



# Brighton & Hove Liberal Democrats

## Spring 2022

# Newsletter

**For Members & Supporters**

*Editor: Trevor Freeman*

### **Editorial.**

Welcome to this our first newsletter of 2022. Hopefully this year we will be able to get out and meet each other more and start to ready ourselves for the local elections due in May 2023. It is never too early or too late to start and the pandemic has meant little campaigning has taken place, so we have much to catch up on.

The White paper on 'Levelling Up' that has just been published seeks to bring more equality to the nation, economically and socially. This is in keeping with our ideals and so should be applauded. The unfortunate thing, is that it has been brought to us by a political party that has sought to do the exact opposite for the last six decades. They have done so with such spectacular success that it is difficult to see how they are going to break the mould that has defined their economic objectives for so long. To succeed they are going to have to give power back to local people and local government (instead of take it away as they have done) where local decisions can make a real difference. It is why being involved with us locally is so important because that is what the Liberal Democrats are good at and where they have excelled over all other parties. Being local makes a difference and is one of the best reasons to campaign with us.

### **2022 Executive Committee**

*Chair:* Stewart Stone

*Vice Chair:* Martin Kersh

*Secretary:* Caroline Brown

*Treasurer:* Paul Chandler

*Data Officer:* Simon Jardine

*Membership Development Officer:* Trevor Freeman

*Ordinary Members:* Frances Lindsay-Hills, Beatrice Bass, David Sears, Andrew England, Ben Thomas, Peter Denyer, Hyder Khalil

**Liberal Democrats**  
**The Listening Party**



### **Table of Contents.**

Editorial .....	1
2022 Committee .....	1
AGM Report .....	2
Trefor Hunter .....	3
Becoming a Candidate .....	4
Boundary Commission .....	5
Events .....	6
100 Club .....	6
Being ProActive .....	6
Contacts information .....	1

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## 2021 AGM & New Executive Committee

Our 2021 AGM was held at The Community Base Conference Room unlike the previous year which was held on Zoom. It was our first physical meet up for two years and was very well attended.

After the outgoing Chair, Hilary, welcomed us, we had a talk from environmentalist Neil Sheppeck on how to engage government and local councils on the need to take urgent and meaningful action to meet the impact of climate change on our lives.

Neil told us of the work in Lambeth in which he and local campaigners engaged with local councillors and officials to form a consultation panel where local people were able to have a meaningful input into long term policy and action. There were quite a few useful pointers for us to learn about engaging with local stakeholders to take the message forward. Given that we have a Green led Council it was surprising to compare how little action and planning has actually takes place in our city.

After his talk Neil left us and the election of the 2022 Committee to place (details elsewhere).



*Members prepare to take their seats for the AGM*

Hilary gave a roundup of branch activity over the year. She started by mentioning the three zoom meetings for members that took place in the early part of the year and concerned Covid-19, and the public reactions and concerns to the pandemic, and the Government's poor response. This was followed by mentions of two meetings about the environment, the first was a discussion on transport and the second was a debate centring on protecting our local environment. Four events about politics and democracy took place with one being led by Mark Pack the Lib Dems' President.

Even though Covid put a dampener on socialising, she said we managed to organise four social events from a quiz held over Zoom to a successful Supper by the Sea with Lib Dem Baroness Kate Parminter. Details were given about the coffee mornings held in each constituency every month which are open to all members (details elsewhere). Thanks were recorded for all the hard work the events team have put in.

Hilary concluded by summarising the contributions put in for the two by-elections in Patcham, and Hollingdean & Stanmer, and the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner elections that all took place on 6<sup>th</sup> May. She extended her thanks to those who stood for election and all those volunteers who gave of their time and effort. Lastly she mentioned the current campaigning efforts taking place in Rottingdean and Goldsmid and the media coverage that we had in the press and on local TV.

The Treasurer's report having been circulated before was accepted by a unanimous vote.

The meeting finished with a mention of forthcoming events and closed with the raffle draw.

## Trefor Hunter (1943 - 2022)

Readers of this newsletter will be saddened to hear of the death on January 23<sup>rd</sup> of Trefor Hunter, at the age of 78, a past Chair of the Brighton & Hove Local Party and one of its longest serving members.



Trefor had been ill for some time, in particular in the years following the death of his wife Birgit, who, with him, gave so much time to supporting liberal democracy under its many names and guises, at both local and national level. They both had a fund of local knowledge and deeply held political beliefs to keep us all on track - and tried not to mind too much when we went off in a different direction!

For those of us joining in the last 20 years or so, Trefor was always there, full of ideas and ready to support others when required. He helped run a local printing service for the LibDems and must have printed and delivered more Focus leaflets, flyers and letters than we could ever imagine.

We knew that he had another life as a free-lance sound engineer which sometimes took him away from his home in Saltdean - and some of us even knew of his passion for model railways. And as often happens, there are now more stories of his life emerging, all good, that can now be told and enjoyed by his family and friends.

Some of these stories will doubtless figure in a celebration of his long and at times quite remarkable life to be held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of March from 12.30 at the Whitecliffs Café in Saltdean.

If you have memories of Trefor that you would like to share and can attend as above, please e-mail [madelainehunter@gmail.com](mailto:madelainehunter@gmail.com) to assist catering for the lunch that will follow.

We will miss him deeply.

David Sears  
Past Chair B&HLP

Trefor played a big part in helping to organise Kemp Town Constituency and his contribution was amply summed up by the current spokesperson, Ben Thomas.

"... very sad news and a big loss for us, he'll be really missed. When I first got involved in Kemptown, he talked me through all of the local issues he knew of acutely and filled me in on all the backstories. He organised multitudes of leaflet deliveries and loved a conversation about all things politics. He was a very committed member and a good friend."

Ben and David's words sum up wonderfully how Trefor was viewed by all those who came into contact with him. He had a very dry sense of humour and left one on tenterhooks as to whether he was being serious as his wit came into play. His knowledge of what had happened in the branch was invaluable to those who followed in his footsteps. And in his very last Executive meeting he was full of energy, and advice, and stories about how to get the Lib Dem message across.



## Becoming a candidate

*Our Treasurer, Paul Chandler contributes an article on something that most of us can do to help raise our profile locally.*

“What is the easiest but most effective contribution you can make to the Liberal Democrats both here in Brighton & Hove and nationally?”

We are grateful for whatever support we get from members and realise that the contribution that each one of us can offer will vary enormously.

But there is one thing that everyone can do that takes neither time nor money, but which is very important and that helps spread our message effectively, both locally and nationally. What can that be?

The answer is to allow your name to appear as a LibDem candidate at the local council elections in May 2023. I say ‘allow’ your name intentionally. Please let me explain.

There are 54 Councillors on Brighton and Hove Council spread across 21 wards (*Ed: possibly soon to be 22. See our article on Boundary Commission proposals*). We have our ‘target’ seats where there are existing LibDem candidates in place who want to be councillors and who are working toward that end. We need to concentrate our efforts on them, because we do not have the resources to give equal effort to every one of the 21 wards.

Let us suppose there are three wards where we are in serious contention, what about the other 18? It is vital that we offer the residents of those wards the chance to vote LibDem. There are many supporters who turn up to vote assuming that they will be able to vote for us and they can be annoyed and perhaps disillusioned to find that there is no LibDem on the ballot paper. By standing in our name (recognising that you may not actually want to win!), you satisfy those people and help to tie them to our cause.

In 2019 we stood 21 out the possible 54 candidates across the city. Imagine if we had found all 54 then our share of the vote could have possibly doubled. And when aggregated across the whole country that would contribute to increasing the voice and credibility of Liberal Democrats everywhere. That is why I say, by standing as a candidate in your local ward you can help the Party both locally and nationally.

So, what is the downside? Well, it will not cost you any time or money. You will not be expected to campaign or canvass or deliver leaflets or even come to the count at the end of Polling Day. You will just have to sign the consent form! So, the answer is almost nothing. Just your signature and your good will.

Some people say: but what if I am elected? My response to that is: that is the kind of problem that I would like to have to deal with! Others ask about the possibility of adverse publicity. They worry that their address may be published, or that eager journalists may be knocking at their door. In fact, under new regulations your address is no longer required on the ballot paper. The only qualification is that you must be on the electoral register of Brighton & Hove or work in the city. So, extremely unlikely the Press will contact you. (*Ed: Over the years I have stood in several wards, both as a serious candidate and as a nominal one, and never once been contacted by the Press*).

I do not want to underestimate the seriousness of putting your name up for election. It is a solemn commitment, and I wouldn’t encourage anyone to do it who wasn’t a genuine supporter of what we stand for. But if I phone you and ask you to consider it, please give the idea some serious thought.

If you are interested, please contact me directly: [thepaulchandler@gmail.com](mailto:thepaulchandler@gmail.com) ”

Paul Chandler, Election Agent for Brighton and Hove LibDems in May 2019

## Boundary Commission Proposals.

The Boundary Commission published its proposed ward changes for the city in early February. There were a few surprises revealed as new wards appeared and one well known one disappeared.



Consultation on the proposed changes opened in February and responses have to be in by 11 April. There are a number of changes that could affect the political scene in the city, given that we have a minority administration.

Judging from the original proposals made by the Greens they may not be happy with the outcome, for the rest only time will tell. Our initial response is that we are reasonably happy with it but with reservations.

The Commission decided that since the last changes that took place in 2001 many of the wards have changed as far as fair numerical voter representation was concerned. The objective is to level out the number of voters per councillor. The Commission has decided that although the number of electors is expected to increase between 2021 and 2027 by just under 23,000, they will not increase the number of councillors. Each councillor is therefore expected to represent on average 4,267 in 2027 as opposed to 3,849 in 2021. Therefore, the number of councillors remains at 54.

What does change is the number of wards and the number of councillors per ward, Some such as North and South Portslade do not change but, the old Brunswick and Adelaide ward disappears as it is mainly swallowed up by a Regency ward bereft of its northern half. Stanmer ward loses its Hollingdean part to a new Fiveways ward. A new ward called Roundhill comes into existence and encompasses the Level and Preston Circus. The old St Peter's becomes a very difficult ward to classify as it's new name Seven Dials, St Peter's and North Laine amply illustrates.

For Wish, Westbourne, Central Hove and Goldsmid there have only been small changes introduced which are designed to reflect the identity of the wards more fairly. Withdean and Hove Park wards are combined to form a new ward called Westdean and Hove Park. The essential change here is that the eastern part area of the old Withdean ward has been split off and absorbed by the redesigned Preston Park ward. The new Fiveways ward encompasses the area to the east of Preston Park to Hollingdean in the east of the ward. It spreads north to include Hollingbury Golf Course and south to Upper Hollingdean Road.

The new Roundhill ward centres on Roundhill Crescent and includes the conurbation around London Road Station as well as the area around The Level to Hanover. The new Seven Dials, St Peter's and North Laine is a mish mash with no definable logic apart from the fact it encompasses the area around the main railway station and spread down to the Royal Pavilion. They could not even produce a name for this ward that reflects its commonality. In fact they have asked for suggestions to name it. It is a dog of a ward and will be very hard to understand and work which rather suggests the name for the ward should be a Dog's Dinner.

Hanover & Elm Grove and Queen's Park wards are essentially the same with just minor adjustments. But East Brighton loses its southern part to a new ward called Kemptown and Marina. The Marina is transferred from the old Rottingdean Coastal ward. Stanmer is rejigged to absorb the northern part of Moulscroomb and the old Moulscroomb & Bevendean ward remains in its reduced form. Woodingdean ward remains the same and the reduced Rottingdean Coastal ward becomes known as Rottingdean and West Saltdean.

A lot of thinking is going to be required as we absorb these proposals. To find out more and comment go to [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/east-sussex/brighton-and-hove](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/east-sussex/brighton-and-hove)

## 100 Club.

The 100 Club raises money to help finance our general election fund. Any member can join and it only costs £1 per month for each share. That is £12 per annum and gives each member who joins a chance to win. The draw takes place once a quarter with one winner. 50% of the monthly contribution goes towards the prize and 50% goes into the general election fund. It is a good way of helping the three constituencies raise the wherewithal to finance our general election campaigns. The general elections are our biggest expense and the 100 Club plays a major part in helping the branch to meet its commitment.

To buy a share or maybe even two or three is quite easy. All you need to do is email our Treasurer for details

## Being ProActive.

We are looking for members who have an interest in local policies to join us in bringing our Local Manifesto up to date. If you would like to get involved email our Membership Development Officer (MDO) for more information. If you have anything that you want to share with us we are always listening. We would love to hear from you. Contact our MDO at [trevor.freeman@liberalbrighton.org](mailto:trevor.freeman@liberalbrighton.org)

**Events** courtesy of the Events Committee.

### ***Coffee mornings are held every month, one in each constituency.***

Locations and timings are;

**Hove:** 10:00 am on the first Wednesday of the month at Big Beach Cafe, Hove Lagoon, BN3 4AX. It is hosted by Martin Kersh and Jo Baldwin-Trott.

**Kemp Town:** 10:00 am on the first Saturday of the month at Open Art Cafe, 6 Nevill Road, Rottingdean, BN2 7HG. It is hosted by Stewart Stone and Simon Jardine.

**Pavilion:** 11:00 on the second Friday of the month at Muse Café, 37 Queens Road, BN1 3XB. It is hosted by Hyder Khalil and Frances Lindsay-Hills.

All are welcome and it is quite OK to attend those outside your constituency.



*Members enjoying their Hove coffee morning*

### ***Wine and Cheese Tasting.***

*Thursday the 17th of March.* A wine tasting evening conducted by wine expert Toby Peirce of Quaff, we will be complimenting six wines with six different cheeses.

We will gather around 7pm for a glass of fizz and a chat with our new Chair Stewart Stone. Nibbles will be served so that we will not be drinking on empty stomachs. Then Toby will take the stage and give us the benefit of his expertise and tell us about the wines we are tasting. The evening is expected to wind down at about 9:30. Two of our members will be hosting us in their town centre home.

The evening will cost £20. Please put the date in your diary, and if you would like to come please email: [events@liberalbrighton.org](mailto:events@liberalbrighton.org)