



Ha'way Bonnie Lads!



Leader Charles Kennedy and Lord Chris Rennard set off to Newcastle immediately after the count. "The Jewel in the Crown" as Lib Dems historically take Newcastle City Council after 30 years of Labour control.

- UP in the Local elections 137 extra seats.
Share of the vote maintained at 29%.

- UP in the London Assembly, one extra Lib Dem seat.

- UP in the Euro election 2 extra seats and 2½% vote increase.

- UP into 2nd place of national vote in locals

- THESE RESULTS confounded many of our cynical critics and opponents, especially the right wing U.K.I.P. who said we would be wiped out!

STRANGE BUT TRUE:

The anti-Europe anti-everything Party get 12 Euro seats. (U.K.I.P.)

The pro-Europe Party working for the best of our people get 12 Euro seats. (Lib Dems)

The two Parties who dither and don't know what they are, 'bomb' at the polls.

(Lab & Con)

Two new councillors elected on June 10th are named Mohamed Ali (Liverpool) and Frank Spencer (Dorset C.C. by-election) names to live up to!!

Many of U.K.I.P.'s prominent supporters spend lots of their time living in properties in Spain, France, &c. - and this is the Europe they rant about being so terrible!

A Much Deserved Accolade for Catherine Morrish

The Local Party and people beyond are absolutely delighted that retired councillor, Catherine Morrish was made Honorary Alderman at a ceremony at Arun District Council in May. Catherine served on Arun District Council for many years and served on outside bodies too. You will remember the articles Catherine has written in our previous newsletters about her time on the County Council and A.D.C. The Local Party is immensely proud of you, Catherine. Well deserved.

p.s. During the past 10 years I have been an activist with the Local Party the honour of Honorary Alderman has been bestowed on 3 Liberal Democrats. Francis Avard, Pat Stinchcombe and now Catherine. Doesn't this show us the dedication and service our Councillors give the community to be honoured in such a way.



LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON, MARGARET.

Many of you will have met our good friend from East Arun Lib Dems, Margaret Crush. Unfortunately, she has been in Southlands Hospital since January. We are pleased to learn that Margaret is making good progress and hopes to leave hospital in July to convalesce with her family before returning to Rustington. We look forward to having you back amongst us again, Margaret. Our very best wishes for your recovery and return home.

B.R.

BY - ELECTION RESULTS

BARNSTORMING IN BRAINTREE!!

Lib Dems snatch Conservative seat in Essex with 46% share of the vote, up 21% on the last time the seat was contested.

ANOTHER LIB DEM BLOW TO THE B.N.P.

Lib Dems dealt a severe blow to the B.N.P. in a previously Labour held seat on Cheshire County Council. The B.N.P. were confident of taking this seat but finished in third place. (By the way, this election was held on April Fool's Day!!)

TORIES LOSE TO LIB DEMS IN ST. ALBAN'S

Lib Dems snatch a Tory seat on St. Alban's District Council with a majority of 265. Another one to rankle Michael Howard.

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL & SOUTH RUISLIP both saw Tory seats go the Lib Dem way.

Sir Ludovic Kennedy's thoughts on the Southport Conference



The Liberal Democrat Spring Conference held in Southport welcomed Lib Dem supporter, Sir Ludovic Kennedy (no relation to the red-haired Kennedy I believe!!). His summation on the debates he attended prompted these quotes: "I came away from Southport uplifted and optimistic. At the General Election there are bound to be some, perhaps many, Labour defectors, and if they vote at all, it must surely be for us - and, where can disaffected Tories go, but also to us? We, of course, will have no defectors!" Sir Ludovic concluded, "For the wheel has come full circle. I truly believe that the Liberals, once as in 1906 the Party of the past are now with the Democrats the Party of the future." Well said, Sir!

COUNCIL TAX INCREASES 1999 - 2004

Average council tax rises in England, Band D properties, for local authorities with overall political control.

	1999/2000	2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003	2003/2004	Average over 6 years
Lib Dem	5.0%	5.3%	6.3%	8.1%	10.1%	7.0%
Labour	5.7%	6.1%	6.3%	7.3%	10.7%	7.2%
Conservative	7.7%	5.3%	8.6%	9.3%	16.2%	9.4%
Independent	10.1%	6.7%	5.6%	10.2%	11.0%	8.7%

Acknowledgements to Lib Dem News

Some figures for you to contemplate! Lib Dems doing well then!

EVENT

Friday 16th July - SKITTLES NIGHT 7.30pm

After the success last year of this enjoyable evening, Greg & Jason are holding another at The Waverley, Bognor Regis.

Full details & Booking form on back page

- enquiries: Greg Burt 01243 840815

EIGHT NEW LIB DEM PEERS

Kishwer Falkner, former Chief Executive of Student Partnership Worldwide, a charity supporting young people in Africa and Asia.

Air Marshall Sir Timothy Garden. Well known writer and Broadcaster on defence issues and receiver of the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Legion d'Honneur in 2003.

Jane Bonham-Carter. Former Director of Communications for the Lib Dems and Editor of 'A Week in Politics' for Channel 4. Jane was once a producer of 'Panorama' and 'Newsnight'. A relative of film star, Helena Bonham-Carter.

Sir Iain Vallance. Former President of the C.B.I. and now Vice-President of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

Rev. Roger Roberts. Methodist minister and former President of the Welsh Lib Dems. Has been Superintendent Minister for Wales.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger. Currently Chief Executive of the King's Fund, (an independent charitable foundation aiming to improve health).

Sir David Alliance. Founder of international textile group Coats-Viyella plc. Formed the Alliance Foundation to support the relief of poverty and advancement of religion, education and medical knowledge (see quote on page 9)

Hugh Dykes. Former Tory M.P., joined the Lib Dems in 1997. Is an active member of the Party's Defence and Foreign Affairs team.

A WARM WELCOME!

Another good time for new members joining us. Some moving in from other areas, we will be very pleased to hear from you or see you at our events Contact numbers: Paul Graydon (Membership Secretary) 01903 716582 or Barbara Roberts 01903 725459 or Ian Menzies 01243 551199

Back with us, Dave - ('erbert no.2!)

We are pleased to inform members that Cllr. Dave Leggatt had a successful back operation. Within 2½ weeks he was standing in my driveway feeling much better. Welcome back 'erbert no 2.

p.s. I didn't mention a Focus delivery!! Well, O.K. if you insist!!! B.R.

OBITUARIES

Lord Geraint

Described by journalist Michael White as “the Robert Mitchum of the sheep fells”, Liberal Democrats will sorely miss Lord Geraint (Geraint Howells) who died, aged 79, in April. Geraint served as a Liberal and Liberal Democrat M.P. leaving the Commons in 1992 then serving in the House of Lords. A Welsh speaking sheep farmer, a favoured son of west Wales and one of its most popular spokesmen, Geraint was at his best as Agriculture Spokesman appointed by Paddy Ashdown. Whilst serving in the Upper House, Lord Geraint continued to represent farmers. A truly great Liberal who will be sadly missed.

b. 15th April 1925, d. 17th April 2004

John Oliver

Many of you will remember a staunch member and activist of many years, John Oliver. We learned of the sudden death at his Winchester home in the early hours of May 1st with sadness. John lived in Arundel for a number of years; he helped with many campaigns and was, himself, a candidate. A true Liberal, he was a caring and compassionate man who always saw the good side of everyone. John had a wonderful sense of humour and saw the funny side of most things, especially during an arduous campaign. After leaving Arundel, John moved to Surrey and then to Winchester where he had met up with our Constituency’s great friend and former P.P.C., Pamela Peskett, whom he was helping with the local election. Barbara spoke on the telephone only the day before John died. He was in jovial mood and was looking forward to coming to West Sussex to see us all again shortly. Barbara has sent a message of condolence to John’s family. Cllr. Dr. James Walsh attended the funeral in Guildford.



CONGRATULATIONS

to our latest winners:

1st Prize: (£43.05) to Mrs. Mary Avard

2nd Prize: (£18.45) to Cllr. Nick Wiltshire

There are many shares still available which provide a good income to the Local Party and worthwhile winnings to the lucky ones.

Details of how to win from Cllr. Nick Wiltshire or ring 01903 725459

JUNE 10th Continued - The GOOD NEWS

- As well as Newcastle we won Pendle.
- Big gains of seats in Cardiff, Swansea, Manchester, Bolton, Sefton, Rochdale, Burnley, Leeds and Kingston upon Hull; meaning the Labour Party lost control of many councils.
- We are still the largest Party in many councils with No Overall Control (N.O.C.). Including Cheltenham, Winchester & Norwich, which the Tories thought they would snatch.
- We have consolidated our position in Liverpool (60 seats!), Eastleigh and Watford where we are in control.
- There were only a handful of Tory gains from the Lib Dems in Lib Dem held parliamentary constituencies.
- As in the local elections, the B.N.P. were marginalised, failing to win a single Euro seat. The bad news is that U.K.I.P. clearly attracted a chunk of their potential vote.



As per usual Worthing and Eastbourne are areas in which Tory and Lib Dem control goes back and forth each election (most yearly elections being $\frac{1}{3}$ seats contested). We lost ONE seat in Eastbourne which meant we lost control. Worthing, which is a 'hot-bed' of politics at the moment went from N.O.C. to Tory, whose promises will be watched very closely by the Lib Dem group!! Cllr. James Walsh, Cllr. Simon McDougall, Paul Graydon and I helped in Seldon Ward and on the day we ensured we returned two Lib Dems of the three-councillor ward.

Barbara Roberts

TORIES WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR PLANNING AMENDMENT

In a Lords division, Baroness Hamwee's amendment to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill, which would have ensured that major planning strategies would still be decided by locally elected bodies, was finally lost when the Tories withdrew their support.
Surprise! Surprise!

Many thanks to Cllr. James Walsh for hosting and doing his share of cooking ably assisted by Malcolm slaving in the kitchen! Well attended, this event welcomed again to our Region, Lord Navnit Dholakia, Party President who spoke to us about the good position the Party was in ready for the General Election.

Navnit brought a House of Lords bottle of Claret signed by Leader, Charles Kennedy to be auctioned adding his own signature when £55 was bid!

Altogether £455 was raised for the European Election.

A great evening - well done to all who contributed to make this a memorable occasion.

Plenty of POLITICS & Plates of PASTA!



Simon, James & Lord Dholakia take a short break

An Update on the 'Chain Gang'



Cllr. Francis Oppler

Well done to both Cllr Dr. James Walsh and Cllr. Francis Oppler on completing their year as members of the 'Chain Gang'. This is what we call the chosen who wear the Chain of Office! James had a splendid year as Chairman of Arun District Council and Francis as Mayor of Bognor Regis. Both realising a great deal of money for their chosen charities.

We congratulate Cllr. Sylvia Olliver on becoming Mayor of Bognor Regis and Cllr Jeanette Warr on becoming Deputy Mayor. Let's hear it for 'girl power' then!!

WE FORECAST A BRIGHT & SUNNY FUTURE!

After much speculation the engagement has been confirmed between Lib Dem M.P., Lembit Opik (Montgomeryshire) and I.T.V.'s weather-girl Sian Lloyd. Many congratulations to you both. Not a cloud on the horizon, then? ... and no dull intervals!?

[Couldn't resist the corny content, could I? Barbara]

Cllr SIMON McDOUGALL SELECTED as PPC



A good turn out on a fine Spring evening for our hustings. Unfortunately, one of the three candidates, George Schlich, because of business pressures had to withdraw from the contest. He kindly attended the proceedings to explain and apologise for any inconvenience caused, which was appreciated by our members. As we were fortunate to have two excellent candidates in Laura Murphy and Simon McDougall,

members attending felt it was unnecessary to re-open nominations.

Simon McDougall won outright on the first ballot. Both candidates spoke extremely well, although Laura acknowledged that she was up against a strong local candidate in Simon. However, it was a pleasure to welcome Laura and thank her for her interest in our Local Party. She will do well in whichever constituency is fortunate to select her.

Now the work begins. In Simon we have someone who has already started working hard and been involved in helping people in his Council capacity.

When I asked Simon what his family said about his selection, he said they were proud and pleased. Although, when he first got involved with politics his Grandma said, "Politics is not for the likes of us people."

Oh, yes it is, Simon. Granny doesn't always know best, does she?

Barbara

THE TETRA WAR IS SPREADING FAST

Paul Tyler M.P. (North Cornwall) is urging the Home Secretary and Health Secretary to have an immediate moratorium on the continued siting of masts. There is particular concern about the 'Terrestrial Trunk Radio' (TETRA) and the frequency to be used. Cllr Paul Wells (Bognor Regis Hotham) and Cllr Dave Legatt (Littlehampton Wick & Toddington) have raised concerns in our constituency and will be working together on this growing problem.

An explanation of the technicalities and health issues can be found at: www.cogreslab.co.uk/TETRA.htm - ED



“ QUOTES ”

“I can assure you that had I tried to spend half an hour, let alone two and a half hours in the Commons Chamber it would have made the headlines of the next few days pale by comparison.”

Leader, Charles Kennedy in an interview to the Independent on March 31st, regarding the virulent stomach bug that struck him down.

“With its distinctive appeal - the only British party to oppose the war, its self-confident Liberalism tinged with a more realistic tougher tone - the Liberal Democrats can make a claim to being relevant. They used to be tormented with the dismissive question: What are the liberal Democrats for? They have some answers now”

The Independent, following Charles Kennedy's speech in their 'You ask the Questions' debate - 31st March

“I didn't put my hand out for him to shake, as I thought I might catch something and bring it back to our constituency!”

Chairman Ian Menzies attending the Southport Conference commenting on Charles Kennedy mixing with delegates after his speech whilst still being 'sickly'!! - ED:- You had your mind on all the PPC mailing we had to do on the following Tuesday!!

“Fawcett's polling shows the only party to have increased support among older women between 1997 and 2003 was the Liberal Democrats, thanks to policies like nursing care and pension reform.”

Gaby Hinsliff, The Observer, 25th April

“Daniel Hannan M.E.P., a young leader-writer on the Daily Telegraph, has the highest absenteeism rate of any of his Tory colleagues in the South East Region, recording barely more votes than Nigel Farage of the UK Independence Party.”

Chris Huhne M.E.P. on the abysmal voting record on important issues by Tory M.E.P.'s. - Guildford S.E. Region Conference, 24th April

“It is this sense of humanity that Alliance will bring to the House of Lords. . . ”

Journalist, John Waples describing newly ennobled David Alliance, who, during his time in textiles, backed the British Textile business against imports. Sunday Times, 2nd May

“The Tories don't appear to be winning women voters back and the only party so far to be gaining female support are the Lib Dems.”

Alison Little, Daily Express, 10th May

“We are grateful that we were accepted and we have spent a delightful year in the company of a very nice bunch of people. We are proud to say that we are now candidates for the Liberal Democrats in the forthcoming Borough by-election. Will the Tories ever learn? We doubt it.”

Jan & Ian Brown, former Tory Councillors from Watford, now Lib Dems.

“Labour’s strategists admit that they have a tough job to hold Charles Kennedy’s Party at bay the Liberal Democrats have a strong local base . . . in the Leicester South area they have done particularly well, scoring 42% of the vote. The Conservatives will face a fight to avoid falling into third place.”

The Times 29th May, on the forthcoming by-election in Leicester South because of the death of Labour M.P.*

“Now we can move on to a more integrated Europe”

..one of the D-Day veterans speaking when reflecting on his experiences 60 years ago.

... So say all of us - Ed

* Tony Blair is running scared of us by confirming that Labour is rushing through both the Leicester South and Birmingham Hodge Hill Parliamentary by-elections on 15th July. Labour have learnt their lesson from Brent East (!) and want to stop the Liberal Democrats building up a winning momentum in these seats.

CLLR. DAVID JONES VOTED CHAIR OF LITTLEHAMPTON W.S.A.D.

Just in case he finds a spare few moments in his busy life, Cllr. David Jones has been voted Chairman at the recent A.G.M. of the Littlehampton Branch of W.S.A.D. (West Sussex Association of Disabled people). This follows David receiving an award for his services to local disabled people.

Well done, David.

HAVE YOU ANY ARCHIVE INFO FOR A STUDENT?

Ian Ivatt is an Open University research student currently looking at Local (Portsmouth & Sussex) Liberal Party aspects for the Edwardian Period 1900 - 1914. Do you, or anyone you know, have any archive information, especially those of you from families that have always been Liberal minded? Ian is trying to glean information from local Liberal sources to compare issues

of importance in Portsmouth and Sussex with national matters and policies. You can contact Ian at: 84, High Street, Steyning, BN44 3RD. Phone: 01903 813230 or 01903 879315. He will be very appreciative of any information we can provide and it will be great if any of our members have records of ‘Liberal’

HOWARD'S HYPOCRISY!

Michael Howard has been accused of hypocrisy and double standards after it was revealed he is allegedly an investor in a company helping the Home Office settle asylum seekers. Lib Dem Chairman of the Parliamentary Party, Matthew Taylor M.P. said, "There is more than a faint whiff of hypocrisy that the man who has attacked the Government for making it too easy for immigrants to come to Britain holds shares in a company profiting from trying to make it easier." Mr Howard

has £30,000 of shares in communications firm, Incepta, allowing him to hold 24,000 shares! M.P's must only register investments if the value outstrips their £57,000 salary!!

Incepta's subsidiary, Citigate Lloyd Northover, recently won two lucrative deals to develop websites for speeding up applications from immigrants to enter the UK.

Editor's comment:

"There is MORE than a 'faint whiff' of hypocrisy - IT STINKS!

DEFECTIONS:

FORMER AIDE TO LABOUR M.P. JOINS LIB DEMS

A loyal Labour member for 45 years, a councillor and former aide to a Labour M.P., Roy Kershaw has joined the Liberal Democrats. Until recently Roy worked for Andy Reed M.P. for Loughborough. Unhappy with Labour's policy on many issues Roy found he could no longer remain in the Labour Party. Many friends and activists in the Labour party have understood Roy's reasons for leaving.

FORMER TORY MAYOR JOINS LIB DEMS

In Ryedale the Lib Dems have acquired a new high profile campaigner in former Tory Mayor of Malton, Cllr. Anne Hopkinson. Anne was expelled from the Tory Party over an election mix-up even though she was an impartial and caring Mayor. After joining the Lib Dems Anne declared, "I am glad to be a member of a decently progressive political party which genuinely cares for people.

LABOUR COUNCILLOR JOINS LUTON LIB DEMS

Cllr. Mohamad Yasin has joined the Lib Dem Group on Luton Council. He declared, "For a long time I have been concerned that the Labour Party is no longer the party I joined all those years ago."

FORMER LABOUR COUNCILLOR JOINS LIB DEMS IN HINKLEY & BOSWORTH

Sandra Franks recently joined the Lib Dems declaring, "Labour has failed to deliver on several key policies." She added that the Labour Party is seemingly at odds with itself and indifferent to the view of the public at large.

Greg & Jason, on behalf of Hotham Ward invite you to a

SKITTLES NIGHT

Friday 16th July 2004, 7.30pm

at the Waverley Freehouse, (corner Nyewood Lane & Marine Drive West),
Bognor Regis.

Tickets £9 to include a basket meal

There will be a raffle, but you don't need to bring any prizes on this occasion.

Booking form
(not reproduced)