

THE POST

Newsletter for the Angus & Mearns Liberal Democrats

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2025

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FREEDOM DOESN'T REST EASY

by Rod Falconer, Convener



The influence and values that we all espouse as Liberal Democrats should be shared with as many people as will listen.

You will be amazed as to the number of adults who vote and are quite proud to tell you that they do not know what political parties actually stand for. As we build momentum towards the May 2026 Holyrood elections, clearly the political landscape is now evolving to one that will be more multi colour as well as dynamic. The old adage that "My vote isn't important" no longer holds sway as we switch from weighing votes to having recounts due to the closeness of ballot numbers. This is where you as ambassadors for Liberal Democrat values can make such a huge difference. On behalf of the executive committee at Angus and Mearns, a special welcome and thank you to all our new members. Freedom never rests easy. There is always someone willing to take it from us. We need to be pro-active in protecting our values.

We had a strong start to the North East List campaign in Stonehaven recently. Yi-Pei Chou Turvey (No 1) and Michael Turvey (No 2) were declared winners. More on pgs 4-5!

Get involved: Action Day in Dundee coming up on Friday 10th October 2025.

Please email tanvir.libdem@ayma.co.uk for more information.



MARTYN KNIGHTS IS OUR CANDIDATE FOR THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

Martyn Knights has been selected as the party's candidate for the constituency of Angus North and Mearns at next year's Scottish Parliament elections.



Martyn has lived in this constituency since 2002. He has had experience of working in both the public (Police officer, local government, NHS) and private sector (oil & gas industry) specialising in crisis management and emergency response for a major international company working both in the UK and overseas.

He has also served in HM Armed Forces undertaking deployments in (West) Germany and Northern Ireland as a member of the Intelligence Corps. Martyn has been a volunteer in the charity

sector, undertaking the role as Regional Ambassador (NI & Scotland) for a national charity specialising in supporting those with long term illnesses and disabilities in their return to work.

Martyn is a keen cyclist and has helped set up a mixed social cycle group in his local area to encourage people of all ages and abilities to start cycling as a way to help improve their physical and mental health. He is a member of his local community council. As a grandfather, he has recently become more politically active as he feels it is important to ensure that all future generations get to live in a society that is fair to everyone.

Martyn Knights said:

“Throughout my career I have built up a depth of experience including time spent working on a project aimed at directing health inputs to the family centres in Aberdeen as well as undertaking the role of a local authority community safety officer.”

“As someone who was born into a working-class family living in a tight knit community, I fully appreciate how difficult it can be just to make ends meet.”

“I want to use this life and extensive work experience as a foundation to setting my priorities as an MSP candidate for Angus North and Mearns.”

“From my time spent canvassing of residents during both the general election and a more recent by-election, I have listened carefully to the concerns of those I met, noting the key issues raised and this has helped me form my priorities which I will look to fight on your behalf in Holyrood.”

“Here in Angus and Mearns we need Health & Social care that works, investment in education and a fair deal for North East Councils. Following up on these issues will form a key part of my work as a community champion and if elected as an MSP, will be at the forefront of representing the Angus North and Mearns constituency at Holyrood.”

“Angus North and Mearns deserves better. And with the Scottish Liberal Democrats, you can vote for it!”

CYCLING FOR CHARITY WAS A RIDE TO REMEMBER

In August, Lib Dem couple Martyn and Isobel Knights took part in Ride the North 2025 a 110 km cycle event involving over 2,000 riders that took place in the beautiful Angus countryside.

Starting at Glamis Castle the circular route took them south around Forfar, then up through Brechin, Edzell, Memus, Menmuir & Kirriemuir, before returning to Glamis.

“This is the second time that Ride the North has taken place in Angus and once again the communities we cycled through were brilliant, offering plenty of encouragement as well as great refreshments”, Martin said.

“I was very proud to ride in support of the Friends of Anchor Charity. This charity does so much to support cancer sufferers in the North East of Scotland and helped care for Isobel during her three years of treatment.”

Isobel who stood in the Mearns by-election in 2024, raising our vote share from 6% to 22% said:

“This was my first big cycle event after over 3 years of treatment for breast cancer; we were so well looked after as we cycled round this part of Angus visiting areas in both constituencies and the welcome from all the communities was brilliant.”



FLYING START TO THE NORTH EAST CAMPAIGN WITH YI-PEI AND MICHAEL LEADING THE LIST

by Michael Turvey

The Angus North and Mearns constituency was the scene of the launch for the North East Regional Campaign for next year's Holyrood elections. The campaign got a fantastic start at the Carron to Mumbai in Stonehaven with Alex Cole-Hamilton in August. It brought together around 70 activists for a fundraising lunch and campaign day.

The images from this event dominated the Press and Journal's article about the forthcoming battle for North-East seats. Both Yi-Pei and I were featured in [PressReader.com - Digital Newspaper & Magazine Subscriptions](#) as No 1 and No 2 on the list. Alex Cole Hamilton said for the Press and Journal: "**Yi-peí** and **Michael** are an absolute powerhouse as activists. With the Tories in absolute chaos, we are coming. There are Lib Dem traditions right across the North East. We are going to be tapping into that, door by door, street by street."

The joy on display at the crowded Lib Dem launch in sunny Stonehaven compared rather favourably to the four angry-looking Reform members standing next to a "Make Britain Great Again" trailer under a leaden sky in Peterhead.

Since the launch we have seen a flurry of activity with thousands of doors knocked. We are also delighted to have **Isobel Knights** on board as our new member of staff to help organise activity across the Northeast region. With husband Martyn already making an impact as the Angus North and Mearns candidate, perhaps this will be next Lib Dem "powerhouse" the P&J will be featuring.

Yi-peí and I also headlined in the DC Thomson Podcast "The Stooshie".

[Married couple's Aberdeenshire election bid | The Stooshie: the politics podcast from DC Thomson](#)

The campaign messaging to date has focused on the NHS so far with several hundred thousand leaflets already delivered to doors across the Northeast in target wards.



***Can you help with
leaflets? Knock some
doors? Make a
donation?***

***Get in touch with Isobel
Knights at:***

isobel.knights@scotlibdems.org.uk



Yi-Pei: “Fair deal for households from Dundee to Fraserburgh”

Yi-Pei Chou Turvey, our lead candidate on the North East list, is passionate about people and communities and well known as a tireless campaigner in local politics. This goes much

further back than her election as a Councillor for Banchory and Mid-Deeside.

Yi-Pei was born in Taiwan and grew up in Belgium. She is a mother of three children with husband Michael. Thanks to her upbringing, Yi-Pei is fluent in English, French and Mandarin. She started as a volunteer at age 11, helping to walk other children home from school safely. She has been involved with Oxfam, the Church, regional multi art centre, the scouts and a playgroup.

“Life is a constant balance to create a fair and equal world for society and ourselves,” Yi-Pei says. She is worried about communities being split by rival nationalist agendas and disinformation on the internet.

“More than anything, we need to bring people together, connect to the community and the land we share. The Liberal Democrats work in every aspect to build a brighter future where the values of liberty and community can be found. These values are my values,” says Yi-Pei.

She won her council seat in 2022 with the highest vote the party has ever achieved in that ward. She has campaigned on education and early years childcare, safer roads, health and social care and tackling the cost of living.

“I am ambitious for the region and will work hard to deliver swift local access to healthcare and a real commitment to a fair deal for households from Dundee to Fraserburgh. However, there is still more to do to improve the sense of community, our infrastructure and to help local schools,” Yi-Pei says.

WHY DOES THE REGIONAL LIST MATTER TO US

by Peter Bellarby

At a Scottish Parliament election in addition to constituency candidates there are regional list candidates. Those voting have two votes, one to elect the MSP in their constituency and a second to elect the MSPs for the region in which they reside. There are 8 regions and 7 MSPs are elected for each region.

For the constituency elections the first past the post system is used. The candidate with the highest number of votes wins. This system alone is unfair. It means that the number of seats won by a political party does not reflect the total number votes the party has received.

The election of regional list MSPs is designed to avoid this unfairness. It is a form of proportional representation. For the regional list voters vote for a party, rather than individual candidates (except that there can be individual candidates, not aligned to a political party). Each party submits a list of candidates for a region which is ordered numerically. If a party gains a seat it goes to the first candidate on their list. If they gain a second seat it goes to their candidate number 2 and so on. There are rules about how seats are gained which take into account how many seats parties have already gained, both list and constituency.

So use your votes wisely and vote for your Liberal Democrat constituency candidate and for the Liberal Democrats in your regional list. We have every chance to get Yi-Pei elected!

THE PROBLEM WITH NIGEL

by Rod Falconer

Over the summer were you one of the lucky ones that never heard from Nigel via either broadcast, printed or social media? If you did, can you please contact our election strategy team to reduce the cacophony from a one issue bandwagon that is the Reform Party. Our “single” issue which is reform (pun intended) of the Care System receives no airtime.

Apparently, Reform are now the party of the working class; yet, wish to cut benefits for all working and non-working people. Did you know what the think tanks, that advise and influence their political masters, list as benefits? Education is one, of course. Health is another and even state pensions are also on this list. These are all policies which we either introduced, advocated for, as well as gave cross party support to. If you are privately educated, have medical insurance along with being able to support yourself post retirement then you will fulfil the criteria for Reform. If that is your definition of working class then I would love to hear your take on the middle as well as upper echelons of this country.

Before the Reform rebrand, Nigel was the Brexit Party impresario, who campaigned on another single ticket issue: UK leaving the EU. This continues to remain elusive. Even he admits, that until Brexit is done correctly - whatever

that means - we must continue our search for the perfect one.

Really! According to his philosophy, apparently, everything is simple and easy to implement.

I have personally spoken with numerous Reform voters as well as the North East Scotland Co-ordinator. According to them all our problems can be solved quickly and simply by using the powers of the state more efficiently and effectively.

As Liberals we believe that all levels of governance should tread as lightly as possible upon our individual freedoms. Furthermore, concentrating power into any one individual should always be an anathema to anyone who calls themselves “patriots”, surely? Our colloquial cousins aren’t engendering confidence in that particular model of diktat. Sorry, executive order - to make it sound more palatable.

Here in Scotland, we have the pleasure in dealing with a confluence of both patriots and populists alike. Since for them everything needs to be distilled into a simple single issue with the corresponding simple solution, I have a couple of ideas. For the nationalists: here in the LibDem camp we offer a UK written constitution encompassing a federal structure that would have everyone debating the difference between autonomy and independence.

For the populists it would be Proportional Representation along with Article 50 and let their voice be part of a 500 million chorus.

Every voice needs to be heard and we as Liberals will support that right but as is always the case, context is everything.

STONEHAVEN SNIPPETS

by Cllr Sarah Dickinson

Across built-up areas in Aberdeenshire, permanent 20mph speed limits were introduced on Monday, 22nd September 2025.

The roll out of a lower speed limit in our towns and villages is not just a decision of Aberdeenshire Council, although the Infrastructure Services Committee of the council did approve a new speed limit policy in November 2020. This included a move towards 20mph speed restrictions being the norm in urban areas while maintaining a network of strategic routes with 30mph. This is also aligned with Scottish Government policy to see a safer speed limit in built-up areas by the end of 2025. Given that alignment, the council delayed the introduction of its new policy to be able to benefit from the Scottish Government commitment to fund all the costs associated with the implementation of the 20mph rollout through Transport Scotland.

In Stonehaven nearly all streets will now have the lower speed limit of 20mph. There are one or two sections of road, though, that will remain at 30mph. You can see the map for Stonehaven showing where 20, 30 or 40mph speed limits apply in and around the town as well as the speed limits for all communities across Aberdeenshire via the link below:

[Speed limits in Aberdeenshire towns and villages - Aberdeenshire Council](#)

I realise that when 20mph is raised, people often worry that the criteria for its rollout in Scotland are the same as in Wales which they are not. A major difference is that, in Wales, 30mph roads lowered to 20mph



included sections of dual carriageway and rural road. In Scotland, these types of roads have been excluded from the rollout.

It will be a change, but the primary argument for doing it is a safer road network for every road user. Also, as the road network becomes safer, more people then feel able to opt for an active travel option like walking or cycling with the varied associated benefits for health and the environment.

Will the police enforce it? Police Scotland, like all public sector bodies, is facing significant resource pressures so they have indicated they will continue to focus on high-risk routes with higher speeds. However, there may well be some targeted enforcement if that was felt required.

To find out more go to <https://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/20mph>

My working days continue to be busy with case work, reading reports and briefings, and council and community meetings. I am chair of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee which sits every 3 weeks when the council is not in recess and chair of the Sustainability Committee which sits 4 times per year.

The financial pressures on Aberdeenshire Council continue to be acute, so if you have questions about how we are prioritising what we spend, please do get in touch and ask me about it. Sometimes you can see something happening and wonder why money is being spent on *that*, whilst there are potholes to be filled or weeds to be cleared. Often the answer comes down to different funding pots. The council may have *grant funding* which it can only spend for a specific purpose, and the activity is not being funded from our core funding sources which are the Scottish Government grant (60%), Council Tax (22%) and Business Rates (18%).

If you are a Stonehaven and Lower Deeside resident and you would like to get in touch, you can do so in the following ways:

Email: cllr.s.dickinson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Mobile: 07388 956 160

Facebook: [Facebook](#) (Cllr Sarah Dickinson)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2025

This year's Annual General Meeting of Angus & Mearns Liberal Democrats will be held in the evening, via Zoom.

The most important item on any AGM agenda is the election of an Executive Committee for the following year.

There will be vacancies for Ordinary Members, and our Treasurer, **Stewart Owers**, is looking for someone to take over his role. Our current Convener, **Rod Falconer**, will not be standing for re-election, because he has too many other calls on his time. If you aren't yet actively involved, please would you consider joining the Executive Committee? We are particularly in need of people with IT skills – **Peter Bellarby**, our IT expert who has been keeping A&M Lib Dems on track for many years, is looking to wind down his role.

Whether or not you feel able to stand for election to the Exec, we would be delighted to see as many members as possible joining in the AGM. New Lib Dems have joined our local party in the past year, and this is an ideal opportunity to welcome you. It's also our opportunity to keep in touch with members who have been around for a while but can't meet up often.

The Zoom link and agenda will be sent out by email nearer the date of the AGM. We will also circulate nomination forms for membership of the Executive Committee.

Alison Andrews, Secretary, Angus & Mearns Liberal Democrats

We need volunteers! Help us to be seen and heard in every corner of Angus and Mearns

by Peter Bellarby

Our success in the next elections depends on members and supporters who are ready to volunteer their time and skills. We want to be seen and heard in every corner of Angus and Mearns. You will not be alone. Guidance and training will be provided, when needed.

Delivering leaflets is one way to help and we shall be doing this during the campaign for the forthcoming Scottish Parliament election. We usually go round a specified area on particular dates so you would not be alone. If you have not done this before we will provide some guidance and somebody will go round with you the first time. It is an opportunity to meet other members and supporters and quite often we have refreshments together. Martyn

Knights, our candidate in Angus North and Mearns, and Yi-pei Chou Turvey, number 1 on our regional candidate list, would welcome any help you can give.

Delivering leaflets is often combined with canvassing when we knock doors to ask people about issues and ascertain who they support politically. Again, you would get advice and support in doing this.

I have been helping in many ways over the years, but I have now reached the point in life where I can no longer do everything I would like to, so help is needed with some of these things. More generally we need to spread the load as too much is being done by only a few.

We have a website and there is a need for help in putting items there and ensuring it is up-to-date. Do you have IT or computer skills? The Lib Dems also use some online databases, for example. The party provides training for all these.

Are there any issues that are important to you which you would like to see the party campaign on? There might, for example, be local issues that are affecting the community you live in. If you are a registered supporter, would you consider being a member? The minimum subscription is not very much and we would welcome you onboard. If you would like to offer to help or have issues to report or have any questions or would like to become a member, just send an email to info@angusmearnslibdems.org.uk.



Peter and Anne Bellarby recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary - Congratulations!!