



East Kent Coast Liberal Democrats

January 2014

Newsletter 2

Dear Friends and Members,

A rather belated “Happy New Year”, and warm wishes of welcome to new members who have joined this autumn, and to members from North Thanet who have joined EKCLD on January 1st 2014, with the re-organization of local parties to match local authority boundaries. East Kent Coast Liberal Democrats now cover the whole of Thanet District Council and Dover District Council.

Executive Committee

At the Annual General Meeting in November, the new Executive Committee was elected:

Chair: Lynne Whitehouse (DDC; Thanet South)
Vice-Chair: Elizabeth Jones (DDC; Thanet South)
Treasurer: Linda Hook (DDC; Dover/ Deal)
Secretary: Diana Osborn (DDC; Thanet South)
Membership Development Officer/Business Plan: Russ Timpson (DDC; Thanet South)
Membership Data Officer: Joshua Ross (DDC; Dover/Deal)
Communications Officer: Steve Whitehouse (DDC; Thanet South)
Committee: Antony Hook (DDC and Dover/Deal); Sarah Smith (DDC; Dover/Deal);
Clive Meredith (DDC; Dover/Deal); Alison Higginson (TDC; Thanet North);
Graham Larcombe (TDC; Thanet South); Bill Furness (TDC; Thanet North);
Robin Shephard (DDC; Thanet South).

We are delighted that Dick Perry and Sheila Smith agreed to remain as honorary President and Vice-President respectively. Our thanks go to those outgoing members of the 2013 committee, Jan Hilton and Seth Proctor, for all their hard work, and in particular to Clive Meredith who valiantly, and sensitively, guided the EKCLDs from its inception in January 2013.

Prospective Parliamentary Candidates

In November, we were delighted to select PPCs for Thanet South (Russ Timpson) and for Dover and Deal (Sarah Smith) and thank you to all who voted in those elections either with a postal vote or at the hustings event. The Returning Officer, a veteran of such occasions, was impressed by the number of members who voted. We are just about to start the process in North Thanet, together with the Canterbury local party.

European election May 2014

We are already pounding the streets, distributing leaflets around the constituencies, to raise the profiles of our parliamentary candidates, and more immediately, to support Antony Hook in the May European elections. Our hard work last year, canvassing for Antony amongst South-East region members, paid off and he is second on the S.E. Region list, behind Catherine Bearder. For Antony to be elected, the Lib Dems need to poll 14%+ of the votes cast (Catherine needs 7%+ of the votes). So please do spread the word and encourage your friends and families to vote Lib Dem in May. Antony is such a hard-working and committed candidate and would do well as an MEP for the South East – besides being a lovely guy!

Fund Raising

We are very conscious that we seem to be always asking for money! And we are! Our coffers are very low and unfortunately, we have no rich sponsors to call on during election times. Our membership is also quite small in number (85 as of January 1st 2014) and so, as we are determined to do all we can to get Antony elected, all the efforts of the Executive committee are focused at the moment on campaigning. For this reason, fund raising events have been postponed until after May and we are asking if members might donate a small sum, monthly, by standing order to the local party, or even a one off donation. Please do get in touch with Linda, our Treasurer, if you feel you would like to help in this way: 01304 380787 or linrob@screaming.net – all contributions will be most welcome.

If anyone has any good ideas for fund raising in the future, and would be willing to join the Committee as the Fund Raising Officer, please do get in touch. You will be welcomed with open arms!

Skills Bank

Many of you have said to us, that you want to help, but for one reason or another, cannot get involved with leaflet distribution. Do let us know of any particular skills you may have that would help us (for instance: journalism, desktop publishing, general IT skills, leaflet folding, envelope “stuffing”, telephone canvassing and so on).

Future Events

Thanks must go to Lynne and Steve Whitehouse for hosting the New Year Drinks party which was much appreciated by those who attended. We hope that the Garden Party will take place in the summer in July or August. More immediately, this **Saturday, 1st February**, has been designated as a **Day of Action**, nationally by the Party. Events will be taking place all over the country, to press home the Liberal Democrat message – that we are the party of “IN”. Jobs depend on our being part of Europe.

We will be in Deal and Sandwich from 10.00am where tea, coffee and cakes will be available at 27 Harold Road, Deal CT14 6QH and 117 Dover Road, Sandwich CT13 0DA, from where we will hope to make a start in getting out the second of Antony’s leaflets.

With all good wishes
Diana Osborn
Secretary

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