

Dave's Decline



By John Mann MP and Mike Joslin

Tory party membership fall shows no enthusiasm for phoney Cameron

Since Cameron's election:

- Constituency membership has fallen by an average of 24 in 2006 and 93 in 2007.
- Each Shadow cabinet member lost an average of 81 members in just the last year.
- George Osborne experienced a net loss of 240 members since joining the Shadow Cabinet.
- Even Cameron himself lost 19 members in Witney last year.
- 90% of sitting MPs' membership has fallen or stayed the same.
- 50% of Tory MPs have lost 10% of their membership.
- 20% of Tory MPs have lost 20% of their membership.
- Figures for the last five years show an even longer term decline which Cameron has failed to arrest, and in places, made worse.

These disappointing Tory membership figures show that there is no real enthusiasm for David Cameron even in his own party. Unlike in the parallel period prior to 1997, when there was a huge increase in Labour party membership, Cameron has presided over a decline. This shows that even though he rides high in some polls his support has little depth or breadth.

John Mann, Labour MP for Bassetlaw says, "Cameron cannot convert short term poll leads into anything substantial. His membership is whittling away and his party is increasingly reliant on a falling & aging membership which isn't enthused and is unable to inspire their friends and family to join. More worrying for Cameron's leadership is that joining the Shadow Cabinet leads to a membership decline and his friends - the likes of Ed Vaizey MP - cannot recruit members either."

For full details on each Tory MPs membership decline visit labourlist.org



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LABOUR'S BIGGEST INDEPENDENT GRASSROOTS E-NETWORK

The Tories' own figures show Tory membership is in decline. From reports to the Electoral Commission, 90% of local associations with a sitting MP report either no recruitment or a fall in members.

Their figures show there is just no enthusiasm for Cameron. Since his election:

- **Constituency membership has fallen by an average of 24 in 2006 and 93 in 2007.**
- **Each Shadow cabinet member lost an average of 81 members in just the last year.**
- **George Osborne experienced a net loss of 240 members since joining the Shadow Cabinet.**
- **Even Cameron himself lost 19 members in Witney last year.**
- **90% of sitting MPs' membership has fallen or stayed the same.**
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Shadow Cabinet - a blow to local membership

Joining Cameron's Shadow Cabinet is bad for Party membership. Shadow cabinet members have lost on average 81 members from 2006 to 2007. The biggest drop being in the constituency of former Conservative Party Chairman, Sir Francis Maude MP, now Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with a reduction of 307.

Other big guns shedding members include William Hague losing 267, Dominic Grieve down 92, Michael Gove losing 73 and George Osborne down 69. Only 1 shadow cabinet member reported an increase in membership in 2007.

Not surprisingly, the current Party Chair, Caroline Spellman MP's membership dropped by 46 in the last year.

Even Cameron's own local association, has lost 19 members in the last year. When he became leader he only recruited 93 new members - a direct contrast to the Sedgefield experience between 1994 and 1997. Even Michael Howard added 516 new members to his local association when elected in 2004.

Name	Position	2007	2006	Decline
Francis Maude	Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster	942	1249	307
David Lidington	Shadow Foreign Office Minister	591	881	290
William Hague	Shadow Foreign Secretary	1134	1401	267
Patrick McLoughlin	Opposition Chief Whip	782	1017	235
David Mundell	Shadow Scotland Secretary	740	891	151
Theresa May	Shadow Leader of the House of Commons	667	765	98
Dominic Grieve	Shadow Home Secretary	1645	1737	92
Peter Ainsworth	Shadow Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Secretary	1243	1323	80
Eric Pickles	Shadow Communities and Local Government Secretary	549	625	76
Michael Gove	Shadow Children, Schools and Families Secretary	1002	1075	73
Alan Duncan	Shadow Business, Enterprise & Regulatory reform Secretary	791	861	70
George Osborne	Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer	979	1048	69
Dr Liam Fox	Shadow Defence Secretary	539	592	53
Philip Hammond	Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury	637	689	52

Caroline Spelman	Chairman of the Conservative Party	483	529	46
Owen Paterson	Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary	601	646	45
David Willetts	Shadow Innovation, Universities and Skills Secretary	647	685	38
Theresa Villiers	Shadow Transport Secretary	985	1010	25
Grant Shapps	Shadow Housing Minister	416	436	20
David Cameron	Leader of the Opposition	1361	1380	19
Nick Herbert	Shadow Justice Secretary	1586	1597	11
Andrew Mitchell	Shadow International Development Secretary	327	334	7
Oliver Letwin	Chairman of the Policy Review	1760	1763	3
Chris Grayling	Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary	no figs		0
Jeremy Hunt	Shadow Culture, Media and Sport Secretary	1600	1600	0
Andrew Lansley	Shadow Health Secretary	844	844	0
Cheryl Gillan	Shadow Wales Secretary	1414	1388	-26

2007 figures for Jeremy Hunt and Andrew Lansley hide the fact that their local constituency lost 57 and 58 members respectively since 2005.

The most consistent loser of members is George Osborne. The Shadow Chancellor has managed a second membership recession in four years of stewardship of Tatton Conservative Association, losing 69 members this year. Since joining the Shadow Cabinet in 2004 Osborne has seen his local membership plummet by a net loss of 240 members.

Some Associations lose members through boundary changes (e.g. McLoughlin and Lidington), others gain through the same process, but most are hardly affected if at all.

Sitting MPs - Sliding Members

Overall the picture for the Tory MPs in Westminster is even more depressing, 90% of Tory Members who submitted membership figures to the Electoral Commission in 2007 (168 out of 194) failed to recruit a member or have substantially lost members.

Reduction in members	Number of Seat	% of seats
60% or more	1	0.6
50% or more	2	1.2
40% or more	4	2.4
30% or more	12	7
20% or more	32	19
10% or more	85	51
5% or more	120	71
1% or more	137	82
0% or more	151	90

The figures show 20% of associations have lost 20% or more of their membership in 2007. 50% have lost 10% or more.

The Labour Party parallel

The Labour Party in opposition experienced a significant increase in membership in the run up to its election victory. National membership boomed from around 260,000 members to the 405,000 peak reported in 1997. Since being in Government the Labour Party's membership has fallen year on year but since Gordon Brown became party leader, this fall has reduced significantly. It remains harder to retain and recruit members when in government than when in opposition.

The Howard Bounce

More worrying for David Cameron is that the bounce his predecessor received did not repeat itself when he took charge. Michael Howard added 516 new members to his local association when elected in 2004.

More worryingly, there are 67 constituencies (40% of sitting MPs seats with records) where membership increased after Michael Howard's election but has decreased since Cameron's.

In the associations where this happened, there was an on average increase of 29.4 members recruited when Howard became leader but since Cameron's election membership has fallen in these seats by on average 37.2 members in 2006 and 118.6 in 2007. (This compares with a fall in all seats, irrespective of a Howard bounce, of 24 in 2006 and 93 in 2007.)

A Future Tory Chair

Cameron is going to have to re-appoint a new Conservative Party Chair at some point in the near future. Caroline Spellman's 2007 membership level is 10% lower than its 2004 peak with 536.

We recommend that Cameron needs to appoint someone who can offer proven expertise to the national party. The contest for Party chairs seems to come down to a shortlist of three:

- o Michael Mates having recruited 142 new members
- o Mark Field up 73
- o Ian Liddell Grainger up 49

An outside bet is Sir Patrick Cormack with 7 new members, his major surge getting into the top 12 Tory growth Associations.

Five year table of Tory MPs' membership decline:

This five year chart of Tory MPs' local association memberships shows an almost uniform continuous loss of members across the country, with many of the anti-Cameron mavericks doing better than his close allies.

Conservative MPs	Constituency	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Howarth, Mr Gerald	Aldershot	347	519	425	464	439
Shepherd, Mr Richard	Aldridge-Brownhills					
Brady, Mr Graham	Altrincham & Sale West	611	661	685	712	770
Herbert, Mr Nick	Arundel & South Downs	1586	1597	1731	1646	1739
Green, Damian	Ashford	878	1000	907	882	1006
Lidington, Mr David	Aylesbury	591	881	959	978	1030
Baldry, Tony	Banbury	495	496			
Miller, Mrs Maria	Basingstoke	368	581	579	524	580
Grieve, Mr Dominic	Beaconsfield	1645	1737	1821	1946	1922
Lait, Mrs Jacqui	Beckenham	563	655	694	703	762
Stuart, Mr Graham	Beverley & Holderness	507	624	616	577	600
Barker, Gregory	Bexhill & Battle	1011	1166	1393	1295	1437
Evennett, Mr David	Bexleyheath & Crayford	404	493	587	535	581
Baron, Mr John	Billericay					
Robathan, Mr Andrew	Blaby					
Gibb, Mr Nick	Bognor Regis & Littlehampton	578	578	676	703	739
Simmonds, Mark	Boston & Skegness					
Tredinnick, David	Bosworth					
Ellwood, Mr Tobias	Bournemouth East	369	403	410	402	341
Butterfill, Sir John	Bournemouth West	323	382	374	377	410
Mackay, Andrew	Bracknell	431	556	575	568	554
Newmark, Mr Brooks	Braintree	312	496	405	416	
Pickles, Mr Eric	Brentwood & Ongar	549	625	692	639	603
Liddell-Grainger, Mr Ian	Bridgwater	918	869	908	881	957
Neill, Bob	Bromley & Chislehurst					
Kirkbride, Miss Julie	Bromsgrove	620	562	501	481	495
Walker, Mr Charles	Broxbourne	459	513	512	498	561
Bercow, John	Buckingham					
Ruffley, Mr David	Bury St Edmunds	719	788	803	717	699
Brazier, Mr Julian	Canterbury	682	728	727	698	788
Dorrell, Stephen	Charnwood	383	429	422	405	469
Gillan, Mrs Cheryl	Chesham & Amersham	1414	1388	1457	1374	1487
Tyrie, Mr Andrew	Chichester	1388	1364	1463	1670	1738
Duncan Smith, Iain	Chingford & Woodford Green	544	665	718	724	813
Villiers, Mrs Theresa	Chipping Barnet	985	1010	1067	1084	1143
Chope, Mr Christopher	Christchurch	1022	1225	1313	1439	1530
Field, Mr Mark	Cities of London & Westminster	2229	2156	2109	2200	
Jones, Mr David	Clwyd West	358	370	465		434
Winterton, Ann	Congleton		n/a			
Clifton-Brown, Mr Geoffrey	Cotswold	2255	2403		2409	2629
Timpson, Edward	Crewe & Nantwich	274	300			
Ottaway, Richard	Croydon South		n/a			
Boswell, Mr Tim	Daventry		no figs			
Ancram, Earl of, Michael	Devizes	1106	1320	1420	1413	1337
Mundell, David	Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale	740	891	869	767	
Swire, Mr Hugo	East Devon	1364	2024	1992	2068	1987
Mates, Michael	East Hampshire	1290	1148	1170	1233	1189
Ainsworth, Mr Peter	East Surrey	1243	1323	1359	1275	1330
Loughton, Tim	East Worthing & Shoreham	but down	no figs			
Knight, Greg	East Yorkshire	423	585	461	521	439
Waterson, Mr Nigel	Eastbourne	900	1161	1175	1209	1122
O'Brien, Mr Stephen	Eddisbury	662	872	758	812	906
Burrowes, Mr David	Enfield, Southgate	600	775			
Laing, Mrs Eleanor	Epping Forest	857	683	874	872	
Grayling, Chris	Epsom & Ewell		no figs			

Taylor, Mr Ian	Esher & Walton	1161	1237			
Hoban, Mr Mark	Fareham	609	671	690	643	547
Robertson, Hugh	Faversham & Mid Kent	433	442	462	489	523
Howard, Michael	Folkestone & Hythe	1009	1172	1232	1416	902
Harper, Mr Mark	Forest of Dean	481	492	561	459	428
Jack, Michael	Fylde	405	482	477	520	525
Leigh, Mr Edward	Gainsborough	number of	no figs	branches	folded	
Viggers, Sir Peter	Gosport	287	253	325	320	686
Holloway, Mr Adam	Gravesham	280	294	294	298	
Milton, Anne	Guildford	1219	1204	1286	1271	1210
Davis, David	Haltemprice & Howden	714	985	973	935	885
Hands, Mr Greg	Hammersmith & Fulham		n/a			
Garnier, Mr Edward	Harborough	804	868	902	949	916
Carswell, Mr Douglas	Harwich	571	671			
Willetts, Mr David	Havant	647	685	839	750	752
Penning, Mike	Hemel Hempstead	933	1036	1022	1023	1051
Howell, John	Henley	1066	997			
Prisk, Mr Mark	Hertford & Stortford	458	521	601	558	515
Clappison, Mr James	Hertsmere	653	698	721	735	910
Atkinson, Mr Peter	Hexham		no figs			
Lilley, Peter	Hitchin & Harpenden	957	1009	1061	1041	1023
Brokenshire, James	Hornchurch	409	no figs			
Maude, Francis	Horsham	942	1249	1110	1153	1103
Djanogly, Mr Jonathan	Huntingdon	769	970	935	885	1436
Scott, Mr Lee	Ilford North	270	271			
Turner, Mr Andrew	Isle of Wight	875	1035	1030	898	848
Rifkind, Sir Malcolm	Kensington & Chelsea		no figs			
Hollobone, Mr Philip	Kettering	593	905	939	906	
Wallace, Mr Ben	Lancaster & Wyre	539	555	550	580	621
Wiggin, Bill	Leominster		1078	1151	1098	
Fabricant, Michael	Lichfield	364	405	375		
Tapsell, Sir Peter	Louth & Horncastle	404	404	433	353	
Dunne, Mr Philip	Ludlow	1044	1262	1224	1039	946
Winterton, Sir Nicholas	Macclesfield	635	653	660	664	694
May, Theresa	Maidenhead	667	765	651		935
Widdecombe, Ann	Maidstone & The Weald	452	501	545		
Whittingdale, Mr John	Maldon & East Chelmsford		890	1156	1313	1313
Spelman, Mrs Caroline	Meriden	483	529	507	536	511
Dorries, Mrs Nadine	Mid Bedfordshire	562	652	683	617	614
Simpson, Mr Keith	Mid Norfolk	310	600	567	527	564
Soames, Hon Nicholas	Mid Sussex	765	821	855	710	745
Luff, Peter	Mid Worcestershire	514	543			
Beresford, Sir Paul	Mole Valley	1514		1660	1658	1670
Davies, David T. C.	Monmouth	806	1002	979	996	
Lewis, Dr Julian	New Forest East	671	823	920	986	
Swayne, Mr Desmond	New Forest West	1426	1655	1678	1757	1796
Mercer, Patrick	Newark	374	503	518	493	527
Benyon, Mr Richard	Newbury	2128	2154			
Walter, Mr Robert	North Dorset	1008	1068	1273	1418	833
Burt, Alistair	North East Bedfordshire	470	510	573	538	511
Moss, Mr Malcolm	North East Cambridgeshire	364	360	384	384	409
Arbuthnot, James	North East Hampshire	610	1195	1138	1205	1204
Heald, Mr Oliver	North East Hertfordshire	758	750	824	869	
Lancaster, Mr Mark	North East Milton Keynes	627	627	822	681	752
Jenkin, Mr Bernard	North Essex		n/a			
Paterson, Mr Owen	North Shropshire	601	646	722	638	
Gale, Mr Roger	North Thanet		n/a			

Vara, Mr Shailesh	North West Cambridgeshire	823	830	671	640	
Young, Sir George	North West Hampshire	1139	1313	1277	1340	1273
Bellingham, Mr Henry	North West Norfolk	559	679		712	798
Gray, Mr James	North Wiltshire	801	1026	942	850	921
Binley, Mr Brian	Northampton South	220	695	702	615	631
Horam, Mr John	Orpington	435	517			
Maclean, David	Penrith & The Border	416	476	461	499	585
Jackson, Mr Stewart	Peterborough	517	372			
Syms, Mr Robert	Poole	862	994	937	959	1004
Crabb, Mr Stephen	Preseli Pembrokeshire	500	614	560	489	
Greening, Justine	Putney		no figs			
Francois, Mr Mark	Rayleigh	389	524	576	611	533
Wilson, Mr Rob	Reading East		no figs			
Blunt, Mr Crispin	Reigate	723	770	959	948	
Evans, Mr Nigel	Ribble Valley	517	703	734	703	730
Hague, William	Richmond (Yorks)	1134	1401	1227	1351	1163
Duddridge, James	Rochford & Southend East	388	419	500	504	466
Rosindell, Andrew	Romford	392	448	435		
Wright, Jeremy	Rugby & Kenilworth	287	390			
Hurd, Mr Nick	Ruislip - Northwood		n/a			
Hammond, Mr Philip	Runnymede & Weybridge	637	689	753	756	888
Clarke, Kenneth	Rushcliffe	916	1034	1069	1090	974
Duncan, Mr Alan	Rutland & Melton	791	861	863	821	844
Greenway, Mr John	Ryedale		n/a			
hazelhurst, Sir Alan	Saffron Waldon	816	1017	925	925	935
Key, Robert	Salisbury	1014	1551	1529	1460	1436
Goodwill, Mr Robert	Scarborough & Whitby	626	698	694	624	560
Fallon, Mr Michael	Sevenoaks	1009	1019	1164	1210	
Davies, Philip	Shipley	361	351	335	311	
Kawczynski, Daniel	Shrewsbury & Atcham	631	643		632	648
Curry, David	Skipton & Ripon	757	819	831	877	896
Hogg, Douglas	Sleaford & North Hykeham		n/a			
Lansley, Mr Andrew	South Cambridgeshire	844	844	902	988	966
Paice, Mr James	South East Cambridgeshire	490	561	607	589	609
Hayes, Mr John	South Holland & The Deepings		n/a			
Bacon, Mr Richard	South Norfolk	808	873	861	847	
Cormack, Sir Patrick	South Staffordshire	529	522	435	397	403
Yeo, Mr Tim	South Suffolk	818	1044	1069	994	1116
Selous, Andrew	South West Bedfordshire	325	425	396	310	327
Streeter, Mr Gary	South West Devon	673	768	810	846	892
Gauke, Mr David	South West Hertfordshire	1220	1302			
Fraser, Christopher	South West Norfolk	644*	922	944	1088	1041
Hunt, Mr Jeremy	South West Surrey	1600	1600	1657	1626	1588
Amess, Mr David	Southend West	575	659	661	699	603
Wilshire, Mr David	Spelthorne	442	518	592	502	608
Main, Anne	St Albans	328	392	415	362	
Cash, Mr William	Stone	494	600	607	603	573
Maples, Mr John	Stratford-on-Avon	1042	1260	1286	1221	1229
Gummer, John	Suffolk Coastal	1222	1520	1698	1698	1678
Gove, Michael	Surrey Heath	1002	1075	1091	1079	1301
Mitchell, Mr Andrew	Sutton Coldfield	327	334	382	344	434
Osborne, Mr George	Tatton	979	1048	1046	1219	1029
Robertson, Mr Laurence	Tewkesbury	702	681	600	573	671
Browning, Angela	Tiverton & Honiton	995	857	853	881	843
Stanley, Sir John	Tonbridge & Malling	1023	1043	1266	1269	1429
Cox, Mr Geoffrey	Torrige & West Devon	743	979	1049	1149	1048
Steen, Mr Anthony	Totnes	897	1003	1019	1087	1120
Clark, Greg	Tunbridge Wells	663	737	698	680	796

Watkinson, Angela	Upminster		n/a			
Randall, Mr John	Uxbridge	236	240	271	320	
McIntosh, Miss Anne	Vale of York		732	800	805	736
Vaizey, Mr Edward	Wantage	789	894	984	936	
Hendry, Charles	Wealden	1304	1531	1527	1467	1642
Bone, Mr Peter	Wellingborough	328	494	388	299	
Heathcoat-Amory, David	Wells	985	1019	1000	1008	1079
Shapps, Grant	Welwyn Hatfield	416	436	409	530	
Burns, Mr Simon	West Chelmsford	462	546	577	588	657
McLoughlin, Patrick	West Derbyshire	782	1017	1110	1097	1122
Letwin, Oliver	West Dorset	1760	1763	1877	2044	1946
Spring, Mr Richard	West Suffolk	417	499	534	481	544
Spicer, Sir Michael	West Worcestershire	921	925	900	928	755
Murrison, Dr Andrew	Westbury	931	980			
Penrose, John	Weston-Super-Mare	548	629	684	723	676
Hammond, Stephen	Wimbledon	663	669			
Afryjie, Adam	Windsor	750	796	652	633	759
Cameron, David	Witney	1361	1380	1287	1021	1288
Malins, Mr Humfrey	Woking	815	910	918	921	973
Redwood, John	Wokingham	265	651	638	638	678
Fox, Dr Liam	Woodspring	539	592	643	691	662
Bottomley, Peter	Worthing West	861	1013			
Pritchard, Mark	Wrekin, The	290	331	316	276	276
Goodman, Mr Paul	Wycombe	385	407	430	488	466

This information is publicly available on the Electoral Commission's website, <http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/> and based on the Annual Reports of Conservative Associations.