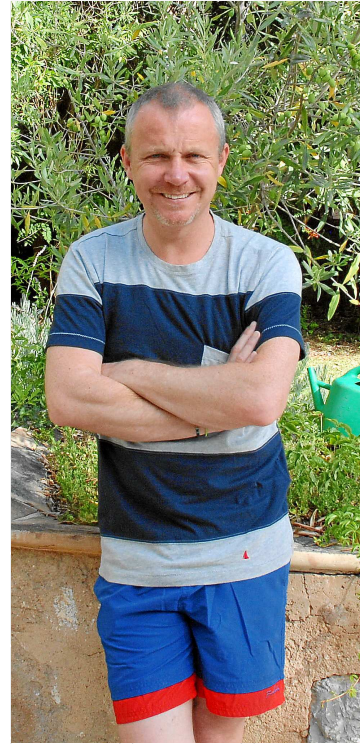


The Sunday Interview Humphrey Carter talks to Mike Todd, Chairman of the Sydney Branch of Conservatives Abroad who is on holiday in Soller with the family.

“Aussie Tories Abroad back Cameron all the way...”



Mike Todd has the kettle on and is waiting for the Prime Minister to give him a call before he returns to Sydney!

MIKE Todd, Chairman of the Sydney branch of Conservatives Abroad, and his family flew all the way from Sydney for the annual family reunion holiday in Mallorca and little did he know he would be on the island at the same time as the Prime Minister, David Cameron.

“It’s an amazing coincidence. I sent a tongue-in-cheek email to head office saying that should the Prime Minister feel like some good old Cumbrian hospitality and a chat over

a cup of tea, all he had to do was give us a call.” Mike told the Bulletin this week.

The international branding expert originally from Cumbria and explained that every year, the whole family gets together for a summer holiday and this year, just like Cameron, they decided on Mallorca.

“What a wonderful choice. It’s absolutely beautiful up here in Soller, the island is really quite stunning, we couldn’t have chosen a better place and it only took us 31 hours to get from door to door,” he said.

And, the arrival of two

Royal Navy mine sweepers in the Port yesterday really made his holiday because Mike began his professional life in the Navy, but under the waves.

In 1984 at the age of 16 he joined the Navy and, as Able Seaman Todd, was stationed on the hunter-killer nuclear submarine HMS Turbulent.

“It was a wonderful experience. I remained on Turbulent until I left the Navy, still as an Able Seaman, in 1992 having travelled all over the world.

“Back then, the Cold War was still gripping us all and the Navy did much more to fly the flag.

“On Turbulent, either for operational or protocol reasons, I travelled the world, I even went as far down as the Falklands and I was pleased to see that Turbulent was active during the Libyan conflict but I think that may have been her last operation because she is due to be decommissioned,” Mike said.

“And, when I went into business and set up my own company I named it ‘Two Decks’, after having spent

all those years on two decks on the submarine,” he added.

Mike has always been an active member of the Conservative Party and from 2006 to 2010, he was a Councillor in Wandsworth ward which took in Burrenness power station.

“That was a very interesting experience as well and it was great to have been elected and due to the

Queensway ward being a very big one, I was involved in a very different kind of local politics. Having said that, it was very hard work but very rewarding.

“However, after having been in London with my wife from New Zealand for ten years, in May, 2010, we finally decided to move to Australia.

“It was the right time for the kids education wise and she wanted to be nearer

home. So off we went, but before going I got in touch with the new branch of Conservatives Abroad in Sydney which had an Australian keeping the seat of chairman warm until someone more suited came along and I put my name forward.

“So, pretty much after landing in Sydney I took over the branch which is now four years old.

“However, over the past two years, we’ve set up the website and social media newsfeeds and are slowly increasing the number of members.

“There’s a huge expatriate market for us to tap into and nowadays, with all the modern technology, it is much easier for expatriates to keep in touch with their family back in the UK and up to date with what is going on.” Mike said.

“We may well be the bunch furthest away from Downing Street but all the members are still passionate about what happens back in the UK and of course, all those who still call, vote.

“But I agree, it would be nice to see the fifteen-year voting rule abolished because it would encourage more people to join the bunch and get actively involved with fund raising and helping the party back home.” Mike said.

“Just before I left, we held an Olympic Jubilee party with lawn bowls and all that up in Paddington (a Sydney suburb where I happened to have lived once) and that was great fun - it served to catch people’s attention and get more expatriates involved. That is what my primary aim is right now and to continue holding fundraising events every month for the party.

“We are ready to do anything Cameron wants and we support him all the way.” “I would like Cameron to

“Eight years on a nuclear hunter-killer submarine taught me a great deal and, little did I know at the time, prepared me for my professional career in business.”

“My message for David Cameron from Conservatives Abroad in Sydney is that we support him all the way, loud and clear, and we’re ready to help whenever he needs.”

home. We have the new Astute class submarines coming in and they are world beaters, just like our armed forces as a whole. If they have to be slimmed down but made even more efficient, then so be it. They will be better equipped and trained to confront the challenges of the future,” he said.

“The atmosphere during the games in the British pubs where the expatriates tend to congregate was absolutely amazing and the warmth of the games was felt all the way back in Australia,” he added.

“I know when Cameron gets back to the UK after his Majorcan holiday, he has some tough challenges ahead but we fully support him and are confident that he and the party, which I am sure has been buoyed by the success and the global response to the Olympics, will be able to overcome them and move forward in the right direction,” Mike said.

And, with regards to the down-sizing of the armed forces and the shrinking of the UK’s fleet of nuclear submarines Mike agrees that perhaps it is necessary.

“Warfare has changed a great deal over the years. It’s changed a lot since I was in the Navy, so perhaps we do need to prepare ourselves for a different fu-



ture. We have the new Astute class submarines coming in and they are world beaters, just like our armed forces as a whole. If they have to be slimmed down but made even more efficient, then so be it. They will be better equipped and trained to confront the challenges of the future,” he said.

“So, my message to Cameron on behalf of Conservatives Abroad in Sydney is that we support him all the way, loud and clear,” he added.

But, while Mike is not trying to drum up greater support and funding for the Tory party, he runs a leading international branding company. “What we do, is

help European companies move into the rapidly expanding Asian and Pacific markets and I have to admit that all my experiences in the Navy prepared me extremely well for the business world, especially one that involves a great deal of travel and having to meet different people from different cultures.

“Not only I learned the necessity for discipline, integrity, loyalty and commitment, but also the importance of initiative, sharpness, clarity, efficiency and accountability,” Mike explained.

In the meantime, he has got the kettle on up in Soller just in case the Prime Minister should give him a call.

EXCHANGE RATES AUGUST 18

CURRENCIES	1€	1£
Pound Sterling	0.808	0.792
US Dollar	1.265	1.239
Canadian Dollar	1.259	1.233
Swiss Franc	1.234	1.209
Swedish Crown	8.507	8.334
Norwegian Crown	7.536	7.382
Danish Crown	7.652	7.496
Japanese Yen	100.749	98.688
Australian Dollar	1.222	1.197

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