



Liberal Democrat
Members and
Registered Supporters in
Gravesham

June 2019 Newsletter

For further information or to help with any of our campaigns, please contact John & Sarah Death, 85 Ediva Road, Meopham 01474 813582 or jrdeath@btinternet.com or info@sevenoakslibdems.org.uk

Dear Fellow Liberal Democrat,

The party is on the move, even in Gravesham! Membership has increased significantly, with a surge following the May election campaigns for local councils and the European Parliament. This newsletter aims to give you an honest overview of our local position and to show how you can take part.

Gravesham Lib Dems have been in the doldrums in recent years but, recently, things have started to take off and we are now trying to revive the local party. Do come along to one of our forthcoming events or contact local members via the details in the black box above.

Best wishes,

John

(Vice-Chair, Sevenoaks, Dartford and Gravesham Lib Dems, responsible for Gravesham)

Some Ways to Get Involved with Your Local Lib Dems:

<p>Come to a meeting on Tuesday 2nd July</p> <p>In a function room of the Three Daws pub near the Town Pier, DA11 0BJ at 7.30 p.m. Please contact John or Sarah via the details above if you would prefer to enter the pub in company.</p>	<p>Help form a local committee</p> <p>Sevenoaks is by far the largest part of our local party. The party works well together but there is scope for us in Gravesham to have a stronger local grouping. If you want to help, come to the meeting on 2nd July or contact John for details of a planning meeting.</p>
<p>Join a summer of pro-Europe activities</p> <p>And into the autumn, too. It's been more than three years since the Referendum, and we're still members of the EU. But the fight to Remain continues. See the separate listings over the page.</p>	<p>Take Part in an Action Day</p> <p>Take round a survey on local issues, talk to local voters, get responses on the issues that matter to them and star to build up our database of potential voters and supporters.</p>
<p>Recruit New Lib Dem Members or Supporters</p> <p>If you have friends and family who care about stopping the madness of Brexit, persuade them to join us, either as party members or as registered supporters.</p>	<p>Come to the Party Conference</p> <p>This year it's in Bournemouth, from 14th - 17th September. A number of local part members will be there for all or part of it. You can find details here: https://www.libdems.org.uk/autumn-conference</p>

Gravesham Borough Elections 2019

At our lowest point, in 2015, no Lib Dems stood anywhere in Gravesham. Since then, we have managed to field candidates in by-elections in Pelham ward in 2016, and in Meopham North in 2017. We also fielded a full slate of candidates in the Kent county council elections in 2017. James Willis, our candidate in the 2017 general election, did not retain his deposit.

Against that backdrop, the results of the most recent elections demonstrate real progress. In Woodlands ward, our candidates Sharan Virk and Ukonu Obasi won 13% of the vote. Ukonu also stood for us in a county-council by-election for Northfleet and Gravesend West held on the same day, winning 4%. In both of these seats in urban Gravesend, we only had paper candidates, but they enabled voters to have a real alternative to the odl parties.

South of Gravesend, we did run more of a campaign, building on previous work in these areas. In Meopham South and Vigo, our candidates Adrian Banks and Alec Coutroubis won a superb 27% of the vote, way ahead of the UKIP, Green and Labour candidates, confirming our position as the main challenger to the Tories. The same pattern occurred in Meopham North, where our candidates John and Sarah Death won 34% of the vote.

We were helped by the splits in the local Tory party but these results show that, where we stand, there are significant numbers of voters who want to vote Lib Dem. In the borough seats where we stood, we won 22.4% of the vote. And in the Euro elections at the end of May, more than 1 in 8 voters in Gravesham voted Lib Dem. In the future, then, our ambition must be to contest every seat to build on that success.



Let Us Be Heard March, 20th July

This is the next big event, just before the Tories try to foist their new leader on the country. If you've not been on one before, then you really need to experience it. It's the very best way to see central London, with roads closed to traffic. You'll get details by email from the national party about when and where to meet and you are welcome to check who is going up by train from Gravesend or Meopham.

Local Street Stalls

Our friends in local branches of the European Movement and similar organisations will be running local stalls throughout Kent. For example, there is a Mid-Kent for Europe stall in Faversham on Saturday 6th July from 10.30. Our new, local Lib Dem MEP, Anthony Hook, will be there.

15 Local Marches before the Big One

Regional marches have started to demand a People's Vote. The one for the South-East is in Brighton on 21st September, designed to put pressure on Corbyn's confused Labour Party at their conference. The big one is in London on Saturday 12th October.