**2018 Chairman’s Report – Cllr Sandra Barnes MBE**

It has been my pleasure to continue as your Chairman for the year ended December 2018.

Nationally, it has been difficult to keep up to speed on the Brexit negotiations trying to understand the ebbs and flows from one week to the next.

Locally, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) has hardly been out of the news, for all the wrong reasons. As a Conservative it has been difficult to explain to people that there are some good news stories, not least that South Northants Council (SNC) has always been well run and debt free.

Those of us, who are South Northamptonshire Council councillors, will try to influence our Colleagues from NCC, Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council who will be joining the new West Northants Unitary Council in 2020 where we can demonstrate good practice, value for money and an outstanding waste collection here in the county. The selection process for people who wish to serve in the new Unitary Council will commence at the end of the month.

* The Ladies Luncheon Club continues to provide good speakers and a convivial atmosphere at Whittlebury Hall and we thank them for all their efforts in 2018.
* The Patrons Club continues to meet regularly and we mourned the death of Michael Savage in December who had worked so hard for the benefit of Conservatism.
* The Business Club which now meets at Lunch Time at Whittlebury Hall continues to flourish. The business members value the opportunity to hear our MP and to raise questions that concern them.
* We participated in the Gala Dinner for Conservatives in the Northamptonshire constituencies. The Home Secretary was the Speaker and I am pleased to report he did wear Church’s Shoes!

I regularly attend, on your behalf, the area meeting for the constituencies and I also attend as Chairman the National Convention.

Daisy Peck left us for pastures new on 8th February 2019 and we warmly thank her for her enthusiasm (particularly dawn raids) and energy that she brought to the job. We wish her well. We welcome Amy Howard who is our new administrator who started recently. I would like to thank our volunteers particularly Rose Freeman who looks after membership and Carol Clark who is our Hon. Treasurer. I would also like to thanks my colleagues who serve on the Management team and the Executive Council. And, not least, to you our members, without whom we wouldn’t have an Association!

Finally to our MP who has been working particularly hard this year, many thanks to you on behalf of all our members.

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