



OFFICER REPORTS

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**William Tench - English Young Liberals Chair and English
Representative to YL Events Committee**

Liberal Democrats in England

Throughout the year I have been able to build positive working relations with the English Party officers, the English Council Executive and many Regional Chairs. I would like to thank Alison Rouse (Chair, Liberal Democrats in England) and Kian Hearnshaw (Vice Chair for Regional Development, Liberal Democrats in England) for their constant support, as well as my predecessor Jack Worrall for providing a strong foundation to build on.

The Young Liberals are incredibly lucky to have a number of members serve on the English Council Executive (Jack Worrall, Kian Hearnshaw, Rebecca Procter) or as the English Party representative to Federal Committees (Katharine Macy, Olly Craven). Additionally, Jack Worrall sits as a member of the English Finance and Administration Committee and I sit in my own right on the Regional Parties Committee. This has allowed us to have an outsized and positive influence on the direction of the English Party. The primary focus of the rest of my term is ensuring that we continue to achieve this next year. To that end, I have already been in discussions with people interested in running for positions next year. I will work closer with them and others who express an interest over the coming months in anticipation of November's elections.

I have attended every English Council Executive meeting in my term. Additionally, I provided regular updates to my Vice Chair, Fergus, in case he needs to step in at a short notice. I would like to thank him for his continued support and patience - anyone who has had to hear me monologue about minor English Party matters should sympathise with what he has to put up with! I have sent a well-received report to all but one meeting, where reports were not mandatory due to the proximity to English Council. In my reports, I have highlighted the way that the Young Liberals are maximising the impact of our English Party grant - in candidate support, campaigns, membership engagement and upskilling, accessibility, policy creation for the wider party etc. This is, of course, due to the hard work of everyone on the Federal Executive who have done an amazing job throughout the term.

There has been one English Council meeting since the last English General Meeting. Like the last English Council, I held a briefing session ahead of the meeting. This allowed our delegates to be prepared on all items of the agenda, gave them additional context on each agenda item and, on limited occasions, allowed concerns and queries to be answered ahead of the meeting itself. Through Twitter and Young Liberal Forum, I

advertised for people to register their interest in becoming substitute delegates using a typeform. Although, ultimately, we had no vacancies this was important in ensuring a fairer selection process and the Typeform included the option to register interest in being contacted about how they can be supported in becoming delegates from their regional delegation next year. Like the December meeting, I live Tweeted the meeting to better inform YL members about the happenings of the English Party. Due to both illness and lack of content, there was no accompanying 'report back' blog post like I produced in December - something I regret.

There are many challenges and opportunities ahead for the Liberal Democrats in England, many of which I laid out in an extended Officers Report for the July Federal Executive meeting. The most pertinent is the matter of English Party Reform. In our last meeting, the English Council Executive agreed on the goal of submitting a reform proposal to the December English Council Meeting. There will be a working group, with the involvement of Baroness Dorothy Thornhill, to achieve this. My goal is to ensure that Young Liberal voices are present throughout this process. I have solicited opinions via Email on Young Liberal Forum and, time permitting, a consultation session shall be held at the English General Meeting. When more concrete proposals are known, I will consult further on them - with Zoom sessions, typeforms or a thread on Forum all considered as means to do so.

English Young Liberals

As English Young Liberals Chair, one of my main roles is supporting the Regional Chairs in fulfilling their roles. To this end I have provided advice and logistical support to a variety of activities: including co-opting Regional Executives, holding Regional General Meetings and hosting campaigning 'action days'. On occasion, I have been able to sort out technical or administrative issues between their regional chair and the Young Liberal regional chair.

There have been two co-options since the February General Meeting: Peter Cocks (South East) and James Vivian (South Central). Though I am very pleased with both new regional chairs and the work they have done, I was disappointed that I was unable to ensure we had a greater diversity in applicants. The steps I took to attempt to achieve that were: emphasizing that there was no need for prior experience, asking members of Diversity Committee (through Kath Macey) to advertise the co-options in diversity Facebook Groups, messaging Janey Little in her capacity as Women's Rep for advice on attracting more women and diverse gender applicants (her advice was, as always, very helpful) and emphasising the name blind in the first round nature of the application process. After both co-options, we held a feedback session in the Executive meeting

where the new and existing Regional Chairs can voice what went well and what could be improved. Minor changes were made to the South East process after the South Central co-option, such as giving the English Executive a chance to discuss applicants after the nameblind phase. I held induction meetings with both new Chairs after their co-option.

A number of small tasks have been achieved. However, progress on ongoing tasks has been slower than I would like since the break for campaigning in April for the Local Elections (and subsequently the Chesham and Amersham by-election). These include progress on the English Party section of the website and the English Young Liberal logo (we currently do not own a 'master' version of the logo in a vector format and, as we need a new one anyway, we voted as an Exec to explore what the logo would look like in the new Navy colour scheme of the Liberal Democrats in England). However, time critical tasks - such as ensuring accurate membership (with thanks to Thom Campion for the raw data) for Regional General Meetings is reflected on Nationbuilder for emailing purposes, and updating the constitution following the February General Meeting have been achieved.

Until July, the EYL Executive met roughly every six weeks - though this date has been moved a couple of times due to elections. Going forward, we will be meeting once every eight weeks. The minutes of the meetings have been promptly posted on Young Liberal Forum and on the website following approval from the EYL Executive. The exception to this is the last meeting. This is entirely my own fault - I take minutes by hand for time and attention expediency. While in the process of moving house, I have misplaced the notebook where these were written. In addition to Regional Chairs, the Accessibility, Diversity and Standards Officer (Katharine Macy), the BAME Officer (Jessica Lee and then Arthur Wu) and the co-Membership and Branch Development Officer (Elizabeth Bernard) have been extended a permanent invite to meetings. The attendance of each Regional Chair can be found below.

Green = Attended

Orange = Apologies

Red = Absent without apologies

Grey = Not a Regional Chair at time of meeting.

	6/1	11/2	27/3	28/5	8/7
Luke Jeffery					
Loukas Christou					

Kieron Franks					
Sam Cumber					
Oliver Jones Lyons					
Taylor Donoughue-Smith					
James Vivian					
Peter Cocks					
Patrick Gilbert					
Fergus Ustianowski					
Adam Belcher					

Fergus Ustianowski - English Young Liberals Vice Chair and Chair of Western Counties Young Liberals

Since our last General Meeting back in February, we have had a few exec meetings to try and reorganise the YL in the region. I'm in constant communication with our regional exec and staff to try and improve activation in the region. So far we have set up a Facebook group chat for YL members which has improved communication from across the region. We had a few YL members travel to Chesham and Amersham and help with the by-election.

As EYL Vice Chair, I also redesigned the EYL website page and added all the correct info where possible. The website now offers regional reps a chance to show their exec and any events coming up.

Over the next few months I will be working with our staff member and our exec to see the state of uni branches and how we can revive or try and support as a fair few have disaffiliated since COVID has begun. Now restrictions have lifted, I would also like to organise an event for members to increase the activity of our region.

I was also elected as the campaigns committee representative, in this post I helped with Young and Winning where we had 5 YL candidates who received support for the locals. We also ran a ERASMUS+ campaign which I helped with. In mid June, I then became the co-campaigns officer so I am no longer the EYL rep on the committee.

Loukas Christou - Chair of the East Midlands Young Liberals

Local elections in May proved to be a stagnate set of results for the East Midlands with nothing much to report on in terms of gains for the party. However, an offshoot of the local elections has been that, at the latest regional executive meeting I highlighted the discrepancies in communication between me as YL representative and other officers on the executive, leading to confusion and an inability to coordinate effectively with the region. This was met with a good reception and acknowledgement with assurances that this will be worked upon in the lead up to 2023 and any other elections in the interim.

Work continues on expanding Nottingham into a YL citywide branch to attract non-University of Nottingham YL's in the city, with the aim of launching this branch later this year.

As we approach the beginning of the new academic year the effect of the pandemic on the region is beginning to be felt particularly with our branches with University of Leicester being unaffiliated with the Student's Union and until reaffiliation can begin, it is unable to function as a University of Leicester society. The aim this autumn is to reaffiliate the necessary branches and to revive those where interest may still exist for a YL branch, with particular focus on reviving Lincoln and re-affiliating Leicester.

Also on my radar as Regional Chair is the situation with the Leicester East MP and the possibility of a parliamentary by-election in the Leicester East constituency, which if it was to go ahead would serve as a great opportunity to work on aforementioned cooperation with the region in regards to elections, and to strengthen these ties ahead of 2023.

Kieron Franks - Chair of the East of England Young Liberals and English Representative to YL Communications Committee

In the current term, we have been successful in setting up a regional executive and have been fortunate enough to have Daisy Cooper, MP agree to be our Honorary President! The academic timetable and work obligations have made it difficult for the executive to meet for its next meeting but should be arranged shortly. The Vice-Chair and I have also been invited to work with the East of England Conference Committee to collaborate on a panel at the next regional conference, potentially alongside Daisy Cooper. As we look towards the latter part of the year, I will be looking to get in contact with University branches to see how we can best support them through Freshers week and ask other branches what would be the most appropriate way to support them in their recruitment activities on a regional level. I also aim to consolidate how the regional executive operates and produce a handover pack in case of the event that I am not re-elected to ensure my successors starts in the best place as possible.

On the English YL executive, I also have the responsibility of being the Communications Officer (jointly responsible for our social media channels with the Chair and Vice-Chair of EYL) and the English Representative to the Federal Communications Committee. This has mainly taken to co-ordinating how we manage the respective YL social media accounts and discussing what approach we will take in promoting Fresher's Fairs in the coming months.

Separately to my position within the Young Liberals, I am also a elected representative from the East of England to English Council and prior to the biannual meeting in June, I joined the Young Liberals pre-meeting briefing to ensure I represented the position of both my region and YL to the greatest extent possible.

Sam Cumber - Chair of London Young Liberals

Since my last report in February, London Young Liberals have been active! I co-opted an executive where I have assigned the roles of communications, events, campaigns and non-portfolio. My executive is assigned to these roles but are not fixed to these roles and can help others on the exec where needed to allow for flexibility. Felix Andrew was elected as Vice Chair of London YL.

We have had a number of new branches set up including North & Central London, South East London and Wandsworth where they have been helping out in the recent London election campaign and by-elections.

In April I was invited by the chair of Young Liberals in Berlin, David Jahn to their 'away weekend' in one of their sessions about campaigning in the run up to the state and federal elections in September. Other chairs of our sister parties' youth wings were also there such as the chair of Jonge Democraten from Amsterdam and chair of JUNOS from Vienna. I explained how we campaign at election time which is different to that in mainland Europe.

During the London elections, London YL has held action days to support our young candidates such as Guy Russo in Chase ward, Enfield and Maxx Turing in Bunhill ward, Islington. I would like to thank all those who attended the action days. Sadly, they weren't elected but they both increased the share of the vote in their respective wards and I'm sure they will build on that for 2022. I would also like to thank those who took part in the state showdown in March, especially those outside of London, where many calls were made on behalf of Chris Annous running for the London Assembly in Greenwich and Lewisham.

London YL's campaigning efforts continued into the Chesham and Amersham by-election. I worked with YL federally in increasing turnout for the action days. London YL was also active on social media throughout the by-election and helped in increasing turnout to these action days with one in Chesham on 5 June and Amersham on 12 June. These efforts helped propel Sarah Green to Parliament with an 8000-vote majority. Since then, our activities have slowed down although we have had an action day recently in Fortune Green ward, Camden organised by Guy Benson and others in YL. This was very well attended, and many other young Liberals have been to Fortune Green since. I would like to thank Guy and everyone else for their efforts in helping organise this action day which I'm sure played a part in Nancy Jirira's victory!

We hope to hold events throughout the summer, including a picnic social in mid-August and a General Meeting on 29 August. We also have members of London YL submitting motions and amendments to federal YL conference.

My executive and myself will be helping with freshers at LSE, KCL and UCL during the summer which includes the distribution of freshers packs along with promoting YL's

campaigns. I hope to work closely with the presidents of the university societies in the new semester in September.

Oliver Jones-Lyons - Chair of the North East Young Liberals and English Representative to YL Campaigns Committee

AGM and Executive Update - As reported at the last general meeting, I was unable to have a quorate AGM earlier this year. In that time we had the May local elections and Chesham & Amersham, so this became a very low priority. It is now back on my radar as I have finished my A Levels and both elections are over, I am looking to rearrange this for shortly after this conference. I maintain an outline executive but it is not constitutionally possible to appoint an executive without a new constitution ratified by an AGM.

Action Days - In the run up to the local elections we had an action day in Weetslade for Daniel Elsom as well as providing phone bank support to Ciaran Morrissey and Dominic Hainey during the state showdown for Team North. Ciaran and Dominic were both elected and Daniel increased his vote share. I am hopeful that NEYL can provide more support for him in next May's elections.

Chesham and Amersham - I was not able to provide any support at C&A due to it falling during my exams window, however I would like to give a special thanks to NEYL members who travelled all the way down and put in a lot of effort at C&A, and a special thanks to Thom and Ali who stayed for an extraordinary amount of time and contributed significantly to the effort.

Castle Ward By-Election - After the sad and untimely death of Anita Lower, Thom Campion, a Young Liberal executive member, has been selected to stand in the by-election. We are planning to have at least one (hopefully more) action day(s) for this important Lib Dem held seat at Newcastle City Council.

Campaigns Committee - After Fergus was co-opted as Co-Campaigns Officer, I took over his seat as English Rep to the Young Liberals Campaigns Committee. I have sought to attend as many of the bi-weekly meetings as possible, providing opinions and ideas on campaigns matters as well as assisting in liaison between campaigns committee and the EYL executive.

Remainder of the Term - I will be working with local parties and Durham University Liberal Democrat's on the freshers programme. I do not intend to rerun for North East Young Liberals Chair at the next election, so I will be working to ensure there is a successor since this position was uncontested at the last election.

Taylor Donoughue-Smith - Chair of the North West Young Liberals

No report received by deadline.

James Vivian - Chair of the South Central Young Liberals

This past year has been a huge step forward in our region. Not only have we increased our number of MPs by 100%, but we have also officially ratified our Constitution. Over the coming couple of months, I will focus my energy on the handover from outgoing Branch executives to incoming Branch executives, since this can be a tough time for newly-elected executive members just starting out. Currently, most branches are relatively dormant until Freshers' Fayre provides fresh impetus in September, as is the norm for this time of year.

Over the past 6 weeks, the following has transpired:

- On July 3rd we held our Special General Meeting to ratify the new Constitution and host by-elections to the Executive.
- I briefly stood in for William as the EYL representative on YL Events Committee. I made sure that, as a priority, EYLs General Meeting took prime position ahead of other agenda items, and had some input on potential panellists and speakers at Federal YL Conference as well. Despite a lack of events planning experience, I enjoyed the chance to engage in a role that I have little expertise in.

Currently in the works:

- Assisting with the process of handover for Branch Chairs. Following this handover, I plan to hold one-on-one meetings with new Branch Chairs, especially with a view to helping them to plan for Freshers Fayre.
- Promoting YL and YLers at the South Central Executive. A couple of vacancies have arisen at English Council and on the Executive that I intend to advertise to YLers in due course.
- A YL Regional Executive Meeting. The business of the meeting will include:
 - The election of the Vice-Chair
 - The approval of executive regulations, including the formal ratification of standing orders & safeguarding policy
 - General discussion around the progress of Branches, and assistance with social events over the next academic year.

Peter Cocks - Chair of the South East Young Liberals

Obviously with only 2 months complete in the role, I have not been able to completely transform the region, however, I have been able to take some steps towards that.

Introductions

- Introductory email sent to all EYL members in the region, introducing myself as the new chair following the resignation of Yan Malinowski. Within the email was also a 'call to arms' requesting anyone curious about getting more involved to email me.
 - End goal of recruiting as many pro-active members as is possible, as the region is currently a graveyard, not of members, but of members who proactively engage with the regional YL.
- Have attempted, and failed to gain work experience for a future job application at MI5, by tracking down who runs the @YLSouthEast account on twitter.
- Added a (dashing) photo of me for the YL website, above an (enthralling) short biography of myself, thanks to William.

Regional Executive

- Have been introduced to members of the South East Liberal Democrats executive, via an email I wrote to each member expressing an interest in what they did and asking for pointers on how young members may be able to help.
 - Many members of the South East executive took this as an excuse to simply tell me what their role was.
 - Hazel Thorpe was more than happy to facilitate me writing an article for their monthly newsletter explaining the importance of having young members embedded in local parties' decision making processes.
 - Hazel is unsure on when the article is going to be published but assures me it will be sometime in August.
- Paul Farthing has indicated that he wishes to help hunt down young members in the South East who would be willing to help if prompted.
- Meeting pencilled in with Andrew Knights on how the Local Parties Committee might be best able to encourage young people to get involved in local parties.

Patrick Gilbert - Chair of the West Midlands Young Liberals and English Representative to YL Policy Committee

West Midlands

Since the last General Meeting, efforts in the West Midlands have been met with mixed success. The first major challenge was the local elections. I began by leading #TeamMidlands in the YL state showdown phone-banking event. I wasn't able to make as much happen for the rest of the campaign as I had hoped. Nevertheless we held an action day for one of our Young and Winning candidates in Bromsgrove East. We suffered from a low turnout, which was probably largely as a result of my poor organisation. Nevertheless, it was the first attempt at a WMYL event in a while, certainly within my time in the region.

Following a hiatus, Chesham and Amersham presented another opportunity for an event. The logistics of having an action day, involving members from all across the West Midlands, in an entirely different region were challenging, however a few headaches later we had a plan and a relatively well attended event. There were many external factors that meant that it was more successful. I would suggest that assignments season had ended for most students, which was reflected in my own organisation. In addition, a single by-election meant that our forces were less divided without the distractions of many other campaigns in people's own areas.

WMYL has been admittedly quiet since the action day back in June. The focus from this point onwards will be to support our societies as much as possible in the run into freshers. Throughout this period I have kept an eye on efforts surrounding the creation of a new branch in Birmingham, and I will encourage the start of the academic year as a goal, given the opportunity presented by this years' freshers packs.

Another branch requiring support is Keele, which is running low on members and risking Student Union disaffiliation. There are multiple options of WMYL support available to give the society the best chance at springing back to life. Nevertheless I will be staying in contact, ready for any eventuality that might arrive in freshers.

The position of events officer has been vacant since our AGM, which has been purely my fault. I have always seen committee positions as opportunities to engage and attract talent. With this in mind, I intend to open co-option for the role shortly after freshers, which would give us exactly that opportunity, capitalising on the back of an influx of new members, YL wide campaigns and the work done by our branches.

I have looked into a refreshed design language for the region, and have not been met with even a suggestion of a visual identity that might encompass the West Midlands

NUTS1 region. That being said, I have created a new high definition master copy of our logo, which will hopefully go a small way in my mission to create institutional memory.

I think it would be remiss if my report did not include some comment on diversity. I believe it's fair to say this is an ongoing challenge for the English regions, and the West Mids. is no different. I hope I will be able to keep WMYL in the business of running events in order to engage new people, through which diversity can be improved amongst membership, and so that pipelines can be established through the regional exec and chair role for a more diverse YL leadership. I will reflect on the accessibility of previous events and attempt to take that into account when planning any further events. One area in which I have realised that I have not done as well as I could is in making an effort to bring people in contact with WMYL further into YL, with conference and the policy process representing a particular missed opportunity through which I could have attempted to bring a wider range of people into contact with our organisation.

As always, I would like to give a special thank you to my wonderful WMYL executive. I appreciate their constant commitment, they help me a tonne in this role, and crucially, make it so much more enjoyable.

Policy Committee

Given that the English YL constitution devolves policy powers to YL conference, there is not much that I can say better than Janey in her reports. I have joined in the work of the committee in two rounds of submissions for federal conference, and with submissions to YL conference. In addition, the maintenance of our policy book and dealing with our massive number of lapsing policies has been a focus of the committee during this time. A personal highlight was my small contribution to our emergency motion submission to federal conference on the subject of DNR orders during the pandemic.

Adam Belcher - Chair of the Yorkshire and Humber Young Liberals

Unfortunately due to personal reasons I have not been able to devote as much time to the Yorkshire & Humber Young Liberals as I would have liked. Nonetheless I have endeavoured to represent the region by regularly attending the EYL executive, have kept on top of responding to queries, etc. I have had preliminary discussions regarding the formation of a city-wide Leeds YL; there are a number of young people there, including young candidates from this year's locals, and I am hoping to support them through Freshers and beyond. In terms of the currently existing societies, I did reach out to all of them and received no replies, although admittedly I could have tried harder and tried using other channels. I attended a Zoom-based event of the York society and they seem to be in good health; I am less sure of Hull, and I was told that the Sheffield Uni society was folding. However, with the possibility of in-person Freshers Fairs for the first time in two years, there are opportunities for renewal, and I will be happy to work with societies both new and old across the region on this. Finally, I was able to travel to Sheffield in May to support our young candidate Sophie Thornton, who was elected by a narrow majority - perhaps the region's main success story of the year.