

WINCHESTER POST

For Winchester and surrounding villages, including Chandler's Ford

OUR PRIORITY: THE LOCAL *NHS*

THE number one priority of an incoming Conservative Government can be summed up in three letters: NHS.

Staff and managers at the Winchester & Eastleigh NHS Healthcare Trust, which runs the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, may be able to breathe a collective sigh of relief after a recent savings plan managed to close an £11m deficit but they know we cannot afford to take our eye off the ball for one second.

Winchester's Conservative Parliamentary Candidate, **Steve Brine**, has focused his attention on the crisis in our local NHS since being chosen in November to contest the seat at the next general election.

"Obviously I am pleased that the Trust have closed their deficit and the team should be congratulated after what has been a challenging year," he says. "But we should remember it has come at a price for some of those working at the other end of the pay scale inside the RHCH. I think the important thing now is for everyone to look positively to the future with confidence and optimism. In my view this demands a successful bid for Foundation Status which will give our hospital and the staff working within it

important freedoms to deliver more efficient and truly modern care, free from endless meddling by Ministers."

Conservative leader David Cameron has made clear his priority for Government is the National Health Service; "We would continue to fund the NHS, and we would continue to increase funds for the NHS, and we've made absolutely clear it's our priority and it's going to be the first call on resources we make."

Steve adds, "I am determined we will be positive about the future of our much loved hospital and work together to see Winchester has a range of local services worthy of the place recently judged to be the best area to live in the entire country."

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Steve Brine (second from right) with local campaigner Rob Ducker talking to shoppers in Winchester as part of the Conservatives recent National NHS Action Day



www.stevebrine.com

New Winchester - new man

Winchester's current MP, Mark Oaten, is standing down at the next General Election meaning we will have a new Member of Parliament when the country next goes to the polls. Local Conservatives have chosen Steve Brine to contest the seat. Constituents describe him as "energetic", "eager to win" and someone who is breaking the mould of a traditional Tory MP.



The writer and novelist Michael Dobbs spoke to Steve to find out what makes him tick, and a few other things besides...

You can keep up-to-date with Steve's campaign and sign up for regular newsletters via www.stevebrine.com



So you actually live here then?

Yes! I'm not drafted in from London, Scotland or even Newbury - Susie and I live between Kings Worthy and Alresford, bang in the middle of the new Winchester constituency.

Steve with nephew and Godson Oliver riding the Watercress Line

Why do you say the 'new' Winchester?

Because Hampshire as a whole has been the subject of some significant boundary changes since the last General Election in May 2005. The 'new' Winchester constituency centres on the city itself and includes Alresford, Colden Common & Twyford, Compton & Otterbourne, the Itchen Valley, Littleton & Harestock, Kings Worthy, Oliver's Battery & Badger Farm, Sparsholt as well as Wonston & Micheldever. In addition it now includes Chandlers Ford & Hiltingbury which was previously in the Romsey constituency. [See map below.](#)

A recent poll showed politicians to be among the least trusted professionals, why on earth do you want to be a Member of Parliament?

Because I believe it's a job where I can do what we're all trying to do - make a difference to the world around us. I care deeply about this country and about Winchester; there are many problems facing us after ten years of a Labour Government and I think I can provide the local area with a strong voice in Parliament. An MP has to look at the national and international picture as part of the UK Parliament and take decisions such as whether we go to war but he or she also has to look at the local picture to fight for a fair deal for their constituency in areas such as NHS funding. They must also fight on behalf of individuals who very often have nowhere else to turn - it's not just a job for me, it's a vocation. I am well aware it's not for everyone but I am very excited at the prospect of becoming Winchester's next MP.

OK, but what experience do you have of politics and the life of an MP?

I was fortunate to work with William Hague in Westminster when he was Leader of the Opposition; as a media ghost writer, a speech contributor and member of the Conservative Research Department. I was also able to work inside the Houses of Parliament with members of the Shadow Cabinet as we followed pieces of legislation through both the Commons and the Lords. It was an amazing experience and gave me a true insight (warts and all!) into the work of the oldest Parliament on the planet and the life of a Member of Parliament.

What experience do you have outside of politics?

I am a trained radio journalist and have worked within the BBC, independent local radio here in Hampshire and for a large media group in Chicago, USA. I was a reporter, feature maker and producer. I also spent a period working for a consultancy firm specialising in training programmes for the airline industry, but was made redundant from that role after the attacks in New York on September 11th, 2001.



What do you currently do to pay the bills?

I am one of the Directors of a company called *The Azalea Group*. We are a specialist marketing agency focused on the golf industry, based in Winchester, London and Petersfield. Our clients include Europe's largest consumer golf show (*The London Golf Show*), The Leaderboard Group (which owns courses such as The Oxfordshire and Sandford Springs) and the Scotland Tourist Board. It's quite a new company but the potential is enormous and we are all golf mad so there is never a dull moment. I play off a handicap of 17 before you ask. My wife Susie (pictured below in 'quick-fire questions') works as a Speech & Language Therapist in the local NHS.

So you're not a career politician then?

No! I have real experience of the political world both at its heart in Westminster and out here on the doorsteps in a true marginal constituency which is very important if you aspire to be the next Member of Parliament. I already have a great deal of experience which I think will serve me well in providing this area with the strong voice it deserves. Politics and my career are very important to me but my family and my friends will always come first and I know they will always be there to keep my feet on the ground wherever this path takes me!



Steve is a keen dart player, pictured here at The Cricketers, Easton while Popcorn watches on in a precarious position!

Do you think you will win this constituency back for the Conservatives?

The new Winchester will be one of the most keenly watched and marginal seats in the whole country at the next General Election. I think we have a tremendous chance to win the seat but nothing comes for free and that is true in politics as in life! We have to get out there, as we are doing, and tell people why I deserve their support and why Britain so desperately needs a new Conservative Government led by David Cameron after ten years of Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. No-one owns Winchester, but it is a very special place, it is my home and I promise you I will fight for every vote to give local people positive reasons to support me - and vote for me - when the time comes.

Quick-Fire Questions

Favourite sport?

Golf and football; I am a Spurs fan for my sins and my Dad is a season ticket holder at his local club.

Favourite film?

It's always been Back to the Future; I am fascinated by the idea of time travel.

Beatles or Stones?

Beatles

Blair or Brown for dinner?

Can I pass on that one? Oh ok, Blair - he'd be much more fun.

Boxers or briefs?

Definitely boxers, I am a Conservative after all - I want to be free!



Focused on climate change

Steve Brine launched **Green Winchester** with a special screening in February of the Oscar winning film *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The film fronted by former Vice President of the USA Al Gore, offers a passionate and inspirational look at one of the big issues of our time - climate change. Steve teamed up with The Screen at Winchester, to bring the film for a special one-off screening. He is pictured left with students from Kings School and the University of Winchester. For more information and to sign up to GW, please visit

www.greenwinchester.com

Conservatives oppose ID card plan

LOCAL Conservatives have made clear their opposition to Government plans to introduce ID cards.

Parliamentary Candidate, Steve Brine says, "ID Cards are a bad idea in our view. They will do nothing to improve the safety of us living here in Winchester and Chandler's Ford. They are not the answer to the threat of terrorism, to benefit fraud, to illegal immigration human trafficking or identity theft. They are a waste of money and an incoming Conservative Government will abolish them."

spending £20bn of our money on ID Cards. Instead of these expensive, intrusive and ineffective ID Cards, the money should be spent on worthwhile projects to cut crime - such as a dedicated UK Border Police, more prison spaces and increasing the number of residential drug rehabilitation places."



ID cards give the State too much personal data in one place.

If that isn't bad enough, ID cards will cost us each £93!

"At a time when our local hospital is having to find ever more cash savings to balance its books, it is an insult to be even considering

Conservatives stay in control



No change at Guildhall after elections



The Conservative team pictured after the count on the front steps of Winchester Guildhall

THE Conservatives have retained control of Winchester City Council after the local elections held on May 3rd.

Popular councillor Eileen Berry was re-elected in St Barnabas, while Cllr Fiona Mather (St Michaels), Cllr Malcolm Wright (Wonston & Micheldever), Cllr Ernie Jeffs (The Alresfords) and former Mayor Cllr Neil Baxter (Itchen Valley) all strengthened their positions. The Conservative administration remains in control with a majority over all the other parties of just one seat.

City Council Leader, George Beckett told The Winchester Post, "I am absolutely delighted that we have consolidated the extraordinary gains of the last two elections and have polled an increased number of votes in many different parts of the district. This is a position from which we can surely make further gains next year".

You can see the local results in full at www.winchester.gov.uk

GREEN Winchester Keeping it LOCAL



Pictured with Steve Brine are the team from D&G Hardware; from left to right, Mike 'the shorts' Cooper, Tina Ralph and owner Toby Roberts

STEVE Brine has launched a campaign to find our favourite local shop.



It's all part of the Use Them or Lose Them appeal which urges people to support local shops and businesses across Winchester and Chandler's Ford.

He says, "Long-established independent shops are a feature of Winchester and the surrounding area. While there is a place - and obviously a demand for bigger national stores - there has to be a place for smaller more unique outlets. Stores such as D&G Hardware in Winchester City Centre are real gems; they have never failed me, the place is like a treasure trove of useful things and the team working there are superb. I will kick off the campaign by nominating D&G myself as my favourite local shop." But Steve adds, "We have to support these independent shops, or they won't survive and we'll all be worse off as a result."

Nominate your favourite local shop, service or business and we'll report the results in the next edition of The Winchester Post. It can be anywhere in Winchester city centre or surrounding villages, including Chandler's Ford. The shop or business with the most nominations will receive a special 'Green Winchester Keeping It Local' Trophy and window sticker; while everyone who sends in a nomination will go into a prize draw to win a bottle of champagne! Go to www.stevebrine.com and choose 'Campaigns' today.

Malaria pledge

Conservative Leader David Cameron has vowed to make malaria in developing countries a disease of the past by pledging that a future Conservative Government would spend 500 million pounds (\$1 billion) per year tackling the disease, until the UN Millennium Goal on malaria has been met.

Controlling economic migration

Shadow Home Secretary David Davis has unveiled new proposals designed to introduce more effective controls on economic migrants seeking to enter the UK. Mr Davis states that asylum policy MUST be separated from policy on economic migration and makes clear his belief that Britain benefits economically from immigration, but not all or any immigration. He said economic migration levels into this country should take account of the economy, housing, public services, infrastructure and community cohesion and confirmed the Conservatives proposed Border Police Force would be given an enforcement role and powers to track down immigrants who over-stay or illegally enter the country.

Call charges to fall?

A powerful committee of the European Parliament has backed a plan to cut the cost of using a mobile phone when abroad - within the EU. At present, calls made between member states can cost up to 60 times more than making a call between networks at home. Steve Brine says, "This still has to go before the European Parliament and then be ratified by member states but good for the EU for attempting to tackle a subject that can often add a hefty bill to a simple trip overseas. It's not often I praise the EU to be honest but credit where it's due!"

Anger at Post Office move

Local people have reacted with a mixture of shock and anger at news Winchester's main Post Office in Middle Brook Street is to close - services will be transferred to WH Smith in the High Street as part of a national move by Royal Mail.

Steve says, "Of all the Post Offices I expected to be worried about it was not Middle Brook Street. It is Winchester's central Post Office and because of that provides the full range of services not always available to customers at smaller sub-branches, which people will know are currently threatened by a closure programme themselves."

"This idea will cause deep concern and I fear it will be seen as a further erosion of people's access to the Post Office network. I simply cannot see how we will have the same level of service in a relatively small branch of WH Smith; I just don't think it's feasible - all hell will

break loose on pension day each week! Winchester demands a full size central post office offering the full range of services."

The Silver Hill redevelopment plan has always included a replacement Post Office, discussed and agreed between the City Council, the developer and the Post Office. Add your name to the growing number of people supporting Steve's campaign to keep Winchester's main Post Office open at: www.stevebrine.com/campaigns

Keep our Post Office



Conservatives

Call for new help for victims of pension-scheme closures



CONSERVATIVES have added their support to demands for new help for the victims of company pension-scheme closures.

The party is calling for a 'Lifeboat Fund' to be set up to top up the pension income of thousands of vulnerable people who have lost their pension savings from company pension schemes collapsing, and who now face an uncertain retirement.

The bold proposals have been put forward to tackle the consequences of Gordon Brown's 1997 stealth tax raid - which has robbed £100 billion from pension funds.

Prospective MP for Winchester, Steve Brine, says, "Gordon Brown has destroyed our pensions system, which was one of the best in the world. He robbed today's and tomorrow's pensioners of security in retirement through his £100 billion stealth tax raid and then tried to cover up that fact."

"Today's pensioners are suffering from soaring council tax, rocketing utility bills and more means-testing. Meanwhile, tomorrow's pensioners are facing plummeting pensions returns and the closure of company and final salary pension schemes."

Steve recently met with Conservative leader David Cameron locally to discuss the pensions issue and his plans to help those most affected; the two men are pictured examining the first copy of *The Winchester Post*

Can we trust Gordon?

It has emerged Gordon Brown ignored official advice that his stealth tax on pensions would destroy our pensions system and leave millions vulnerable in retirement. After years spent covering up the advice he was given in 1997, he was finally forced to reveal it in March. Conservatives are now asking the question on the lips of voters across the country - can we trust this man to be our Prime Minister?

'GREEN' ISSUES



I am keen to hear what people living in this area think about one of the subjects dominating the political agenda at the moment - climate change. I would be grateful if you could complete this short survey to let me know your views.

Many thanks *Steve Brine*

1 Are you concerned about the issue of climate change? YES NO

2 Have you, or do you plan to, alter your home / lifestyle to reduce carbon emissions and be more energy efficient? YES NO

3 If yes, which of the following have you considered? (Please tick all that apply.)

- HARVESTING RAINWATER
- FLYING LESS
- INSTALLING ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTBULBS
- DRIVING LESS
- INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS
- INCREASE RECYCLING

4 Do you agree with the idea of a green air miles allowance for every passenger so that those who fly more pay more tax?

- I AGREE WITH A GREEN AIR MILES ALLOWANCE
- I DISAGREE WITH A GREEN AIR MILES ALLOWANCE
- UNSURE

5 Do you believe that incentives should be given to airlines to use more fuel efficient aircraft? YES NO

6 Do you agree with the proposal that for each additional pound raised in aviation tax, there should be a matched reduction in family taxes so that the overall tax burden does not rise?

- I AGREE WITH THE PROPOSAL
- I DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSAL
- UNSURE

Please return to: **Steve Brine (Green Survey), Winchester Conservatives, Freepost (Licence Number SO2228), Winchester SO23 8ZZ**

Please use block capitals

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Please tick this box if you would like Steve to keep you in touch by email

After the next election I would like to see as Britain's Prime Minister...

Gordon Brown David Cameron Menzies Campbell

Promoted by Paul Twelftree on behalf of the Winchester Conservative Association, both of 1 Station Hill, Winchester, SO23 8TJ and printed by Culverlands Press, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0LN

Winchester Conservatives – be a part of the success story

Everyone's talking about the Conservatives again across Winchester and Chandler's Ford. Membership of the local Conservative Association is at record levels and now we have an energetic new Parliamentary Candidate to lead us forward. If you can help us we would be delighted to hear from you. Please take a moment to complete this form and



return it to the address on the right or save the stamp by going to www.stevebrine.com and choosing the 'Contact' option.

Data Protection Act: The information you supply to us will always be treated in the strictest of confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and will not be passed to any third parties. By giving us your email address you are agreeing to receive occasional communications from us.

Promoted by Paul Twelftree on behalf of the Winchester Conservative Association, both of 1 Station Hill, Winchester, SO23 8TJ and printed by Culverlands Press, Winnall Valley Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 0LN

- I would like to deliver a few leaflets.
- I would like to help by displaying a poster at election time.
- I would like to join the party or send a donation (tick this box and we will be in touch).
- I would like to be a part of it, please call me.

Please return to: **Winchester Conservatives, Freepost (Licence Number SO2228), Winchester SO23 8ZZ**

Please use block capitals

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

Please tick this box if you would like Steve to keep you in touch by email