

June 2015 Parish News

Jeremy Birch

The sudden death of Jeremy Birch has shocked not just Hastings but much of East Sussex. He had been a strong leader of the Labour group for 20 years. He sought to do the best for the town. He built good relationships with other bodies to encourage significant inward investment. Not only was Jeremy a Ward councillor he also represented Old Hastings and Tressel at County Hall. He powerfully presented 2 HOTRA petitions on our behalf.

He worked hard at getting all sorts of details right to ensure the best outcomes to any decision. I saw Jeremy work with a wide range of people in an even handed, polite and intelligent manner.

The huge reductions in Hastings Council budget lead to Jeremy becoming a virtual lead officer as well. He often attended our meetings and always responded positively to the issues raised.

The Hastings Labour group are now facing a huge challenge in finding ways to sustain Jeremy's work. Hastings has lost one of its most powerful Champions.

Amber Rudd MP

Congratulations to our President on her re-election as the Member for Hastings and Rye. Her subsequent appointment as Minister for Energy and Climate Change reflects the work Amber did between 2010 and 2015. Like Jeremy, Amber has many strengths. She is determined to secure inward investment and promote better opportunities for local people and businesses.

Previously Hastings was lucky to have had such an excellent MP as Michael Foster. As a Junior Minister Michael 'knocked on every door' at Westminster to raise awareness of Hastings needs. Now Amber is at the top table. Hastings is very fortunate that the town's profile is continuing to be positively promoted. Jeremy Birch, Amber Rudd and Michael Foster have each done so much for the town in their different ways to promote the Common Good. Each recognised the privilege of representing local people. Together they demonstrate the importance of Parliamentary democracy. Our thanks to each of them.

HOTRA's next big challenge - West Street

There seems no disputing the fact that West Street is the most neglected street in the whole town. We had written to Jeremy Birch in April about the pressing need for significant investment. It remains our number 1 priority for 2015

Old Town Fire Safety

On 3rd June at the Jenny Lind there will be a meeting organised by East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service especially for traders in George Street and the High Street.