on the horizon is the Liberal belt in Hertfordshire which is becoming more extended, unfortunately, they captured St Albans.

The elections in Mole Valley saw a dedicated team working hard to maintain the Conservative majority on Mole Valley District Council. To our candidates who won, I offer congratulations; to those who lost a thank you for standing and I hope you will wish to have another attempt in the future. James Friend fully deserved his victory in Westcott and Emile

Aboud in Fetcham West has brought a new meaning to the phrase "six of one, half a dozen of the other."

The economic gloom has not been lifted. Mr Brown has just announced that he is the leader to see Britain through these difficult times – which worries me as he indicated with his attempted U-turn on the 10% tax band that he will give ill-considered judgements and try and spend his way out of our of problems – increasing Government borrowing, just as everybody else realizes that borrowing, even if possible, is not the solution.

The threat of inflation is real; as I have mentioned over the past few months, therefore the Bank of England have a difficult time to decide on appropriate interest rates. The level of energy and food prices is to blame according to the Prime Minister. He chooses to forget the higher the price of petrol or diesel at the pumps, the more the government takes.

The problems in the housing market make for sensational headlines. One million houses are on the market. Usually, there are only 850,000 houses on the market at any one time. The period of six times salary mortgages and 110% of value mortgages may be off limits now but will bring lenders back to the old fashioned idea of lending to people and companies who can afford to repay.

I have recently read a book by Peter Osborne called "The Rise of Political Lying" – the present contents are staggering and presumably any updated versions would include much, much more from our present Government – a very good read it is.

Again my thanks to all who helped at the elections, to those from Guildford who came across to assist and congratulations to Boris for a remarkable victory. Should you read this article and wish to help with our efforts at future elections – do please call the office on 01306 883312.

**Mr Colin Crispin**  
Chairman, Mole Valley Conservative Association



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## News from the House of Commons

### Labour Losses



We have already seen Gordon Brown's popularity plummet over the last few months and that trend looks set to continue.

After news last month revealed that he is the weakest post-war Prime Minister, things do not seem to be getting any better for Gordon Brown. The recent Populus survey shows his leadership rating at its lowest ever level. A new YouGov poll's results are equally dire for the Prime Minister, showing that since he entered Number 10, Labour's nine point lead has been replaced with the Conservative's healthy lead of 18 points, putting Labour at the lowest rating since records began in the 1930s.

Mr Brown has shown a truly shocking lack of concern towards the working class through his new moves on taxation for the poorest in society. The 10p tax was put in place, to secure the well being of our working classes and deservedly preserve their quality of life. However the Prime Minister has a considerably different view on the matter; doubling their income tax and losing masses of support across the country.

We can see the immediate effect of this decision through Labour's embarrassing losses in the local elections. Labour lost 334 councillors overall, whilst the Conservatives gained a very impressive figure of 257. However, such results cannot wholly represent the full damage Gordon Brown's move on the 10p tax has had or the stress this decision has put on this nation's working class families.

Yet more good news for the Conservatives was to follow the local council results, as London Mayor Ken Livingstone lost the mayoral race to Conservative candidate Boris Johnson. Although Boris Johnson's victory can clearly be attributed to an unmistakably better campaign with a more popular and feasible manifesto than his rival's, this is still yet another affirmation of Labour's increasing unpopularity.

Tramping the streets of Crewe with a team from Mole Valley Conservatives confirmed the disenchantment and even anger at the Brown Government was enlightening. While the Crewe and Nantwich turn-out matched that of the last election the movement to the Conservatives proved dramatic.

The next likely by-election is against the Liberals in Henley when Boris stands down. The Conservative majority is over 12,000 but the Liberals have already printed their first election leaflet and Clegg is desperate. A good showing there against these 'targeting' Liberals will hearten all areas fighting them, especially in Mole Valley and Guildford.

**Sir Paul Beresford**  
**Member of Parliament for Mole Valley**



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## Report from Surrey County Council

### The new administrative year



The County Council started its new administrative year on the 6<sup>th</sup> May with new appointments to positions including its Executive. As we commence our last year of the current electoral term we are reviewing what we have achieved and still need to achieve and how we should use this year to ensure the Council works hard to deliver the services our residents need for best value. As prices rise for fuel and food, and as the housing market changes, the council will have to manage better too as costs rise. We all may face a tough year ahead. The Government continues to make lives harder for people by hitting those on low wages – Brown and Co are dug in deep and must be uprooted soon!

My colleagues on the District Council deserve congratulations for their achievements in the May elections, as do many Conservative activists across the country – how delightful to see the party rising and council chambers filling up with Conservative Leaders and Executives.

I am very pleased to have been asked to serve another year on the County Executive and this time with the portfolio of Safer and Stronger Communities which includes libraries, the fire service, culture and many other aspects of community life. Most important will be to maintain the good work the County has begun on improving relations with the voluntary sector whose value to our communities is enormous. I know that every member of our Party is a volunteer in some way or other and the cost of paying for the services volunteers provide for free would be huge if public services had to fund it.

Every member of the Council was reminded how important it is to protect our vulnerable and elderly adults this month at a seminar at County Hall. We heard that these people can suffer from abuse and we all need to know what to do if we think this is happening to someone we know. Our contact centre at County Hall can take any call on 'Safeguarding' vulnerable adults and will investigate confidentially, the number is 08456 009 009.

**Helyn Clack**  
**County Councillor for Dorking Rural**  
**Executive Member for Safer and Stronger Communities**

## Report from Mole Valley District Council

### What's happening at Mole Valley District Council?



A huge thank you to all our supporters who helped give us another victory in this year's round of elections. It was hard fought but we got there!

The Conservative Administration was once more backed by residents to run Mole Valley Council. We took back Westcott ward, and held on to our seats in Ashtead



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Village Ward, Bookham North, Leatherhead South together with Fetcham West and East. The Liberal Democrats held on to their existing seats in Dorking North, Dorking South, the Holmwoods and Bookham South, winning Leatherhead North ward. Independent councillors retained Ashted Park and Ashted Common.

Councillor Tim Hall summed up the result:-

*"We were disappointed to lose Leatherhead North after our candidate, Kyle Green fought such a tremendous campaign. However Westcott Ward is now Conservative again and I welcome our new councillor, James Friend onto the council. He will be a great asset to our work here on the council.*

*We remain the majority party. Now we can get on with the job of keeping Mole Valley up amongst the top councils in the country, pressing forward with our initiatives on recycling and community transport, whilst keeping our finances under tight control. I would like to thank all our supporters and party workers for keeping us on track."*

However it doesn't stop there! Each year, the Conservative Group of Mole Valley Councillors holds an election to decide who will lead the Group over the next year. We now have a new leadership.

Councillor Jean Pearson (Capel, Leigh and Newdigate) was elected Leader, Councillor Chris Hunt (Ashted Village) Deputy Leader and Councillor Janette Purkiss (Bookham North), Group Chairman.

Our best wishes go to all of them for the coming year.

Councillor Pearson said:-

*"I am delighted to be elected as Leader of the Conservative Administration. We have set our priorities and now the Administration is ready to deliver on our election promises. I am also pleased to have Chris Hunt with me as my deputy. There is a wealth of talent and experience within our Conservative Administration, all of whom will be there to support and advise us. We are without doubt a winning team."*

Thanks also to our outgoing Leader, Councillor Tim Hall who led the Group for five years and to Vivienne Michael, our outgoing Deputy Leader.

Councillor Hall said:-

*"It has been a tremendous honour to serve as Leader of Mole Valley. I can look back on the last five years and see how much we have achieved in that time. I want to thank my colleagues in the Conservative Group who have worked so hard to make Mole Valley a top quality council.*

*It's time to step aside and let others take up the baton. I will continue to work hard as district councillor for Fetcham West and in my role as a county councillor.*

**Cllr Malcolm Johnson**  
**Communications Officer, Conservative Group**  
**Mole Valley District Council**



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## News in brief

### CCS power station at Kingsnorth?



Our carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) levels have been the highest now for 650,000 years. Scientists have tried to create ways of limiting the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> released into our atmosphere, by CCS (carbon capture and storage). This involves removing carbon dioxide from the coal burnt in power stations and storing it safely over long periods of time. The Government will pay millions of pounds to help fund further use of CCS and are currently looking for appropriate plants to install this new technology. Energy company E.ON at Kingsnorth power station in Kent along with 8 other energy companies at different sites are competing to have it installed in their plants first. One of the main objectors to this is the organisation Greenpeace, which believe it will undermine clean energy solutions already available. Also if there is as little as 1% leakage rate, it ends up undermining any sort of climate benefit.

### 'Paypal' fraud risks revealed

 PayPal is a secure, online payment system, designed to hide your credit card numbers during transactions. More than 40 million customers use PayPal, making it one of the most used transaction systems in use on the internet. However, a recent documentary suggests that "phoney" sites have set up, claiming to sell products, generally at knock-down prices. These websites often ask you to pay through "PayPal" but in fact it is not PayPal that is being used, and so the transaction could in fact be bogus and you could find your card details have been taken by

the sites fraudsters. With this in mind it always recommended you should take precautions when purchasing items online. If a price seems too good to be true, then it probably is!

If you have any concerns about the legitimacy of a merchant you wish to buy from then check them out first at [www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org), Internet Fraud Watch's website.

### Crewe and Nantwich by-election



The by-election in Crewe and Nantwich was called after the sudden death of long-standing Labour MP Gwyneth Dunwoody. There were ten candidates bidding for election glory, ranging from the much-publicised Labour and Conservative candidates to the Official Monster Raving Looney Party's 'Flying brick' and the current Miss Great Britain with her newly formed 'Beauties for Britain' party. With a staggering majority of nearly 8000 votes (more than Gwyneth Dunwoody's previous majority) the Conservative candidate, 34 year old barrister Edward Timpson, won the seat. Acknowledging that this is the Party's first by-election gain in 26 years, David Cameron has described the government's defeat as "the end of new Labour". The by-election received an incredible amount of interest from those in Westminster, with the constituency of Crewe and Nantwich becoming the home of a veritable 'who's who' of the current political elite. David Cameron, who was amongst those campaigning there, criticised Gordon Brown during Prime Minister's Question Time for his absence during the run up to the by-election.



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## Feature Article

### Surrey Hills, Garden Grabbing and Gordon's new "Eco-Homes"

The Surrey Hills spread across a quarter of our county and provide some of the most amazing walks and views in Britain.

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, Sir Paul Beresford hosted a celebration at the House of Commons for 200 guests of the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Board to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AONB. Penelope Keith, the Surrey Hills patron, said "Our countryside is something we have to guard very jealously indeed and I hope to see the Surrey Hills AONB continuing to protect this wonderful part of England well into the future."



The Surrey Hills Society suggests that in order to preserve the landscape and the area's growing reputation nationwide, we should aim to enable a higher standard of town and country planning.

Encouraging local schools to teach younger generations the value of the land and the pleasure it brings to us is vital for the hills' survival. The Society also suggests the promotion of farming and local industries and the improvement of facilities for recreation in the area.

Another threat to our environmental heritage is the rise of "Garden Grabbing", an activity that doubled under Labour within ten years in office. The act of developers purchasing detached family homes with grounds, and replacing them with either groups of houses or blocks of flats, has become more noticeable in our area. The figures show that in 1997 only 11% of new dwellings were being built on residential soil. However, these statistics have doubled since Labour has been in government. Building more properties on space which was not originally designated for housing causes further congestion and a significant loss of greenery and beauty.

Gordon Brown wants to be seen as "big on the environment". In response he has decided that the way to conserve energy and reduce carbon dioxide is to build 5 major eco towns across the UK. They housing will be built with double glazing, insulation, photovoltaic cells, water butts, wind turbines, solar cells and ground source heat pumps. The towns aim to give off next to zero carbon emissions and would, if they were never inhabited, indeed give off very little carbon dioxide. These eco-towns will be built on "Brownfield" typically not near any major towns. If there are no reliable buses or trains then residents must commute in cars, using petrol and creating masses of wasted energy and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. If more residents want to use their cars then Gordon Brown must build more roads.