

Harriett Baldwin chosen as new Parliamentary Candidate

Local Conservatives have chosen 46-year-old Harriett Baldwin to be their candidate at the next General Election, when Sir Michael Spicer stands down.

Harriett said: "It is a great honour to be chosen to follow Sir Michael, who has worked tirelessly for local people since 1974. My husband Jim and our three children are now settled in our Worcestershire home. We want to meet as many of you as possible as we campaign across West Worcestershire for a Conservative Government".
Read more about Harriett on page 2.



Harriett and Sir Michael Spicer MP

If you would like to put a question to Harriett, please complete the reply form on page 4.

Good News from the NHS in Pershore

In a rare piece of NHS good news, Pershore and Bredon Hill residents turned out in large numbers for the Pershore Hospital Open Day. It has taken just over a year to build and fit out the new Pershore 26-bed Hospital building and Medical Centre. The Friends of Pershore Cottage Hospital provided some of the equipment. The building, provided by Conservative-controlled Wychavon District Council, is leased to the Worcestershire Primary Care Trust and the Pitts Tucker Partnership. The total cost of the project was £6.7 million - money well spent as it provides a valuable resource for the community.

Harriett Baldwin said, "It is really good news for everyone in the

Pershore area. At a time where Gordon Brown's cuts are threatening community hospitals elsewhere, it is good to see a well-run Conservative council getting both an excellent return on their investment so that Council Tax can be kept low, and a fantastic facility that was managed effectively to come in on time and on budget. Well done, Wychavon."



Wychavon's loos win 5 Star rating again

Conservative-controlled Wychavon council is proud to win a 5-star rating for its public loos in 2006.

At a time when other District Councils have made themselves very unpopular by closing public conveniences, like the Liberal Democrat-controlled Malvern Hills District Council, it's good to see the civic pride and tourist appeal that wins over residents and visitors alike.

"Pershore is a thriving market town with a wonderful range of independent shops. Wychavon Council isn't obliged to spend any money on our loos. Yet we can all appreciate that the excellent public loos contribute to the community." says Harriett Baldwin.



Loos of the Year 5-star award for the Pershore public toilets - courtesy of the Conservative-controlled Wychavon District Council

Harriett Baldwin congratulates Cllr Mrs Judy Pearce, in charge of the Health Portfolio for Wychavon District Council, accompanied by Malvern Town Councillors Ralph Madden and Paul Tuthill

Career mum to fight West Worcestershire seat

Harriett Baldwin, the new Parliamentary Candidate for West Worcestershire, grew up in the heart of rural Essex and was educated at the universities of Oxford and McGill, Canada.

She is married to Jim, a television producer and social and industrial historian, whose interests include canals, bridges and steam trains. Between them they have two daughters and a son. Harriett has enjoyed a successful 20-year career in finance, specialising in currency markets for pension funds. She was on the National Council of Business for Sterling, helping to prevent

Britain's entry into the Euro. In 2005, she fought Stockton North for the Conservatives, reducing Labour's majority significantly.

Harriett is a supporter and fundraiser for the Centre for Social Justice, which works with charities that fight poverty in the UK. As well as being an active Conservative campaigner, Harriett champions a range of charities that help "Make Poverty History" by giving communities the chance to help themselves. Two examples are "Opportunity International", which is active in micro-finance in poor countries, and "CAMFED", which helps educate African girls at secondary level.



Harriett near her home in Worcestershire

Harriett has always worked to encourage more women to get involved in politics and to work in financial services. She is a change-maker for the charity "Working Families", which campaigns for more workplace flexibility for parents and carers.

Wychavon wins National Award for third year running

For the third year running, Wychavon District Council has proved that it keeps residents informed about where their cash goes.

Last month, the Council scooped the Local Government Chronicle Finance Awards, after staving off competition from authorities across the country. The Chronicle Finance Award recognises the quality of financial information presented to residents. Managing Director, Jack Hegarty,



Receiving the Award in London

Council Leader Cllr Martin Jennings, Accountancy Services Manager, Alison Williams and Communications Advisor Anne-Marie Darroch attended the awards ceremony in London.

Get involved!

Local Conservatives in Pershore, Besford, Elmley Castle, the Combertons, Ashton, Beckford, Bredon and Overbury are active throughout the year. If you are interested in social and political events and meeting like-minded people, we'd love to welcome you. Have a say on local issues or just come to meet your neighbours. Call 01684 573469 for details or contact Harriett by email at: harriett@harriettbaldwin.com

Shadow Minister visits Number 8 Community Arts Centre

Shadow Minister for Culture and the Arts, Hugo Swire MP visited Number 8 Community Arts Centre in Pershore recently.

"I was very pleased that the Shadow Minister had the opportunity to visit Number 8, which is a model for a community-led Arts Centre." said Harriett Baldwin, "Both Sir Michael Spicer and I want to do everything we can to support the centre and we have written to the Heritage Lottery Fund in



Harriett with Shadow Arts Minister, Hugo Swire MP (right) and Ray Steadman, Managing Director of Number 8 Community Arts Centre in Pershore.

support of Number 8's recent bid. In addition, Conservative-controlled Wychavon District Council recently made a further £25,000 grant to the Centre."

Sir Michael Spicer's advice centres

Sir Michael Spicer, MP for West Worcestershire, will be available for constituents seeking help with public service issues. His spring dates, all at Pershore Town Hall at 9:15am, are

February 24th,

March 24th,

April 21st 2007.

You can also write to Sir Michael Spicer MP about any issue at:

The House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

The Queen's Speech 2006 - what will it mean for us?

The Queen's Speech, which as everyone knows is written by the Government, is the last gasp of the Blair Administration.

The good bits, such as the proposed Climate Change Bill and stricter border controls, have been pressed upon the Government by the Conservative Party.

Most of the Speech is full of worn out mantras on which the Government have singularly failed to deliver over the past nine years:

"My Government will continue... reforms of... public services... Will carry through the modernisation of healthcare... Will take forward legislation to reform the welfare system." Words like

these have appeared in every Queen's Speech since Mr Blair came to office. Given the hopes he created at the beginning, particularly over health and welfare reform, the shameless repetition of these failed objectives is almost embarrassing.

As to the effect of the Queen's Speech on Pershore and the surrounding area, these are likely to be negligible. However, if the hint of higher motoring costs becomes a reality, people living in villages will be badly affected.

Even worse than this is likely to be the effect of the Government's mismanagement of the economy. In particular the rising budget deficit will no doubt involve higher taxes and higher public borrowing. These will hit the net income and mortgage rates of people in Pershore, as they will everyone throughout the country. The Queen's Speech is almost silent on these matters.

**Sir Michael Spicer MP
November 2006**

