



Steve with members of the South Wonston Senior Citizens Club and BELOW speaking recently in the House of Commons

# SECURING OUR FUTURE

Since 2010, we've been working to a long-term economic plan to turn Britain around. **MP Steve Brine** tells *Local Life* of five key areas in which the coalition government has made a difference for those of us living across Winchester & Chandler's Ford.



## The Famous 5...

- 1** There are now a record number of people in work in our country. The overall jobless count in this area has fallen by 68% since 2010; it's down 46% among the over-50's and an impressive 79% among 18-24 year-olds. That's more people in-work providing for their families or young people getting into work for the first time.
- 2** We've raised the personal income tax allowance to £10,000 meaning no-one working 30 hours a week on the minimum wage will pay any. If we remain in Government we'll lift it to £12,500.
- 3** This Government has frozen petrol duty and council tax, abolished Air Passenger Duty for
- under 12's and helped thousands get on the property ladder through Help to Buy.
- 4** We've capped benefits to reward work and if we win in May, we will raise the higher rate threshold at which people pay the 40p tax rate to £50,000. It is currently £41,900.
- 5** The state pension has increased by £800, we've protected key pensioners benefits as we promised and abolished the unfair annuity rule for over-75's.

**All of this is possible because Britain now has the fastest growing economy in the Western World.**

Read more: [www.stevebrine.com/economy](http://www.stevebrine.com/economy)

ANOTHER 100% POSITIVE PUBLICATION AT NO COST TO THE TAXPAYER BY CONSERVATIVE MP, STEVE BRINE

# Local Life

For Winchester, Chandler's Ford, Alresford and surrounding villages

## FAMILY FIRST

Steve talks about five years as our local MP and juggling work with his young family.

CENTRE PAGES



### PRIORITY NHS

Wanting the best – sticking to the facts.

PAGES 2-3





# Priority NHS

Steve Brine continues to work responsibly – and calmly – to keep constituents informed as proposals for a new critical care hospital locally are discussed. Last year he carried out a constituency-wide Health Check Survey and chaired two open meetings in Winchester – one focused solely on maternity services and obstetric care.

He told *Local Life*; “We are some way yet from the commissioners of local health services even agreeing to put these ideas out to public consultation but, as a responsible Member of Parliament, I want us to have the fullest possible understanding of what’s being proposed and to give my constituents every chance to question it.

“I remain committed to keeping the best services in Winchester but to do so in a way that is sustainable and above all, safe. Some of the things being put about locally are the height of irresponsibility but I will continue to focus on the facts. After



almost five years as the MP here, and someone who has actually had two children born at the RHCH, I hope my constituents know my commitment to the local NHS.

“Of course I welcome a £150 million investment in the local NHS providing the 24/7 world class consultant cover we don’t have right now and it is, ultimately, about the whole range of future services available. There are however many questions that need to be answered if this were to move to a consultation including access by public transport to the new facility and obviously the impact on services at Basingstoke and Winchester hospitals.”

Stay updated and see Steve’s consistent work on the issue over more than nine years: [www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs](http://www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs)

## ALL-PARTY GROUPS

Steve is also closely involved with a wide range of groups including Parkinson’s, Ovarian Cancer, Autism, Maternity, Muscular Dystrophy and Speech Therapy.

He adds; “Few people know about APPGs but they do so much of the good work in Parliament and help keep issues in the front of Ministers’ minds.”

More: [www.stevebrine.com/APPGs](http://www.stevebrine.com/APPGs)



**BELOW** Steve and his cross-party breast cancer group with PM David Cameron in the Cabinet Room at No.10 and (left) chairing its major inquiry **BOTTOM** Wear it Pink! Steve in touch with his feminine side



## IN PARLIAMENT

Steve’s strong constituency interest in health followed him to Westminster where he has scrutinized some key parts of coalition health policy and worked closely with successive Health Secretaries.

### CHILDREN’S HEART SURGERY

Steve has worked a great deal with the major Congenital Heart Disease Review known as ‘Safe and Sustainable’.

He says; “We fought and we won, which meant keeping this specialist surgery in Southampton, but now the review has been re-opened so we need to stay on the case”.

More; [www.stevebrine.com/childrenshearturgery](http://www.stevebrine.com/childrenshearturgery)

## BREAST CANCER

Steve has been co-chair of the All-Party Breast Cancer Group since 2010 producing a number of key reports and regularly briefing the Prime Minister.

He told *Local Life*; “We’ve done amazingly well in the battle against breast cancer but we still lose 12,000 women each year to the disease and that’s someone’s mother, daughter, sister, grandmother or friend. If I am re-elected in May I want to do even more in the new Parliament to keep the issue on the front-page, not least because our area has among the highest incidence of breast cancer in the country.”

More, including Steve’s support for the Haven in Wessex, at: [www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer](http://www.stevebrine.com/breastcancer)







# IT'S NICE TO BE IMPORTANT BUT...

**Steve Brine** speaks candidly as he completes five years as our local MP

■ **What's been the best bit since your election?**

After four years as a candidate it has probably just been doing the job. There is however, one part of an MP's work the public never gets to see and that's our casework. It's also the most important. My team and I have helped thousands of constituents since 2010 and it's still the most rewarding aspect of the job.

■ **And the worst?**

I have learned this job will take as much as you give and I'm probably a bit of a workaholic if I'm honest. It's seven days-a-week and that's tough no matter how much you

love what you do. Juggling a busy constituency with a young family (William was born at the RHCH just a few months after I was elected) has been a huge challenge. Susie is absolutely amazing and seldom complains. I don't think I realise how much she puts up with or how lucky I am. Truth is, I did think really hard about standing again but I think I'm a much better MP at the end of my first term than I was at the start and I want to take that experience, for the benefit of my constituents, into a second-term.

■ **Can an MP ever really put family first?**

Yes, but I'm no different to

thousands of the working parents I represent where the physical office is no longer the place of work – it follows you! I think at the end of the day you have to be disciplined and know when to put the iPhone down. Also, children do seem to have a unique way of bringing you back to earth. Only the other day Emily somehow got me painting a ceramic figure of Elsa from Frozen. She looked quite good in the end.

■ **Coalition Government – that must have been interesting?**

That's one word for it! The electorate didn't make a clear decision in 2010 so we had to get on with it

or plunge the country into a second election and financial chaos. I've worked in Government with Conservative and Lib Dem Ministers (some good, some bad) and at the end of the day you have a job to do. I think history will actually view this coalition, on-balance, favourably.

■ **It's nice to be important but... what does that mean?**

My grandfather was a gardener his whole life and he was a true gentleman. He once said to me; 'it's nice to be important Steve, but it's much more important to be nice'. It's the best piece of advice I've ever been given.

■ **Best question you've been asked as an MP?**

It's between 'Are your suits ever itchy?' and 'Mr Brine, how did God save the Queen?'

■ **Quick fire questions:**

**Night in or night out?**  
Night in

**Ambition as a schoolboy?**  
Footballer

**Favourite film?**  
Back to the Future

**What's on your iPod right now?**  
Hundreds of things but I'm rediscovering Nick Drake at the moment. A true genius.

**Favourite book?**  
Box of Delights by John Masfield

**Best TV show?**  
The Inbetweeners or Ski Sunday

**Fantasy dinner party guests?**  
Too many to mention but Michael J Fox and John Lennon would be right up there.

**Cats or dogs?**  
Dogs, obviously

**Wine or Beer?**  
Beer

**Favourite quote?**  
"The more I practice the luckier I get"  
(Golfer Gary Player)



Steve with his dog Popcorn

Steve talking to media students from the University of Winchester

At the Chandler's Ford Farmers' market

William (11-days old) helping Dad with his casework in 2010





# COOL FOR SCHOOL

Steve with his daughter, Emily (7) at last Summer's Watercress Festival in Alresford.



With two young children of his own, local MP Steve Brine knows all too well the need for sufficient – high quality – primary school places locally and a huge focus of his first term as our MP has been addressing this issue.

Looking across Steve's Winchester & Chandler's Ford constituency it is a much improved picture with £10m of hard fought funding from Hampshire County Council bringing hundreds of new places to Hampshire's first 'all-through' 4-16 school at The Westgate and a string of existing primaries.

Steve says; "As well as campaigning to get new places into the system I've managed, through my casework, to help a great number of local parents who were struggling to get a place for their child.

"This problem was not going away and we're very fortunate to have the new places now online across the city of Winchester and some of the suburbs.

"In recent years we have not had a huge problem in Chandler's Ford but a few issues are starting to come across my desk from parents there so we need to get on top of it early and ensure Hampshire have their long-term planning right."

See much more at: [www.stevebrine.com/schoolplaces](http://www.stevebrine.com/schoolplaces)

## NEW ACADEMY

Steve will serve as a Board member of a new Academy Trust set up by the University of Winchester who will establish a new primary school at Barton Farm. The facility is due to open in a few years time.

The MP added that he was continuing to work to make the best of Barton Farm now it is set to be built and revealed he will serve as a Trustee of the new Primary Academy that will come as part of the development. Winchester's newest school will be run by the University of Winchester after it was granted permission to proceed by Government.

# MOVIN' ON UP

The past five years has seen Steve Brine successfully campaign for local transport infrastructure meaning major investment for our area on road, rail, on foot – and in lycra!



## GET BRITAIN CYCLING

Did you know, our MP is a key member of the All-Party Cycling Group in Parliament?

As Vice Chair Steve was central to the landmark 'Get Britain Cycling' inquiry which is pushing all parties – and local authorities - to up their game.

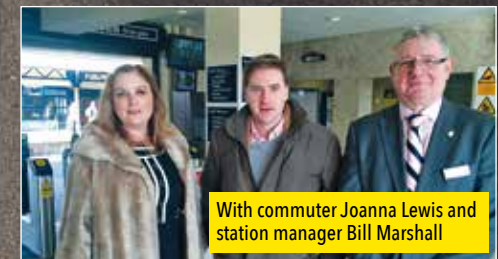
See more and download the report; [www.stevebrine.com/cycling](http://www.stevebrine.com/cycling)

- Junction 9 at Winnall sees a comprehensive package of improvements worth upwards of £200m



Seeing first hand the laying of the new quieter surface on the M3

- New quieter surface on the M3 from junction 9 through 14 done by April 2015
- £3.7m investment at Winchester Railway Station including increased parking, new footbridge, on-train wi-fi and improved late night safety



With commuter Joanna Lewis and station manager Bill Marshall

- Safe crossings delivered (at last) for St Cross and Andover Road by Osborne School which won Steve Brine the BRAKE national road safety award.

Find out more and watch our short-films at:

[www.stevebrine.com/issues](http://www.stevebrine.com/issues)