



**Conservatives
Abroad**

Conservatives Abroad Branch Reports 2014

Conservatives Abroad has over 60 branches and representatives worldwide

**This document contains the details from 20 branches and representatives
that have submitted their annual reports**

September 2014

www.conservativesabroad.org

www.facebook.com/conservativesabroaduk

Branch Reports 2014

Branch

Hong Kong

Branch details

Re-launched 2013

10 members, as last year

Income is as last year

Activities

Scottish referendum debate

Scottish referendum results breakfast

Lunch for visiting Conservatives from Somerset

Drinks for Alun Cairns MP

Drinks with Australian Liberals

We hold a Conservative Policy Forum every month

Highlight of the Year

Scottish referendum debate. We were joined by PPS Alberto Costa for a joint event with the St George's Society for a lively evening of debate

Contact Samuel Olsen, Chairman

Branch

Beijing Blue Club

Branch details

Established 2011

Membership same as last year

Income up

Activities

Drinks reception with Rt Hon Ken Clarke MP

Breakfast with Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP

Reception for Conservative Parliamentary Group, including

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Sarah Newton MP, Neil Parish MP

Supper with Cllr David Simmonds

Informal Drinks parties

Summer wine and cheese party / Barbeque

Highlight of the Year

Reception for the Conservative Parliamentary Group held in an ancient temple involving an extended exchange of views.

Contact Mark Pinner, Chairman



Branch Reports 2014

Branch

South West France

Branch details

Membership high and stable
High level of fund raising and substantial
contribution made to CCHQ

Activities

Lunch and AGM with CA Chairman
June meeting and lunch
Summer BBQ
October lunch
Christmas lunch

Contact, David Rollston-Smith, Chairman

Branch

Shanghai Blue

Branch details

Formed 2013
Stable membership

Activities

Started the 'Brit club' for business people in shanghai which is
proving popular with a monthly event attracting between 30 and
100 people from whom we will be able to tap electoral support.

Highlight

Meeting David Cameron in London in February

Contact William Vanbergen, Chairman

Branch Reports 2014

Branch

Madrid

Branch details

Formed 2009

Membership up

Activities

**Spreading of word about the branch.
Notifying other associations.
Notifying various media and internet**

Highlight

**The inauguration of Margaret Thatcher Plaza in central Madrid.
See “Special Branch Report” at the end of this document**

Contact Jaime Gamell-Riera, Chairman

Branch

Bahrain

Branch details

Formed 2011

52 members, up from 2013

Activities

**Four ministers reception with Alan Duncan MP, Alistair Burt MP, Phillip Lee MP and Kwasi Kwarteng MP
Reception for Philip Hammond MP
Christmas dinner Recruitment drive luncheon
Buffet luncheon at Sofitel Hotel Bahrain -aim to be high profile
Photo call with William Hague MP
Regular monthly committee meetings
Press interview reference registering to vote - this appeared in the Gulf Daily News
Establishing and working on Facebook and LinkedIn**

Highlight

Visit by Philip Hammond Very well received as he managed to speak to all groups and he delivered a very interesting speech

Contact Sandra Whitford, Chairman

Branch Reports 2014

Branch

Dubai and Northern Emirates

Branch details

Founded 2005

Membership 150, up 20 on 2013

Activities

Breakfast meeting with Francis Maude MP

Coffee and croissants with Brooks Newmark MP

Wine tasting evening

Plus a number of smaller informal social events

We have been liaising with the British Business Group and other relevant organisations to promote voter registration. We are planning a major push in this area towards the end of 2014

Contact Peter Gray, Chairman

Branch

Sydney

Branch details

Former 2012

28 members and friends

191 Facebook followers

Activities

Dinner with Daniel Hannan MEP

Branch AGM

Breakfast with Lord Livingston, Minister of State for Trade & Investment

Autumn Social Event

Scottish Referendum Tartan Breakfast

Christmas Party

Branch meetings every other month

A mail out introducing the branch to all members from the historical members list provided by CCHQ

Contact Nikki Kinloch, Chairman



Branch Reports 2014

Branch

Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain

Branch details

Founded 1984

66 members, up 5 on 2013

Income up on 2013

Activities

New Year Supper

Queens Birthday Lunch

Summer Lunch

AGM

Highlight

49 attendees at the New Year Supper

Contact Anne Reardon-Smith, Chairman

Branch

Singapore

Branch details

Founded 2004

Mailing list of over 1,000

Income up on 2013

Activities

Drinks with Francis Maude MP and Hugo Swire MP and a

Fund raising dinner with Stephen Hammond MP

Social drinks and luncheons on an ad hoc basis

Highlight

The Stephen Hammond dinner

Contact Colin Blackwell, Chairman

Branch Reports 2014

Branch

Costa del Sol

Branch details

Founded 1986

40 members, down on 2013

Income strong but slightly down on 2013

Activities

Dinners and lunches with visiting MPs

Summer Ball

Coffee mornings

Lunches

Christmas Ball

Wine tasting

Highlight

Summer Ball. More than 55 people attended. Dinner and dance with cava and canapes.

Contact Alex Radford, Chairman



Branch Reports 2014

South of France

Formed 2014
Virtual Branch,
53 Facebook followers
Regular political posts
Contact – Paul Barnes, Representative

Bombay

Formed 2011
Contact – Dhara Anjaria, Representative

Indonesia

Formed 2013
Contact – Nina Strobel, Representative

New York

Formed 2008
40 members, down from 2013
Contact – Isabel Carden -Chairman

Patrons

Formed 2014
13 members
Regular speaker events at CCHQ
together with Team 2000
Contact – Rula Al-Adasani

Cape Tories, The Macmillan Club

Formed 2010
15 members
Contact – Philippe-Joseph Salazar, Co-Chairman

Greece

Formed 2012
2014-15 is re-launch year
Contact – Erika Angelidi, Representative

Oman Tories

Founded 2009
We hosted an audience with James Wharton MP
Contact - Nabs Al Busaidi, Chairman

Conservatives Abroad Special Branch Report - Madrid

The inauguration of "Margaret Thatcher Plaza" in central Madrid

This was emblematic, as it is the first publicly located area dedicated to Lady Thatcher anywhere in the world, and thus unique.

The event was very well represented and attended by Sir Mark and Lady Thatcher, The British Ambassador Simon Manley, Conor Burns MP, The Mayoress of Madrid, Ana Botella, The President of the PP in Madrid, Esperanza Aguirre, Fernando Martinez Vidal, Councillor for the District of Salamanca, Ben Harris-Quinney, Chairman Bow Group and many other prominent political figures from the PP. All my Committee and members attended.

We managed to get a personal message from David Cameron which was read out at the event. A singular success all round!

My personal thanks go to the wonderful Heather Harper, who worked diligently to overcome the many obstacles she faced to ensure a result. The great success of the event bears testimony to her endeavour. Thank you Heather! Of relevance is the number of PP delegates who demonstrated an interest in joining Conservatives Abroad Madrid. It augurs well for the future of our Branch.

Jamie Gamell-Riera, Chairman, Conservatives Abroad, Madrid



Conservatives Abroad Branch Reports 2014, Special Report, Mallorca

In April of this year (2014) Due to the fact membership was at an all time low the Chairman of our Mallorca Branch called time and closed down the Branch. After 24 years of actively supporting the Conservative Party and having been one of the founder branches of Conservatives Abroad we closed.

This is undoubtedly very sad but I'm not here to be negative nor do I lay blame on anyone its merely that... Mallorca was a very traditional Branch and times and tastes it seems change.

Our last two Chairman struggled to maintain the level of interest and the membership numbers we had enjoyed up to around four years ago. A possible cause is the fact the Island has an increase in the number of Social Media clubs which has had an impact for sure; but from the straw pole I have conducted it seems our members had expectations of returning a Conservative Government which have not been fulfilled. Britain has a Coalition Government nota Conservative Government and I'm afraid "that" point isn't getting across.

When the Mallorca Branch closed its doors I had a discussion with Pippa Broom at CCHQ and offered to be the official representative of the Party here on the Island. At least now when we get a request from a visiting MP or MEP we can assist them in getting together the local press and Conservative minded people for them to share their views and get their message out.

One such visit was just before the European Elections when Daniel Hannan MEP, a keen and well known supporter of Conservatives Abroad, visited the island. His office had contacted our former Chairman who passed the letter onto me asking for help in coming here to address local residence and business people. This was done at less than 3 days notice. I managed to secure a three page spread in the local paper with excellent photo coverage. A genuinely lively debate took place with around 40 people attending.

So, if this can be achieved in such a short time span, why don't we re-open the Branch I hear you say. Well, It's my dearest wish that we do. However I've been chairman of this Branch on two occasions and for a total of 7 years and president for 3 years so I feel it is time for others to take up the mantle as chairman of the Branch with his/her own Committee...I still have this hope!

As Party Representative I intend to play an active role with raising awareness of voter's rights amongst the British communities. I have good contacts and a good relationship with our local English speaking Newspaper and the guys who run the two British Radio stations. With this support I aim to help and encourage those people who still have a vote in Britain to exercise that right... and to vote Conservative !

I have been asked to pass on sincere thanks to all the CA Team from our former Chairman, Ivan Lythgoe, and to pay tribute to Mrs Lesley Taylor BEM for the valuable knowledge and support she gave Ivan. As always Lesley went the extra mile in helping him. Grateful thanks too to Heather Harper for also doing all she could to assist Ivan and offering encouragement in all he did.

Peter Newey. September 2014. Mallorca.

Conservatives Abroad Branch Reports 2014

Our branches are central to the success of Conservatives Abroad worldwide. I cannot stress enough how much I and the Party appreciate the dedication and hard work that you all commit to flying the flag for Britain and the Conservatives. I am looking forward to working with you all over the coming months to help deliver a majority Conservative Government in 2015.

Thank you so much and best wishes

**Heather Harper
Chairman, Conservatives Abroad**