



LIBERAL NEWS WINTER 2022

INTRODUCTION BY STEVE RADFORD

The recent by-election in Old Bexley and Sidcup showed a 1 % anti-government to Labour swing.

With the Government's contempt and arrogance in seeking to change the anti-sleaze rules rather than face up to one of the members being found guilty, this swing should be welcomed by anyone wanting clean politics.

The most profound outcome of the by election is the meltdown of the Lib Dems vote to a mere 3%.

In 2010 the Lib Dems secured 15.2% of the vote.

On the 18th November the continuity Liberal Party fought 3 diverse by-elections.

In the rural North Yorkshire marginal seat of Cropton we held the seat despite Labour and Green intervention.

On the same day in two north Liverpool working class Labour strongholds wards, The Liberal Party made progress against Labour whilst the Lib Dems were wiped out.

In the Clubmoor ward Labour lost 8%, down to 54%. The Liberal Party gained 3% to come clear second at 22%. The Lib Dems came 6th with 2%.

In the Anfield Ward Labour won with 56% having lost 11%. The Liberal Party came a clear second with 26% up 11%, whilst the Lib Dems came in at 7% in a seat they represented in the not too distant past.

The Lib Dems abandoned their Liberal inheritance for naked opportunism and are damaged goods

It is time for all good Liberals to return home to The Liberal Party.

Cllr Steve Radford
Liberal Party Leader

LIBERAL PARTY NEC ELECTIONS

The Liberal Party can confirm that there was only one valid nomination for Party Leader under our new Constitution, that being Cllr Steve Radford.

For the NEC we had valid nominations for the following 14 Candidates, under the new constitution as there are potentially 20 vacancies no election is needed and they take office with immediate effect.

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Kayed Al-Haddad | Fares Mousa | Cllr Peter Mitchell | Chris Eccleston |
| Stephen Graham | Jack Baker | Cllr Joe Dunne | Rob Simpson |
| Anne Bradshaw | Cllr Charles Shaw (NEC Chair) | Neil Taylor | Angela Preston |
| Chris Ash | | Cllr Billy Lake Cllr | |

Hazel Williams - Returning officer

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE & PARTY PRESIDENT

The Party constitutional changes and new emblem were adopted at the Liberal Party Assembly on the 2nd October 2021. The former has now been forwarded to the electoral commission for final acceptance.

Following the Special Assembly and open NEC meeting on the 20th November Danial Woods has accepted the post of Liberal Party President.

LIBERAL PARTY CALLS FOR TAX THRESHOLD INCREASE UP TO £20000

As a party we are proposing that we increase the Income Tax threshold from the current £12,500 phased to £20,000.

There is a tripartite argument in favour of such a proposal:

- It would incentivise work and encourage the work ethic' back onto the agenda.
- It would take people out of the lower end of the income spectrum out of paying tax completely. Free up 6 million people from income tax, by lifting the minimum threshold

to £20,000, from £12,500 pa. This is 1 in 5 taxpayers. Basic income tax rate stays at 20%. This would be paid for by a tapered progressive tax rate

- Would, stimulate the economy: tax cuts should be focused on low- and middle-income households who tend to have a higher propensity to spend high degree of their income than high-income households.

Motion Passed at the 20th November Special Assembly

RYEDALE BY-ELECTION

Congratulations to Alastair Clarke for securing the highly marginal seat of Cropton, the intervention of Green and Labour candidates would have enhanced the Tory chances of taking the ward

CLARK, ALASDAIR IAIN
202 The Liberal Party

121 Green Party

32 Labour Party

155 The Conservative Party

Many thanks to the candidate and local team for retaining the seat vacated by the late John Clarke.

CORNWALL IS PROGRESSING AS A STRONG BASE FOR LIBERALISM

In 2017 Liberals had 4 parish seats on 2 councils but after progress at annual and by-elections by 2021 our team has secured 9 seats on six different parish councils.

They are holding the Liberal Party AGM on Saturday 12th February in the Camborne Liberal Hall with the Camborne Redruth

Association meeting at 11am and the Cornwall County Region at 2.30pm.

The Liberals in Cornwall are making a direct appeal to Labour Brexit supporters who are nervous that the current Shadow Cabinet is 2/3rds remain and many are openly talking about another referendum to re-join the EU.

WELSH LIBERAL PARTY BRANCH

The Welsh Liberal Party recently restarted with a new website page and a set of policies, which the association will look to use to promote the Party in Wales. We hope to provide a viable alternative to the main Parties in Wales and offer policies, which will aim to work for everyone, addressing the north v south, urban v rural and Welsh speaking v English speaking divisions. Regarding our policies, we seek to address a number of key issues in Wales with greater devolution, promotion of the Welsh language and the desire to take Wales to the forefront of green technologies and living. The Welsh Liberal Party has its own site detailing why it is different from the main Parties in Wales along with providing the ten key policies, which sets the Association apart.

These contacts cover North and South Wales with our policies representing the Associations diverse nature by including policies, which would benefit the whole of Wales rather than certain areas. Three

members so far have worked towards helping the association develop, with the initial aim following the establishment of the Association being to find avenues to promote the Party across Wales, in turn increasing membership. With the mixture of experience and youth, the Welsh association will look to maximise the potential it has and increase membership amongst younger and older audiences alike.

The Welsh Association currently has three points of contact:

South Wales

karljangford@hotmail.com

North Wales

welshliberalparty.denbighshire@gmail.com

Swansea

welshliberalparty.swansea@gmail.com

Jack baker

LIVERPOOL BOUNDARY REVIEW

In Liverpool Government Commissioners have imposed on the council a request from central Government for a reduction of councillors from 90 to 85 despite a 30 % growth in population from the last review to the projected population in five years' time

They have also imposed a predominately single member wards scheme for a city of almost half a million residents.

Whilst all the opposition parties voted for the

Liberal Party call to oppose single member seats and call for Proportional Representation (PR) the Labour Group covered under the directive of the government inspectors.

Our new colleague Cllr Peter Mitchell led the challenge when he robustly called on any member of the council who actually supported single member seats to raise their hands, the massed Labour ranks failed to rise to the challenge.

YOUNG LIBERALS

Under 30?

Get in touch with our youth team members to network and drive the young agenda!

Any members who would like to join the Youth Wing,

Please contact Stephen Hubbock at:

LiberalPartyUKYouth@gmail.com

who will set up the relevant channels, you can also check out the Facebook Page at:

www.facebook.com/LiberalPartyUkYouth

OBITUARY KATHY KING



Kathy King of Birtley, Gateshead passed away on 14th September 2021.

A passionate community campaigner and former councillor with 38 years ward experience she stood for election in the 2019 general election in the Blaydon constituency on the outskirts of Gateshead. She will be greatly missed in her former constitutions and by her fellow Liberals.