

Hastings and Rye Liberal Democrats Members' and Supporters' Newsletter



Hastings and Rye **FOCUS**

Lib Dem Campaigning

Your Focus Teams in Action

Up to and through the election season your Lib Dem Candidates have been taking up local residents' problems and issues.

In West St Leonards **Eve Montgomery** and **Peter Clarke** continue to support the Bulverhythe Protectors in their fight against housing behind Bexhill Road. The Protectors have lodged proposal for the Bexhill Road Playing Fields to be made a Village Green.



In Castle **Stewart Rayment** and **Nick Perry** were strongly supported by Members from throughout the Constituency and many from Eastbourne, Bexhill and Battle, Wealden and Lewes. Labour had the current Mayor as a very well-publicised candidate but even so had to pull out all the stops to hang on to the Ward.



Conquest
Ian Bunch and **Margaret Burns** have taken up local concerns about the (dire) condition of local footpaths, the poor record of our Labour Council on waste collection and the continuing concern of local residents at excess house-building along the Ridge.



St Helens
Bob Lloyd and **Emlyn Jones** have taken up the cudgels again about the crossing (lack thereof) on the Ridge and are concerned about the uncertain future of the football ground.



Campaign Training: a group of Hastings and Rye Lib Dem activists will be going to a training weekend to be held by the Association of Lib Dem Councillors in November this year. Details at the ALDC.org. If you might be interested in going get in touch with **Emlyn Jones** emgrin@btopenworld.com

Hastings and Rye Lib Dems Annual Lunch March 2018



Lord (Navnit) Dholakia spoke at our Annual Lunch about his trials and triumphs in campaigning to become a Liberal Councillor in Brighton. He updated us on the Lords' challenges to Brexit. Navnit, who was accompanied by his wife Anne, awarded the Dennis Flack Cup to Kate Tudgay for her hard work, as the Association Secretary, in the past year. The Lunch raised over £700!

May 2018 Elections

Liberal Democrats nationally have continued to regain territory - taking back overall control of four Councils. There are 1868 Lib Dem Councillors up and down the Country.

In Hastings Borough we didn't take any seats this year. However, we put up more candidates than ever before, we were active in more Wards than for several years and in all our active Wards we held or improved our position.

Despite a very hard fought campaign under the determined stewardship of **Paul Hunt** - halving the percentage majority of the winning Labour candidate - **Nick Perry** and **Stewart Rayment** didn't take Castle Ward this time. In West St Leonards **Eve Montgomery** and **Peter Clarke** raised the Lib Dem vote from 7% in 2014 and 13% in 2016 to 21% now. One to watch for the future. Especial thanks to **Emlyn Jones** and **Bob Lloyd** in St Helens and **Ian Bunch** and **Margaret Burns** in Conquest for all their efforts. We have come out of these elections as a stronger campaigning force.

The Tories took one seat from Labour and Labour took one seat from them. Labour also took back a seat that had gone Independent. Our Lib Dem Executive had earlier decided to stand aside to give the Greens a clear run at Labour in Old Hastings. The Greens came close to taking the seat but, even after throwing all their forces (national and local) into that one Ward, they still didn't manage to get Labour out. The other candidates (two independents and a sole UKIP representative) made no mark in the election. Worth noting that although Labour got 50% of the vote they walked away with 75% of the seats!

THANK YOU ALL

These were OUR Lib Dem Candidates who stood on our behalf in the Hastings Borough Elections. We'll get a chance to thank them personally - also most importantly all of you who helped them - at a Party on 10th June from 2.00pm to 5.00pm at Blacklands Church Hall, Laton Road, Hastings TN34 2ES. Contact Stewart Rayment: lockharthastings@btconnect.com

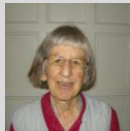
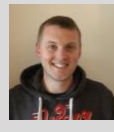


On to the Next.....

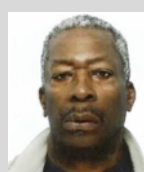
In May 2019 Rother District Council has elections. They have had boundary changes and there are five Wards affecting the rural third of our Constituency. Liberals or Lib Dems have at some time had District Councillors in all parts.

The District Wards are **Brede and Udimore** (1 seat); **Eastern Rother** - Peasmarsch round to Rye Harbour (2 seats); **Rye Town and Winchelsea** (2 seats); **Southern Rother** – Fairlight, Guestling, Icklesham and Pett (2 seats); and **Westfield and Sedlescombe, inc.** Three Oaks (2 seats). At the same time there will be elections to the Parish Councils: Iden, Playden, Rye Town, Icklesham, Pett, Guestling, Brede, Westfield, Camber and Fairlight. We currently have 7 Members who are Parish Councillors (on a non-Party basis).

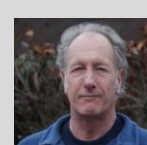
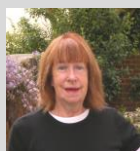
If you are interested in standing and/or campaigning for the Lib Dems in the area then do come along to the Party on 10th June or to our next Executive Committee on Friday 8th June, 7.30pm at the White Rock Hotel, Hastings



Michael Davies



Katy Hunter-Burbridge



By-Elections

There is a Parliamentary by-election in Lewisham East on 14th June. We have an excellent Candidate, Lucy Salek. A good chance if you want to gain some campaign experience. The Lib Dem HQ is at 19 Leegate, Lee Green, Lewisham SE12 8SS Open 09.30-21.00 Phone 0738 4525159

Membership

Over the coming months the Executive will want to build on our campaigning effort to recruit more Members. If you aren't already a Member you can contact our Treasurer, Eve Montgomery, or join on line at: libdems.secure.force.com/LiberalDemocrats/NewMemberRegistration

General Elections

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

Lib Dem Autumn Conference

This year the Autumn Conference is in Brighton from September 15-18. Conference is a great opportunity for debating Lib Dem Policy, networking and training. More info at www.libdems.org.uk



Want to Help?

Leaflet delivery, canvassing, becoming a Councillor, joining the Executive, social media, fund-raising, donating, candidate photos? Drop us a line to talk over what you might be able to do.

Chairman
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