



The 1964 Club

Epsom and Ewell



Summer Newsletter



Steve Whiteway FCILT Chairman

As Chairman, it is always my intention we offer the widest range of activities for our members. With this in mind, I approached members during the spring to see if there is an appetite to resurrect the once popular golf and bridge groups. For various reasons, not least we are all so busy, at least for now, there is insufficient interest, but something we will keep under review. I also looked at organising a day trip or two to places of interest, but our members are so widely travelled, they have already been to most places within easy reach! It seems our dinners and the variations around them are what members enjoy the most, so we will continue to offer our unique mix of political and social gatherings.

Summer Holidays

I write this in early July employing our refreshed newsletter and website banner, and I wonder how half the year has already passed us by. Maybe a sign of age, as days morph into weeks and months and Christmas comes around every six months! Despite this, the club has packed plenty into the first half of the year, with even more to come in the remaining months of 2023.

AGM in March

We started the year with our AGM, with a dinner at the Police Federation, who always look after us so well. We heard from our President and MP Chris Grayling about “the state of the nation” and later my view on political life. A lively discussion then ensued, something our members are so good at and very much the lifeblood of the club.

Dinner with Lord Sharpe

Our last get together was also at the Police Federation, again with dinner and our guest speaker Lord Andrew Sharpe OBE. Andrew is a friend and fellow member and his unique insight into the work of the House of Lords was fascinating. It certainly makes one appreciate that there is far more to that

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work, than elderly Lords signing in just to get their attendance allowance, as the popular media might have us believe. There is a huge amount of expertise in the upper house.

Current Political Situation “What a fine mess”

After the Liz Truss debacle, Rishi Sunak has got things back on an even keel but the parliamentary Conservative party still seems hell bent on self-destruction. It won't be the Labour party that win the forthcoming general election on any merit, but the Conservative party that hand it to them on a plate as they are seemingly so dysfunctional.

Labour's manifesto is starting to leak out, although with twist and turns and it is everything I feared and worse. If the general populous think it is bad now, they haven't seen anything yet! It is time for individual Conservative MPs, to stop being selfish and save the country from the Labour party. Put aside the self-interest (not least Boris Johnson) and work together to put up a united front. I realise the prejudice of the civil service and the considerable challenge of gaining a further term, for a party that has been in full control, for eight years, with the first five over influenced by the Lib Dems, let's not forget. However, the country's very future is at stake. We can see all around us, the damage caused by the last Labour administration, starting from a strong economic base.

Labour inheriting a post pandemic economy is a recipe for disaster, the like of which we have never seen before and given the long-term cultural changes introduced during the last

Labour years and more to come, it is difficult to see how we could ever recover. I would argue, we haven't recovered from the last Labour term, our country was changed and not for the better, with changes that can't be undone. Younger people cannot remember pre-Tory and therefore are likely to have their heads turned to Labour. However, younger voters get older and with the benefit of life experience, will see sense. Let us hope so.

Question Time, September 14

Our next event on Thursday 14th September, is a variation on a theme, with “Question Time”, this time based around a panel of business leaders along with Chris Grayling MP. More details will follow but this promises to be a most enjoyable and interactive evening.

I look forward to the pleasure of your company on September 14, in the meantime enjoy the summer months.

My very Best Wishes *Steve*



1964 Club members meet regularly to keep informed about current national political issues through presentations and discussions with political figures invited to our meetings.

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