



# **CONSERVATIVES ABROAD**

## **DIRECTORY**

2015

[www.conservativesabroad.org](http://www.conservativesabroad.org)

 **Conservatives**  
**Abroad**

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**Conservatives Abroad plays an important part in representing the Party overseas, connecting our members around the world and helping us achieve our strategic goals. As Chairmen of the Party our role is to work with our members, wherever they live, to achieve this.**

**Overseas voters can be the deciding factor in those close marginal seats we will need to win**

I became Chairman of Conservatives Abroad in 2001 taking over from Robin Hodgson, now Lord Hodgson of Astley Abbots. We had a number of branches at that time but there was much to be done to improve communication and to increase electoral registration. Registration was a very complex procedure and not surprisingly most of those living and working overseas were not registered.

Encouraged by the late Dick Pantlin (founder of the British School in Brussels) we persuaded the Foreign Office that their embassies and consulates could be pro-active. We also persuaded the Electoral Commission under Sam

**to ensure a Conservative majority Government in 2015, and members of Conservatives Abroad will have an important role imparting our achievements and message to those voters living in their communities.**

**The Lord Feldman of Elstree  
Party Chairman**

Younger that not only should the registration forms be on-line but that on-line completion would greatly increase registration. Despite this registration remains a challenge for us all.

Meanwhile I enjoyed many visits to branches, the problems of the registration of political organisations in Spain for example, and the sense of common purpose which has continued under Caroline Abel Smith OBE from 2008 and is now flourishing under Heather Harper.

**The Rt. Hon. Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE  
Government Chief Whip, House of Lords**

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# CONSERVATIVES ABROAD HISTORY

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**Conservatives Abroad was set up by the late David Smith OBE in 1985. In an extract from 'My Memoirs and More' he describes the beginning:**

"In sixteen years as a Young Conservative Organiser and a Constituency Agent I managed to bring Cecil Parkinson into politics, assist Norman Tebbit into front line politics and be the Election Agent responsible for Tom Arnold gaining the Liberal seat of Hazel Grove – one of the only two gains in October 1974. Those three events had great significance in my political career and Conservatives Abroad.

In 1977, I joined CCO as Deputy Director of Local Government. A Successful time, principally in charge of privatisation in Local Councils where TU dominated Direct Labour Organisations held the democratically elected councils to ransom. The Fortunes changed, the Party Chairman, Cecil Parkinson, resigned. His successor reorganised CCO. I was offered and accepted a post in a Trade Association at a commercial salary much higher than

at CCO! It was a mistake, I hated it.

Fortunately there was a further cabinet re-shuffle in 1984. Norman Tebbit was made Party Chairman and Tom Arnold his deputy. Soon after, I had a call one evening from Tom. He and Norman wanted me to return to CCO to run a campaign to register newly enfranchised overseas citizens. I returned in 1985 as Director of an un-named department under the wing of Jim Spicer MP, Chairman of the International Office.

I was given a secretary (who didn't last very long) and an office nearby to CCO. There was no guidance, just a copy of the Representation of the People Act extending the franchise to expats. In a way I was fortunate in that I had a blank canvas. My first task was to devise a name for the organisation. I opted for Conservatives Abroad."

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**Rt. Hon David Cameron MP**



[www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)

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# YOUR VOTE MAKES A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

**Policies created in the UK have a direct influence on expatriates wherever you live.**

**Conservatives Abroad** work hard to address the rights of **all UK citizens living overseas** and to encourage voter registration by making the process easier.



**Value your Vote  
register now**

**[www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)**



Tell your overseas family and friends  
about **Conservatives Abroad**

**[www.conservativesabroad.org](http://www.conservativesabroad.org)**

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