

## **Thirsk & Malton Conservative Association**

### **Chairman's Report for 2018 AGM**

Quite a lot of what's been happening during the last year is already before you within the 2017 Accounts so I don't plan to repeat what the Officers have already written there.

We had a very successful set of results in May in North Yorkshire County Council elections and many thanks to all our Members who are councillors on the many different parish, town, district and county councils in our patch.

During that campaign, we were all suddenly faced in June with an unexpected General Election. Kevin Hollinrake increased both his majority and his share of the vote which was excellent and I want to thank all of you for your help in that election whether in our constituency or another one, leafleting, giving finance, and all the other aspects of an election.

We have spent much of the past year rebuilding the branches on the new boundaries: this is still work in progress but I thank people who have taken up the challenge and helped them get off the ground.

Our membership as of 31<sup>st</sup> December stood at 526 and whilst that is healthy, we should not be complacent and it is the duty of all of us to encourage others we know to join and help make the Association strong and vibrant.

Kevin continues to work hard and effectively for members and constituents alike both in London and around the constituency. He is also highly-respected by his colleagues in Westminster and is currently PPS to Michael Gove. We must also again thank Nikki and the family for their support of both Kevin and our Association.

I would also like to thank my fellow Officers - Linda Folwell, Keane Duncan and Nigel Knapton - for their support, hard work and often discreet, unseen activity throughout the year. I appreciate their efforts and feel sure everyone here does too. Nigel Knapton is retiring from being Treasurer and I thank him for his contribution in that role over the last two years. My thanks also to our President Kenelm Storey.

Our thanks as always must go to Mel and Gilly in the office at 109 where there is always a very varied programme of work for them to do: they do a tremendous amount for us and we are all very grateful.

Thank you also to my long-suffering and supportive wife Hazel who has the honour and privilege of working with the Member of Parliament as well as being married to the Chairman.

Finally, a big thank you to you our members for all your support and encouragement throughout the year.

*Martin Dales*

16<sup>th</sup> March 2018