



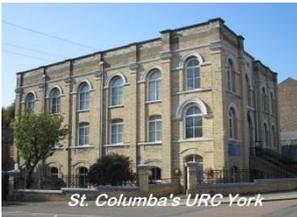
JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S PARTY ASSEMBLY IN YORK

CITY VENUE FOR PARTY ASSEMBLY

This year's Party Assembly will be held in the beautiful City of York on **Saturday 24th October**. For those wishing to stay for the weekend there will be a free drinks reception on Friday evening (23rd) and a 'going Dutch' meal on Saturday evening. In addition, York has a host of tourist attractions and plenty of things to do and see.

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 St. Columba's United Reform Church, Priory Street YO1 6EX; their website address is www.stcolumbaswithnewlendlal.yolasite.com where you can find full details of its location and transport links. York has a wide range of visitor accommodation to suit all budgets. The official York tourist website is www.visitryork.org where you will find lots of useful information.



St. Columba's URC York

We'd like your suggestions for topics for debate and members are invited to submit motions for consideration. Here is the timetable:

- Deadline for receipt of motions: Wednesday 23/09
- Deadline for receipt of amendments: Wednesday 07/10
- Final agenda published: Friday 16/10

Please note that in order to keep production and postage costs as low as possible all motions, amendments and the agenda will be published online in the 'Assembly 2015' section of the Party website. Paper copies can be requested by delegates without internet access.

Motion submission and delegate registration forms are enclosed with this mailing. They are also available for downloading from the Party's website in the 'Assembly 2015' section.

LIBERAL NEWS

Summer 2015

Assembly Special

INSIDE THIS EDITION:



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Having learnt how to canvas in elections by accompanying the well-known and experienced David Morrish, it was no surprise to me that the Tories won the general election. On a brief visit to David just before the election I shared with him the result of my canvassing, the groundswell of support for the Tories and my concern that the national picture could and probably would affect smaller parties and independent candidates in the local elections. It was there, it was obvious, so the question that needs to be asked is: Why did the pollsters get it so wrong? My canvassing clearly showed that the Conservatives had won the debate, not that they were the best party to run the country but that others weren't trusted as an option! I correctly predicted their win 10 days before polling day!

Maybe, at some point, the people who paid for these polls might ask pertinent questions! Maybe we should offer our services at future elections. Hopefully at some point common sense will prevail and polls will be banned on the week running up to the election.

Knocking on doors was difficult, having to listen to the mantra that they were terrified of Milliband and Nicola Sturgeon. Time after time, I was told that Nicola Sturgeon was the most dangerous woman in Britain. There is no doubt, she was demonised.

It was a triumph for the mastermind behind it but a disaster for real democracy, they peddled fear and it worked. I find it terrifying that such a campaign could influence so many people.

For me, canvassing to hold my seat, it was the first election that I didn't get grief for 'splitting' the Liberal vote! The opposite was true, being able to say that I am a member of the old Liberal Party and not a Liberal Democrat went down very well! I was able to quite clearly identify how we are different and why we are needed. The Lib Dem brand was toxic on the doorstep.

Holding a General Election at the same time as local elections is a disaster for small parties and independents. The amount of finance thrown at the election by the major parties is an insult to the democratic process. Eight page ads in The Telegraph telling readers to 'vote Conservative locally' in the election doesn't count as election expenditure for the local candidates. It should.

I held my seat; it was six weeks of very hard work!

Best wishes, Jenny



SILVERTON VILLAGE CENTRE



PICKERING TOWN CENTRE

I live in Ryedale and came under pressure from family members to try to get on the District Council to present the voice of local people. I have never had a taste for local politics until a significant issue raised its profile. Fracking at near-by Kirby Misperton is moving towards consideration for planning consent. A large area of Ryedale has licenses granted which could end up with up 2000 wells being drilled over time. It remains speculation and guesswork but companies have been tasked with a responsibility to maximise their exploitation of the local resource. My reading around the subject increased in intensity and I found I was able to understand much of the science which merely increased my feelings of foreboding and concern for the health and well-being of the people of Ryedale. 30 years of my working life had gone to improving health as a local GP and I felt uneasy about exploiting a fossil fuel locally and in doing so risking the environment, water sources and particularly health.

I had spent several years working alongside John Clark on the school governing body and agreed with his policy on nearly all issues. I had seen the Liberals debating on the issue of fracking and was impressed by their coherent, co-ordinated and enthusiastic debating ability. This was in marked contrast to the majority party. I talked with John about Liberal policy and found we had a good fit in terms of ideals and delivery and so was happy to be interviewed, selected and to be knocking on doors as a Liberal.

I was troubled about the austerity measures falling disproportionately on those who could ill afford further financial pressures. I was concerned about the corporate influences on governments and the erosion of local provision of the libraries and social housing and the threat to the democratic process evidenced in the dying days of the last Parliament.

It would be a lonely business being an independent and not having the resources to check ideas and strategy. I am pleased to be in a group with such a good fit of views rather than a party of convenience.

CLLR. STEVE RADFORD IS OUR PARTY PRESIDENT AND LEADER OF THE LIBERAL GROUP ON LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL. HERE ARE HIS THOUGHTS ON LOCAL CLEANING & RE-CYCLING



Local Liberal Councillors have secured funding for a major community initiative to provide rubbish skips and encourage re-cycling – all helping to divert people away from unauthorized waste dumping. During the past year, over 100 skips were provided on a rotational basis around the Ward, helping 7400 households to recycle unwanted material and improve the quality of the local environment.

The Local Housing Association – LMH – is running a ‘skip clean-up day’ and one of our local churches, Stoneycroft United Reform Church, has very kindly opened its doors to local residents and is providing refreshments for the ‘cleaners’.

EXPERIENCED LOCAL COUNCILLOR JOHN CLARK REPRESENTS CROPTON WARD ON RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL, WHERE LOCAL LIBERALS ARE CAMPAIGNING AGAINST FRACKING. HERE'S WHAT JOHN HAS TO SAY ON THE TOPIC:

Facts before Fracks

Ryedale Liberals are leading a political campaign against fracking. The political problems of fracking could hit the people of Ryedale and their environment. We are asking for ‘facts before fracks’.



- Is drilling for more fossil fuels going to add to the greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere?
- How safe are the chemicals used for fracking?
- How safe are our aquifers from pollution from the fracking process? How safe is our environment from spillages?
- How much water will be used for the fracking? Is this sustainable?
- How will the ‘dirty water’ be cleaned? Will it be re-used?
- Where will the pollution be ‘stored’ or ‘dumped’?
- Will the oil companies have enough insurance to cover any mistakes?
- What monitoring will be done? And by whom?
- Who will be responsible for the abandoned wells?
- Who will be responsible if a fracking company becomes insolvent?
- What will be the increased heavy lorry movement? Is the road infrastructure fit for this increase? Who will pay for these hidden costs?
- What will be the impact of fracking on tourism?
- What will be the impact of fracking on agriculture?
- What are the medical impacts of fracking?
- Will there be a ‘pre-fracking baseline measurement’ on all these issues?

Has fracking ever been done cleanly and safely anywhere in the world? We believe not – why?

We are of course given lots of assurances that in Ryedale (the UK) it will be safe. When most, if not all, of the above questions are satisfactorily answered then the risk can be measured. Then and only then can the people of Ryedale decide.

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