

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Member

A slightly later newsletter this year as we've all been so busy! But I hope you've all enjoyed the great summer weather. Perhaps it's helped us all come to terms with the referendum result which came as such a dreadful shock. Now is the time, most definitely, for all good people to come to the aid of the party.

The face of British politics is changing before our very eyes and it's more important than ever to be engaged. And there are a number of ways you can do that. Firstly, we need your direct help with our local party. A number of officers are standing down at the end of this year, myself included. All the posts are wide open at our November AGM. We need more people to help with events, write press releases and leaflets, input data into Connect - the list is endless. So get in touch and let us know how you can help.

Secondly, we need more ideas about how to turn our vision for society into reality. Please make time to go along to the National Conference in Brighton in September, and/or go along to the Regional Conference in Woking in November to hear about the latest policy developments and to have your say. We are also planning to set up our own manifesto group. And help us improve our campaigning by learning about Connect at our training session. Full details are on our website. So - let's get talking, let's get doing and let's get changing things for the better.

*Lynne Whitehouse*

## Recent EKCLD Activities



On August 6th, we held another very successful Garden Party/Barbecue in Dick Perry's lovely garden in Sandwich. We were blessed with beautiful weather and enjoyed music provided by the Becker Consort.

Our sincere thanks go to Dick for arranging this entertainment and for allowing us the use of his garden once again. Over £600 was raised, which was a most welcome addition to our coffers.



The Puddings and Politics Evening in May provided those attending with interesting and stimulating talks. We heard from Caroline Browne from the Samphire Project in Dover, talking about her work supporting migrants nationwide, who have faced detention.

The Samphire Project also works with communities to build awareness, respect and support for migrant groups.

We were delighted to share the proceeds from the evening, as our donation towards the Project, and will

continue to follow their work. We were also privileged to have Antony Hook to speak on the importance of remaining in the European Union. He was so busy in the run-up to the Referendum, going around the South of England, promoting the Remain campaign and despite the devastating result on 23rd June, we heard nothing but praise for his endeavours.

We are very proud of all the work Antony contributes to Liberal Democrats locally, regionally and nationally.

Please do support our campaigns and events where and when you can. The Executive Committee rely on your input into issues to fight, and events to arrange.

# Elections

We have also been very busy with the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections in May, the ill-fated Referendum campaign and then in August, Jordan Williams and John Finnegan fought a T.D.C by-election in the Northwood ward in Ramsgate. They fought a valiant campaign in territory

where Lib Dems have been inactive for a very long time. They are to be heartily commended for the efforts they put in. UKIP won both seats but Jordan and John took some heart from having raised the profile of the Party and have begun to lay foundations for the future in this ward.

## Brexit

The vote to Leave was a shock. In the last couple of weeks before polling day opinion showed Leave in the lead. But by 10pm on 23 June most of the press and other professional observers expected a narrow Remain win.

In the early hours of the morning it was clear that Leave would win. Areas that were expected to vote heavily for Remain did not do so. Some were narrowly balanced and some tipped to Leave. Locally, it was tragic to see East Kent vote for Leave. A great deal of our area's economy is built on the Port of Dover and trade across the Channel. Even a small decrease in that trade would imperil jobs and there is a real risk that Brexit will cause a very significant disruption in trade.

At present freight across the Channel faces no tariffs. If we move to World Trade Organisation rules there will be a tariff of about 10%. Local businesses will lose customers in Europe and find that supplies they import are less affordable.

Some companies like soap manufacturer Lush have already announced they will move to another country to stay in the EU. Mayors of major European cities are visiting Britain to attract business and jobs with the chance to stay in the vacant in the UK has shrunk by 700,000.

For many families an immediate effect felt has been the fall in the pound's value. Not long ago £1 traded at €1.42, now the headline rate is just €1.16 and some Bureaux de Change are offering less than €1 to €1. This has made people's holidays vastly more expensive, which is terrible news for quality of life and family time quite apart from money.

The Brexit story has a long way to go. There are

many unknowns. It falls to Liberal Democrats to keep holding the Conservative-Brexit government to account. A government of "Brexit at all costs" is a government that is sacrificing the national interest.

We must make the case for EU membership. The alternative May-Johnson-Fox will offer will be less good and won't fulfil the 350 million promises of Leave campaigners who did not expect to win.

Our case must have moral content beyond the tawdry fare of Cameron-Osborne who presented Remain as no more than a book keeping exercise. We must make the case that we should work together in Europe because it is the right thing to do. Because it is the only way we can meet the challenges of the future. Because we have and can achieve more together and have more in common than divides us. When all is said and done, we are one people.

Let us also treat people who voted Leave with respect. I have seen articles saying Leave voters are stupid or nasty. This is not true. They are our neighbours and friends and we will win by treating them with respect and a better case for Remain that we all deserve.

The 2020 General Election will be, in effect, a second referendum – between Conservative Brexit or Liberal Democrat Remain.



**Antony Hook**

# Dates for your Diary

## SEPTEMBER

17th - 20th

### **Liberal Democrat Annual Conference**

Brighton Centre, Kings Road, Brighton BN1 2GR

24th (Sat)

### **Connect Training**

Mika Griffiths is organising a training session on Connect at The Bell Hotel in Sandwich. There will be a fee of £5 to cover the cost of hiring the room. Connect is a very useful campaigning tool and we are keen to build up expertise in the local party. It is a way that people, who want to help in campaigning but are not able to deliver leaflets or canvas, can make a positive contribution. If you would like to reserve a place on this training session, please contact Jordan Williams (jordan0512@hotmail.co.uk) or Mika (mikamg@gmail.com)

## NOVEMBER

5th

### **Lib Deb Regional Conference**

9.30am – 4.30pm

Bishop David Brown School, Albert Drive, Woking, Surrey GU21 5RF

Confirmed speakers include: Tim Farron MP, Sal Brinton (President), Baroness Kate Parminter, Tom Brake MP, Catherine Bearder MEP, and Antony Hook.

TO REGISTER PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE <http://eastkentcoastlibdems.org.uk>

21st

### **E.U. Thinking: Deal and Dover**

This group, a local cross-party group, with links to the European Movement, was founded in July, after the Brexit result, by Sarah Gleave (Green), Terry Bishop (Labour), Antony Hook and Aston Mannering (Lib Dem). Meetings are attracting people from those three parties and those who are not aligned to any political party. The group meets monthly. Details of the September and October meetings are not available as this newsletter goes to press, but in November, Natalie Bennett, the outgoing leader of the Green Party, will be speaking on the Progressive Alliance idea, on 21st November at the Astor Theatre in Deal. If you would like more details of this group, and future meetings, contact Aston Mannering (cptmannering@hotmail.co.uk)

23rd

### **EKCLD Annual Dinner** with Norman Lamb from 6.30pm

The Pavilion, Drill Field, Canada Rd, Walmer CT14 7EQ

26th

### **Thanet Quiz Night** (details to follow)

26th

10.00 – 12noon

### **AGM** Whitfield Village Hall, Sandwich Road, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3 NA

Following the Referendum, we have had another influx of new members. You are most welcome and we do hope you can come along to some of the meetings/events and get involved. A new Executive committee will be elected at the AGM, together with new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary as Lynne, Linda and Diana have all served their three years in these roles. Fresh blood is needed!

# ANNUAL DINNER

23rd November

Get ready for a very special Annual Dinner this year when we are delighted to welcome Lib Dem MP, Norman Lamb as our guest speaker.

It's on Wednesday 23rd November at the Pavilion on the Drill Field, Canada Road, Walmer, CT14 7EQ starting at 6.30pm for 7pm. Tickets to include a delicious three-course meal are just £25. Members and guests all welcomed.

Space is limited so please reserve your seat by contacting Diana Osborn (01304 611596) or Linda Hook (01304 380787).

## Profile, Norman Lamb



Norman Lamb has been the Liberal Democrat MP for North Norfolk since 2001. After serving as a minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, he was appointed Minister of State for Care and Support at the Department of Health in

September 2012 and served in this position until the end of the Coalition Government in May 2015.

As Health Minister, Norman worked to reform the care system and led the drive to integrate health and social care, with a greater focus on preventing ill health. He also challenged the NHS to ensure that mental health was treated with the same priority as physical health, including the introduction of access and waiting standards in mental health for the first time. He is now the Liberal Democrat Health spokesperson.



## East Kent Coast Liberal Democrats

# Annual Dinner

Wednesday 23rd November 2016 6.30pm for 7pm

At The Pavilion on the  
Drill Field, Canada Road  
Walmer Deal CT14 7EQ

*Guest Speaker*

**Norman Lamb**

**MP for North Norfolk**



*Limited seating, please book early contact:-*

**Linda Hook Tel 01304 380787 or email [linrob@screaming.net](mailto:linrob@screaming.net) or  
Di. Osborn Tel: 01304 611596 or email [di.osborn@btinternet.com](mailto:di.osborn@btinternet.com)**

by 12th November

**Cost £25 for 3 course dinner - Bar available - Raffle prizes appreciated**