



THE RT. HON. SIR ROBERT ATKINS MEP
Representing the NORTH WEST of ENGLAND

Contact Nos: 01995-602225 (H)
07770254444(M)

01995-605690 (Fax) 0032-228-45373 (Brussels)

E-Mail: ratsmep@sir-robertatkins.org

www.sir-robertatkins.org



Conservatives
in the European Parliament

Newsletter Edition 79

May 2011

Since the last newsletter, I have been on the Campaign Trail so, of necessity, it is a summary of the Atkins' Perambulation rather than of recent events in Parliament - which anyway did not sit for part of the time. I visited and campaigned in twenty Boroughs and clocked up over 3000 miles - hard work but worth every minute, not least in meeting yet another selection of active party supporters and candidates, together with many old friends.

As usual, I show a chart of the gains and losses to which you can refer for [information](#). We made a net loss of 65 seats, gaining 19 new seats in the process. But this stark statistic hides the personal anguish and blow to morale that losing one's seat causes. I know - I've been there. Many of the 84 losses were dedicated Councillors, doing their best for their constituents and getting little thanks for their trouble. The Party owes all of you an immense debt of gratitude and I do hope that, in the immortal words of Fred Astaire, "... *you pick yourselves up, dust yourselves down and start all over again!*" We need you to do so.

It would be invidious to mention names but I could not help but notice three stalwarts who did not make it. **Tina Macur** (Barrow), **Debi Jones** (Sefton) and **Michael Winstanley** (Wigan). Three more committed Tories you would be hard put to find and I mention them only to highlight the work that all defeated candidates have contributed.

I enjoyed the visits - as shown in the photographs - but I reserve a special word for **Cockermouth (Allerdale)**. You may recall the devastating floods last year which wrecked the town centre and surrounds. All has now been repaired, renovated or restored and I was delighted to meet many people who I had seen at their most traumatic time and who were now back up and running. Congratulations to all involved.

We lost control of eight councils and thanks are due to the leaderships of those authorities who did their best to implement Tory philosophy and policies during their terms in office.

But there was quite a lot of good news to record, with 4 gains in the eternally-divided **City of Lancaster**, 3 in **Ribble Valley** and other achievements in **Pendle**, **Rochdale**, **South Lakeland**, **Stockport** and **West Lancashire**. Special mention, however, of **Eden**. When I first became an MEP, twelve years ago, there was only 1 Tory Councillor on Eden but, under the tutelage of **Gordon Nicolson** and **John Thompson**, they have fought tooth and nail to increase their representation until, with a further 4 gains this year, they have now reached the dizzy heights of 16 Conservative Councillors and effective control of their authority. A splendid achievement!

And finally, **Dulcie** struggled in at **Garstang** - with an increased share of the vote, topping the poll and gaining, with her ward colleagues, the only swing from Labour to the Conservatives in the Borough of **Wyre**. Must be the name!

Many thanks again to all involved in the 2011 Campaign. Congratulations to the winners, commiserations to the defeated and better luck next time.

Paul Atkins



Allerdale (Cockermouth)



Barrow (New Barns)



Blackburn



Bolton (Little Lever)



Bury (Moorside)



Cheshire East (Nantwich)



Cheshire West (Ellesmere Port)



Eden (Appleby, Bongate)



Hyndburn (Overton)



Sefton (Formby)



South Ribble (Hutton)



Stockport (Romiley)



Trafford (Broadheath)



Wirral (Bebington)



West Lancs (Derby and Scott)



Wyre (Garstang)



RE-ELECTED!!