

Hastings and Rye Liberal Democrats Members' and Supporters' Newsletter



Lib Dem Campaigning

Hastings and Rye

FOCUS

Your Focus Teams in Action

In St Leonards **Eve Montgomery** and her Focus team have been supporting the Bulverhythe Protectors in their fight against housing behind Bexhill Road (in the Countryside Park, on a flood plain and former waste dump) and against unnecessary and expensive bits and pieces of bus lanes on the same road.

Meanwhile in Hastings **Stewart Rayment** and **Nick Perry** successfully called for temporary bus stops in Ashford Road whilst St Helens Road was being dug up. They've taken up residents' concerns about the neglect of the pavement and drainage in Earl Street. More positively they've welcomed the fact that there may be an end in sight to the refurbishment of St Mary's Hall.



Hastings and Rye Lib Dems Annual Lunch

The 2018 Annual Lunch is once again at the Royal Victoria Hotel - on Sunday March 18th 2018: 12.30 for 13.00. **Pam Brown** is already taking bookings for tickets. £25 a head - concessions for children.

pambrown1066@gmail.com

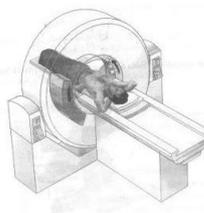


Our Guest Speaker this year is **Navnit Dholakia**. **Navnit** is the Deputy Leader of the Lib Dems in the House of Lords – likely to be an important place as Brexit debate moves into the Lords - where the Tories don't have a majority. **Lord Dholakia** is a former Member of the Commission on a Future Multi-Ethnic Britain and is a current member of the Board of the Howard League for Legal Reform. **Navnit** is a Sussex resident, a former Brighton Councillor and involved with the Police Authority.



Join The Lead Team

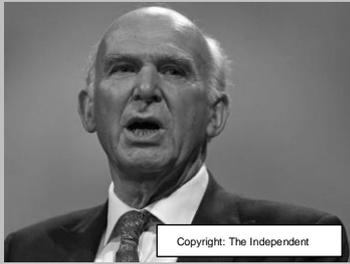
At the Association AGM on 10 November our four lead Officers were elected for 2018. They bring a wealth of talent and professional experience to their work. Our new Chairman is **Stephen Milton** who was Vice-Chair and Acting Chair in 2017. **Steve** is a local businessman with particular interests in IT and Social Media. He is also Chairman of the Hastings Humanists; the Reverend **Paul Hunt** is our new Vice-Chairman and has recently retired as a secondary school teacher and chaplain. **Paul** was the Association Agent at a time of past Liberal success in Hastings. **Kate Tudgay** continues as our very effective Secretary. **Kate** has been a Lib Dem candidate several times and has been actively involved with Southern Arts. **Eve Montgomery** has taken over as Treasurer. **Eve** professionally keeps the books for a law firm and is also the Treasurer for the Hastings and St Leonards Society. At the AGM **Pam Brown OBE** was elected as Association President and thanks were given to **Phyllis Jeffries** for her past service in that role. There are vacancies for a Membership Secretary cum Data Officer and a Social Secretary cum Membership Development Officer. Contact **Steve Milton** if you are interested in helping in those areas.



MRI Scanner Appeal

One of our Members and a former Council candidate is **Margaret Williams**. **Margaret** is a leading member of the campaign raising money for a much-needed new MRI scanner for the Conquest. More info: <https://www.conquestlof.org.uk/mri/donate/>

Vince Cable and the Lib Dems in 2018



Vince Cable's message for 2018 emphasises his ambition to mobilise the strength of the party's 100,000 membership to win the arguments on the major issues facing our country.

These include: the need to convince the government to build thousands of affordable homes so that younger generations are no longer cut off from the housing market; the urgency of properly funding a woefully under-invested NHS – the Liberal Democrats argue for a penny in the pound on income tax for the NHS and social care; and the need to win the argument for an Exit from Brexit, but democratically, through a public vote on the terms of the divorce and any EU trade deal.

Vince also highlights the core Lib Dem characteristic of being unafraid to swim against the tide. Including: fighting for and defending LGBT rights, including same sex marriage; standing up for the rights of citizens in Hong Kong; leading political opposition to the Iraq War; warning about the looming 2007 credit crunch and 2008 financial crisis and then rebuilding the economy through initiatives like the industrial strategy and Green Investment Bank.

Draw Tickets

We sold a goodly number of books of tickets for the annual Lib Dem Xmas draw. Thanks to all those who bought and sold tickets. This has made an important contribution to local funds. Sadly no Hastings and Rye winners this year - though **Paul Sparks** from Wealden Lib Dems was lucky.

The full list of winners and prizes can be found at:
<http://ldcd.org.uk/prizelist.htm>



Monroe Palmer

We are delighted to report that **Monroe Palmer** has been made the Liberal Democratic Spokesperson for Taxation in the House of Lords. **Monroe** stood for the Liberal Democrats in Hastings and Rye in 1992 and got 35% of the vote - in second place to the Tory. **Monroe** stood again in 1997 and remains a good friend of the constituency.

Pop-Up Politics January



The Pop-Up Politics meetings take place at the **Café Grand Rue de Péra, 73-74 Queen's Road, Hastings** - probably the best coffee and hot chocolate in the town. The next one is on 23rd January at 7.00pm and will be looking mainly at Environmental issues – though discussion usually ranges more widely. Contact **Stewart Rayment** if you have suggestions for the future: lockharthastings@btconnect.com

Want to Help?

Leaflet delivery, canvassing, becoming a Councillor, joining the Executive, donating? Drop us a line to talk over what you might be able to do.

Chairman
Stephen Milton
stephen.milton@denaploy.co.uk

Secretary
Kate Tudgay
katieud@btinternet.com

Vice-Chairman
Paul Hunt
paul.m.hunt@btinternet.com

Treasurer
Eve Montgomery
EveMontgomery1066@gmail.com

IMPORTANT Borough Elections

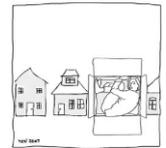
All Hastings Members are invited to the next Meeting of the Association Executive on 9th February, 7.30pm, when our Candidates for the Borough Elections will be selected.

General Elections

Work continues in our search for a new Parliamentary Candidate. Interested?
Contact **Paul Hunt** paul.m.hunt@btinternet.com



HBC Policy Themes 2018



The Executive has continued work on our manifesto for the Hastings Borough Council Elections in May 2018. Five key themes have been identified: housing, planning, IT, transport and transparency. If there is something else that the Lib Dems should be trying to achieve on the Council drop us a line.

Lib Dem Spring Conference

This year the Spring Conference is in Southport from 9 to 11 March. Key discussion papers have been prepared including on Education and Rural Policy. Conference is a great opportunity for debating Lib Dem Policy, networking and training. More info at www.libdems.org.uk

Bexhill and Battle Meal: Update!

If you can't wait until March for Hastings and Rye's formal lunch the Bexhill and Battle Lib Dems are holding their annual informal bash on Saturday 27th January at Peasmarsh Village Hall. 12.30 for 13.00. There is a three course hot meal including a glass of wine for £12.50 The food (and company) is always great! For more information contact Jenny Als: jennifer.als35@gmail.com

