



South Central News

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The newsletter from your South Central Regional Executive

April 2012

Local Elections

Many of the councils across South Central Region are in the middle of local election fever. It is tough out there whilst the Lib Dems are part of the Government, however, we are fighting with excellent local campaigns.

And you can help. Where your Local Party does not have any elections this year then members are being urged to go to their nearest key council and offer to help deliver, canvass/door-knock or telephone canvass. Plus help on the day too. Have you booked 3 May off work yet?

ACTION — HELPERS NEEDED NOW

In collaboration with ALDC, South Central Region has agreed that helpers should go to these areas. The key contacts for helpers are given below, please contact your nearest NOW.

- **Milton Keynes - Sue Burke** tel: 07855 463283 or e-mail: evlibdem@hotmail.co.uk
- **Oxford - Neil Fawcett** tel: 07810 482376 or e-mail: neilmfawcett@gmail.com
- **Winchester - Martin Tod** tel: 07887 986048 or e-mail: martin@martintod.org.uk
- **Portsmouth - Gerald Vernon-Jackson** tel office: 02392 877733 or e-mail: geraldvj@gmail.com

Thanks to those that are already going in to our key councils. Eastleigh is also a key council but already got members moving in to help, well done. **Would Local Parties please circulate the contacts above to all your members, thanks.**

There is also a South East Manifesto produced by HQ. The South East covers South Central Lib Dem region. If you want a copy go to: <http://libdems.org.uk/LocalElections2012.aspx>

Newsletter Circulation

The trial run of e-mailing out SC News has been a great success. Only about a dozen members have asked to have it posted. Region are delighted as this saves us time and money which can be used for campaigning.

Note: this issue is a couple of weeks late as Region waited until the election of the new officers was completed to tell you.

Changes on Regional Executive

After Neil Walton resigned as South Central Regional Chair we have had a contested election for the new Regional Chair.

The **Regional Chair is Liz Leffman** who is already up and running despite being a candidate in the local elections. She is working closely with Tahir Maher who remains as Region's Vice-Chair.



Liz Leffman writes: "Good luck in the local elections and I look forward to meeting you at the Autumn Regional Conference".

As Liz was the Chair of Region's Candidates Committee that meant another position had to be filled.

Rosalyn Gordon has been elected as the new SC Candidates Committee Chair. She is also Chair of the Campaign for Gender Balance.



Rosalyn Gordon

Their contact details are on page 2.

EUROPEAN ELECTIONS

The Party are starting the process of selecting Candidates for the European Elections in 2014. See information included with this SC News for details.

The key is that anyone interested in being a candidate MUST be on the Approved Candidates list. If you would like to stand and need approval, then apply as soon as possible. You can get the necessary application pack from the Candidates' Office at Party HQ: email candidates@libdems.org.uk

IF you have been approved for Westminster elections, but not for the European elections, you still need to have a brief Euro assessment/conversion and should also apply to the Candidates' Office as soon as possible.



Just launched:

Grassroutes to Government: a new voice for Lib Dem activists

Grassroutes to Government has been set up by a group of activists under the chairmanship of veteran peer Roger Roberts to develop stronger two-way communication between Party members and the Leadership. The group aims to:

- ◆ improve communications between the Party and the grassroots
- ◆ strengthen Party democracy, empower activists and re-invigorate the membership
- ◆ enable meaningful contribution by activists to Party policy-making

One of the founder members is South Central's Prue Bray, Leader of the Lib Dems on Wokingham BC. For more information contact her on e-mail: prue@brayjc.plus.com (flyer with this SC News).

To join this new Lib Dem network, visit www.libdemg2g.net and register your email

Diary Dates

To place your entry in this column contact the Regional Office (see right for contact details).



- **Friday - Sunday, 22 - 26 September**
Federal Autumn Conference in Brighton.
- **Saturday, 27 October**
Autumn Regional Conference - Thornden Hall Performing Arts Centre, Thornden School, Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, Hants SO53 2DW

By-election

Corner



Well done to all those who helped us hold a very tricky ward on Fareham BC recently. Especially those who moved in from outside Fareham to help. They were up against two Tory MPs out on the streets in this by-election.

Don't forget to tell Region when you have a critical by-election and we can help get support in.



Some of the winning Porchester East team. Winning councillor, Geoff Fazackarley, 2nd right.

South Central 2012 REGIONAL OFFICERS CONTACT DETAILS



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