

**North Wilts Conservative Dinner**  
**For**  
**James Gray, MP**  
**Sat. March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010**  
**Lady Olga Maitland**

**1. Polls: wobble ? YES, WE WILL WIN. NO HUNG PARL**  
But NOTHING NEW IN A WOBBLE – HISTORY

Do need sense of real direction –Purpose  
Admittedly not luxury of red claw days of Mrs. T.  
Too much fighting on centre ground.

Why? **Boldness be my friend**

Michael Ashcroft

Party divisions – old guard, new guard

Mrs. T. ‘Is he one of us’

2. Plus side: Personality – wives – Samantha

3. Debate – Brown tired, desperate.

**Clegg – watery but dangerous.**

**Beware Lib Dems**

**Conservatism – value and aspiration; self reliance, human enterprise , hand up for those who need it, not a handout.**

Dependency culture – unique in GB

Tax cuts Thatcher round invigorated the Treasury, more in.

Danger of falling into the trap that only the State can manage.

Be brave about state spending – 1/2m more on the payroll - don’t be bullied

Chancellor Osborne – needs to listen carefully

Admire Michael Gove. Education – **but** hopping about. Grammar schools; private versus state.

Like idea of independent schools run by professionals free of LEAS and politician.

Like the idea of more rigour on 3 RRs. What does Equatorial Guinea do? Was, were?

Where is Accra?

**Health:** NHS – sacred cow. Politicians too scared to tell the truth

Greater demands can’t be met by tax-based system.

**Doomed**

**The young can’t afford to support the old at the level we now expect.**

**Must have core package from tax at look bravely t insurance. Why does it work in Europe? Better cancer outcomes**

**. Why do holidays and cars come before health?**

**Politicians squirm – political football match (I will put more into health than you) every time a health failure horror story hits us**

**Wild mismanagement, more pen pushers than front line medicine.**

Obama almost crucified on Obamacare.... winning through?

We are terrified ....can’t afford to be

**DEFENCE** British people have always rallied to the support of those we ask to go to war in our name.

Haunting sights of coffins at Wotton Bassett show the admiration and respect for those who make the ultimate sacrifice.

We have to live up to our Armed Forces.

Labour have had 4 defence ministers in as many years. One split his job with Scotland

Brown lied at Iraq enquiry. He did refuse resources

Constant year on year cutting and 'making do' while lives were lost

Bickering on helicopters / appropriate guns, boots, night sights etc. Soft land rovers.

Challenge: Fox: prioritising resources – and MORE CASH!

He admits they are at least £35b

Tough procurement decisions after years of mismanagement. Damning report by Lab. Underfunded by at least £35b

Inter-service rivalry will have to stop.

British forces currently in 15 NATO, EU, UN AND OSCE ops globally.

41,000 in 32 countries.

Falkland yes! Balkans yes! Afghanistan? Iraq? Over stretch ....

We should beware of overselling the armed forces while under supporting them in the field,. It is not enough for generals to say, 'we have always had to cope'.... Public are now aware of the weaknesses....

The debate will come to properly reassess UK's role in the world, as it is,not as we would have it be.