

## Dates for the diary

Saturday 27 June, **Quiz Evening**, Swindon Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Tickets £7.50 to include supper. Phone Heather Turner on 574227 to let us know you are coming.

Thursday 2 July, **Executive Committee** meeting, Aspey Lawrence, Gloucester Road, 7 pm. All members welcome. Contact Nigel Britter on 224889.

Friday 17 July, **Tour of the Houses of Parliament** Leave from Cheltenham Town Hall. Contact Andy Williams on 224889.

Saturday 15 August, **Summer Barbecue**, 6 Wessex Drive. 5 pm Tickets £5 (children £2). Contact Heather Turner on 574227.

Friday 4 September, **Discussion evening with Simon Hughes MP**, St Margarets Hall, Coniston Road, £7.50 including supper. Contact Heather Turner on 574227.

Saturday 24 October, **Quiz Evening**, Swindon Village Hall, 7.30 pm. Tickets £7.50 to include supper. Phone Heather Turner on 574227 to let us know you are coming.

Friday 13 November, **Annual Dinner**, Renaissance Restaurant, Gloucestershire College. Guest Speaker Party President Baroness Ros Scott. Price to be confirmed.

For a full listing of events see the website at [www.cheltlibdems.org.uk](http://www.cheltlibdems.org.uk)

## Do you want to be a Borough Councillor?

We are beginning the process of selecting our candidates for next year's Borough Council elections.

Twenty seats in Cheltenham are up for grabs. We hold ten and will be working hard to make gains from both the Conservatives and the PAB group.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested.

Although the job is unpaid, a "backbench" councillor receives an allowance of £4,945 a year.

If you think you may like to stand, please call the office on 224889 and we will send you a booklet explaining what the job involves and an application form.



## Autumn dinner

For our third annual dinner we will be returning to the Renaissance restaurant at Gloucestershire College on (sorry) **Friday 13th November**. We are very fortunate that our party president **Baroness Ros Scott** has agreed to be our speaker for the evening.

## We need your help

Even outside election time, there are always jobs that need doing, either in the office or at home. Please help if you can - training will always be provided where necessary.

- I can help in the office, stuffing envelopes, folding leaflets etc
- I can help deliver leaflets
- I can help with door-to-door canvassing
- I can help with telephone canvassing
- I have computer skills which may be of use
- I can help with fund-raising

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to:** Liberal Democrats, FREEPOST SWC0744, 16 Hewlett Road, Cheltenham, GL52 6ZZ

## Summer quiz

There will be a quiz on Saturday 27 June at Swindon Village Hall at 7.30 pm. Tickets £7.50 to include supper. Please phone Heather Turner on 574227 to let us know you are coming.

## Focus Club Draw

The Focus Club Draw is vital for our fund-raising in Cheltenham. Since it was launched in 1986 it has contributed many thousands of pounds to the local party.

**It is also a chance to win two cash prizes every month.** We need to increase the vigour and effectiveness of our campaigning and, amongst other things, that costs money.

Please consider joining by returning the form enclosed with this newsletter today. Thanks very much for your support.

June 2009  
The newsletter of Cheltenham Liberal Democrats  
Free Speech

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

**All the results** - detailed election results for the contests in Cheltenham

**Tina Franklin** - a tribute to Tina who died on 30 May

**Successes** - how we did across the country in the local elections

**Borough elections** - do you want to be a candidate in these vital elections next year

**Dates for your diary** - BBQ, Quiz, annual dinner and more!

**Can you help?** - we need YOU to increase the vigour of our campaigning

## Lib Dems buck the trend in Cheltenham

The County Council elections in Cheltenham saw the Liberal Democrats achieve the only gain in Gloucestershire from the Conservatives, as Chris Pallet defeated sitting Tory Councillor Tim Harman in the Hesters Way and Up Hatherley division.

The four sitting Lib Dem Councillors in Cheltenham - Simon Wheeler, Suzanne Williams, Mike Skinner and Charmian Sheppard - all held their seats comfortably.

Across the County, the Liberal Democrats lost two seats to the Conservatives in the Cotswolds but elsewhere successfully defended their seats. Jeremy Hilton has been re-elected as the leader of the new group of thirteen councillors.

In the European election in the South West, Lib Dem Graham Watson MEP held his seat, while the Conservatives gained one from Labour. In Cheltenham, the Liberal Democrats achieved their 15th highest vote in the country which was a very creditable performance.

The European election results for each counting area in the country can be found at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/table/2009/jun/09/european-elections-elections-2009>

Our next electoral challenge in Cheltenham will be the by-election in All Saints ward, following the very sad death of Councillor Tina Franklin on 30 May (see inside for a tribute to Tina).

The election could be called at any time so we need to select a candidate immediately. If any member is interested in being considered as the candidate for the by-election, please let party Chairman Nigel Britter know by Wednesday 17 June at the latest by phone 01452 712616 or email [nigel.britter@btopenworld.com](mailto:nigel.britter@btopenworld.com).



● Commenting on the county council elections, local party Chairman, **Nigel Britter**, said:

"We did well in Cheltenham to win a seat from the Conservatives, but there is no room for complacency.

"We will need to work incredibly hard in the coming weeks and months to ensure that we keep Martin Horwood as our excellent MP when the General Election is finally called."

## Summer barbecue

We are holding a summer barbecue on **Saturday 15 August** at 5 pm at the home of John and Pat Morris, **6 Wessex Drive**.

Tickets are £5 per person (children £2).

Please let Heather Turner know if you are able to come on 574227.

## Sorry - no cricket marquee this year!

Sadly, we have taken the decision not to have a marquee at the Cheltenham Cricket Festival this year.

This is due to David and Zoe's incredibly inconsiderate decision to have a baby which is due to arrive on the Sunday of the cricket festival.

It is our intention to hold the marquee again next year

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In the April Newsletter, there was an interesting summary of party policy on "faith schools".

I find it very disappointing that the phasing-out of state-funded faith schools was rejected by Conference. In a secular society where only some 7% take part in any religious observance, it seems entirely wrong that taxpayers should fund schools that are controlled by religious bodies.

Equally disappointing was Roger Whyborn's apparent endorsement of an American view that "only the Christian Philosophy" can guarantee "a joined-up political world-view". Making this sort of assertion explicitly excludes other faiths and non-believers; yet our Constitution emphasises that "no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity". May we hope for a humanist column in a future Newsletter?

**Michael Storm**  
Lansdown

## GCC election results 2009

### All Saints division

<b>BARNES, Garth</b>	2712
UKIP	501
<b>COLEMAN, Chris</b>	2740
Labour	282
Green	862
Conservative	3216
Conservative	3212

### Charlton Kings division

Green	363
<b>McCLOSKEY, Paul</b>	1260
Conservative	1838
Labour	126

### Hesters Way & Up Hatherley division

Green	622
Conservative	1799
Labour	176
Labour	189
Conservative	1786
<b>PALLET, Chris</b>	2138
<b>WHEELER, Simon</b>	2111

### Lansdown, Park & Warden Hill

Green	816
Labour	319
Conservative	2716
<b>McCOLL, Sarah</b>	1693
Conservative	2596
<b>WEBB, Gareth</b>	1326

### Oakley, Pittville & Prestbury division

<b>DUNNE, Martin</b>	1239
Labour	337
PAB	1965
<b>STEWART, Charlie</b>	994
Conservative	1216
Labour	245
PAB	1869
Conservative	1211

### St Mark's, St Paul's & St Peter's division

Green	597
UKIP	580
Conservative	963
Labour	264
Labour	238
Conservative	877
<b>SHEPPARD, Charmian</b>	1769
<b>SKINNER, Mike</b>	1570

### Springbank division

Conservative	670
<b>WILLIAMS, Suzanne</b>	1359

**New County Council:** Lib Dems 13, Tories 42, Labour 4, Green 1, PAB 2, Independent 1

## European result in Cheltenham

BNP	854
Christian Party	461
Conservatives	9815
English Democrats	504
Fair Pay Fair Trade	164
Green	2942
Jury Team	144
Labour	1660
<b>Liberal Democrats</b>	<b>7954</b>
Mebyon Kernow	117
No2EU	236
Pensioners	569
Libertas	151
Socialist Labour	157
UKIP	5035
Wai D Your Decision	16
Independent	150

### South West MEPs

Conservatives	3
UKIP	2
Lib Dem	1

# Tributes to Tina Franklin

It is with great sadness that we report that Councillor Tina Franklin died in the Sue Ryder home on Saturday 30 May 2009.

Although Tina had been diagnosed with terminal cancer some months ago she continued working for local residents until close to the end.

Cheltenham's Mayor Councillor **Lloyd Surgenor** said: "Tina will be greatly missed and we would like to pass on our condolences to her brothers Derek and Adrian and all her family and friends. Council members of all parties would look on Tina as a friend. Tina was a valued member of the Standards, Licensing and Staff and Support Services committees."

Tina was first elected to the council in 1996 and served All Saints Ward for over ten years.

Council Leader **Steve Jordan**, who represented the same ward as Councillor Tina Franklin said: "Tina cared about people. This was shown by her chosen career as a nurse and also by the work she did as a councillor. Whether the issue seemed to be major or minor she always tried to make sure people were treated fairly. Tina was always unassuming, but whenever she perceived an injustice she was tenacious whether for a person or a four legged friend! Many hundreds of people will know her for



Steve Jordan and Tina Franklin

the endless hours she spent getting their problems sorted out or possibly for a joke and a chat over her garden wall in St Luke's Road."

Councillor **Stuart Hutton**, leader of the Conservatives said:

"In the three years I have known Tina, we have worked together on a number of groups and committees. She always

provided a caring and positive attitude and certainly knew when to keep the politics out of it! Tina was a delight to know and work with and I am sure everyone will truly miss her. Both the borough council and the town has greatly benefited from her involvement and I pass on our deepest sympathies to both family and friends."

## In Thursday's local elections we:

- Achieved a record high vote share of 28 per cent (BBC projected national vote share)
- Became the largest group on the new unitary Bedford Council
- **Beat Labour into third place**
- Took three seats from the Conservatives and one from Labour on Essex County Council
- Were the only one of the three main parties to increase our projected share from last year's local elections
- Increased our number of seats on Surrey County Council with both the Conservatives and Labour seeing their number of seats fall
- **Won almost three times as many council seats as Labour (484 Liberal Democrat councillors to Labour's 178)**
- Made net gains on many other county councils including Cumbria, Dorset, East Sussex, Hertfordshire, the Isle of Wight, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Sussex and Worcestershire
- Added Bristol to the list of major cities run by Liberal Democrats that also includes Cardiff, Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield and Edinburgh. Won five of the six county seats in Burnley from Labour (the BNP won the sixth)
- Defeated the Conservative group leader on Cumbria County Council and the Labour council leader on Nottinghamshire County Council
- **Made big gains from Labour in Ashfield**

**Let us know if you would like to write an article for the newsletter**