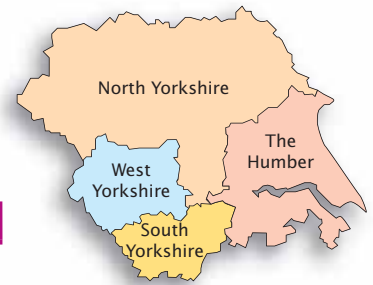


# Conservative MEP Timothy Kirkhope

## Delivering for Yorkshire and the Humber *Annual Report 2009*



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

### Dear Fellow Conservative

2009 has been an eventful year! I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all of you for the outstanding results we achieved for the party in Yorkshire and the Humber at the European and county elections last June. I would like to thank you for the effort that went into these elections, the knocking on doors, delivering leaflets, and of course raising the money to pay for it all. Caroline and I are very grateful for your support and that of the regional team during this last year.



As Leader of the Conservative MEPs, I have been:

- Working closely with David Cameron and William Hague to form our new European Conservative and Reformists Group in the European Parliament;

### New Alliance for EU Reform

Following the European Elections in June 2009, Conservative MEPs, led by Timothy Kirkhope MEP have delivered on David Cameron's pledge to form a new alliance of MEPs in the European Parliament. Conservative MEPs are proud to sit as members of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group with allies from seven other EU countries. Timothy said, "We are very excited about this important new development in European politics. The ECR is a reforming, centre-right mainstream grouping and we hold the balance of power on key issues in the European Parliament."

- At the forefront of setting the standard for transparency and openness on expenses and Conservative MEPs now regularly publish their details on line ([www.conservativeeurope.com](http://www.conservativeeurope.com));
- Ensuring that Conservative MEPs live up to the commitment we gave to the British people in our manifesto;

As your MEP for Yorkshire and the Humber, I have been:

- Standing up for your regional interests in the European Parliament. Also, I am attending and speaking at association events across the region two or three times a week. If you would like me to speak at one of your local events please email me at [timothy.kirkhope@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:timothy.kirkhope@europarl.europa.eu);
- Supporting you on issues such as opposing development of Greenfield sites, supporting road improvements, protecting rural bus and postal services, helping petitioners from Sheffield and welcoming Yorkshire visitors to the European Parliament.

I will of course, continue to help you all in your Associations – we have a huge task ahead of us in 2010, and I will be with you every step of the way.



Rt Hon David Cameron MP and Timothy Kirkhope MEP

Commenting, William Hague added, "For the first time there is now a mainstream group dedicated to championing our vision of a Europe of Nation States and not a United States of Europe".

# Delivering for Yorksh

## Defending Sheffield Airport

Timothy recently welcomed four Yorkshire constituents, Stewart Dalton, Mike Wood, Mike Moss and Tony Hall. He supported their petition to the European Parliament against the closure of Sheffield City Airport. Following his intervention the Chairman of the Petitions Committee Mrs Mazzoni decided that the petition deserved more thorough investigation and has requested a detailed response from the European Commission. Following this decision Timothy said, "I am pleased that this is now being taken seriously, the closure of the airport has meant that Sheffield is the largest city in Europe without an airport to service the needs of its businesses and local Sheffield consumers. This cannot be right". He said.



Timothy Kirkhope supporting petitioners at the hearing

## 21st Birthday for Wakefield

Timothy was delighted recently to attend the 21st Anniversary celebrations of the Blue Ribbon Supper Club in the Wakefield constituency. He said, "This was a terrific celebration of all the things that are so good about our dedicated constituency associations and their untiring supporters. Congratulations to everyone involved". Subsequently the memory of the event has been tinged with sadness as news came of the death of Betty Foreman who had done so much to make these dinners such a success. She will be remembered with great affection as a loyal and devoted Party stalwart.



Timothy at the Blue Ribbon Supper

## Calling all Fishermen

Robin Hood's Bay was the venue one Saturday in October for all Yorkshire and Humber fishermen when they attended a fish summit. Timothy, together with Scarborough and Whitby MP Robert Goodwill met the fishermen and vessel owners to discuss important issues facing the future of fishing in the region. It came ahead of EU plans to reform quota rules under the Common Fisheries Policy. The aim was to identify the challenges facing the local fishing industry and to help find investment possibilities for local ports.



Fish and Chips in Richmond

Timothy was pleased to visit a very special fish and chip shop – Barker's of Richmond. A few years ago the shop was almost entirely destroyed by fire, but the family run business has bounced back strongly and Timothy was pleased to be involved in the official re-opening, along with Mayor of Richmond, Judith Steggle.



Timothy Kirkhope with Paul Hildreth and Rock-it-ball enthusiasts at Easingworld

# Timothy and the Humber

## Honouring Allies

Timothy, himself a private pilot, met with several Free French aviation veterans of World War II, when they returned to visit their old bomber base at Elvington, near York. Timothy, who is keen to ensure that those who fight for freedom are never forgotten, wanted to honour those French veterans, men who had the most difficult task of actually having to bomb France in our Halifax bombers. This was as the War was coming to an end and our enemy was retreating.



**Re-opening of the Drifffield Canal**

**Supporting local post offices in West Witton**

**Opening the Arctic Fish factory in Grimsby**



**Timothy with French veterans**

## On the buses

Bus services in rural Yorkshire have been hit by various problems in recent years and Timothy has been campaigning to raise the profile of the issues involved. Operators were concerned when draft EU legislation on Passenger rights were published, but Timothy was able to ride to the rescue, tabling amendments in the European Parliament's Transport and Tourism Committee which has improved the situation for the disabled but ensured that operators would not be forced out of business.

**Attending regular Euro Debates**

**Working with regional professionals of the Party**



**Discussing priorities with EU Commission President José Manuel Barroso**



## Missing a Heartbeat

Here's Timothy supporting a petition to save the ITV drama series 'Heartbeat' which is filmed in the North York moors village of Goathland. Production was halted, prompting fears in the community that the series was being cut

and that the local economy would suffer. Timothy supported Goathland's postmaster Brian Taylor who set up a petition to save the show. He said, "Heartbeat means a lot to many people in this part

of the world. The show has done much for the local economy: the crew and actors were all based in B & Bs here and tourists flock to the village. I wrote to ITV's executive chairman, I realised they were under financial pressure but it was not the time to take away one of the most popular and reassuring programmes on television".



Timothy in Goathland post office

## Cutting the red tape

EU Legislation, known as the 'Acquis Communautaire' to which all companies, charities and individuals have to comply is now 170,000 pages long – 100,000 of which have been added since Labour came to power. Timothy said, "Research shows that the average small business spends over seven hours per week struggling with regulations and paperwork. Thanks to pressure from Conservative MEPs the European Commission has now set a target to reduce the administrative burdens in the EU by 25% by 2012. Last year the EU adopted the 'Small Business Act' which thanks to us includes measures to simplify and encourage small business access to government contracts, and to improve access to research and development funding".



## Boris in Brussels

Timothy was pleased to welcome the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson to Brussels recently. Boris was in town to warn Commissioner McCreevy and his officials about new EU plans, the AIFM Directive, to regulate the alternative investment market, a move that could see businesses relocate away from Europe. He was ably supported by Timothy and other Conservative MEPs worried about the effect this new legislation might have on the City of London and other big financial centres such as Leeds.



Timothy on Capitol Hill

## Furthering US relations

Timothy has just returned from the United States where he has been taking part in an important joint meeting between Members of the European Parliament and US Congressmen. As a former Home Office Minister, Timothy is part of the Parliament's regular dialogue with senators and congressmen and on this occasion visited Washington and New York primarily to discuss counter terrorism and how to make joint relations in this area as effective as possible.