

## **AGM Report on UKIP St Ives and Isles of Scilly Branch**

**March 2018**

Chairman Stuart Guppy thanked the members who came from all over the constituency for braving a wet and stormy night and for their support during the year. The year's activities included the Torquay Conference, the Birmingham EGM and the year ahead which has started well under our determined leader, Gerard Batten MEP. His latest South West visit filled Gloucester's Guildhall with an enthusiastic audience and we will welcome him to Cornwall as soon as his diary permits.

The guest speaker, Sebastian Cheek, studying economics at Exeter University and Young Independence Treasurer, delighted the members with an inspiring account of Young Independence members' involvements. These included a Free Speech conference, where Bill Etheridge MEP made a supporting visit; Free Markets and Patriotism head the list of successful debates. Freedom of speech is interfered with on campus, eg Sussex, Nottingham. UKIP challenges these, in particular, the heavily biased 'debate' at Penryn – Falmouth University.

UKIP Student numbers are growing and rallies are organised, with one for Brexit in Exeter the day after this meeting. Links with Young Independence are essential parts of the Branch's work and a gathering for young people in West Cornwall is planned in the summer. Sebastian was thanked for his enthusiasm and commitment. If this is the calibre of young people in The Party today, UKIP is really going places!

Sebastian Fairweather, Party Treasurer and Cornwall Chairman, described the plans that our Leader, Gerrard Batten, is working on. Members discussed Foreign Aid Reform, Local Govt Reform, Proportional Representation, Border Controls, infrastructure, planning issues, Brexit and the collapsing Euro currency.