

THANK YOU PARTY!

There will be a party to thank everyone who contributed to our great success in holding the parliamentary seat at the General Election with an increased majority - and of course our excellent results in the local elections too.

This will be at Hampton House, Shurdington Road, GL53 0NH (Martin's Mum's house) at 2 pm on Saturday 19th June.

Parking is limited at Hampton House so if you are coming by car please park responsibly in nearby streets.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Success in Western Counties

We entered 2010 with a serious threat to all our held seats from the Conservatives. The results show that we held all 8 seats and gained 2.

We held Bath, Bristol West, Cheltenham, Mid Dorset & North Poole, Somerton & Frome, Taunton Deane, Thornbury & Yate and Yeovil, and gained Chippenham and Wells.

Of the 10 best Lib Dem vote shares in the Country 3 of them were from the Western Counties (Bath 56.6%, Yeovil 55.7% and Thornbury & Yate 51.9%). **In addition in Cheltenham we got over 50% of the vote.**

In our winning seats there was an average 1% swing from Con to LD and in Bristol West there was a 9% swing from Lab to LD. Don Foster got the highest swing from Con to LD (5.8%) and the biggest swing against us was in Mid Dorset and North Poole (6.3%).

We also had some great results in constituencies we call Moving Forward Seats. There's a group of seven seats where we got between 40.75% of the vote and 35.5%. This includes Tewkesbury where our vote increased by 7.1%

Do you want to be a Councillor?

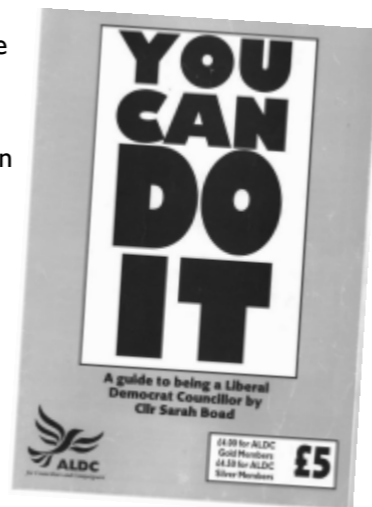
Although the Borough Council elections are only just behind us, we are already thinking about the next set of elections in 2012.

Twenty seats in Cheltenham will be up for grabs and we 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 £5066 pa.

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 quiz

There will be a quiz on Saturday 2 October 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.

Regional Conference

Western Counties Liberal Democrats will be holding a Joint Regional Conference with Devon and Cornwall at the Novotel in Plymouth over the weekend of Nov 20 / 21. All members are welcome to attend. More details will be available shortly.

June 2010

The newsletter of Cheltenham Liberal Democrats

Free Speech

INSIDE THIS EDITION

All the results - election results for the contests in Cheltenham

New Councillors - profiles of the five new councillors elected on 6 May

The new government - the Lib Dem policies at the heart of the coalition agreement

Borough elections - do you want to be a candidate in 2012?

Dates for your diary - BBQ, Quiz, Regional Conference and **Thank You party**

Can you help? - join the Focus Club Draw to increase our fundraising

Martin says Thank You!



Thank you first for voting Liberal Democrat in record numbers!

This was our highest number of votes since Nigel's historic win in 1992 and our best share of the vote since the radical Liberal Richard Mathias in 1910! Added to Alistair Cameron's excellent second place in Tewkesbury and increased votes across the county, we have clearly beaten Labour to become the main challengers to the Conservative establishment in Gloucestershire. In fact, Labour's result in Cheltenham was its worst ever since the creation of the party. I think we did indeed get the 'two-horse race' message across!

Thank you secondly for all the hard work you put in leafleting, canvassing, folding, stuffing, telephoning, donating, recruiting and generally flying the flag.

It's always invidious to single people out but special thanks to David and Andy at the heart of the campaign, with vital support from Paul, Guy and Tom N, John Webster for his ruthless canvassing organisation, Tim Pollard for his strategic advice and his work on the literature, Bernie the poster king, Brian Cassin for endless work on the web, Claire for making me look as though I've been everywhere at once (even on time sometimes), Vic, Tom J and Har for churning out policy briefings and letters, Bob and Tom (again) and Claire H for keeping the casework running, Steve Jordan for being a calm head and leading our superb band of councillors and council

Summer barbecue

We are holding a summer barbecue on **Saturday 31 July** 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.

Martin says Thank You!

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candidates to well-earned victory as well, our biggest in years.

Thanks to Heather Turner for keeping the financial wheels turning and all those at ward level who worked without pay or titles like Rob Reid, Margaret Surgenor, Paul McCloskey, Alexis Cassin and many, many others from Cheltenham and beyond. Thanks to Agi, Holly, Lucy and all those in Cheltenham Liberal Youth who turned out, gave us enormous hope for the future and incidentally stormed to victory in most of the school elections across Cheltenham.

Thanks finally to our election team at national level. The final results may not have delivered the giddy prospects we glimpsed at the height of Cleggmania but never before in my experience has a local campaign received such a phenomenal shot in the arm from our national leadership.

Nick's personal stature and reputation have grown enormously, placing him rightly at the centre of our national politics.

The hard work now begins. Steve and his colleagues now have a good working majority on the borough council but they, like the national parliament, will face tough financial times ahead. At national level we first have to secure a stable basis for government in a hung parliament.

By the time you read this, the outcome of negotiations will be clear but let's hope we can deliver the historic opportunity for reform that this result has offered us. But right now, put your feet up, pat yourself on the back and savour a day of historic victories for the Liberal Democrats in Cheltenham.



CBC election results 2010

All Saints		Park	
Charlie Stewart	1420	Conservative	1917
Conservative	937	Alexis Cassin	1585
Labour	190	Green	257
Green	164	Pittville	
Battledown		PAB	971
Conservative	1563	John Oates	966
Paul McCloskey	1438	Conservative	863
Benhall & The Reddings		Green	151
Nigel Britter	1701	Prestbury	
Conservative	1241	PAB	1798
Green	155	Conservative	842
Charlton Kings		Heiman Chan	754
Helena McCloskey	1611	Springbank	
Conservative	1537	Pete Jeffries	1688
Green	222	John Morris	1626
Charlton Park		Conservative	746
Conservative	1641	Conservative	729
Paul Baker	1512	St Mark's	
College		Sandra Holliday	1517
Garth Barnes	1664	Conservative	804
Conservative	1175	Labour	290
Green	223	Green	131
Hesters Way		St Paul's	
Simon Wheeler	1767	Jon Walklett	1347
Conservative	829	Conservative	518
Lansdown		Green	210
Conservative	1361	St Peter's	
Leoné Meyer	1186	Pat Thornton	1685
Green	205	Conservative	847
Leckhampton		Labour	271
Ian Bickerton	1639	Swindon Village	
Conservative	1506	Paul Massey	1728
Green	216	Conservative	925
Oakley		Up Hatherley	
Colin Hay	1174	Andrew McKinlay	1470
Rowena Hay	1066	Conservative	1469
Conservative	646	Labour	129
Conservative	583	Green	125
Labour	294	Warden Hill	
Labour	282	Jo Teakle	1540
New Borough Council:		Conservative	1463
		Green	219
		New Borough Council:	
		Lib Dems 25, Tories 12, PAB 3	

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

New faces on the Council

Along with the Councillors re-elected or serving a new term in a different ward, five brand new councillors were elected to Cheltenham Borough Council for the Liberal Democrats on May 6th.

Ian Bickerton

Ian has been a resident of Leckhampton for 18 years and is an enthusiastic member of LEGLAG. Ian is married to Angela, a registered nurse at the CGH Orthopaedic Outpatients. They have two children, James and Alice, who attend Bournside School. His work centres on engineering & technology, originally with Smiths Industries to become a chartered engineer



working on a wide variety of aerospace R&D projects. Currently Ian is working with Bristol University as Project Engineer on the EON funded Thermionic Diamond Converter, a solar power/renewable energy development project.

Pete Jeffries



Pete is 39 years old and has lived in Springbank for 21 years. He is married to Sharon and they have

three daughters. Two of his daughters attend a local primary school where Pete has recently become a school governor. He has worked within the construction industry for 20 years and has run his own business for the last three.

Helena McCloskey

Helena moved to the Beeches Estate in Charlton Kings five years ago but was a regular visitor to the village in the previous decade. Prior to her move, she was a well-regarded town councillor in Hertfordshire. Her



early working life was with the GPO, where she worked as a computer systems analyst. During a career break to look after her children, she obtained an Open University degree and worked part-time in the local Cheshire Home. On returning to work as a researcher in the Prison Service, she investigated ways of preventing re-offending and the prevention of suicide and self-harm among prisoners. She has also done voluntary work with breast cancer patients and in the Probation Service. She has received awards for her work in both the Prison and Probation services.

Jo Teakle

Jo has lived in Up Hatherley for 30 years. Her children attended Warden Hill and Chosen Hill Schools and she was for some time a governor at Warden Hill. Returning to university to study English and History as a mature student, she completed a PhD at the University of



Gloucestershire in 2004. She is the Medical Education Manager for 2gether NHS Foundation Trust, which provides countywide mental health and learning disability services.

Jon Walklett

Jon was born in Cheltenham, attended Cheltenham Grammar School, and subsequently after a few years working in a sales/marketing capacity was encouraged by his employer to further his business qualifications at the old North



Gloucestershire Technical College. The 1980's and early 90's were spent working around England. On returning to Cheltenham in 1986 his marketing career continued to develop and he headed up an acquisition team purchasing an engineering business. Jon's interest in music led him to create a small recording studio and become creatively involved with local musicians and bands. He also became aware of local small business needs for professional marketing input and spends a couple of days a week working in that environment.