



Merry

Christmas

to all our members,
from Laura Farris MP,
your Conservative
Councillors and
the team at your
Association



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the front line 5**

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our association fun pet show by sending pictures of their animal family members.

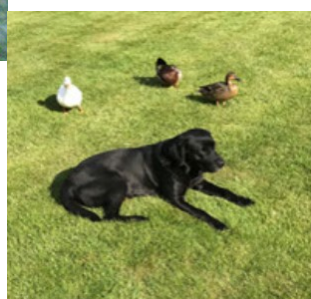
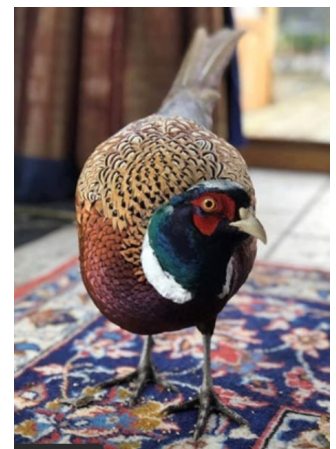
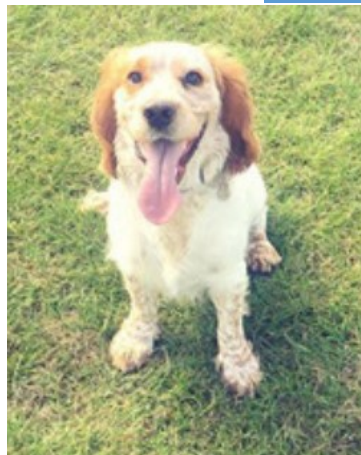


It would have been impossible to select a favourite, as we all know that our own pet is the best in the world!

We considering producing a calendar featuring the entries as a future fundraiser for the Association. Please do get in touch with the office and let us know what events you would enjoy supporting.

Meanwhile I hope you enjoy looking at this selection of photographs from the pet show. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Marigold Jaques, deputy chair, membership and fundraising.





Keep up to date with Laura :

Visit Laura's [website www.LauraFarris.org.uk](http://www.LauraFarris.org.uk) for news and more

Follow Laura on Twitter @Laura__Farris & Facebook @laurafarrisuk

Laura continues to pull out all the stops for the people of this constituency and, as we write, is looking forward to visiting more of our fabulous West Berkshire success stories for Small Business Saturday.



At the same time; Laura is looking to the longer term and how to secure our area's continued success in a globalised world. The

long-mooted western rail link to Heathrow promises huge benefits— fewer car journeys, lower emissions, less congestion, greater convenience—and a £800m economic boost.

We're delighted that Laura has been elected Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Western Rail Link between Reading to Heathrow Airport. This is a project for the long haul—but life's about more than quick wins. Thanks Laura for having a vision for the future.

**UP TO £8 MILLION
TO SUPPORT**

HEATHROW AIRPORT

 Conservatives

Your Conservative councillors are leading from the front against Covid

Big responsibilities lie with local authorities in the pandemic and our Conservative councillors in West Berkshire have proven again and again they are up to the task. We are proud that it is **our council's**:



Public Health and Public Protection Partnership teams **dealing with local outbreaks**



Economic Development Team **aiding local businesses** with advice and grants



Community Hub **supporting our most vulnerable residents**

Shall we talk politics?

While our Councillors are working hard, the opposition Liberal Democrats carp rather than contribute. Here's a couple of examples.

Invited to work with the Conservatives on plans to transform the tired London Road Industrial Estate into an **attractive gateway to Newbury complete with new jobs and homes**, did the LDs reliably turn up to meetings with ideas - or even healthy criticism? No. But they did find the time to use social media to grouse. Glad our team is too sensible—and too busy—to play games like that.



The Liberal Democrats also jumped in quickly over free school meals for the upcoming holidays. But our **Council's COVID Winter Grant Scheme** for food, energy and other essential items for residents in need due to the coronavirus pandemic includes Free School Meal vouchers—and is bigger, more generous, and better targeted. Again, it's well done to our Conservative council for getting things done!



Association News

Dear Members

Thank you for your support in 2020. Because of the hard work of our Members, the year started wonderfully well. We saw Laura Farris, our superb Member of Parliament, rapidly establish herself as a powerful advocate for West Berkshire and our Conservative-controlled Council living up to its promise to make our District an even better place in which to live, work and learn. And then came Covid! We're proud of how our elected politicians have continued to serve – and lead – our communities through the pandemic and we say more about this on page 4 and 5.

Meanwhile, your Association has adapted. Unable to campaign, socialise, fundraise as normal, we've taken to the internet to keep in touch with and learn from our members.

We held our first ever virtual AGM, contacted our members over 80, our Benefactors and Patrons, produced newsletters held special meetings – such as last month's fascinating meeting with Zac Goldsmith – and well-attended Policy Forums that attracted fascinating speakers. If you've joined any of these events, we've been glad to see you. If not, please look out for the next invitation and if you aren't sure about Zoom, email us on office@wbca.org.uk and we'll help you get on line.

We've been busy behind the scenes, too. We're attended useful training events to make sure we are in good shape once 'normal' campaigning is allowed again. We finally sold our property in Cheap Street and are considering how best to invest the funds to give us the income we need to run the Association and fight successful election campaigns. And we've been preparing for when proposals are published next year on changes to constituency boundaries.



We're looking forward to the New Year. We're planning some 'REAL' social events when we'll finally be able to say 'congratulations' to Laura and 'thank you' to Richard as well as talk to each other face to face!



We'll be campaigning again: for a Conservative win in the Police and Crime Commissioner Thames Valley election where we have an outstanding and experienced candidate in Matt Barber, pictured - and we have a Newbury Town council bye-election coming up.



We'll also continue our search for outstanding candidates for the town and district council elections in 2023. Look out for an invitation to a fact-finding meeting in the New Year.



A Christmas thank you to -



Our members—we're nothing without you
Laura Farris MP
Council leader Cllr Lynne Doherty
and all our Conservative Councillors
Officers of this Association—
President Richard Benyon
Deputy Chairs Marigold Jacques and Alex Pierre-
Treasurer Robert Carter-Shaw
Officers Cllr Dominic Boeck, Jane Hearn
and Cllr Howard Woollaston
Executive Members and Trustees
And our Constituency Manager, Joseph Clarke

Jeanette

Chairman, West Berkshire Conservative Association





Our Christmas Quiz—circle the correct answer and check at the bottom of the page.

In **December 1900**, which future Conservative Leader won Oldham in the December General Election?

- A) Winston Churchill B) Keir Hardie

The **December 1910** General Election was the last where the Liberals took the greatest number of seats. Who led the Conservatives?

- A) Arthur Balfour B) Herbert Asquith

In **December 1920**, which USA president won the Nobel Peace Prize for establishing the United Nations?

- A) Woodrow Wilson B) Herbert Hoover

In **December 1930**, the country was gripped by The Great Depression. Who was the Prime Minister?

- A) Ramsay Macdonald B) Stanley Baldwin

Why was the festive period in **December 1940** known as Blitzmas?

- A) After the Blitz B) After a new dance craze

What was stolen by 4 Scots from London on **Christmas Day 1950**?

- A) The Stone of Scone B) Scotland Yard

On the last day of **December 1960**, what Service came to an end?

- A) National Service B) Home Service

Christmas with the Stars was on BBC 1 on Christmas Night **December 1970**. Who was the anchor?

- A) Cilla Black B) Lulu

In **December 1980** Labour were polling at 56%, with a 24-point lead over the Conservatives. Who was the Labour leader?

- A) Michael Foot B) Neil Kinnock

The Prime Minister in **December 1990** is known for his love of which sport?

- A) Cricket B) Football

Which structure that Tony Blair thought would be the 'first line' in the Labour Manifesto closed in **December 2000**?

- A) Millennium Dome B) Channel Tunnel

What was the top selling Christmas toy in the UK in **December 2010**?

- A) Toy Story 3 DVD B) Iggle Piggle from In the Night Garden

The answer in each case is A.

Answers to our last brainteaser

These pictures are clues to
sitting Conservative MPs.
How many can you guess?

Theresa May



Bill Cash



Peter Bone



Steve Baker



Aaron Bell



Rob Butler



Alex Chalk



Greg Hands

Roger Gale



Liam Fox





**For West Berks Conservative Association and our
Constituency Manager, Joseph Clarke**

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**For practical help, contact West Berkshire's Com-
munity Support Hub—please call 01635 503579 or
email westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk**

**For the latest Government information [nhs.uk/
coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)**

Laura Farris MP's office

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**Police and Crime Commissioners elections 6th May
2021**

Find out more at www.matthewbarber.co.uk

Local Elections: 2023

**Join our activist list to help by emailing
(office@wbca.org.uk)**