



Newsletter

Sevenoaks District Liberal Democrats

June 2011

Planning for the future

Roger Walshe and Audrey Gee offer their sincere thanks to all those who helped and supported our campaign this time. Now we must look to the future!

Councillor's message

The results of the recent council elections across the country confounded many of the predictions of the pundits. In particular, Labour suffered badly not only in Scotland but also in their failure to make any progress in Southern England (outside Gravesham). Indeed, locally they lost their leader on the District Council as well as losing control of Swanley Town Council.

A bad time

We were predicted to have a bad time and indeed this proved to be the case for Liberal Democrats generally. Locally, we were unfortunately unable to secure sufficient candidates to fight on as wide a front as we would have wished, making it easier for our opponents to target certain seats such as Eynsford and Sevenoaks Northern. The biggest factor however was the tremendous Tory pressure to bring out a big referendum vote for No to AV. This caused an appreciably higher turnout of Tories, as a result of which they even got 'paper' candidates elected. We are thus left with only 2 District Councillors, but still 4 Sevenoaks Town Councillors.

In spite of the disappointments we have to thank a marvellous team of candidates and helpers. Our determination now must be to build our organisation so that we can fight a really effective campaign for the County Council elections in two year's time.

Cllr Roger Walshe

Chairman's message

I hope the disappointment of the local elections has now changed to a determination to survive. As the Phoenix rises from the ashes, so Liberal Democrats will revive, as we have done before.

At least the Coalition is making a difference and their influence is being recognised.

Our MEPs are working hard and are having successes.

The campaign to change the EU rules on fish quotas that oblige fishermen to throw back in the sea, fish caught above the quota is being fought by Catherine Bearder and our financial official, Sharon Bowles. Sharon is making a difference in the Banking world and Catherine is speaking up on human trafficking showing that Liberal Democrats caring belief is alive.

One of the things everyone can try to do is to support the Party's fund raising program and to keep in touch with other Liberal Democrats. A list of the fund raising dates are at the end of this letter but you do not have to wait for those. If you know a fellow Liberal Democrat living near you, try to meet regularly for coffee, a light lunch or afternoon tea. Invite people you feel support the Party and this will keep members and supporters in touch and so be ready to help in future Elections. Self help is the way to keep going.

We belong to a caring, positive and active party which we should be proud of, a Party for all.

Audrey Gee

Phone 01322 862477

Dates for the Diary 2011.

Sunday August 21st

BBQ at Norna's cost £13.
Book and pay by cheque either
Pam Walshe, 8 Crownfields,
Sevenoaks TN13 1EF
Phone. 01732 454769 or
Christine Macpherson, 44, Well
Road, Otford, Kentnt.
Phone. 01959 523566
Details from Norna, phone 01959
523076

Friday October 28th.

Quiz night at the Sevenoaks Town
Council Office. Cost£12.50

Saturday October 22nd

Regional Conference at
Whitstable

Wednesday November 9th

Sevenoaks Liberal Democrats
AGM

Friday December 9th

Dinner at the Bullfinch. Details later.