



Havant Ad Lib

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

Hayling Helps Ukraine Delivers a Car for Ukraine

In December, Hayling Helps Ukraine, which was formed by our own Paul Gray, were offered a car, if Hayling Helps Ukraine could get it to where it would be useful in the continuing war effort.

With a desire to help Hayling Ukrainians if possible, Paul spoke to Svitlana Kovda, one of the ladies who is currently living on the Hayling, but at the time was back in Ukraine seeing her husband in the army. Svitlana immediately went into action, establishing with the army that the car would be ideal as a medical vehicle, while Paul got to work planning to get the car to Lublin, a Polish town near the border.



Paul and Nick collecting medical supplies

(Continued on page 2)

Back to the 1964 General Election (October)

by Liam Hutchings

This election was when I got first involved in political activism in a big way. The parliamentary constituency, known then as Portsmouth (Langstone) had the third largest electorate in the UK of over 100,000. It was formed in 1950 from the Fareham constituency, which you may be surprised to know then contained Havant and in the 1945 general election did elect (again?) Sir Dymoke White, a member of the local gentry in the Havant area. Remember up to 1950 the area was less urbanised by far between the towns mentioned, but with growing population. The new division went from Havant UDC (not a borough then) across Farlington to Paulsgrove, Cosham, Hilsea and then Meredith ward (no longer) comprising North End, Portsmouth.

The country under Harold McMillan was tiring of the Tories with financial problems (what's new?) by the late 50's and I was disappointed not to have a Liberal Candidate in the 1959 general election (my first vote! and keen on the party) the first time since at least 1945. Something had to be done so into the 60's and the spectacular by-election win in 1962 for the party in Orpington, put sails into a revival of the party overall and locally new support emerged, especially in Purbrook, Farlington and Havant town when

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Local members at the Campaign Launch



Hayling Helps Ukraine Delivers a Car for Ukraine

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At the Community Centre on the 9th of January, Paul and Nick May left with a Ford Mondeo Estate FULL of medical donations. From there they headed to the Eurotunnel, then drove over 1,000 miles through the night. In Lublin, the guys were met by Zhenya, a Ukrainian man, keys handed over, paperwork checked and a hugely grateful Zhenya drove away. Just 24 hours later, Zhenya was taking the car to the Donbas region, where the fighting has been at its fiercest.

The car is now where it needs to be, and is being utilised exactly as we envisaged, saving lives in the war.



Nick live-streaming with Paul Gray prior to starting their trip



Delivered safely in Ukraine



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1666654937004927>

"The car is now where it needs to be, and is being utilized exactly as we envisaged, saving lives in the war"

Mumblings from the Editor...

We do hope that you are all well. Much has happened over the past few months and more is on the way. Do glance through our newsletter to find out more.

In this edition of Havant Ad Lib, we have news about Paul's trip to Europe with a car donated for the Ukrainians. Our president talks about how things were when he first became involved and we also talk about some important changes to the voting rules that can affect you.



Robyn Peel

 hldnews@gmx.com

Campaigning for the 2023 Local Elections

Our team have continued to keep busy over the past few months, knocking on the doors of registered voters. Whilst it was very hot during the summer, it has most certainly become a little cooler over the past few months and this has not stopped us.

We took a little break over the Christmas and New Year periods, to allow everyone to spend some time with friends and family.

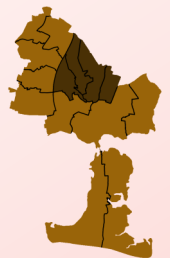
The new calling cards appear to be working well and help to provide the contact information for our candidates.

At the time of writing, we have a full list of candidates for each ward in our

local elections for May 2023 and there was a campaign launch



Maria, Philippa and Faith out canvassing



scheduled for Saturday 4th February.

Some of the fun parts have been finding lots of people who support us, yet

don't know. In one instance a resident mentioned that she thought she was alone in supporting us in her neighbourhood. The truth was that we'd actually found the opposite.

Many people are struggling with the cost of living and the hike in prices. Many are worried about access to health care too.



Photo ID is now

Have you got your Voter ID? By Faith & Maria

The Tory government have brought in controversial changes to election law that will affect in-person voting from the local elections in May 2023 onwards. You will need to bring a recognised form of photo ID to the polling station in order to cast your vote. (This includes proxy voting) No photo ID, no vote.

You won't need this for a postal vote! Apply for your postal vote here:



 <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/apply-vote-post>

The list of acceptable IDs includes passports, driving licence and some concessionary travel passes. A free 'Voter Authority Certificate' is in the pipeline, but is not up and running yet. You will be able to apply on line (**see link below**) or make a paper application through the local council. Other forms of ID on the accepted list carry a cost of at least £15 (e.g., UK Citizen card) and take at least 3 weeks to arrive.

Acceptable forms of Voter ID

The following list is a summary based upon the information on the Electoral Commission's Website. Please check there to see if you don't have one of the following if you intend to vote in person. Postal voters do not need to show their ID when voting by post:

- ◆ Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- ◆ Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state
- ◆ A Blue Badge



- ◆ Older Person's Bus Pass
- ◆ Disabled Person's Bus Pass
- ◆ Oyster 60+ Card
- ◆ Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- ◆ Biometric immigration document

 <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/applying-a-voter-authority-certificate>



Younger voters, minorities and those on lower incomes are at risk of losing their vote. Joseph Rowntree Foundation research supports this, showing that it has the potential to disenfranchise 1.7 million low-income voters. Many of the accepted forms of photographic ID (e.g. passport, driving licence) are costly or irrelevant, meaning better-off voters are more likely to be able to access them.

The cost of the scheme is estimated to be £180 million over the next 10 years. This will be a cost borne ultimately by the taxpayers.

 <https://www.jrf.org.uk/blog/government-must-not-disenfranchise-low-income-voters-polls>




These changes have been introduced to suppress voter

fraud, but there was just one conviction for "personation" (pretending to be another elector) in 2019 – a year in which over 58 million votes were cast.

This is the beginning of an "under-class" where life is even more difficult for those on low incomes and particularly for younger people. Faith says "my daughter (aged 44) lives in rural North Wales, her passport has expired, and she currently could not afford to pay

for one or travel abroad. She does not drive, and, again, has no prospect of being able to afford to run a car. She has started up a new business, but cannot do an online tax-return for HMRC without photo ID."

What can you do? Make sure that others know about this change, write letters to the local or national papers, share online, encourage people to register for a postal vote and volunteer to help for the upcoming elections!

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



- ◆ Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
 - ◆ National identity card issued by an EEA state
 - ◆ Electoral Identity Card issued in Northern Ireland
 - ◆ Voter Authority Certificate
 - ◆ Anonymous Elector's Document
- If your photo ID is out of date, this shouldn't be an issue, provided that you look like the photo on the card. The name on the ID must be the same as the one you have used to register to vote.

You must show the original, not a photo copy or any other copy.



Dates for your Diary

04
Feb

Campaign 2023 Launch
Launch of the 2023 Local Elections Campaign

09
Feb

LibDem Pint
Langbrook Farm, 2A Langstone Rd, Havant PO9 1RE
7.30pm—11pm
(other dates to follow in March and April)

17
Feb

Coffee & Clerical Morning
All round to Faith's home to help with bundling and addressing envelopes
2 Manor Close, Havant PO9 1BD 10am-12pm

18
Feb

Action Day
The details of this event are available in the Supporters Group on Facebook

04
March

Action Day
The details of this event & others like it will be posted in the Supporters Group on Facebook

17
March

Coffee & Clerical Morning
All round to Faith's home to help with bundling, addressing envelopes and more
2 Manor Close, Havant PO9 1BD 10am-12pm

19
Apr

Postal Votes
Expected day when postal votes will start arriving

04
May

Election Day
Your chance to have your say in our local elections and vote Liberal Democrat!

Website Migration

Following a recent nationwide change for the Liberal Democrats, our own website has also gone through some updates. It now has a new look and feel.

Included in this update is a different email system, which you may have already noticed.

Please do take a look and let us know what you think.



<https://www.havant-libdems.org/>



Local Elections for 2024

Yes, we know that it is over a year away, but these are important and a serious opportunity to make a huge difference locally.

The Electoral Commission periodically reviews the ward boundaries of all the areas of the UK and Havant Borough is near the completion of its latest review. What this means is that next year all the Borough Council seats are up for grabs.

Once we have had a chance to digest this year's results, we can start putting our energy into next year's election. This is where you can help us to win.

For next year we want to build upon what we have done this year, improve upon our work and remedy any issues. We are looking to place 3 candidates in each ward. Before then we need to determine where we want to place our resources and build upon those successes.

We need **YOU!** We are going to want more volunteers to help us

on the frontline. Whether it's helping to put together articles for newsletters, Focuses, reviewing surveys, canvassing over the phone or helping by knocking on doors, there is something to do for everyone.

If we want to get Liberal Democrat representation back on our local council, then we need to earn by working hard to convince our friends and neighbours that we are the right party to vote for. We need to show them who we are and what we can do for them.

Please contact Faith or Philippa if you are interested.



Scan to email Faith



Scan to email Philippa

Havant Liberal Democrats Supporters Group

Do you use facebook? If so, are you a member of our Supporters Group?

If you aren't then please do consider joining. It's a great place to keep in touch with the local party and find out what is happening.

Not all of it is serious. A few memes get posted there from various sources



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1051292081613100>





Elections Act (2022) and what it means

Last December the Torys pushed through an Act of Parliament much to the objections of both Labour and the Liberal Democrats. It goes against democracy and could limit who can vote, even if they have that right.

We've touched upon the Voter ID requirement on page 3. Here we'll explore a few other parts of the Act which specifically could affect you, as members of the Liberal Democrats, our supporters and activists.

It isn't all bad though.

The follow is a commentary on some of the changes designed to highlight some of the changes that could affect you. If you suspect that you are directly affected, then please read the Act of Parliament. This is not a

substitute for legal advice.

Benefits

Some of the changes introduced now means that it is easier to put a candidate forward for the local elections. Previously 10 signatures were needed. Now we only need to get 2 signatures for the paperwork to nominate a candidate.

Postal Votes

This is perhaps the best way for many people, especially those of us who are often too busy



*Members of political groups or political campaigners may not handle postal votes of others, unless they are family or their carer**

**other exceptions apply*



<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/our-views-and-research/elections-act>

to vote on the day. For many people, this is an essential method for them to exercise their right to vote. They may be out of the country or have mobility issues. There are many other reasons, each just as valid and as important.

Now you'll need to renew your postal vote application every three years. It is also very important to be aware that some people, including **members of a political party or political campaigners, can no longer handle someone else's postal vote paperwork for a given election.** Reading the wording, I'd suggest that this includes posting the sealed envelope, not just the voting slips.

There are some specific exceptions, such as if you are their carer or a close relative (i.e. partner, grand parent, sibling).

Proxy Votes

Proxy votes are aimed at those who are unable to vote on the day. They may have been called away on short notice, for

example, and a postal vote may be an unsuitable alternative.

Other changes

Whilst they won't affect our local elections, the way in which we vote for the Police Commissioner next time has also been changed. The government has removed our ability to vote in order of choice (i.e. 1st, 2nd, 3rd), so it's enforcing the classic first past the post system.

Other changes include making it easier to prove undue influence, allowing some EU citizens to vote in the local elections, providing they meet certain residency criteria and have come from a short list of acceptable countries.

The Electoral Commission has a useful summary and their opinions on the changes.





The Supporters Club 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.

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.

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.

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

How to join:

The Draws

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

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

Account Name

Name of your Bank or Building Society

Address of account holder

Branch Name & Location

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

Postcode:

Telephone:

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)

Account Number

The sum of £ .00 Per month

Sort Code Number

(note: £1 per entry, per month)

Start Date

Signature

End Date

Until such time as I cancel this instruction in writing:

Date Signed



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



"At the count looking at the ballot papers piling up for each candidate, it was not certain we would retain our deposit"

Back to the 1964 General Election (October)

by Liam Hutchings

(Continued from page 1)

a council by-election saw a Rex Wingate (a North Street optician) elected. Party politics was becoming more and more into local government. Momentum was building.

The Parliamentary Candidate chosen was a Rex Collings, an interesting choice as he was head of a one-man publishing company and took on an unknown author, a Richard Adams, risky as he had been rejected widely by other publishers and the result Watership Down. The campaign, for which I gave up two weeks leave, was largely to organise the addressing of an envelope to each voter, deliveries by the Post Office but it did result in 12,212 votes (17.75%). At that time loud speakers were old school and had to be hired and public meetings were still in vogue. In fact, schools

had to provide halls. The other usual business too.

I was agent again in the 1970 General



Liam Hutchings

Election when Ted Heath came to power. At the count, looking at the ballot papers piling up for each candidate, it was not certain we would retain our deposit, which required 12.50% of the vote, so we were ready to call for a recount. But finally, 12.71% was attained for the Liberals. To the relief of everyone candidate, myself and our counting agents.

Let us stop there. There is so much to party activism not only wins and losses but with friendships, working with people of like mind and the opportunities afforded. I don't quite agree with the late Paddy Ashdown that "it all ends in tears"

Hayling Island, where the liberal heart beats strong

By Patrick Combe

A newcomer's perspective: Hayling Island needs a liberal council

Hayling Island, where the sun shines bright, the sea sparkles, and the community spirit is as warm as a summer breeze. As a newcomer to the island, I have been truly enchanted by its beauty and the warmth of its people. It's a place where you can't go shopping without striking up a conversation with a stranger. Where residents look out for each other, Hayling Island is a place where community spirit truly thrives.

You see, Hayling Island is not just a place; it's a state of mind. It's a community that cares about each other and the world around them. It's a place where people still greet each other on the street with a smile and a hello, where the local Facebook groups are full of people looking out for each other and running events. It's a community that values the environment and wants to preserve the island's natural beauty for future generations to enjoy. And let's face it, we all want to be able to take our children to the beach, show them the marine life, and not have to explain why there is sewage in the water.

That's why it's crucial to have a council that truly represents the values and spirit of this community, one that cares about the environment and promotes sustainable development, finding real solutions to the sewage pollution affecting our oceans. A council that prioritises community cohesion, ensuring that everyone is included and respected, and promoting harmony and mutual understanding among diverse groups of people. And let's not forget the importance of having an MP that truly represents the community. If we could elect a Liberal Democrat MP, they would work to ensure that the voice of Havant is heard, pushing for the policies and regulations that align with the community values instead of one that is only interested in showing up for photo ops.

Imagine a council that is not focused on promoting its own interests but one that truly works for the betterment

of the community. A council that is passionate about serving the public and puts in the effort to make positive change. A council that acts with integrity and transparency and has a can-do attitude towards the work they do that is not afraid to take on difficult issues and find solutions to problems that affect the community.

It's time to break the pattern of the Conservative council being elected without any real accountability. It's time to vote for Liberal Democrat Councillors who share the liberal values of our community, and are committed to making our borough an even more attractive place to live, work and enjoy. They will prioritise community cohesion and ensure that every member of the community is included and respected, fostering an environment of harmony and mutual understanding for all. Most importantly, they will give a voice to the community, pushing for policies and regulations that align with our values.

The local elections are coming up, and it's time for us to take action and make a

change by casting our votes for Liberal Democrat candidates. This is an opportunity for us to elect leaders who truly care about our community, align with its values and work tirelessly to make it an even better place to live, work and enjoy. They will prioritise the community's needs, ensuring that everyone is included and respected, fostering harmony and mutual understanding among diverse

groups of people. Most importantly, they will ensure that our voices are heard, pushing for policies and regulations that align with the community's values. Let's make a change. Let's vote for a council that truly represents us and our community's spirit. Let's vote Liberal Democrat.

So, let's not waste this opportunity. Let's vote for a council that reflects the liberal heart of our community, one that has a passion for the community and hopes for a better future. Together we can make it happen! Let's rock the vote and show the world what the liberal heart of Hayling Island looks like in action. Let's make Hayling Island an even better place to call home.



Patrick on Hayling Island



Havant Liberal Democrats

1 Sinah House
39 Sinah Lane
Hayling Island
PO11 0HJ

Tel: 023 9399 0098

Email: communications@havant-libdems.org

www.havant-libdems.org
www.facebook.com/HavantLibDems
<https://twitter.com/HavantLibDems>
www.instagram.com/havant_libdems