

# PEOPLE TALK

DELIVERED BY PROSPECTIVE MP STEVE BRINE & YOUR LOCAL CONSERVATIVES – AT NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER

## Now for CHANGE



### INTERVIEW:

David Cameron on the recession, the environment, and the need for change

### REAL LIFE:

Is it last orders for local pubs?

INSIDE: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DAVID CAMERON

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### USEFUL CONTACTS

#### NHS Direct:

0845 46 47 [www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk)

#### Royal Hampshire County Hospital:

01962 863565 [www.wehct.nhs.uk](http://www.wehct.nhs.uk)

#### National Rail Enquiries:

08457 48 49 50 [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

#### Stage Coach: 08712 00 2233

[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

#### Citizens Advice Bureau: 01962 848000

[www.winchestercab.org.uk](http://www.winchestercab.org.uk)

#### Winchester City Council: 01962 840222

[www.winchester.gov.uk](http://www.winchester.gov.uk)

#### Hampshire County Council:

01962 841841 [www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)

#### Winchester Action Climate Change:

01962 827083 [www.winacc.org.uk](http://www.winacc.org.uk)

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Steve Brine with Cllr Ernie Jeffs and Alresford resident Ken Yeldham during a recent 'street surgery' in the town.

# Winchester needs to move on

**I**t's been a busy few years for Steve Brine since he was first picked to be the Conservative Candidate for Winchester & Chandler's Ford at the next General Election.

Steve, who lives locally with his wife and young family, spoke to *People Talk* and says far from being daunted by the task ahead he is relishing the challenge.

#### Are you working hard?

Yes. I am determined to meet as many people as I can before the election – and there are more than 73,000! I also work full-time and we have a one-year old who tends to keep us on our toes.

#### What have been the highlights for you lately?

There have been many but working closely with the children's hospice Naomi House who still have £5.7m frozen in the Icelandic banking crisis was important to me. To get more than 10,000 names on

a petition to the Prime Minister was a real achievement and I hope it will put important pressure on the Government to help this brilliant local charity.

#### This is currently a Liberal held seat, why should we vote Conservative?

Because it is time for change. Winchester – and the country as a whole – needs to move on from Gordon Brown and New Labour. At the next election we face a straight choice here: more of the same under Mr Brown or a fresh start with David Cameron and a new local MP who will work his socks off for this area. Judging by the feedback we get, I think local people know only a vote for the Conservatives can get rid of this failing Government.

**You can find out more about Steve Brine and the work he is doing locally at: [www.stevebrine.com](http://www.stevebrine.com) or watch the brand new Steve Brine TV via [www.stevebrine.tv](http://www.stevebrine.tv)**

# A day in the life of: Steve Brine

Steve Brine juggles work and family life alongside his quest to become our new Member of Parliament. He lives locally with his wife Susie, daughter Emily and Popcorn the dog (pictured below)

"Life seems to be running at double-speed these days", he says. "We are certainly feeling the pinch in our household as the UK slides into recession, it seems as if we have to work twice as hard to pay the bills compared to even a year ago."



Above: Steve often joins local discussion panels and speaks at public meetings; here with a group of visiting Marsai warriors in Highcliffe.



Right: David Cameron visited Winchester last year with his Cameron Direct event in support of Steve Brine and the NHS was one issue raised. Steve says the future of the RHCH will be one of his top priorities as the local MP.

Below: Popcorn the dog



Below: Steve & Susie have a 15-month old daughter, Emily.



With NHS Trust Chief Exec Martin Wakeley



Above: Challenging times - Steve works in the golf & leisure industry. The company has interests across the UK, Europe and further afield.



## 60 seconds with Steve Brine

### What is your favourite food?

Curry (from Shapla in Alresford)

### What album is in your car at the moment?

*Perfect Symmetry* by Keane

### Best film you've seen lately?

Actually a movie with Colin Firth and Jim Broadbent called *'And When Did You Last See Your Father'*.

### Favourite night out in Winchester?

The Wykeham or The Chestnut Horse in Easton.

### Fantasy dinner party guests?

Kate Bush (imagine it), Barack Obama, Tony Blair and John Lennon - we'd either fight to the death or laugh all night!

### Best bit of being a Dad?

The smile that's only for Dad

### And the worst?

The early mornings... when I do them.

### Winning the election or your beloved Spurs staying up?

Damn you for that one, we're working on both is all I can say!

You can now watch a series of films courtesy of Steve Brine TV; visit Steve's brand new online channel today and subscribe to receive regular updates:  
[www.stevebrine.tv](http://www.stevebrine.tv)



Several hundred residents of North Curry join Conservative candidate Mark Formosa to protest against the demolition of the 17th-century White Hart Inn near Taunton.



Fabian Richter outside the Castle Inn, Bath, with local CAMRA representative Denis Rahilly

# IS IT LAST ORDERS FOR

**New blow to community life as five pubs close every day**

**C**ommunities up and down the country have seen many local services disappear in recent months. Post Offices, small shops, and family GP surgeries have been hit by a combination of Government action and the credit crunch – now pubs appear to be the latest victim, dealing a further blow to community life.

Public houses are often an important focal point for local communities – in both urban and rural areas – but many are struggling to stay open.

The independent British Beer & Pub Association (BBPA) has estimated that pubs are now closing at the record rate of 39 a week – that's five a day.

And it's community pubs that are being hit hardest – the quiet, local pubs which are often a focal point for community life, or a meeting place for neighbourhood groups.

In total, nearly 2,000 pubs shut up shop last year – 40 per cent more than in 2007. Sales of beer are now at their lowest levels since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Across the country, Conservative candidates are leading the campaign to save their local pubs – collecting signatures, helping make sense of complicated licensing laws, and simply encouraging people to support their local businesses.

Recent tax increases have been a burden on pubs, say many in the industry. In the 2008 Budget, duty on beer went up by 4p a

pint. It was increased by a further 3p in the autumn, whilst VAT was temporarily reduced to 15 per cent. But when the VAT cut is reversed in January next year, the rise in alcohol duties will be unchanged.

At these rates, warns the BBPA, a pint of beer could cost as much as £6.50 by the time of the 2012 Olympic Games.

## Responsible drinkers being hit

These across-the-board increases are hitting the wrong people, say the Conservatives. Instead of penalising the vast majority of people who drink responsibly, they argued that the super-strength drinks and alcopops favoured by younger drinkers should be targeted.

Before the last Budget, the Conservatives



Above: The Greyhound Inn, Cheltenham – Conservative candidate Mark Cooté helped collect a 600-strong petition against the closure of this popular community pub. Despite being rejected by the borough council's planning committee, a planning appeal overturned the local decision, to the fury of customers and residents.



The Ship Inn, Hereford



The White Hart, Kingston



The Summercross in Otley, Yorkshire



The Duke's Head, Romsey

# LOCAL PUBS?

urged the Government to increase duty on problem drinks like alcopops and high-strength beer and cider, and use that money to cut taxes on low-alcohol drinks.

Popular beers and ciders – including Carling, Guinness, Stella Artois, Strongbow and Magners – would not have been affected, but bottles of alcopops would have gone up by more than 50p. Under the Tories' plans, meanwhile, the price of low-alcohol beers and ciders would have been cut by up to 8p a pint. But the Government ignored these proposals, and instead increased tax on a normal pint by 4p.

## 'Responsibility'

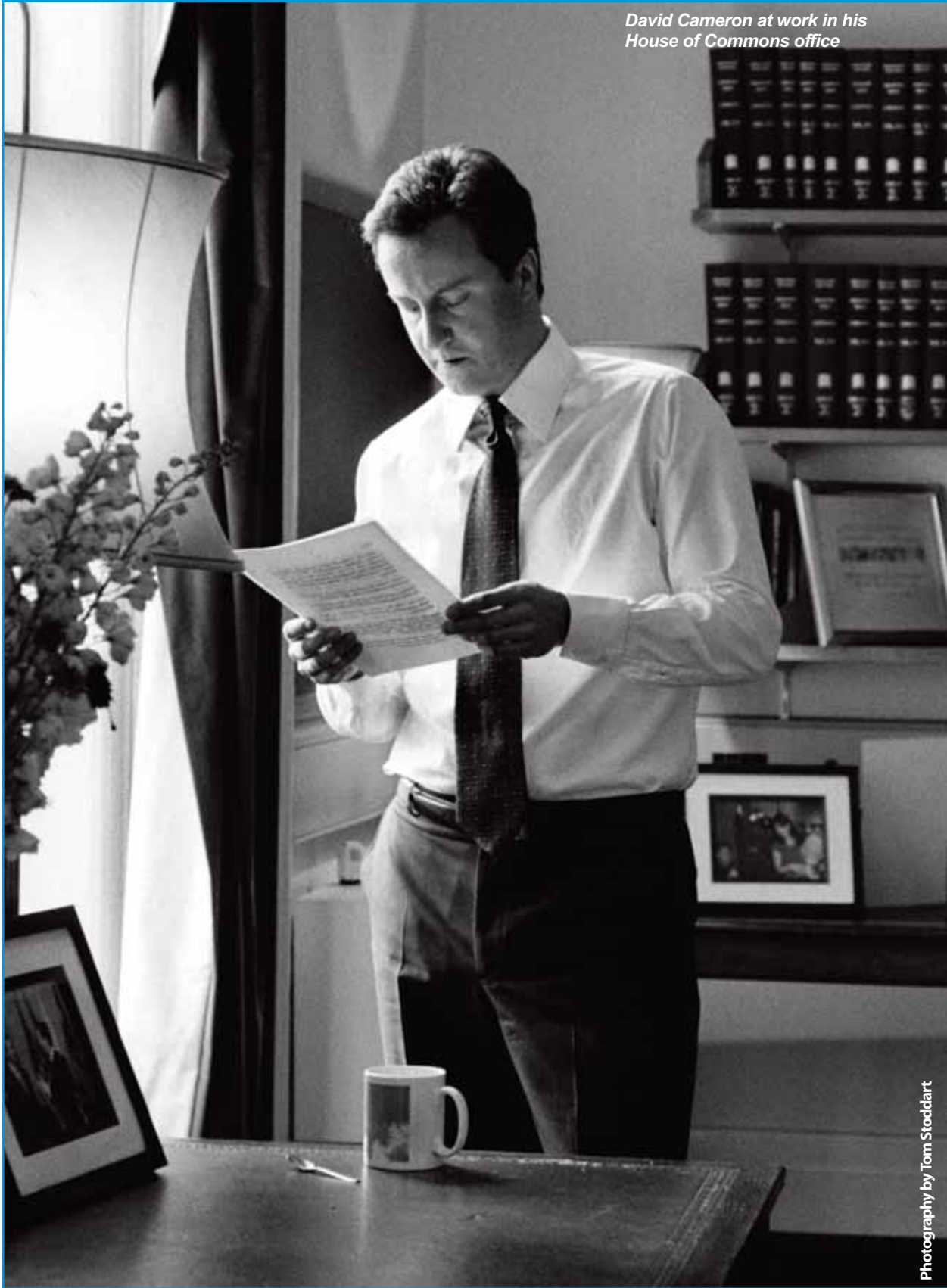
"What we want is a continental social

drinking culture," says Conservative leader David Cameron. But he recognises that Government alone can't bring that about. "You don't get there just by changing the law, or increasing taxes, you get there by a big cultural change.

"It's about how we bring up our kids, what we teach them at school, about how our businesses behave, about how supermarkets behave, about how the media behave and until we think about it like that we won't actually crack it."

It's an issue central to the new Tory approach. "In the end the one word that sums up politics for me is 'responsibility'," says Cameron. "And this is a classic example."

*David Cameron at work in his House of Commons office*



# The man with a plan

**David Cameron on the recession, the environment, and the need for change**

**I**t's clear, talking to David Cameron, that he's not just sitting by waiting for the election to come around. He's drawing up detailed plans to tackle the economic crisis facing the country – and he wants that election to be held as soon as possible.

'The longer Labour are in, the worse it gets,' says the Conservative leader. 'Their response to the recession isn't working.'

'We're in this mess because of too much debt – too much government debt; too much corporate debt; too much personal debt. So the answer isn't to borrow more, as Gordon Brown suggests.'

'Yes, there's a global crisis – but it becomes clearer all the time that the scale of Britain's debts puts us in a much weaker position than other countries. That's why Labour can't do much to help people right now – they've run out of money.'

Cameron is mystified by the Prime Minister's talk of 'economic mobilisation':

'Nothing Labour are doing is making much difference. We've had a bank re-nationalisation that failed to get credit flowing, we've had more of the borrowing that got us into the mess in the first place – and we've had that pointless, temporary cut in VAT which actually made things worse with the promise of painful tax rises to pay it back.'

But while the Tory leader is dismayed by the Government's approach, he is focusing on what can be done now to help people through the recession, and on

setting out clear plans for a new economy for the longer term:

'It's an economy where government and its citizens live within their means, and save for a rainy day,' he explains. 'One that's more productive, where people can work shorter hours and spend more time with the things that matter – family and friends. A better balanced economy where we spread ownership and opportunity throughout Britain, so it's not just concentrated in the hands of the few in one corner of the country.'

This is something Cameron has been working on since he became Tory leader in 2005 – and it's all the more pressing now the country has entered a recession.

## Responsibility

'From the first days of my leadership I made clear that the modern Conservative Party believes in responsible business and ethical capitalism – an economy with rules,' he says. 'Those rules completely broke down under Gordon Brown. We need to re-create them without chucking free markets and all their benefits overboard.'

The Conservatives want to build a 'less materialistic' country, more concerned with people and the quality of life: 'Our economy will be more green, more local, more family-friendly,' Cameron says – 'less arrogant about what central government can do for us and more optimistic about what we can do if we work together.'

He is realistic about the task ahead – but no less determined to get on with it. 'Of course we're not going to transform our economy overnight,' he acknowledges. 'If we win the next

election, we will inherit a catastrophic legacy of debt and disrepair from Labour. But you don't get anywhere unless you know where you're headed. As I said last year, I'm a man with a plan, not a miracle cure.'

Central to Cameron's plan is making 'a really big change' – turning Britain from a 'spend, spend, spend' society into a 'save, save, save' society.

To help achieve that, he is urging the Government to abolish income tax on savings for everyone on the basic rate of tax, and to raise the tax allowance for pensioners by £2,000.

Policies like these have a twin aim. Not only would they help the victims of Labour's recession here and now, they would help to build the long-term strength of the economy.

Another key part of the Conservatives' long-term thinking are their plans for a green economy. Earlier this year, they published plans to unleash environmental entrepreneurship. 'By giving companies expert guidance on things like intellectual property protection and drawing in venture capital,' explains Cameron, 'we can create a new generation of world-beating start-ups to rival anything going on right now in Silicon Valley.'

So Cameron's commitment to the environment hasn't been quietly shelved now the recession has come along – indeed, the two go hand in hand.

'We are at the end of the road under Labour,' says Cameron. 'This country needs to strike out in a new direction. So the choice at the next election is clear: a grim future under Gordon Brown, or a good future with the Conservatives.'

# In the local community



Residents in Winchester city centre had a problem with noise from a late night bar at the end of their street; Steve Brine worked with managers and residents to achieve a compromise and let everyone get some sleep!



Left: Residents and the Dever Society joined forces with Steve and local politicians from across the political parties to fight Labour's Eco-Town proposal.

Right: Working together at last! Steve worked with the Conservative leaders of Hampshire County and Winchester City Councils to finally secure the repaving of our ancient High Street.



Above: Steve Brine is working with local providers and lobbying Ministers in the face of new proposals that threaten the future of many local nurseries. Pictured here with Hartley House Montessori Nursery and Maria Miller MP.



Above: Prospective MP Steve Brine speaking up for our area last Summer on BBC South Today.



Left: Steve Brine led energetic campaigns across the constituency to protect our post office network from a Government cull. "They are very often the lifeblood of local communities", he says. Pictured with Mr Patel from Fraser Road PO in Kings Worthy.



Dad's Nose. Mum's Eyes. Gordon Brown's Debt.

Labour's Debt Crisis: Every child in Britain is born owing £17,000. They deserve better.