

Firstly I would like to say thank you everyone for your support through the year.

Unfortunately Janet, our secretary and absolutely key member of our team was taken ill at the end of August. Initially in Kings she is now in the Rehabilitation Unit at Orpington Hospital where she is receiving intensive therapy & I am pleased to be able to report that showing her usual commitment and determination she is making progress along the road to recovery. It is anticipated that she will be able to return home albeit with some support.

Despite the vicissitudes of life this year Lewisham Liberal Democrats have had quite a full round of events and activities.

In January we had a virtual Burn's Night and as has become customary Jonathan Fryer read the poem, Address to a Haggis. Jonathan sadly died earlier this year and will be much missed by many members here who have known Jonathan for years. As something of a Renaissance man, who spoke Arabic, was a reporter, lecturer, author, broadcaster and a passionate European he will be much missed by people in many different circles.

Other events have ranged from Luisa Porritt opening a panel discussion celebrating the annual LGBT+ History Month to Janet Hurst showing children how to make a bird feeder. As a challenge to the two Ronnies our Two Chrises, Annous and Maines presented their GLA manifestos one evening. In February Daisy Cooper gave an interesting and informative virtual presentation on Education. Munira Wilson MP for Twickenham and the Lib Dem spokesperson on Health and Social Care talked to us and answered questions on her work.

We have enjoyed two virtual quiz nights organised by Sarah and Mark Morris, these have been great fun. I do however understand that at least one person is still seeking a judicial review with regard one of the answers.

In May we had the Greater London Authority and London Mayor election, held over from the previous May. We played our part in doubling our representation with Hina Bokhari joining the indefatigable Caroline Pidgeon as an Assembly Member.

At the same time we had four by-elections in Lewisham with Margot Wilson and Diana Cashin leading strong campaigns in Sydenham and Catford South respectively.

Two of our members hosted a Summer Garden Party to thank everyone for their hard work in the elections. A delightful time was had sharing campaigning stories of impossible letter boxes etc.

In July we were delighted to host Hina Bokhari here to speak to us about diversity and how to grow a more diverse membership. Following on from this we contacted the local mosque and were welcomed there by the Imam and met with a number of the mosque's attendees. We were able to listen to their concerns, which ranged widely from a local crossing to Islamophobia to the international arms trade. We agreed with the Imam that it would be good to continue to engage and develop our relationship.

In September we had a visit from the wonderful Anton Georgio, the lone Liberal Democrat councillor in Brent, who gave an inspiring talk on his experiences. It was great to also have with us local boy, Roderick Lynch, Vice Chair of the Lib Dem Campaign for Race Equality (LDCRE) with us. We were planning to go door

knocking with Anton but we so enjoyed his company, and the food kindly provided for us and plied Anton with so many questions that the afternoon had gone before we realised.

One subject which I mentioned last year and still has the capacity to bring people to boiling point is that of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs). Karen Pratt organised a survey to ascertain views locally and as a result has met a number of Lee Green residents who have been actively campaigning to improve the area. I am pleased to say that as a result some have joined the Liberal Democrats and we are working with them in support of their Love Lee Green campaign.

We have been working to establish wards reps across the borough and I want to thank those who have taken on this role, we need more people to come forward so that we can effectively cover the borough.

Looking ahead we have selected Catford South as our target ward for next year's local elections. Diana Cashin has been heading up this campaign. We have been out delivering leaflets, doing surveys and talking to residents. If you are able to help in any way please talk to Diana or another member of the executive.

I want to thank you for your support through this year and look forward to us working together to build a more accountable Lewisham. One where Lib Dem councillors are ensuring residents' concerns about air quality, housing, schools and a host of other issues are being heard.