



Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

For Winchester, Alresford and surrounding villages from Prospective Conservative MP, Steve Brine

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SCHOOL PLACES

Cameron Government will oversee positive changes to significantly increase the number of good school places available to Winchester parents.

Many local parents will have experienced the distress in recent years of failing to get their child into the school of their choice.

A growing population in and around the city, driven by more and more housing development, will only add to the pressure on school places meaning a radical new plan is needed. Conservative leader David Cameron and Shadow Schools Secretary Michael Gove, have outlined plans to open up the system to provide all parents with the sort of choice currently only enjoyed by the rich.

The party has looked to Sweden which has introduced a new system that has allowed the creation of many new high quality state schools that are independent from political control. Prospective Winchester MP, Steve Brine, says the proposals will be very welcome locally. "The education of our children is one of the most important things we do and I am regularly in contact with parents for whom the current system is just not working. If we win the election we will institute a long-term programme to dramatically increase the number of good school places within the state system in order that we can meet the demand from every parent who lost their appeal for their first choice school."

"We will allow good schools to expand, and we have many here in Winchester including Kings School which recently received the highest possible Ofsted mark. But we will also allow educational charities, philanthropists, existing school federations, not-for-profit



■ **Cameron @ Kings – inside: see what the Conservative leader was up to with Prospective MP Steve Brine in Winchester recently!**

trusts, co-operatives and groups of parents to set up new schools in the state sector and access equivalent public funding to existing state schools."

More...

You can see more on this story via
www.stevebrine.com

A Green Winchester publication, printed on paper from sustainable forests

“WINCHESTER VOTERS CAN CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT” SAYS STEVE BRINE

In a wide-ranging interview the Prospective Conservative MP Steve Brine talks frankly to award-winning novelist Michael Dobbs about Winchester (and Westminster!), what he really thinks of David Cameron and how family life has changed him.

Dobbs: What do you think are the biggest challenges facing this area at the moment?

Brine: The economy is without doubt right at the top of the list. People are worried about their jobs and although there is great affluence here lots of people are struggling. Our family is like thousands of others locally; we are definitely feeling the pinch. I think we need a new Government to restore confidence and begin the massive task of returning our economy to a position of balance.

That is big picture stuff but if we don't do that, and we carry on as a nation paying more in debt interest than we do in educating our children, the effect will continue to be felt here in Winchester.



■ 'At play'

Locally, I am proud to be working with exciting new initiatives such as the Hampshire Careers Network which is working directly with local job-seekers to help them get back into work. I also think the long-term future of our hospital remains a top priority as does the huge challenge of new development and the need to return key decision such as Barton Farm to local people and move away from centrally imposed housing targets.

Dobbs: What did you make of the Telegraph revelations about MPs expenses?

Brine: I remain every bit as furious as the people I seek to represent. I grew up in a modest family and was taught the true value of money. I don't care if the system allowed MPs to claim for trousers presses and taxpayer funded housing for their families, they should have known better and had the good grace to say no. I have run businesses and we would have fired straight away anyone abusing our system.

MPs, from all political parties, have done things that are unethical and wrong. David Cameron has apologised for the behaviour of some Conservative MPs and I think there is

general agreement he has acted decisively and in a way befitting a Prime Minister-in-waiting. And he has announced reforms to start to rebuild trust in politics and to take action on expenses. But in my view we won't end the current paralysis in government and in politics just by electing a new Speaker and setting new rules. We've got to give the public their voice and the country the chance of a fresh start. The only way that can happen is through a general election.

Dobbs: What can people expect if they do elect you as their next MP?

Brine: For a start they can expect a Conservative Government to replace this failing Labour administration. It may seem as if the next election is all over for Gordon Brown but he still has the huge advantage of incumbency, it will take every possible Conservative vote to turn him out of Number 10 and I hope Winchester will step up to the plate and play its part in doing that.

Of course I want to sit in the House of Commons and help a new Conservative Government deliver on its manifesto pledges - but I am standing to be WINCHESTER'S MP and I see that as an end in itself NOT just a way to become an MP in Westminster. We have some good councillors in this area, of all parties, they don't need their MP to second-guess them all the time but they do need an MP to support them and trust them.

Above all I believe in Winchester and I want to work as part of a team to make it an even better place to live. I utterly reject the negative attitude of my main political opponents here which tries to run down this area for narrow party political gain simply because they don't control either council. Winchester is an ancient place with a great history but I believe our best days are still to come and that's why you will only ever hear positive messages from me. I don't believe in wasting time or space in my leaflets telling tales on the Liberal Democrats. People can make their own minds up about whom they want to represent them.

Dobbs: You know David Cameron well, what is he really like?

Brine: I wouldn't say I know him well but we've met many times now and we've had a chance to chat privately. We first met in 2005



■ 'In the Community'



■ 'At home'

when he came to Eastleigh to launch our General Election manifesto and I thought then, he was pretty special. He just seemed to instil a great deal of confidence in people and he was ice-cool under pressure. I think David is a very consistent person and you need that if you want to be Prime Minister. He is serious, as he should be given the huge responsibility he will shoulder if he wins the election, but he is remarkably normal and makes people feel completely at ease.

Family means the world to him which is something we definitely share; he has met my wife Susie on a number of occasions and our daughter Emily when he visited Winchester last year.

Dobbs: You mention the family; Susie and yourself have had a baby since you began doing this job, how has that changed things?

Brine: Emily was born in November 2006 at the Royal County Hospital in Winchester and, like most new parents, after nine months of preparation we thought we were completely ready for parenthood. Clearly we were wrong; Emily has changed our lives forever and it is absolutely brilliant!

At every stage you think it cannot be better than this and then they crawl, walk, talk and it is. I am not at home as much as I would like but I think we've given Emily a safe and stable home and she is a very happy little girl. She is hugely determined and strong willed and we are both utterly lost as to where she gets it from!

Of course becoming a Dad has changed me but for the better I hope. I know more than ever what's important in life and whatever happens to me at the election, Emily and Susie will be there when I get home and that feels pretty good to be honest.

Dobbs: So, do you think you will win?

Brine: Whilst I take nothing for granted I am quietly confident that we have the right team locally and nationally. I always remember Mark Oaten saying at the 2005 General Election that in his view nobody owns Winchester, not the Conservatives and not the Liberal Democrats. People tell me they like the fact I am a local family man, living here and working extremely hard to become the local MP.



■ 'In business'

see www.golflinks.co.uk

This is a great place to live and I remain determined to give this area the MP it deserves and one people can be truly proud of.

You can find out much more about Steve Brine and the things that matter to him via

www.stevebrine.com

or at Steve Brine TV

www.stevebrine.tv

FIRST HALF OF 2009 HAS SEEN STEVE AND HIS TEAM WORKING RIGHT ACROSS THE AREA



■ Bar End – opening of new Olympic running track
See Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv



■ City Centre – Save Barton Farm rally
See Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv



■ Winchester Museum for British Tourism Week



■ High Street – campaigning against Labour's ID card proposals



■ Winchester Hospital – visiting NHS Treatment Centre with Shadow Health Minister Anne Milton MP
See Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv



■ Fryern Arcade – with newly re-elected County Councillor Colin Davidovitz



■ Conservative Future – members of Steve's Team Winchester



■ Cathedral - The Big Sleep out in aid of Trinity and Nightshelter
See Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv



■ Police HQ – with Shadow Home Secretary Chris Grayling MP
See Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv

You can stay updated on news from across the area and about Steve Brine's campaign to help bring change to our country as part of a new Conservative Government. Visit www.stevebrine.com for news, campaigns and downloads, visit www.stevebrine.tv for short-films and interviews or *NEW* follow Steve Brine on Twitter www.twitter.com/sbrine. You can call Steve on 01962 762023 or text: 07517 225 842

YMCA BREATHE NEW LIFE INTO ST JOHN'S HOUSE



Winchester YMCA has taken over the ancient St John's House in Winchester City Centre and plan to transform the building into a vibrant new youth facility.

Chief Executive Mike Simpson (pictured at the venue) explains; "Young people in the Winchester area have consistently said they want a 'place of our own'; a safe and fun place to meet friends in the city centre. We have talked to nearly 400 young people about what they would like. St John's House is a fantastic opportunity to meet their needs, providing quality youth work and offering support and perhaps a youth cafe. We are building partnerships with the whole community to deliver this. This building provides an exciting opportunity for Winchester to provide a top rate facility for our young people." Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine visited St John's

House recently; "I am so excited about this, full marks to the YMCA for showing such tremendous leadership and vision. I am wildly envious not to be a teenager in Winchester because this promises to be a really special place."

St John's House is a Grade 1 listed building which is owned by the St John's Winchester Charity. Its roots are believed to be in the 10th Century when the site is thought to have been used as a hospital. It has had a varied history and has been vacant since March 2008 when previous tenants Immanuel Church vacated the building.

If you or your organisation wish to find out more please visit www.ymcawinchester.org.uk or call YMCA Winchester on 01962 864234.

A better Winchester (and Alresford)

Winchester Police are stepping up their efforts this Summer to drive down incidences of so-called anti-social behaviour.

The initiative, which runs from mid-July through mid-September, is taking a positive spin to help

communities better understand and support young people.

Officers from across the force will be working with partners and volunteers to increase the provision of youth services, investing in education campaigns to

parents such as 'Do you know where your child is?' and providing additional resources to be proactive in 'hotspot areas' where communities are affected by antisocial behaviour. You can see much more on this story via www.stevebrine.com



■ Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine is supporting this positive initiative from our local police. He dropped in to see the excellent work of the Alresford Youth Association recently and is pictured with a group of young people as well as Chief Inspector Rachel Farrell and Alresford PCSO's Stephen Hull/Helen Ashcroft.



The Miff twist!

Well-known Winchester businessman Abdul 'Miff' Kayum has taken over the Los Amigos Restaurant in St George's Street. It will re-open in late July as The Bangkok Brasserie and will be the only place in the city devoted to Thai cuisine.

Prospective Winchester MP Steve Brine met up with Miff recently (pictured) to talk about the current business climate and the problems he has had accessing vital funds to complete finance of the project. Miff told The Winchester Post, 'We approached three High Street banks to help us with funding. Because we have no realizable assets and turnover is below £25million, we do qualify for the government backed Enterprise Finance

Guarantee scheme designed to help small businesses through the recession by providing working capital to viable businesses. Unfortunately, the banks seem very unwilling to part with this government cash.'

The Conservatives have said they will introduce a big, bold and simple National Loan Guarantee Scheme to help get credit flowing and save jobs if they form the next Government.

See Steve and Miff in conversation about how the Bangkok Brasserie is raising finance for this wonderful local initiative at www.stevebrine.tv



Please help Steve Brine's Campaign!

YES!

■ I would be pleased to support Steve Brine's campaign in the following way...

- I enclose a donation of £_____ towards Steve Brine's Parliamentary Campaign (payable to Winchester Conservative Association)
- I can deliver a few leaflets where I live
- I can put up a poster at election time
- I pledge my vote to Steve Brine
- Please contact me, I would like to help

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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Mobile: _____

Please return to: **Winchester Conservatives, The Coach House, Worthy Park, Winchester SO21 1AN**

The information you supply will be treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with the Data protection act 1998. From time to time we may contact you with further details on Party Policy. Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive further details.

CAMERON DIRECT comes to Winchester



Conservative leader David Cameron visited Winchester with his popular Cameron Direct event.

More than 350 people packed into the main hall at Kings School in Winchester just before Christmas to hear Mr Cameron answer questions from members of the public. During the hour long session, he covered a wide range of subjects from the flagging economy to the NHS, Afghanistan, knife crime, school places and population control. Mr Cameron said; "The point of these meetings is to hear directly from people about their opinions and concerns, I enjoyed meeting people here in Winchester and answering their questions."

Steve Brine, Prospective Conservative MP for Winchester organised the event. He said; "It was a real honour to have David here; I hope people found it enjoyable and informative. The extended applause at the end of the event was really warm and genuine. I thought it was really refreshing in this modern media age to see someone who wants to be Prime Minister, unscripted just answering questions straight from local people."



See much more of Cameron @ Kings via Steve Brine TV www.stevebrine.tv