



EAST MIDLANDS EURO CANDIDATES NEWS FEBRUARY 2014

EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL DINNER



Your Euro Team with William Hague.

Left to right: Brendan Clarke-Smith, Andrew Lewer, William Hague, Emma McClarkin, Stephen Castens, Rupert Matthews

On Thursday 6 February the great hall at Kelham Hall was packed with nearly 200 diners who came to listen to Rt Hon William Hague MP deliver a fantastic speech on the government's Foreign Policy. He also touched on the difficulties of working in a coalition, the benefits that overseas aid brings to Britain, the critical importance of winning a Conservative majority in 2015 and the Scottish referendum - plus the significance of the coming European Elections in April. A good time was had by all.

MAKING PLANS FOR NIGEL

Brendan Clarke-Smith, one of our European Election Candidates, has done considerable research into UKIP's performance in last year's local elections, with a focus on Boston in the East Midlands.

Brendan has written his research, findings and conclusions up as a fascinating study that will be particularly useful to all Conservative Councillors, Candidates and Activists involved in forthcoming elections in 2014 & 2015.

"Making Plans for Nigel" is a fairly short document, so we would recommend you to have a look at it. The PDF can be downloaded free of charge from the following website:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2077/34370>



Conservatives

MEET THE CANDIDATES NO.2 CLLR ANDREW LEWER

Andrew Lewer is Deputy Chairman of the Local Government Association, Leader of the Opposition at Derbyshire County Council (having served as Council Leader from 2009 to 2013), a Governor of the University of Derby and Deputy Chairman of Derbyshire Dales Conservative Association. He grew up in and around Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and after attending Newcastle and Cambridge Universities worked in the publishing industry. He is married and has an infant son. In the 2014 New Year Honours he was awarded the MBE for services to local government.



Cllr Andrew Lewer

Andrew writes: "When asked why I want to stand for the European Parliament when I - like so many Conservatives - have serious concerns about the EU and the direction it is taking, my response is, I hope, both a principled but a pragmatic one as well. Principled because the best place to act upon those concerns and to keep a diligent eye upon what is happening in the EU and tame at least some of the regulatory excesses, is over there in Brussels in the European Parliament itself. Pragmatic because being a Conservative MEP can only be a supporting and advising role when one looks beyond the day-to-day (over) regulatory matters to the really big choices our country faces, such as a possible Euro-zone failure through to Britain's membership of the EU itself. At last, with a Conservative Government in 2015, the scene will be set for the British people themselves to make their choice about our EU membership in a referendum. That is hugely, momentarily, important; the last time it happened I was three years old! David Cameron and the Conservative Party have made that pledge, we should be enormously proud of it. So, being an MEP - and indeed an MEP candidate - is not something I expect to be glamorous, it is not a route to fame, but it is serious work and of service to the Conservative Party and to all residents of the East Midlands. Getting a good result on 22nd May is a significant task and party unity, together with taking the election seriously and treating it as everybody's business, will be necessary in order to achieve it."

GET THE EURO TEAM WORKING FOR YOU!

The team of European Candidates have already been out campaigning in each county of the East Midlands. They have plans to continue campaigning and working for the Conservative Party. If you have an event or campaign coming up with which you believe the team can help, we would be delighted to hear from you. Contact the editor of this newsletter, the No.3 Candidate Rupert Matthews on rupert@rupertmatthews.com. We are keen and eager to help you with your campaigns.

Remember that you can keep up to date with news and views on our **website** <http://www.eastmidlandsconservatives.com/> and on **Facebook** we are "East Midlands Conservative Party".

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HERE WE GO AGAIN, WITH A REFERENDUM TWIST!

By Stephen Castens
MEP candidate with special responsibility for
Northamptonshire

We have a very busy time ahead preparing for elections, and I don't just mean for 2015, but also 2014. If we get a good turn out for the European elections and give UKIP a strong push back then it sets our MP's and candidates up for 2015. If we do badly in the Euros then we are letting Labour in by the back door through allowing UKIP to effectively give Labour all our marginal seats.

For once we are ahead of the communication game. A recent Mori poll indicated that the conservative message on a referendum was getting through and that we are slightly ahead in the Euro election polls. However we must be realistic that in the same poll, voting intentions for the European elections indicated a three horse race between Labour, UKIP and ourselves with the Liberals a distant fourth.

Those of you who know me know that I look at government from a pragmatic, business perspective. What is good for business is good for the country and we desperately need to encourage growth. At the recent party conference when I pressed the most ardent Europhiles, including Ken Clarke, they all admitted that there was a lot wrong with the set up of the EU and a lot that needs reworking to make the EU an efficient, modern and responsive organization, fit to take on its responsibilities in the twenty first century. Let's face it the vision outlined for a Europe in the 1950s and 60s just after WW2 and in the midst of the cold war would be a very different vision vs. one created under the circumstances of today. Many other countries agree with this point of view, including most northern and eastern European members, so the time is right to revisit and reshape the EU. Every business man I have met sees the importance and value of the single market and indeed some of the harmonization of standards. However very few people understand why the remit has stretched into so many other areas of national life that affect so fundamentally the fabric of our society.

That's why it is so important to give David Cameron the chance to renegotiate our terms of membership. It is highly likely that this will develop into a modernization and shake up of the whole European structure. But be warned it will take time, a lot of time, and whilst many good things will come out of it, there will be many frustrations along the way. It will be important to maintain support throughout the full process, one that will ultimately end up with a referendum on a new agreement. We need to avoid the temptation of 'cut and run now' advocated by UKIP. Remember that for Business's sake we need a good relationship with the EU, in or out, so a proper process must be gone through.

UKIP is an obstacle to our ability to deliver change in Europe because all they can pragmatically do is talk. UKIP's message may be easy & simplistic to deliver, but the EU is a complex subject. We need to get the right working relationship drawn up, then we can decide.

It is important to remember that only the conservatives, in my view, have the big picture management experience and the ability to work through such a renegotiation. That's why it is important to bare in mind David Cameron's eight points and over the next few months; do keep relaying them:-

1. If you want to cut the cost of Europe, you've got to vote Conservative.
2. If you want Europe to really work for business, you've got to vote Conservative.
3. If you want to keep Britain out of the single currency, you've got to vote Conservative.
4. If you want to keep Britain out of future bailouts, you've got to vote Conservative.
5. If you want our country to control its own borders, you've got to vote Conservative.
6. If you want Britain to get back control of justice and home affairs, you've got to vote Conservative.
7. If you want to get a referendum, you've got to vote Conservative.
8. If you want change in the European Union then you need a Conservative Prime Minister and a strong team of Conservative MEP's behind him.

Stephen Castens