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Conservatives
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InTouch

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with Great Yarmouth



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LIFE'S A BEACH!

Brandon Lewis
leads the Great
Yarmouth tidy
up campaign



"If there is an area near
where you live that needs
clearing up, get in contact
with us to nominate it for a
spring clean."
Brandon Lewis

Although still gripped by a long cold winter, thoughts turned to spring and warm sunny days as a team of volunteers descended on Great Yarmouth beach last week. They joined, team leader, Brandon Lewis, for the "Big Tidy Up" that encourages local people to take responsibility for their area. The scheme is backed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy.

The team of hardy souls braved icy winds as they collected rubbish along the beach by Britannia Pier filling over twenty large bags of discarded waste.

Whilst warming up with a welcome cup-of-tea from the beachside café Brandon Lewis said, "It is great to see so many people giving up a morning to look after the area they live in. I am alarmed and angered to see so many glass bottles on the beach. Leaving any rubbish on the beach is unacceptable but to leave glass is disgraceful. Our beaches need to be clean and safe so families can enjoy them."

This was the first of a series of "Big Tidy Up" days, planned by Brandon, aimed at highlighting the importance of looking after our local environment.

"We are planning another clean up in a few weeks time. If there is an area near where you live that needs clearing up, get in contact with us to nominate it for a spring clean. We will then choose the area that needs a good clean up."

Give your area a big tidy up: Phone 01493 650505 to tell us where





Bag a book ... or more

To celebrate World Book Day on 4th March, local Conservatives have launched a competition to win £250 worth of books for a school or nursery of your choice. The day aims to encourage children to explore the pleasures of books and reading that will lead to a lifetime of exploration.

To enter, simply complete the competition coupon and return to the address below. All entries should be returned by 12 noon on Monday 15th March. One winning entry will be drawn at random from all those received and their lucky nominated school will soon be getting their hands on £250 worth of books.

Book Competition

Name:

Address:

Email:

My nominated school/nursery is:

Suite 20, Great Yarmouth Business Park, Great Yarmouth, NR31 0ER

Newtown Youth Centre – Making a difference



Volunteers and young people have been left devastated following the second arson attack on their youth centre in four months. It puts the hard work of youth workers at jeopardy as they consider whether to close the centre for good. Working closely with the local police force, the team at the centre have helped numerous youngsters sort out their lives - keep off the streets and away from drugs, alcohol and petty crime.

A frequent visitor and supporter of the centre is, Prospective Conservative MP, Brandon Lewis. "This is terrible news for our community; I will be helping the team to get back up and running as soon as possible. The centre should be a beacon to other communities. It shows what happens when you give young adults an opportunity to change their lives. Unfortunately, this Labour Government seems to view charities and voluntary organisations with suspicion. Instead, they think most services are better provided by the state."

"Conservatives disagree with this approach. We want to give community groups a bigger responsibility in their local area; from running schools to taking over publicly owned assets like post offices, libraries and parks. It's about giving power to local people to decide what is best for their community."

Keep on knocking

You wear out a lot of shoe leather when campaigning on the streets of the Great Yarmouth constituency according to Brandon Lewis. The parliamentary hopeful has just hailed a massive campaign milestone as he knocked on the 10,000th door called upon during the last year.

"Too often politicians take people's views for granted. I was determined to meet as many residents as possible over the last year so I could listen to their views. It would have been easy to assume I know what people's priorities are," Brandon commented. "From Fritton all the way up the constituency to Winterton people are fed up with the old-style of politics. I agree with them, that's why I spend so much time out on the streets campaigning about the issues that really matter in our local community."

Brandon there when the boat comes in



Great Yarmouth and the North-East Norfolk coastal communities have a sea-faring tradition that stretches back centuries.

Prospective Conservative MP, Brandon Lewis, recently took the opportunity to celebrate our maritime heritage by visiting local organisations with a link to the sea.

First port of call was the Lifeboat Station near to Brandon's house in Hemsby, where he learnt about the vital service they provide for inshore rescue as well as cover on the Norfolk Broads.

"I am always impressed by the hard work and

dedication shown by our lifeboat crews along our coastline. They are often called upon to put their lives at risk to save others," commented Brandon, "They always deserve our support."

Then it was off to Winterton to meet up with cadets from TS Fearless on one of their regular training evenings.

The sea cadets allow young people to gain the skills and experience needed when at sea.

"It also boosts their self-confidence and instils self-discipline into our young people," Brandon observed.

KeepInTouch

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Giving our pensioners the support that they deserve



Conservatives will keep the Winter Fuel Allowance and free TV licences for over-75s

Conservatives have pledged to increase the state pension for all, as part of a series of measures to support pensioners.

Under Labour, two and a half million pensioners are living in poverty. We can't go on like this. A Conservative Government will re-link the value of the state pension to average earnings to ensure it continues to grow in value and to help stop the spread of means testing for pensioners.

To help pensioners struggling to pay their bills, Conservatives have also promised to work with local councils to freeze council tax for two years, and will give every home

up to £6,500 worth of energy improvements – free to householders and helping to bring fuel bills down.

The party's plans for a new home protection scheme will also end the scandal of older people being forced to sell their homes in order to pay for their residential care bills.

Conservatives have pledged to protect the benefits which are highly valued by many

pensioners – such as the Winter Fuel Allowance and free TV licences for the over-75s. David Cameron has firmly knocked back Labour's claims that these schemes would be at risk under the Conservatives, describing the accusations as 'desperate lies'.

The Shadow Pensions Secretary, Theresa May, said: 'Conservatives are committed to giving pensioners dignity and security in their old age.'

Our plans to increase the value of the state pension will do just that.'

New fears for our post offices

Subpostmasters warn vital community service still at risk

The national body representing subpostmasters has warned that thousands more post offices are at risk unless they receive backing from the Government. In their annual report, they note, that without extra government services offered through the post office network further closures would be inevitable. This alarming news follows the closure of over 6000 post offices nationwide under this Labour government.

In 2006, Brandon Lewis spearheaded the campaign to stop closures in Great Yarmouth. "Despite widespread opposition, the Labour Government and our MP ignored local opinion and pressed ahead with these closures", Brandon said, "We can't allow that to happen again, if it does we will end up losing all our post offices."

Brandon is backing Conservative proposals to strengthen Britain's post offices, this includes allowing them to operate as a "Government GP", providing advice about government services including tax returns and pension entitlements. Brandon added, "I want to encourage local councils to provide some of their services through post offices as well."



Brandon backs Conservative proposals to make Post Offices one-stop shops for Government services.

"Many subpostmasters are hanging on by their fingertips still trying desperately to continue in business and make sure that the local community still has a local post office"

National Federation of Subpostmasters, Jan 2010

Brandon backs the Gorleston hospice campaign

Brandon popped into the East Coast Hospice on Gorleston High Street to lend a hand sorting donations for sale.

Whilst he was there, he got an update about the group's future fundraising plans.

"They are working hard to raise the money for a local hospice. They are expensive facilities to build and run, that is why I want to see a new funding package for all our hospices so that the fantastic work they undertake is properly supported," says Brandon.

He continued, "The staff at the James Paget Hospital provide world-class treatment and care.

"However, patients in this area are denied an important choice of where they wish to die. A local hospice would change this. It would work superbly alongside the excellent facilities we already have at the James Paget and those planned for the East Coast Palliative Care centre."

Campaigners need to raise a massive £3 million towards the costs of the hospice that is to be built in Great Yarmouth.

Only Conservatives can stop NHS cuts

Over three years ago, David Cameron spelled out his priorities in three letters – NHS.

Since then, the Conservatives have consistently fought to protect the values the NHS stands for and have campaigned to defend the NHS from Labour's cuts and unnecessary reorganisation.

In recognition of its special place in our society, Conservatives are committed to protecting health spending in real terms and have pledged not to make the sick pay for Labour's Debt Crisis.

Hospitals to feel the axe as Treasury saves £11bn

Brandon Lewis is angry that Labour ministers will not protect the NHS from financial cuts.

"They have admitted that hospitals will be vulnerable as health trusts look to save money and improve efficiency by providing more healthcare in the community. What will this mean for the future of James Paget Hospital? This would be cut a too far. Only a Conservative government will stop these cuts."

Station campaign on track



Brandon's campaign has received massive support. It's not too late to sign the petition online at www.fixourstation.com

It has been an exciting few weeks for those involved in the "Fix Great Yarmouth Station" campaign, as the total number of people supporting the campaign tops the 3,000 mark. With this level of support, campaigners are confident that they are on track to get major changes made to the station.

"The rail companies have accepted there is a problem and they know there is a lot of strong feeling in Great Yarmouth", campaign organiser Brandon Lewis observed.

"We have a real opportunity to make a difference by making sure whoever wins the new rail franchise will be duty-bound to make big improvements to our station. The local newspaper, many local businesses and the local police are backing the campaign, this is a great example of how the Great Yarmouth community can work together to change our area."

The Fix our Station campaign team are now looking at joining the "adopt a station" programme that allows residents to take a hands-on approach in improving and looking after their station.



Please cut out the coupon and return, FREE of charge, to:

FREEPOST GREAT YARMOUTH CONSERVATIVES, Suite 20, Great Yarmouth Business Park, Great Yarmouth, NR31 0ER

VOTE FOR THE CHANGE WE NEED IN GREAT YARMOUTH

- Back the NHS – increase spending on health every year
- Act now on debt to get the economy moving
- Raise standards in schools
- Get Britain working by boosting enterprise
- Make Britain Europe's most family-friendly country
- Change politics for the better



Help make it happen: Join our local team TODAY

Your details:

Name:

Address:

Email:

Tel:

IF YOU CAN HELP THE CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE IN GREAT YARMOUTH, PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT: ✓

I will vote for Brandon Lewis in the General Election

I will display a poster to help Brandon win

I can deliver letters or leaflets in my area

I can help with indoor clerical jobs for Brandon Lewis' campaign.

Great Yarmouth Conservatives would like to use these details to keep you up to date about local campaigns. Please let us know if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.

Thank you!



Tell Brandon your views at www.brandonlewis.org