

Stroud & District Conservative Women's Luncheon Club

2018/19 Season Newsletter (1)

Something about dates, events, news, ideas and decisions

Lift Off

We missed out on our customary September start up session cheq and jumped to October

11th October 1st session

31 members came to Minchinhampton Golf Club to lunch and meet Siobhan Baillie, newly selected Conservative parliamentary candidate for the Stroud constituency. We hadn't fixed a speaker so Siobhan stepped up to the plate and told us of 3 women who have influenced her and why. The tea party held at The Association Chairman's home was not only very enjoyable: it yielded a profit and a cheque for £100 was presented to Sharon Sugars, Association Chairman for Association funds. Then we got down and exercised a little democracy.

Faced with spiralling costs for venue, meals and speakers at The Hill the Committee requested the membership present to collaborate and consider where we should meet and how we should fund our future.

We knew we need a location easy to access with all vital facilities. A determined search for an alternative suitable meeting point in the constituency proved fruitless and we had agreed at the AGM not to increase membership fees. Claire Robinson, our Treasurer provided a comprehensive effective picture of costings. Discussion amongst members in small groups yielded a proposal, a vote, a solution.

The proposal:

- a) to remain at The Hill for the foreseeable future
- b) to increase the meal charge to £20 with effect from the November session onwards
- c) and a voluntary contribution of £5 for the 2018/19 season from members who choose to participate

A vote in favour was carried by a show of hands.

We return to The Hill for the rest of the 2018/19 season with a new caterer, Berry Blue.

The committee offers a heartfelt thanks to you all.

OUR DIARY

Dates for 2018

8th November

Speaker: Jeffrey Ford on 'The Art of Enamelling'

13th December 2018

**Bring a partner. The gates are thrown open to husbands, partners, good friends and party members
Join us and book your plates early.**

Speaker: Robin Burton on 'Wassailing'

Dates for 2019

13th January, 14th February,, 14thMarch, 11th April, 9th May and 7th June

Request: please advise the Secretary if you have a dietary/allergy problem, so we can ensure you have a trouble free enjoyable meal at future sessions.

If you would like to book sessions in advance, please do. We would be very grateful.

Community One way to gain recognition, support our candidates and increase our membership is to join in community projects. Here is one to try/.....

Every December, for 1 week, St. Laurence Church, the parish church of Stroud (in The Shambles) holds a Christmas Tree Festival. With over 100 trees decorated and shining the place resembles an overdressed Swiss mountainside slalom. Anyone can supply and decorate a tree, real or artificial. From funeral director, Amnesty, Childrens' Gardening Club, W,I, to David Drew and for a while, Neil Carmichael. Now Siobhan Baillie has booked her space. So have we. Entry is free and someone from BBC Gloucestershire usually rolls up to get things started. The trees are on display for a whole week.

The Club Secretary Jenefer Wythe and the Treasurer, Claire Robinson, with the agreement of the Committee would like you to think up a theme and provide 3 dead keen volunteers to get an extraordinary creation underway on 30th November or 1st December.

So far angels and stars are on the list of possibles (Someone else has bagged 12 days of Christmas minus 11). In view of problems over Universal Credit roll out figgy puddings will not be appreciated,

There are fond memories of the school that created a gingerbread tree. Cotswold stone churches are damp, The story goes that the PTA baked replacement biscuits all week. We will have to clear up, oh yes.

Something else

Sometimes we do things other than eat chat and listen. A member has suggested we climb aboard a coach and head off to The American Museum at Claverton near Bath. If you like gardens, quilts, historic interior design, orangeries and Native American culture (not everyone inhabited a tepee) this could be a sweet way to while away an early summer afternoon. Confirm your enthusiasm and contact the Club Secretary, Jenefer Wythe, 01453 767435.

Another member would like to learn to play mah-jong and is there an opening for an Association Bridge Club?

General Information

Our club is affiliated to Stroud Conservative Association. Whenever possible we subscribe to Association funds.

Please let us know if you would like us to find a speaker for one of your favourite interests. Please let us know if you have a speaker to recommend.

New members are welcome. The Treasurer will be pleased to make the arrangements.

Members' guests are always welcome. The meal charge is £20.

Finally

If social media and the press wallow in political scorn, remember it aint new. That 'overprimrosed' Tory, Benjamin Disraeli, when asked to define the difference between calamity and catastrophe, is understood to have said that should Mr Gladstone his Liberal adversary fall in the Thames it would be a calamity; to rescue him, a catastrophe.