



LIBERAL News Winter 2009

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ALL Motions are reproduced in full on the
Liberal Party Website:

www.liberal.org.uk

National Executive Dates 2009-2010

All meetings held at The Civil
Service Club, Whitehall and
start at 11 a.m.

Sat. Dec.5th 2009

Sat. March 6th 2010

Sat. June 12th 2010

Special Liberal Assembly to approve General Election Manifesto

Saturday Feb 13th 2010 at

The Civil Service Club

Commences at 11 a.m. ALL
members welcome to attend.

NB. NO amendments taken.

National Award for Liberal Campaigner



Local Kidderminster Community Campaigner, Rose Bishop, (pictured left with Cllrs. Fran Oborski and Mike Price) has jointly won a top national award which recognises top staff and volunteers working in the criminal justice system. Her prize, in the Justice Awards, Engaging Communities category was presented by the Home Secretary, Alan Johnson at the Banqueting House, London.

Rose, who Chairs the local PACT and the very successful Offmore Comberton Action Group, was a finalist in Victim Supports own Volunteer Awards in October and since last year she has been a volunteer crimefighter with West Mercia Police.

Mike and Fran are absolutely delighted that Rose has been selected to stand as Liberal Candidate for the Offmore Comberton Ward of Wyre Forest in the local elections next year to replace Cllr. Siri Hayward who is standing down after 13 years.

Fantastic Ryedale By-election Result!

October 8th 2009

SUE COWAN—LIBERAL	392
LibDem	274
Ind	213
Ind	37

A magnificent gain from the Lib Dems in Yorkshire

First Cornish language War Memorial

Liberal Councillor Paul Holmes has been playing a leading part in bringing to completion the use of the Cornish Language on a War Memorial for the first time.

The Memorial, at Pencoys with Carmenellis Parish was dedicated On October 4th 2009.

Pictures of the ceremony and the memorial can be found on the Liberal Party website.

Attention ALL Liberals in London and the South.

A meeting will be held on **January 16th 2010** to consider setting up a **Regional Association.**

Venue: The Red Lion, 99 Wish Hill, Willingdon, Eastbourne.

Meet from 11 am for a 12 noon start

Lunch will be provided, no charge!

Guest speaker: Theresia Williamson

For further information contact Gerry Williams on 07939682773 OR George Whitehorn on 0208 460 4782

Assembly Motions 2009

All the motions passed at this year's Assembly can be read on line on the Party website. We are reproducing key resolutions here..

Pensions

Assembly notes with grave concern the numbers of pensioners suffering real and relative poverty. Despite Government promises of cleaning up the financial sector, it (the financial sector) continues to award bonuses to managers, rewarding failure instead of achievement.

Assembly asks the NEC to set up a working group to look at the possibility of a universal tax free pension or other alternatives to redress the imbalance, restore fairness to the system and take all pensioners out of the poverty trap.

Assembly notes that vast numbers of pensioners do not take up the ever increasing tax credits and benefits.

Assembly believes that this burdensome scheme of means testing is disingenuous to senior citizens and causes unnecessary expenditure on administration.

Assembly endorses our policy of taking more people out of the tax benefits scheme

trap by calling for all incomes below £12,000 be tax free as the most cost effective and equitable way to assist senior citizens and the low paid alike.

Europe and the European Union

This Assembly affirms that the United Kingdom is a European nation, and that both trade and co-operation with other European nations is good for the United Kingdom.

This Assembly reaffirms the Liberal Party's position on Europe, specifically that:

(a) we oppose the introduction of the Lisbon Treaty without it having first been put to the electorate of the United Kingdom by way of a referendum;

(b) We believe the recent expansion and any further enlargement of the EU would be better served by a more flexible approach whereby countries may adopt those economic, social, home affairs/justice systems, immigration, foreign and taxation policies they believe are best appropriate to them whilst maintaining core trade and polices and democratic institutions.

(c) we oppose the replacement of Sterling with the Euro for the currency of the United Kingdom;

(d) we believe that reform of the European Union is a necessary requirement of the United Kingdom remaining in the European Union. That will require an ongoing campaign to remove the EU's democratic deficit and its lax attitude, towards financial systems, that fails to give an impression that fraud and corruption is being dealt with. We need a devolved and diverse EU that exists for all of the people and all of the peoples in Europe instead of a Union that allows a political elite to control Europe for its own ends.

(e) we believe in free trade which should not be limited to the member nations of the EU.

This Assembly notes the position of the European Parliament whereby only parties who are members of larger European groupings may fight future elections to the Parliament, and states its opposition to this position. However, whilst stating its opposition, this Assembly feels that the electorate should not be denied an opportunity to vote for EU-sceptic Liberal candidates, and calls upon the NEC to make links with other Liberal Parties in Europe (both within and outside the European Union) who are not members of the ELDR and who share the ethos of the Liberal Party, in order to make such a grouping to fight future European Parliamentary elections.

Transport

This Assembly reaffirms its commitment to a public ownership national transport system. This would mean placing key rail and bus or coach operations under the same management and using cross ticketing and interavailability of tickets. We believe this is the way forward to an integrated transport network.

NEC Chair's Visit to Devon Liberals



A sunny October Saturday saw NEC Chair Cllr. Fran Oborski making the 130 mile trip from the West Midlands to Devon to speak to Devon Liberals at an enjoyable lunch at The Trout at Bickleigh.

An enjoyable time was had by all, with Fran emphasising the opportunities for Liberalism in our increasingly illiberal, over-controlled society.

Lunch was followed by the "obligatory" raffle for Party Funds, with Fran winning too many prizes, most of which (but not the wine!) were re-drawn.

Both Fran, as NEC Chair and Rob Wheway as Party President, are happy to travel to meet various Liberal groups around the country.

Party Officers 2009/2010:

President: Rob Wheway
NEC Chair: Cllr Fran Oborski
Vice-Chair (Policy & Assembly Committee)-
Daniel Wood
Treasurer: Cllr. Joan Morrish
Minuting Secretary: Cllr. Andrew
Montgomerie
Nominations & Membership Officer-
Cllr. Jenny Roach

Leading Liberal Councillors take a stand against Race Hate

In Wyre Forest, Liberal NEC Chair Cllr Fran Oborski Chairs the local Hate Incident Reporting Partnership whilst, as can be seen below, in Liverpool, Cllr. Steve Radford is taking a high profile role:

Fight hate crime

> WE SHOULD welcome the decisive action by Knowsley authorities over

> youngsters carrying out racial abuse in Stockbridge Village.

> Abuse is only one step away from violence

> Those of us who live in Liverpool should and are not complacent.

> While reported cases of hate crime incidents are down 10% from last

> year, we recognise the vast majority of incidents go unreported

> To combat under reporting, we have had thousands of leaflets from Stop Hate Crime UK distributed in my immediate Tuebrook/

Anfield area, as well as the Dovecot border with Knowsley.

> Merseyside should not hit the headlines for another Anthony Walker murder.

> It is the duty of all responsible residents to work with police and authorities to combat any forms of violence and intimidation directed towards anyone.

> Cllr Steve Radford, Chairman, Liverpool Community Safety Panel,

> Leader Liberal Party Group

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