



**Bognor Regis &
Littlehampton
Constituency Party**

**QUARTERLY
e - NEWSLETTER**

APRIL 2005

website: www.brl-tonlibdems.org.uk e-mail: info@brl-tonlibdems.org.uk

EVENT

Sunday 8th May 7.30pm to 11.30pm
SPRING CELEBRATION PARTY
The Royal Hotel, The Esplanade,
Bognor Regis.

This event is being organised by Marine & Hotham Wards in Bognor Regis and will include a superb buffet, and a music quiz by Cllr. Ian Harding, the winner will receive a bottle of Champagne. There will be dancing and a large raffle. Ticket application forms enclosed in this newsletter. Book now as only 100 capacity allowed! Many will remember the last party held at The Royal, by kind permission of Cllr. David Coombs - we hope to repeat the good time we had last time. As this will be a really grand occasion, we thought it would be the best time to remember that grand lady, our late President, Mary Avar, who died last November. We will have fun and hopefully raise money for the Local Party, which Mary would have definitely approved. See you there!

10
reasons
to back the
Lib Dems
See pages
6 & 7

WEB SITE LAUNCHED

www.brl-tonlibdems.org.uk

Our PPC, Cllr Simon McDougall officially launched the Local Party Internet Website on March 1st. In his press statement Simon said, "The website.... will serve as an important means of communication between the party and the electorate. Having our own website will be one of the methods we will be using to keep in contact with people."

Importantly, for both the public 'browser', and you, our valued members, material can be updated very quickly and the site will carry the very latest news and information.

In addition, you can contact Simon and the Party officials on one e-mail address: info@brl-tonlibdems.org.uk

You can also see an 'electronic' version of this and previous editions of the Members' Newsletter, where you can't fail to notice our impressive colour content! For those who would prefer to receive the Newsletter via e-mail, let the Membership Secretary, Paul, know your e-mail address on: membership@brl-tonlibdems.org.uk

BY-ELECTION SUCCESSES

Lib Dems replace U.K.I.P. in a stunning result in John Prescott's constituency. After two High Court judges ruled last June's election on Hull City Council was void the former Independent Councillor launched a legal challenge. He had lost his seat to U.K.I.P. by 7 votes. But, here was the surprise, (not me, though! -Ed.) Lib Dems came from 4th place to take the seat from U.K.I.P. This result reflected the shambles U.K.I.P. is in after all their boasting after the European elections, with Robert Kilroy-Silk's rather bizarre behaviour (allegedly!!) recently.

Valiant in Vale Royal, Cheshire, where Lib Dems gained a seat from Labour. The Tory vote collapsed also in this by-election.

Floundering Tories First week of February when Lib Dems delivered a shattering blow to Tory Party Chairman, Liam Fox M.P. in his constituency of Woodspring in North Somerset. The Tory vote collapsed by more than 21%

Tories Trounced in Richmond when Lib Dems saw their vote share increase to win the seat with 52% of the vote! Since 2002 there have been four by-elections in Richmond-Upon-Thames all won by the Lib Dems, three of these from the Tories! A good sign for PPC, Susan Kramer who will (hopefully) succeed Jenny Tonge M.P. who retires at the General Election.

Nudging the Tories out in North Norfolk the Lib Dems won a seat on North Norfolk District Council. Labour crashed badly meaning this parliamentary seat will be a straight fight between the Tories and Lib Dems.

Three good Lib Dem Town Council wins from Independent in Gainsborough;.....from Independent in Saltash, Cornwall;.....from Independent in Bishop Auckland.

ALDERMAN CATHERINE MORRISH'S SPONSORED SWIM

Alderman Catherine Morrish will, any day now, perform her sponsored swim at the Felpham

Leisure Centre, for local party funds. If you would like to make a last minute donation to her, she can be contacted at 01243 263989. Thank you.



THE WINNER IS... .. PARLIAMENT

After two days and nights of 'ping pong' between the House of Commons and the Lords where in the end the opposition won many concessions, the winner was undoubtedly Parliament. Some very good debates to improve a poorly written bill which was being put through by the Government were what Parliament should be about. Our spokespeople in both Houses were superb, no political posturing for them but good, sensible, calm and measured debate.

I think this is the place to quote Lord Chris Rennard at the Spring Conference where he reminded us of words from President Kennedy:

“Liberalism is our best and only hope in the world today. For the liberal society is a free society, and it is at the same time and for that reason a strong society. Its strength is drawn from the will of free people committed to great ends and peacefully striving to meet them.”

Another American, Benjamin Franklin, said,

“He who gives up essential liberty for a little temporary security deserves neither liberty nor security.”

Mmmm - great words of wisdom to sustain us in the weeks of electioneering!

B.R.



CONGRATULATIONS to our two latest winners:

1st Prize: (£42.00) to Cllr. Brian Dodd

2nd Prize: (£18.00) to Bill Robinson

As you can see, the more shares you have - the more times you win!!

Details of how you could become a regular winner from
Nick Wiltshire (who else!?) or ring 01903 725459

Bognor Regis & Littlehampton Party Wins Award!

As recorded in the Liberal Democrat News, our Constituency Party has won a 'posh' banner, suitable for the forthcoming elections. This was awarded because we had the most members signing up to receive the weekly 'Liberal Democrat News'.

Now, I want to see our Constituency winning an award because we have the most new members joining!! It's looking fairly good recently. Keep up the good work Recruitment Officers!

B.R.

WELCOME TO THE LIB DEMS

SIX LABOUR MEMBERS DEFECT TO LIB DEMS in Hodge Hill. This constituency has grown with new members and much campaign activity. One of the six former Labour members, Mohammed Nawaz said, “I feel let down by the Labour Party and Tony Blair.” (And so say all of us!! - Ed.)

A WELCOME IN WATFORD, where former Labour councillor, Keith Crout had joined the Lib Dems. He had been a well respected member of Watford Borough Council and was warmly welcomed by Lib Dem Mayor, Dorothy Thornhill.

SUFFOLK COUNCILLOR SOCKS TORIES AND JOINS LIB DEMS. Tory councillor, Jane Andrews-Smith resigned from their group on Suffolk County Council and joined the Lib Dem group. She declared she had become disenchanted with Conservative policies both at local and national level and had found herself increasingly attracted to the Liberal Democrats. Jane said she was impressed by Leader, Charles Kennedy’s “direct answers to direct questions.”

SENIOR TORY COUNCILLOR DEFECTS TO LIB DEMS, Mrs Joy Bushby MBE resigned from the Conservative Party and joined the Liberal Democrats after being a Tory member for 35 years. Joy said, “Michael Howard’s latest service slashing budget was the last straw. Not only is this a deeply unrealistic option, it is a brash attempt to buy votes from the rich at the expense of the needy.”

LABOUR CONSTITUENCY CHAIR QUILTS IN ORPINGTON AND JOINS LIB DEMS - Harold Barker, Chairman of the Cray Valley Labour Party in Orpington had urged the people to back our Lib Dem PPC, Chris Maines as there is only a 269 Tory majority to overturn.

LOCAL TEACHER LEAVES WOKING’S LABOUR PARTY to join Lib Dems. Denzil Coulson stated Labour’s membership in Woking and beyond was plummeting. He pledged to help PPC, Dr Anne Lee, by making it clear to Labour voters that voting Labour only helps elect a Tory MP.

TOP TORY IN NORTHAMPTON TEARS UP MEMBERSHIP CARD... and joins Lib Dems. Cllr. Malcolm Mildren shocked his County Council when he crossed the floor to join the Lib Dems stating, "I cannot support the narrow self-interest and 'Little Englander' views of the current Tory Leadership on the County Council or in Parliament." Malcolm also said the Tories had abandoned the need to care for the disadvantaged.

FORMER TORY CANDIDATE DEFECTS TO LIB DEMS in the Colne Valley constituency in West Yorkshire. Amanda Harland was subjected to dreadful treatment by local Tories whilst their candidate. She was ordered to highlight her hair and shorten her skirts!! - - (Oh, really!! Whatever next?? Simon McDougall at the tanning & toning studio??!!)

SHREWSBURY & ATCHAM welcomed former Labour Councillor, John Roberts to stand for the Lib Dems in the County elections on May 5th. John left the Labour Party totally disillusioned.

TORIES ROCKED IN ROCHDALE when two of their councillors joined the Lib Dems stating their disgust with the Conservatives. Policies on immigration and Europe with local problems also; Cllrs. Wera and William Hobhouse said the Tories were completely out of line with their thinking.

THE BEST VALUE LONDON MPs ARE LIB DEM!!

A survey was held by the Evening Standard which identified the London MPs who gave 'best value'. The level of expenses claimed and the work that they did was taken into consideration. Of the top five, four are Liberal Democrat.

Top: Paul Burstow (Sutton & Cheam), Vince Cable (Twickenham), second. Tom Brake (Carshalton & Wallington), fourth. Simon Hughes (Southark & Bermondsey) was fifth. Ed Davey (Kingston & Surbiton) was fourteenth with Jenny Tonge (Richmond Park) fifteenth. There were 73 placements.

The three least valued were all Conservatives with Michael Portillo at 71, Derek Conway at 72, and John Wilkinson at 73.

Sarah Teather (Brent East) was excluded from the survey as she has not yet served the full time period.

The Evening Standard said, "this can be a matter of pride for the Liberal Democrats and that voters might like to take these findings into account at the coming election."

My comment: "Best value" - what next?? Loyalty points? "Buy One Get One Free"? Otherwise known as B.O.G.O.F. --- OK, enough said!

But seriously, this is good coming from the Evening Standard.

Barbara.

10

reasons to vote Lib Dem

We Oppose: Putting targets first

We Propose: PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

We Oppose: Tuition fees and top-up fees

We Propose: SCRAPPING STUDENT FEES

We Oppose: Compulsory I.D. cards

We Propose: SPENDING THE MONEY ON 10,000 MORE POLICE

We Oppose: Selling your home to pay for your care

We Propose: FREE PERSONAL CARE FOR THE ELDERLY

We Oppose: Ignoring climate change

We Propose: CLEANER TRANSPORT & CLEANER ENERGY

We Oppose: £1.5 billion on the Child Trust Fund

We Propose: £1.5 BILLION TOWARDS REDUCING CLASS SIZES

We Oppose: Means-testing pensioners

We Propose: £100 EXTRA PER MONTH STARTING WITH THE OVER 75s

We Oppose: Hidden tax increases

We Propose: ONLY ONE TAX INCREASE – ON INCOME ABOVE £100,000 PER YEAR

We Oppose: Unfair Council Tax

We Propose: LOCAL INCOME TAX, SAVING TYPICAL HOUSEHOLDS £450 PER YEAR

We Oppose: Bush & Blair on Iraq

We Propose: NEVER AGAIN

FREEDOM FAIRNESS TRUST

TEN REASONS
TO VOTE
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT

THIS IS OUR MESSAGE!

This will be a desperate campaign by the two main parties to outdo each other in who can be the most 'Tory', the most right-wing and the most scare-mongering.

This is the time for us not to be intimidated by our unscrupulous opponents (oh, yes they will, and how!!) and stick to our message which has been consistent all along. We have not swayed and changed policy daily to pander to the gutter press, nor pandered to peoples' fears and prejudices.

This will be the election to be proud to be a Liberal Democrat with our message of Freedom, Fairness and Trust, and the ten point plan. Succinct, honest and workable.

This is the time for those who have generously agreed to help deliver leaflets, canvass or any other task to go forward with a "spring in their step". For those of us who are unable to pound the streets because like many, we are not as young or fit as we used to be, your continued support and encouragement matters a great deal to our candidates. As it is spring cleaning time, (Oh, don't remind me!) you may find the odd 'copper or two' down the back of the sofa. All donations greatly received!!! The more money raised - the more work we can do to elect more County Councillors and hopefully move towards electing a Lib-Dem M.P.

Good luck to all of you, enjoy the campaign!

B.R.

To Keep You Chuckling Whilst Electioneering!!

by Barbara Roberts

Mum & I were looking at the Spring fashions while out shopping. I came across one of the gypsy/peasant style skirts very heavily featured in the fashion pages of magazines.

I was looking at the skirt quite critically when my Mother in a loud voice said, "You better not be seen in one of those, Michael Howard will put you in prison."!!!!

Good to know she's following the day to day 'rant' coming out of Mr Howard.

INSTITUTE OF FISCAL STUDIES PROVES LIB DEMS RIGHT

The analysis of the Liberal Democrats' policy on the abolition of Council Tax and introduction of the Local Income Tax was very welcome. The Institute of Fiscal Studies (IPS) gave this analysis stating that the majority of people would benefit under the Lib Dem proposals. Local Government spokesman, Lib Dem MP Ed Davey added that eight million pensioners

would be better off with more than half paying nothing at all. "There will be no more losers under Local Income Tax than under Labour and Conservative's proposals for Council Tax revaluation," said Ed. Under the Liberal Democrats, Local Income Tax would be assessed on 'Ability to pay' rather than the topsy-turvy housing market.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Barbara's Coffee Morning raised a tremendous £130, thank you to all those who attended this most enjoyable Saturday morning event recently.

‘ QUOTES ’

Some late 2004 ones that missed the January Newsletter deadline:

“The opposition of the Liberal Democrats to identity cards has been a beacon in a bleak Parliament.”
Simon Jenkins, The Times, 22nd December

“What can’t be denied is that the Lib Dems are better placed than they have been at any time in their existence as a party.”
Andrew Rawnsley, The Observer, 26th December

“The single politician who holds the fates of Mr. Blair, Mr. Brown - and Michael Howard- in his hands in 2005 is Charles Kennedy.”
Michael Brown, The Independent ,29th December

Good quotes all through the year and continuing into 2005:

“Kennedy has stolen a huge chunk of Labour’s middle-class support... that can only make Howard watch and weep.”
John Rentoul, The Independent, 6th January

“I’m voting Lib Dem again.... my local MP, Vince Cable, is a good guy.”
Greg Dyke, Daily Telegraph, 14th January

“Ministers are being warned that, as part of a wider problem of disaffection on the left, Labour MPs are increasingly vulnerable to Liberal Democrat campaigns.”
Jackie Ashley, The Guardian, 13th January
(Jackie is wife to BBC’s Political Editor, Andrew Marr)

“We saw an incisive, sharply focused leader, one who carried conviction.”
The Independent, 18th January on Charles Kennedy’s campaign launch.

“In fact they (the Lib Dems) are scoring more strongly than the third party has done for nearly two decades.”
Andrew Rawnsley, The Observer, 23rd January

“This time, the two parties begin the campaign neck-and-neck. And the steady rise in Lib Dem support could cost Labour dearly, if it is caught in a pincer movement, it has many more seats to lose.”
Leader, Daily Telegraph, 28th January

“The Liberal Democrats could break through to form a government with a big majority.... they have already gained support at Labour’s expense since the build-up to war in Iraq, but could yet gain more.”
John Rentoul, The Independent, 30th January

6 QUOTES continued 9 9

“Charles Kennedy is the only other prominent politician who could perform as well as Tony Blair surrounded by an audience of awkwardly informed and angry youngsters.”
Steve Richards, The Independent, 1st February

“If turnout is no higher than in 2001, and if the Lib Dems get their usual campaign gain, Labour’s overall majority will be largely or wholly dissolved.”
William Rees-Mogg, The Times, 7th February

“The Liberal Democrats are riding higher in the pre-election polls than at any time since the SDP bubble two decades ago.”
Leader, The Independent On Sunday, 13th February

“I will vote Liberal Democrat. I met Charles Kennedy.... and he was tough, focused and impressively resolute against deals with Blair, should the election substantially reduce the government majority.”
Yasmin Alibhai-Brown, The Independent, 14th February

“It is true that opinion polls have registered only a single swing to the Conservatives since 2001. But they point to considerably higher Lib Dem support.”
Leader, Daily Telegraph, 14th February

“Many Labour-inclined voters are toying with the idea of staying at home or voting Lib Dem.”
John Kampner, Daily Express, 18th February

“The more young women were told about the different party messages, the more they favoured the Lib Dems.”
Report on focus group polling, The Times, 23rd February

“...but if you believe that two terms of Labour are long enough and you would not mind a hung House of Commons - which might, at least, reduce elective dictatorship - then I would suggest that, like me, you feel free to go for the Lib Dems.”
Financial Times journalist, Simon Brittan, writing in the Evening Standard, 28th February

“Liberal Democrats are the party cutting taxes for the many, not the few.”
Lib Dem MP Ed Davey, in the ‘Scrap the Council Tax’ motion at the Spring Conference, 6th March

STEVE WEBB MP WINS CHANNEL 4 AWARD

Northavon MP, Steve Webb, our excellent Pensions spokesman, received the “Hansard Society Innovation Award” from Channel 4’s Jon Snow. He won because of best use of new technology to keep in touch with his constituents.

Alderman Morrish's contribution to the decision to refuse planning to WSCC for waste re-cycling at Ford. 1st Feb 2005

I believe the Development Plan Policy should be adhered to concerning countryside policies because ever increasing Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic in the country roads and parishes is wrong. The 'improved' roundabout would be inadequate for the extra large HGV transporters, and the A259 is single-carriageway with queuing in several areas at peak times, both east and west of Ford.

Arun District Councillors have raised objections at paragraph 5.3 of this County Planning Matter Application, and the five local parishes and two local town councils have all raised material considerations. Valid objections arise through the recycling business being dependent upon frequent daily visits of HGVs of varying sizes.

The MRF should be responsible for minimising HGV miles as well as minimising landfill.

West Sussex is a long south coastal county with inadequate roads connecting the A259 to the A27 and beyond. All north of the Downs County and District recycling HGVs will pass and re-pass through the AONB (more often than not) to deliver recyclables to Ford only a mile from the sea. The reprocessing bulk transporters will have to struggle through West Sussex roads to pick up goods to go back up North to their plants. I think the WSCC and Viridor will lose business because of expensive travelling time.

If the County has only ONE MRF it is essential for it to be next to a dual-carriageway and towards the north of the county. Otherwise two smaller MRFs are necessary east and west of the county to split the daily traffic of HGVs and put these two sites much nearer to dual-carriageways. If a Ford rail siding could have been built and used for all the bulked recyclables in containers and trucks for rail journeys to the reprocessing plants the whole process might then mean progress and railways for recycling, reprocessing and refuse - far more environmentally friendly.

How many councillors have visited an MRF site built by Viridor or another County Council? The operation is quite an old fashioned concept for the start of a 25 year contract. Health and Safety for the 73 workers should be high on any inspection of a similar site including the drivers and loaders work and responsibilities.

The employees at Ford are to be encouraged to share lifts to work, to cycle, and showers will be provided. But, this must be the most minute saving of energy and pollution whereas the whole HGV business in and out of Ford would be the antithesis of this individual effort by employees.

However suitable the brown-field site might appear to be, the economic and environmental transport cost would far outweigh the value of the recyclables and increased recycling. An independent inquiry should look at this scheme in detail. I hoped it would be possible to have maps and diagrams to show the journeys and the wasted time and expense. Just to give two examples locally; the A284 through Lyminster to the east joining the A259 to the A27 is narrow and windey, and the A259 to the west has still no bypass or relief roads past Middleton, Felpham, Bognor Regis and Bersted.

An alternative site or sites must be found and adjacent to dual carriageways.

[The plan was thrown out by Councillors at a planning meeting.
Viridor will probably appeal.]

Students are Backing Lib Dems

Students are supporting the Lib Dems more than ever. 61% of students believe the government is out of touch. The Student Experience Study carried out a MORI poll on behalf of the Unite Group and came up with these statistics on how students would vote:

Lib Dems	34%
Labour	28%
Conservative	19%

The Liberal Democrats have gained an increase of 11% over the last five years.

Membership Talk No 2..... from Paul Graydon, Membership Secretary

As you have probably seen on the front page, we now have a Local Party Website. This is just one of the ways that the local party is embracing new technology. It means that I (or any subsequently elected Membership Secretary) can be contacted on one single e-mail address:

membership@brl-tonlibdems.org.uk

Membership Services at Cowley Street have had computerised records since the amalgamation which took a lot of burdensome 'longhand' paper-work from the Membership Secretaries of old. This was very helpful, but it also removed that old 'personal' contact that the former Liberal Party Branches had with all their local members. We regret the loss of this personal touch and hope that we can keep personal contact in ways other than just

visiting you to collect a cash subscription. This admirable Newsletter, inaugurated by the Late Alderman Francis Avard has remained the mainstay of contact with you and Barbara aims to ensure it remains a friendly and involving way of keeping in touch with you. I, of course, remain your main point of contact and will pass on any matter you draw to my attention about anything political, locally and I will always try to solve any administrative matters you may have with the Party. You can write to me, telephone me, (the number is on your membership card) or by all means use the new technology and try the e-mail, - I can respond very quickly to this method! Whichever way, please help to keep membership a two way process - and I will try to make an effort to meet you when we attend social functions.

Hopefully on May 8th!

APOLOGIES.....

For some reason in converting the format to “.pdf” for this electronic version, the hyperlinks on pages 1 and 12 do not appear to have been transferred through the conversion process. Sorry about this. If it is possible to fix, this page will disappear and you will be able to ‘click’ on the blue underlined links for direct re-routeing.

**If anyone is particularly familiar with Pagemaker 6.5, Postscript files and Adobe Distiller 3, Paul would be grateful to hear from you:
membership@brl-tonlibdems.org.uk**