



Havant Ad Lib

Free for members, activists and supporters in the Borough of Havant

Make Votes Matter by Philippa Gray



Have you ever wondered if there is one thing that will fix our broken politics and transform the fortunes of the Lib Dems? How about a fair voting system?

Did you know that back in 1913 local suffragettes marched on the Great Pilgrimage in support of women's suffrage? Philippa didn't know this.

With all this in mind a small (Paul Tansom and Philippa Gray) but intrepid party from Havant Lib Dems joined friends from make Votes Matter to recreate the Eastleigh to Winchester section of The Great Pilgrimage.

variety of themes, either as Havant Lib Dems or Make Votes Matter in the coming months, do join us, its easy and fun, detailed knowledge not required, just a friendly smile and desire to engage with people.

In case you were wondering about the technical stuff. The UK is one of the few countries in the world that elects its national government by First Past The Post: each elector gets one vote and person with the most votes wins, leading to elected representatives who do not reflect their electors. There are many



Above, the group on the Make Votes Matter walk

Bottom right: Make Votes Matter stall in Havant

We had lots of fun, talked to many people about fair votes and made it into the Hampshire Chronicle .

Local Make Votes Matter coordinator and Lib Dem councillor, Sally Yalden, dressed as a suffragette and we found out that the public loves talking to suffragettes. We put this lesson to good use on 25th June at a MVM street stall in Havant. Philippa created a suffragette outfit by visiting all the local charity shops and we had a productive 2 hours campaigning.

We will be running more street stalls on a

systems which give better results than this. MVM campaigns for Proportional Representation without specifying exactly which system, although many of us favour STV, vote for candidates in order of preference, candidate with fewest votes is eliminated and their votes given to the elector's second choice of candidate, repeat until one person has a majority. There are lots of other versions and loads of information on the internet. Go on, indulge your inner nerd, you know you want to.



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Make Votes Matter is a cross-party group.

Article in the Hampshire Chronicle:

www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/20223519.campaigners-recreate-part-route-great-pilgrimage-1913-make-votes-matter

Find out more on their website: www.makevotesmatter.org.uk/

Or follow them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/votingreformteam





Faith's Letter to the *i* (17th June 2022)

Our Faith Ponsonby recently had a letter published in the *i* regarding the resignation of Lord Geidt and the disrepute that has been brought by the current administration in Parliament to British politics. Below we include a copy of it so that you can read it, should you have missed it.

leaders. It is long past time the Prime Minister did the honourable thing and resigned.

FAITH PONSONBY

HAVANT, HAMPSHIRE"

They cut the last sentence from her letter which read "but then he is not an honourable man".



"PM should follow Geidt

Lord Geidt's resignation may send shock waves through MPs.

Rightly so. He has a conscience and he has clearly decided that he cannot go on supporting a party leader who set an example of telling lies, not keeping his word to friends, colleagues and fellow leaders beyond our shores and saying what he thinks people want to hear.

Politics and politicians have been brought into disrepute among the public, who feel they cannot be trusted. We have to be able to respect our



Faith with her copy of the *i* in her garden in Havant



Letter as published in the *i*

Change at the top

We can't all have failed to notice that since this article appeared in the *i* on 17th June, Boris Johnson has announced that he will be stepping down as the leader of the Conservative Party and once the new leader has been elected, the winner will become the new Prime Minister.

This could also be a signal that we may have a new General Election before the end of the year.

"Politics and politicians have been brought into disrepute among the public, who feel they cannot be trusted", Faith Ponsonby

A Warm Welcome!

Havant Liberal Democrats have in the past produced a regular newsletter and we are relaunching it after a break. If you would like to help produce and distribute future publications, do let me know. You'll find me on the Supporters Facebook group or you can send me an email (see below).

We are looking for items to include and show you, our supporters, our local members and our candidates, just what members of the Havant

LibDems are doing in our borough and beyond.

Robyn Peel

Email: hldnews@gmx.com

Volunteers Wanted!

How can you help?

We've seen in Chesham & Amersham, North Shropshire and in Tiverton & Honiton that Tory voters are now looking to the Lib Dems to send this out-of-touch Conservative government a message. Regardless of who the leader is, they have let us down for too long. In Havant, on Hampshire County Council and in Government.

In the Council elections this May the Lib Dems gained 224 new seats and took control of 3 councils from the Tories including locally in Gosport.

In Havant, the Lib Dems could have this success, but we need your help...

Can you....?

- ☑ Display a poster in your window at election time
- ☑ Have a stake board in your garden at election time
- ☑ Spare 30 minutes a month to deliver leaflets in your street
- ☑ Spare 2 hours a month to speak to voters
- ☑ Donate £5 /£10 /£20 /£50 to help us print leaflets to get our message to voters
- ☑ Help to organise Social Events and fundraisers

Please get in touch. You can visit the volunteer page on our website or contact us via the Havant Lib Dem Facebook page.

Maria Miller
Membership Development Officer



www.havant-libdems.org/volunteer



Hayling Lib Dems Help Ukraine

We're extremely proud to highlight the amazing work being done

by our 2017 and 2019 parliamentary candidate, Paul Gray. Paul set up 'Hayling Helps Ukraine,' with the intentionally broad aim of helping Ukrainians in any ways possible.

Since launching shortly after the war broke out, Hayling Helps Ukraine has successfully supported the

many Ukrainians arriving on Hayling, ensuring they have a support network available to deal with everything from benefits to bicycles (Wilf Forrow, a Hayling Lib Dem who is every bit as active in the community as Paul, is 'the bike guy').

The group, as well as supporting the Ukrainian community on the island, has also been delivering aid to the Polish/Ukrainian border and returning with refugees in need of transport to the UK. And that holistic, flexible nature of the support is vital as circumstances, and subsequently needs, change by the day.

Paul, speaking to Havant Ad Lib, said:

"The last few months have genuinely been heart-warming and heart breaking in equal measures. I regard it as a privilege to be able to help our new arrivals, and I feel equally privileged to be able to now call many Ukrainians my friends. Through the horror, there are reasons to be inspired by their resolve and determination.

Our own government, and the council, have been appalling in their response. Hayling Helps Ukraine wouldn't be required, if only the Conservatives actually had some sense of humanity. But we are where we are, and I refuse to let people slip through the cracks deliberately left by the uncaring Conservatives.

Liberals are, of course, internationalist and outward looking by nature. We don't care where you're from, we care what and who you are as an individual. I am just one of many Liberal Democrats, up and down the country, providing local community support to those fleeing this terrible war.

I have not elaborated on this greatly within the wider community as currently it is better, in my view, to keep as many impassioned locals on side as possible, and too much detail risks damaging that. Not everyone is ready to hear the full truth just yet, but amongst liberals I need not hold back on joining a few dots:

For six years now I have been pointing out that we are experiencing a global struggle between progress and regression. I've been pointing out, as have the likes of investigative journalist Carole Cadwalladr, the links between the Trump movement, Brexit and the Kremlin. Liberals in tune with international perspectives will be aware that the likes of Nigel Farage have been taking money from the Kremlin for years and were quick to look to support Russia in this war, just as Russia supported Brexit and Trump. In fact, at one point Putin got very irate about the failure to deliver Brexit, which is understandable when you realise just how important internal

Western divisions were, and still are, to his plans. A disunited Europe and America plays into Putin's hands perfectly, and the ex-KGB man knew vanity to exploit when he saw it. Johnson and Trump are perfect useful idiots in that regard.

But enough about that since none of us is going to greatly impact global geopolitics any time soon. What we can do however, and what I would urge all liberals to do, however and wherever they can, is support Ukrainians here in our area. As well as Hayling Helps Ukraine, which is obviously targeted primarily at Ukrainians on Hayling, there are many local groups in other bits of our borough who are opening their doors and giving support however they can.



Paul Gray, asks for people to get involved and lend their support



Nick ready to leave for 2nd trip

Now is not the time to hold back. Get involved and do what you can to make a very bad situation just a little bit better for those in need."

To follow this story and contribute, please visit the "Hayling Helps Ukraine" Facebook page:



May 2024 Election

You might think that it is a little early to start thinking about 2024 already, but locally it will be a very big election. It may be that we also have a General election around the same time.

Why will it be so big? The boundaries for the wards are being restructured. This means that in some cases

small alterations may be made, but in other cases wards are being restructured.

As this is being written we do not know the final outcome of the restructuring. It is clear from the consultation that it is intended to reduce the overall number of Councillors within Havant Borough Council from 38 to 36. To this end, the current four wards that cover Leigh Park, West Leigh and The Warren will be reduced to two wards.

Currently there are two councillors in each of the four wards. In the consultation, it was stated that the intention will be for three councillors in the two wards. This is how all the other wards in our borough are currently organised.

At the same time, many of the borders, particularly in Havant, Emsworth and Langstone, are moving.

This means that we will be looking for potentially 36 people to stand for election in 2024. If this interests you, please do get in touch through the Volunteer page on the Havant Lib Dem website:

www.havant-libdems.org/volunteer



www.facebook.com/groups/1666654937004927

Dates for your Diary:

01

Aug

Newsletter

Publication date for the new Havant LibDem newsletter

06

Aug

Repair Café Havant

1st Saturday of the month. Booking required. See article by Paul Tansom

29

Aug

Emsworth Show

New Life Church Grounds
Thorney Road
PO10 8BN

03

Sept

Repair Café Havant

1st Saturday of the month. Booking required. See article by Paul Tansom

17

Sept

Lib Dem Autumn Conference

17th-20th. To be held in Brighton this year, the conference can also be watched online.

08

Oct

Repair Café Havant

1st Saturday of the month. Booking required. See article by Paul Tansom

11

Oct

Last date for newsletter submission

If you have any articles, please get in touch

01

Nov

Newsletter

Publication date for the next edition of the Havant LibDem newsletter

12

Nov

Regional Conference

Location TBC
Interested? Sign up for details here:

www.southcentrallibdems.org.uk/en/subscribe-by-email

Social & Fundraising Events

We do run a number of social events during the year, including BBQs, and evenings at the Wheelwrights Arms in Havant.

Both members and supporters are very welcome to all the events.

Please watch the Havant Lib Dem Supporters group on Facebook for upcoming details.

If you would like to provide some assistance in organizing any social events or helping to prepare the food, please do get in touch with Suzzette Gray through the Supporters group.

Any profits from the funds raised are given to the local party.



Havant Lib Dems Supporters Group
www.facebook.com/groups/1051292081613100



“The fundamental reason for doing this is to keep things out of landfill”

Repair Café Havant *by Paul Tansom*



In July we celebrated the first birthday of Repair Café Havant, and it has been an interesting two and a half years. If those two figures don't quite add up, let me explain. Back in 2019 at a local Liberal Democrat event I heard about the idea of starting a Repair Café. I should just note that this isn't specifically a Liberal Democrat venture, but there are a number of us involved. Unlike some parties where I've heard councillors state *“oh no, we don't talk to the other parties, that's not how it works”*, we are just happy to put the effort in and get things done for the benefit of the community. I'd argue that's how it should work, and work better.

Plans were drawn up, practicalities explored, venues found, and a soft launch scheduled – spring 2020. Well, events around that time delayed things, but there was a determination to get something happening, so as things opened up, we put on a couple of bicycle repair sessions. These could be run in the open air and socially distanced.

As the prospect of a full Repair Café approached, we had new practicalities to take into account. With social distancing we needed a booking system of some sort to manage numbers. That fits with my background, so a website to book various types of repairs and take some details was setup ready for our soft launch in July 2021.

So, what is a Repair Café, how does it work and why do it?

The idea is that volunteers with a variety of skills offer to try and repair broken items. There's no charge, but there is a cost in running the events in terms of insurance, venue, equipment, etc., even though the volunteers running it do so for free, so we rely on donations and grants where we can find them.

The fundamental reason for doing this is to keep things out of landfill, but people have various reasons for bringing things along. Sometimes an item that is particularly loved or a replacement isn't affordable, sometimes it is not having the knowledge or tools. Whatever the reason, it isn't just bringing something along to be fixed, you get to see how it is done and possibly learn a new skill.

Events are monthly and bookings open about ten days in advance. On the day you arrive and are given the triage sheet, and the repairer will spend up to half an hour trying to fix the item. If the item wasn't fixed you may have information about where you can take it, that it isn't possible, or details of parts you need before bringing it back. We usually cover electrical, textiles, wood, jewellery and general repairs, depending on the availability of the repairers.

This isn't unique to Havant, there are Repair Cafés world-wide. Locally there are also ones in Portsmouth, Chichester and Gosport, and we are helping others in the start-up phase like Hayling.



<https://www.repaircafehavant.org.uk/>



The Conservatives In Turmoil *by Faith Ponsonby*

We're all in for a summer of discontent, while the Conservative Party tries to decide if Rishi or Liz will be crowned Prime Minister at the beginning of September. Meanwhile, COVID is increasing rapidly, prices continue to increase in the shops and hospitals are so full, ambulances queue outside. Rishi seems only concerned about which candidate will be best to beat Keir Starmer while Liz Truss keeps attacking her rival, despite having sat for months in the Cabinet Room with him. Even the fires sweeping the Continent and our own island will not worry our present 'lame duck' government (made up of the few MPs who continued to support a proven dishonest man). This man, who has caused such damage to our political system, and seems only to care about pouring honours on to his cronies before he is forced to leave No. 10 and Chequers did not even have the decency to go as soon as he knew his game was up.

Unless you're a paid-up member of the Conservative Party, the decision will not be made by ordinary voters until the next General Election is called. We will be stuck with one of these two – either a man from a privileged background, who, with his wife, never need worry about infla-

tion, clearly a clever man or a woman who has not distinguished herself as Foreign Secretary, probably a hard worker, but lacking the imagination to make the key creative decisions that are needed to bring some hope of the national issues being improved.

I am sick to death of our current political system where decisions are made according to what will go down best with voters, by people who are intent on building lucrative careers for themselves, many of whom also hold down several jobs as well as the main one to which they were elected. I am proud to belong to a party where our MPs are genuinely concerned with trying to really solve the problems that affect the majority of our residents, and committed to working towards reducing climate change as well as trying to create more equal opportunities by improving education and care for the most vulnerable in our society.

It is time to help our small local party begin to change things for the better in this corner of Hampshire.



“a petition to call for the government to ban Conversion Therapy for all LGBT+ people, which was signed by hundreds of people”

Portsmouth Pride 2022

Among the LGBT+ community, June is known as Pride Month and Portsmouth pride was held one Southsea Common this year, after an enforced break due to Covid-19. There was a series of on-line events in 2021 and this was a great success.

Portsmouth Liberal Democrats had booked a stand and our members were welcomed along to join them on the day.





The march was very well attended and started by the Speaker's Corner, off Clarence Esplanade and headed over to the common where various stands were pitched and a stage had been set up. Various food and drink retailers were there too and the weather held out for the day.

The LibDem stand had a petition to call for the government to ban Conversion Therapy for all LGBT+ people, which was signed by hundreds of people on the day.

If you would like to join us next year, please get in touch. The day is typically a family friendly event and both allies and members of the LGBT+ community are welcome to attend.

For more information on

Portsmouth Pride, please visit their website or find them on social media.

-  www.portsmouthpride.co.uk
-  www.facebook.com/portsmouthprideuk
-  https://twitter.com/pompey_pride
-  www.instagram.com/portsmouthprideuk

Note: At the time of writing, their website is down. It should be back soon.

Next year's event will be on 10th June on Southsea Common.



The busy Liberal Democrats Stand



Keen members ready for the march!



The Supporters lib Draw is a great way for our members and supporters to help raise funds for our local party, as well as to have a little fun at the same time.

It can cost as little or as much as you like. At £1 per number, per month, you are free to choose just how little or as much as you wish.

How to join:

There are two steps to complete. The first is to complete the

standing order, which is below. Complete and hand it in to your bank. If you are happy to do this on-line with your bank, please feel free to do so.

The second step is to complete the form opposite. Either post or email the completed form to Philippa Gray.

The Draws

The draws are held monthly and that month's prize pot is distributed amongst the winners.

Supporters Club Draw



Please complete and return this form to your own bank or Building Society.

Standing Order Payment

To The Manager

Name of your Bank or Building Society

Branch Name & Location

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please pay to Havant Borough Liberal Democrats Bank Plc (30-93-97) Lloyds, 4 West Street, Havant, PO9 1PE for the credit of Havant Borough Liberal Democrats (Account no. 01088470)

The sum of £ .00 Per month

(note: £1 per entry, per month)

Start Date

 / / 20.....

End Date

 / / 20.....

Until such time as I cancel this instruction in writing:

Account Name

Address of account holder

.....

.....

.....

Postcode:

Telephone:

Account Number

Sort Code Number

 - -

Signature

Date Signed

 / / 20.....



Supporters Club Draw Entry Form

Name:

Number of entries each month:

How would you like you receive any prize?

Bank Transfer or Cheque

For Bank Transfer:

Account name (as it appears on your account):

Account Number

Sort Code Number

For cheque payments:

Address where we should send the winning cheque to:

.....
.....
.....

Postcode:

Please complete and return this form to:

Philippa Gray
Treasurer
11 Brooklands Road
Havant
PO9 3NS

Or email it to:
philippa@havant-libdems.org



“We are receiving a clear message that people will vote for the candidate that they have met”

Join The Draw!



Quietly and easily, scores of local Lib Dems, not all members, have joined our Supporters' Club monthly Draw. This raises several hundred pounds each year so that we can continue to put out Focuses, and other news to help us build up the votes for our candidates at election time. The bonus is that sometimes your tickets win a share of that month's 'pot'.

It's been going for over 40 years, properly set up, and supporters have set up a regular Standing Order payment for however many tickets in each month's draw they would like at £1 each. Each month a draw takes place, often at a social event, and about half of the ticket money goes out in prizes – not big ones. Currently, the top prize is £35 with two smaller prizes, enough for a treat. The expenses are minimal, but after the

Campaigning In And Around Havant

The last few years have been weird at times, and that weirdness continues. A group of us have been canvassing around Purbrook and Bedhampton and found that we are actually welcome on the doorstep, didn't see that one coming. This means that now is a great time to get out and win seats. We are receiving a clear message that people will vote for the candidate that they have met, which is a huge opportunity for us but we need to make the most of it.

Do you want a Liberal Democrat councillor in your area? If so, please get active. You don't have to door knock: to free up those of us who love canvassing we need other people to write leaflets, deliver them, make phone calls, help fundraise



Faith and Philippa out canvassing

and many other things. Whatever you enjoy doing we can use your skills to help Liberal Democrats win in Havant. Don't wait for us to get in touch, volunteer today.

We work as a team, with someone watching over everyone else and putting in the data as we go.

If you are interested, no previous experience is required, please contact Philippa Gray on 07764 624565 or email:

philippa@havant-libdems.org .



www.havant-libdems.org/volunteer

prizes and the expenses are taken out, a steady monthly sum is available for campaigning. This income (currently about £600 pa) funds 3 or 4 Focuses in local wards. Of course, there is pressure on our budgets, but if you are able to spare a little to help more residents hear about what Lib Dems locally want

to do to help them, please consider joining. The cost of one cup of coffee a month would help spread the word.

p.s. It is noticeable that some supporters who have 5 or 10 tickets each month are among the regular winners!



Havant Liberal Democrats

The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community, and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity. We believe that each generation is responsible for the fate of our planet and, by safeguarding the balance of

nature and the environment, for the long term continuity of life in all its forms. We champion the freedom, dignity and well-being of individuals, we acknowledge and respect their right to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the full. We are not trapped by business or by the unions that fund the other main parties, so we are free to speak the truth.

We want your views (Use extra paper if required)

Your priorities

Choose the top three local priorities for our area:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bin Collections | <input type="checkbox"/> Litter | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Road/Path Repairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenbelt | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Choose the top three national priorities for our area:

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climate change | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> NHS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crime | <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs / Economy | <input type="checkbox"/> Tax |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration | <input type="checkbox"/> Transport |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

If you have any specific problems, ideas or issues you want to raise just write them here:

Getting around our area

How do you get around our local area?

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk | <input type="checkbox"/> Motorcycle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobility Scooter | <input type="checkbox"/> Car / Van |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycle | <input type="checkbox"/> Taxi |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Bus |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Train |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

What is the number one thing you'd like to see to improve how you get around our area?

Tackling Crime

On a scale of 1-5 (1=Not safe at all, 5=Very safe) how safe do you feel around our area?

- ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

Have you been the victim of crime in the last 12 months?

- Yes**
 No

Do you believe there is currently enough money put into preventing crime and making sure there are bobbies on the beat in our area?

- Yes**
 No

What is the number one issue you think the local police should be tackling?

This news letter has been delivered by volunteers. Please tick if you would no longer like to receive it

Name: Telephone:

Address: Postcode:

Please return to: Philippa Gray, 11 Brooklands Road, Bedhampton, Havant PO9 3NS or email: communications@havant-libdems.org