



JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S TWO-DAY PARTY ASSEMBLY IN EXMOUTH, DEVON

SEASIDE VENUE FOR PARTY ASSEMBLY

This year's Party Assembly will be held in Exmouth, Devon on Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th September. As the Party continues to grow, we've expanded the Assembly in to a two-day event with a refreshed programme of debates, Party business and social events.

A registration form is enclosed with this mailing. We want to encourage you all to attend – so we're setting the registration fee at just £15 as standard or £5 if unwaged.

The Conference venue is Exmouth Community College; their website address is: www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk where you can find



full details of its location and good transport links. Exmouth has a wide range of visitor accommodation

to suit all budgets. Here's a useful website address, giving a range of options for places to stay: www.exmouth-guide.co.uk/p/stay

We've already had suggestions for topics for debate including Transport, Living Wage, The Economy, Education, Immigration and Health. Members are invited to submit motions for debate, which need to be received by 6.00 pm on Friday 15th August.

Please see the reverse of the enclosed registration form for full details of how to submit a motion for Assembly. Motions will be circulated to all registered delegates by Friday 22nd August and amendments will be invited for receipt by 6.00 pm on Friday 29th August.

LIBERAL NEWS

Summer 2014

Assembly Special

ELECTION SUCCESS IN LIVERPOOL!

At the local elections in May, Liverpool Liberals fielded candidates in all 30 wards. The continuing Lib Dem collapse saw them able only to put up 18 candidates - and this, remember, in a city which they had controlled for many years.

In our key stronghold of Tuebrook and Stoneycroft we had a new candidate - **Kevin Morrison** -



standing to replace Chris Lenton, following his recent move away from Liverpool. Kevin won with a whopping 60% of the vote!

Liverpool is in danger of becoming a one-party state. With Labour holding 78 seats, the opposition is now down to 12 - with 2 of the 3 remaining Lib Dems likely to lose next time.

Meanwhile, our 3 Councillors continue to provide the only really constructive opposition in the Council Chamber.

LIBERAL NEWS WELCOMES YOUR NEWS AND VIEWS FOR PUBLICATION. PLEASE SEND THEM TO:
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PARTY PRESIDENT SPEAKS ON THE IRAQ/SYRIA TURMOIL



Party President Steve Radford has issued the following statement about the continuing tragic conflicts in Iraq and Syria:

“The Western Alliance’s ousting of Saddam Hussein has led to years of internal warfare, with over 100,000 Iraqis dying – and there’s still no realistic prospect of peace. The Iraqi government is dysfunctional, many power and sewage systems are smashed and over one third of adults are unemployed.

In Syria, the Western powers have actively encouraged anti-Assad revolts by different groups of the majority Sunni population, despite Russia’s prescient warning that this would create a vacuum – and Islamic extremists have now filled this gap. ISIS now controls an area across Syria and Iraq, including many oilfields, that’s larger than Belgium.

Iraq and Syria were states artificially created post WW1 by the UK and France to suit their own interests, paying scant regard to local tribal and cultural allegiances or borders, to which they are meaningless. The West should now stop interfering in the Middle East. Recent history has shown that we usually make bad situations worse.



Kurdistan is already a de-facto independent state, which is seen as a potential threat by several major regional powers. A formal declaration of independence could trigger further bloodshed, especially in the disaffected and volatile majority Kurdish areas of neighbouring Turkey and Iran.

The UK should not be taking sides in these complicated conflicts between shifting alliances of differing sects and diverse ethnic and religious groups, whose majority Arab population includes Alawite, Druze, Sunni, Shia and Christian communities. Other ethnic groups in this volatile mix include Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Yezidi and Turks.



Liberals believe that, in large part, the current crisis has been brought about by the past actions of Tony Blair and George W. Bush. The UK government should apologise to the Arab World for our meddling and seek to work in concert with the United Nations for a wider Middle East peace settlement. And the first step should be to urge the UN to dismiss Iraq war-tainted Tony Blair from his post as UN peace envoy.”

FURTHER SUCCESS IN PETERBOROUGH

May 22nd saw the re-election of popular and hard-working Peterborough Councillor, **Chris Ash**. Chris, who represents Dogsthorpe ward, was first elected in 1986. With almost 59% of the vote, Chris’s year-round commitment has once again been rewarded with a thumping thumbs-up from local residents.



Chris and fellow Councillors Adrian Miners and Bella Saltmarsh certainly prove the old adage **‘where we work, we win!’**

STEPHEN GRAHAM ON XENOPHOBIA

National Executive member Stephen Graham takes on UKIP:

“Following the recent European elections, the xenophobic comments on Romanians in this country by Nigel Farage of UKIP cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

I know a good number of Romanians, as well as Bulgarians, and contrary to anything else you’ve heard in the press they are intelligent and hard-working – and they make a tremendous contribution to the economic activity of this country. Those coming to any country for nefarious purposes are an unrepresentative fraction of new arrivals.

When the British economy was booming prior to 2007, a shrinking domestic pool of labour drew people to this country to take up jobs that British people were unable or unwilling to fill. Some of the reasons people in this country did not benefit from a buoyant economy included poor educational or workplace skills, a lack of mobility or they had become parked on various forms of long-term benefit.

The reason we continue to attract new arrivals to this country is that we have not addressed these basic flaws in our own employment market, but continue to make a virtue of a low wage, high cost economy, rather than a living wage economy with employment opportunities for all.

Liberals say that we should address these fundamental flaws in our economy, not blame those who have chosen to move to our country to make a worthwhile contribution to our economy and society”.

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