



Stevenage Liberal Democrats

www.stevenageliberaldemocrats.org.uk

Members' Newsletter Summer 2011

Building a Brighter Future for Stevenage

First, a big thank you to everyone who helped in May's election campaigns. The results were a bit disappointing. Admittedly there was a large national swing against us, but we could have done better.

We fielded candidates in only 11 of 13 Stevenage wards and UKIP beat us into fourth place in 8 of those. In the past we did a lot better than this in Stevenage. With your help we can again.

We have a vision of the Liberal Democrats campaigning in every ward in Stevenage. We want to once more be a constituency wide party. We want there to be an effective opposition in Stevenage. We believe that should be us.

For this to happen we need you.

It is not an easy task, we have a long way to go, but with your help we can do it.

If you share our vision and want to help the Lib Dems become a constituency wide party again please get in contact. Any help, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

If you have never been actively involved in a political campaign before now is the time to start. On page two is a list of training sessions being run by the party in St Albans. These are free.

Or, if you have campaigned before and have become a little rusty, why not come along and brush up your old skills and help rebuild the Lib Dems in Stevenage.

Tim Neale, Branch Secretary

Situations Vacant

Ward Organizers

We would like to see a ward organizer in every ward in Stevenage. Presently we have vacancies for an organizer in every ward other than Manor.

As a ward organizer you will be required to gather the signatures needed for your ward's candidate's nomination. This will only take a few hours of your time a year.

You can do more than this if you are interested. See page two for training opportunities being offered this summer.

Social Secretary / Fund Raiser

Part of the feedback we have from members is that they would like to see us stage more social events. Do you want to lend your hand at organizing a few? As social events are a good opportunity to raise funds, we are combining these two posts, but if you are only interested in half the job, please get in contact anyway.

Plus any number of Canvasser, Deliverers, Envelope stuffers....

If you are interested see the contact details on page two, as ever, any time you have to spare will be greatly appreciated.

Training Opportunities in St Albans

The following training sessions are being held on Saturdays at the Liberal Club in St Albans. Contact me (see below) if you are interested in any of these sessions and I will send you full details.

2/7 10:00–13:00 2012 Starting Now – successful campaign plans from 2011 and lessons for YOUR plan for 2012

9/7 Unconfirmed *Effective printed media – getting focus and direct mail messages right*

16/7 10:00–13:00 Taking Effective photos – making the camera work for you (inc practical)

23/7 10:00–12:00 Street Surveying – effective surveys for effective messages & Voter-ID
13:00–16:00 practical & feedback

30/7 10:00–13:00 Issues – positive and negative messages and handling them

30/7 14:00–16:00 Managing the Media – Delivering campaigns via local and regional media outlets

13/8 13:00–15:00 Using Desktop Publishing to produce Campaign Literature – Intro to using Page Plus X4 software

20/8 Unconfirmed *Using PP X4 – intermediate/advanced workshop*

3/9 13:00–15:00 Canvassing Training – How to deal with the doorstep
16:00–18:00 practical with mentor support

10/9 13:00–15:00 Being an effective council candidate – how to plan your campaign

I Can Help By ...

- Delivering FOCUS for 1-2 hours per month
- Door to door canvassing
- Standing at a stall and talking to potential voters
- Putting a poster in my window
- Folding leaflets and stuffing envelopes
- Putting up a sign in my garden
- Making a donation of £25 £10 Other _____
- Filling one of the advertised vacancies _____
- Other _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

E-mail _____

Return to:

FREEPOST RSRK-ETJH-TJUH, Tim Neale, 33 The Towers, STEVENAGE, Herts, SG1 1HE

email: rebuilding.the@stevenageliberalempocrats.org.uk

Telephone 01438 217075

Or via the website: www.stevenageliberalempocrats.org.uk/contact-secretary/



Lib Dems win major changes to NHS reform

The NHS is one of our nation's proudest achievements. With the Lib Dems, the NHS will always remain universal, based on need and free at point of use.

Sadly Labour left our NHS struggling with out of control bureaucracy and wasting billions of pounds each year.

That's why we need to act now to ensure the NHS continues to deliver the best services for patients across Britain.

There will be no US-style privatisation of the NHS on our watch.

We have used our influence in Government on behalf of patients in three key areas:

- Ensuring that there is no privatisation of the NHS and no special favours for the private sector.
- Slowing down the pace of change in the NHS. We need evolution, not revolution.
- Making sure that the NHS is properly accountable, both locally and nationally.

Lib Dem party activists led the fight for changes to the NHS reforms at our spring conference.



An NHS that delivers for patients

The Lib Dems in Government have worked hard to deliver better services for NHS patients. Early successes include:

- Extra cash for cancer drugs - no longer will many patients be refused access to vital drugs
- A big investment in and a fresh approach to tackling mental health issues.
- £800million to help disabled children and their families. More support for carers than ever before.



If you could change one thing in Stevenage, what would it be?

We are looking for ideas for Stevenage wide campaigning, it does not have to be anything to do with Stevenage Borough or Herts County Councils. Although we are more likely to get things changed where we have direct input.

What would you change?

If you have any ideas get in contact with us via the methods on page two.

Leaflet Deliverers - Beware of the Dog

As you can see in the picture, pushing your hand too far through a letter box whilst delivering can be dangerous. A dog mangled this metal ruler, it could have been your hand.



Always use something to push a leaflet through the letter box!

Do you want to be a Councillor?

There are roughly 20,000 elected councillors in England. Each representing their local community, all with their own reason for doing so.

You could be one of them.

If you have received this through the post you will have also received a leaflet about becoming a councillor produced by Stevenage Borough Council. If you are reading the electronic version you can visit the site <http://beacouncillor.eelga.gov.uk/>

If you are interested, follow the leads in these documents to look further into what it means to be a councillor. Then get in contact (see page two). We are looking for new candidates, so this could be your big chance. Of course, you will have to get elected first. Have I mentioned the training sessions?

For Your Diary

- 21 July 2011, Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Daneshill House
- 8 September 2011, General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Daneshill House
- 15 September 2011, Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Daneshill House
- 17 - 21 September 2011, National Conference, Birmingham ICC
- 20 October 2011, Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Daneshill House
- 17 November 2011, Executive Meeting, 7:30 pm, Daneshill House