

# eastern Agenda



Newsletter from Andrew Duff MEP  
No. 23 Summer 2010

## Delivering Change in Government



***The campaign kicks off in Norwich. Simon Wright MP, Andrew Duff MEP and Norman Lamb MP open the election HQ.***

The general election of 6 May 2010 has changed the face of Britain for good. The Liberal Democrats have entered the government as the coalition partner of the Conservatives. Our party leader Nick Clegg is deputy prime minister.

Many members of the party, not excluding your Member of the European Parliament, will have had initial misgivings about entering into a pact with the Tories. But the dream of a 'progressive alliance' between Lib Dems and Labour turned out to be just that. A Lib-Lab pact would not have delivered a majority in the new House of Commons. Labour itself is discredited and demoralised after 13 years of misrule.

The country's dire financial situation requires the installation of a stable government able to take the necessary tough decisions about economic recovery. Many of our key policies will be adopted as government policy, including PR for the House of Lords and a referendum on electoral reform for the House of Commons. There will be no second runway at Stansted!

You know the arguments. But it will take time to adapt to the new reality after a tough, exciting general election campaign.

Liberal Democrats did relatively well in the East of England. Across the region as a whole there was a swing of 0.8% from Lib Dem to Tory, and a swing of 6.2% from Labour to us. The result repeated the regional picture established at the



## IN THIS ISSUE ...

### P1. Delivering Change in Government

### P3. Election results

*Tim Huggan gives the stats on the election*

### P4. Lessons from the Early Days

*Andrew Duff on the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration*

### P6. The New Parliament

*Simon Wright MP on the challenges at Westminster*

### P7. Campaign pics

### P8. About eastern Agenda



**Andrew and new MP Julian Huppert get down to work in Cambridge.**

European elections last year: we are well in front of Labour in terms of popular vote. Labour lost 11 seats, and has only two MPs (Luton). The Tories gained 10.

We Liberal Democrats broke through in Norwich South. Many congratulations to Simon Wright MP and his team for their great success there, as well as to Bob Russell (Colchester), Norman Lamb (Norfolk North) and Julian Huppert (Cambridge). Special commiserations to Sal Brinton and the team in Watford.

We are in second place in 37 of the 58 seats in the region, compared with 15 out of 56 in 2005. Many of those second places see us as strong contenders – including SE Cambs, Chelmsford, St Albans, S Cambs, Broadland, Watford and S Suffolk. Sandy Walkington (St Albans) won the prize for the highest increase in the Lib Dem share of the vote since 2005 (10.98%).

So how do we fight elections from now on?

A vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote of confidence in the politics of coalition, working together to sort out the country's problems. A Lib Dem vote will strengthen the progressive nature of the government. A Lib Dem vote rejects Labour as the party of past failings. Nick Clegg and his team will deliver change – at European, national and local level.

**2005**



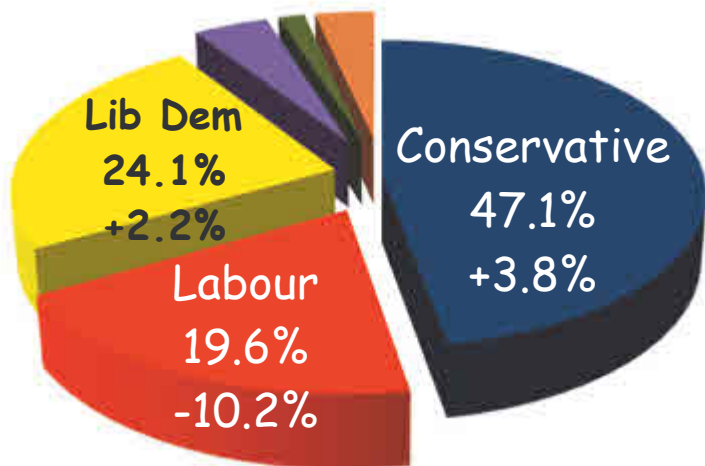
**2010**



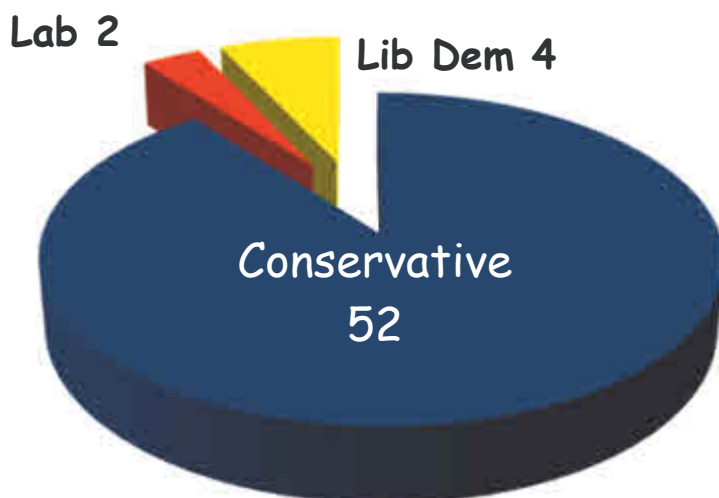
**The changing face of the East of England. The loss of so many Labour seats is clear from the respective maps of the region in the 2005 and 2010 general election.**

# East of England 2010 General Election

## Vote share

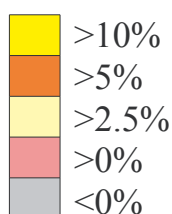


## Seats won

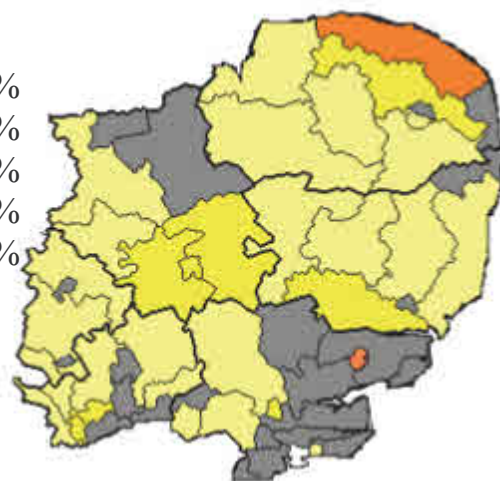
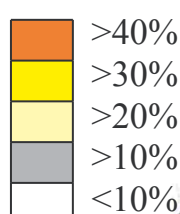


	Con	Lib Dem	Lab	Green	UKIP	BNP	Other
<b>Votes</b>	1346759	692932	564581	42677	123437	59505	39287
<b>Share</b>	47.1%	24.1%	19.6%	1.5%	4.3%	2.1%	1.3%
<b>Change</b>	3.8	2.2	-10.2	0.4	1.1	1.7	1.2
<b>Seats</b>	52	4	2	0	0	0	0
<b>Change</b>	12	1	-11	0	0	0	0

## Lib Dem vote share 2005-10



## Lib Dem vote share 2010



## And the locals ...

The region had several local council elections on the same day as the general election. Although Labour did better at the local level than they did in parliament, there were successes too for the Lib Dems. Top of the list was Dorothy Thornhill's re-election as Mayor of Watford for the third time. Many congratulations to Dorothy and her team.

We also retained control of Cambridge, St Albans, Three Rivers and Watford councils.

Other notable results were becoming the largest party on Colchester council and making gains in Brentwood, Southend-on-Sea and South Cambridgeshire councils.

# Lessons from the Early Days

**Andrew Duff is President of the Union of European Federalists (UEF). Here he writes about an important anniversary, and draws lessons from the past relevant to Europe's present crisis.**

Sixty years ago, on 9 May 1950, French foreign minister Robert Schuman made a declaration which was to change the course of European history. Five years after the end of the Second World War, Schuman proposed the integration of the French and German coal and steel industries.

The following April the Paris Treaty between six countries (France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg) established the first of the European Communities on which our present day European Union is based. Jean Monnet became the first president of the new Community's High Authority, the forerunner of the European Commission. The Common Assembly eventually became the European Parliament.

The Schuman Declaration had the virtue of brevity and clarity. It was bold, and at once visionary and down to earth.

"Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de-facto solidarity."

The proposal to pool the coal and steel production of France and Germany made the two states depend on each other for mutual well-being. Their destiny was to be henceforward shared.

"The pooling of coal and steel production should immediately provide for the setting up of common foundations for economic development as a first step in the federation of Europe ...".

Their example was to be followed by others. The new coal and steel community was from the outset "open to all countries willing to take part".

"In this way there will be realised simply and speedily that fusion of interests which is indispensable to the establishment of a common economic system; it may be the leaven from which may grow a wider and deeper community between countries long opposed to one another by bloody divisions. By pooling basic production and by instituting a new higher authority, whose decisions will bind France, Germany, and other member countries, this proposal will lead to the realisation of the first concrete foundation of a European federation indispensable to the preservation of peace."



**Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman plan the future of Europe in 1950.**

Sixty years on, after many successes and some failures, the goal of Robert Schuman and Jean Monnet to create a European federation has come closer. Sovereignty is pooled to a great extent in the European Union, whose constitutional architecture has many federal characteristics. The recent entry into force of the Lisbon treaty has widened the competences of the Union and strengthened the powers of its institutions. Yet building a federal Europe is still work in progress. Much remains to be done.

The single market has still to be completed, not least in the services sector, intellectual property, science research and energy.

The financial system needs to be made more transparent, buoyant and progressive, equipping the EU with the money it needs to fulfil its political objectives and meet the demands of its citizens. The EU needs more capacity to raise revenue, borrow and lend in order to boost investment in European public goods such as education, green technology and infrastructure.

EU budgetary policy should promote Europe's economic recovery. In the impending mid-term review of the budget and in the design of the new multi-annual financial framework from 2013, spending should be transferred from the national to the federal level where economies of scale and cost efficiencies can be made, or to correct market failure. This is particularly the case in the military sector where the European Defence Agency shows the way forward. Conversely, where EU expenditure is no longer appropriate, national treasuries should play a larger role.

Current negotiations on strengthening the regulatory framework for the financial sector should drive towards the eventual establishment of a single EU supervisor for transnational financial services.

A return to fiscal rectitude and tinkering with the Stability and Growth Pact is not enough. An economic government is now urgently required, above all within the eurozone, with sufficient executive authority to oblige the state governments to adopt mutually reinforcing economic policies within an overall common strategy aimed at the twin objectives of stability and competitiveness.

The UEF urges the task force established under the authority of European Council president Herman Van Rompuy to emulate the Schuman Declaration in terms of courage and clarity of purpose. The members of the European Council must accept individual responsibility and be held accountable for their collective decisions.

The European External Action Service must be set up as fast as possible with all the resources it needs to correct the current dislocated and uncoordinated external activities of the Union. The Commission and Council should set aside their institutional jealousies and follow the logic of the Lisbon treaty to establish a common diplomatic service with the capability of turning the Union into an impressive actor on the world stage.

Those states which are militarily capable and politically willing should move soon to form an integrated defence structure on a permanent basis, as foreseen by the Lisbon treaty.

The European Parliament must continue to upgrade its performance. The European political parties should revitalise themselves by campaigning to make a reality of EU citizenship and championing the development of the common area of freedom, security and justice. Federalists strongly support the proposal to establish a transnational constituency for a certain number of MEPs in time for the 2014 elections.



***Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament and former Prime Minister of Poland, celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration.***

# The New Parliament

***Simon Wright is the new Liberal Democrat MP for Norwich South, defeating former Home Secretary Charles Clarke by a mere 310 votes.***

Many people across the East of England supported my election campaign in Norwich South. I am incredibly grateful to all of you who played a part. With a mere 310 vote majority, every leaflet delivered and every door knocked on made a real difference.

Since being selected to contest the Norwich South constituency more than three years ago, at no time did I think that I would today be sitting on the Government benches. These are truly extraordinary times for the Liberal Democrats.

As a Party, we are able to deliver radical, liberal policies for Britain. All those issues that we campaigned so hard for during the election: fairer taxes; political reform; more money to help schools with children from worse off backgrounds – all are now within reach of the coalition government.

Balanced parliaments, and cross-party working, are nothing to fear. We will make this coalition work. We all know that proportional representation (PR) would make balanced parliaments a routine outcome of elections. Therefore, if we ever want to achieve that long held Liberal Democrat goal of PR, the political parties must first be able to prove to the country that coalition government can work.

In the meantime, we have the exciting prospect of a House of Lords elected by PR. We will also campaign in a referendum for Alternative Vote (AV) electoral system for the House of Commons.

AV is not proportional, but it is fairer. It allows voters to express preferences for each candidate. When the AV referendum comes, we must be prepared to fight to win.

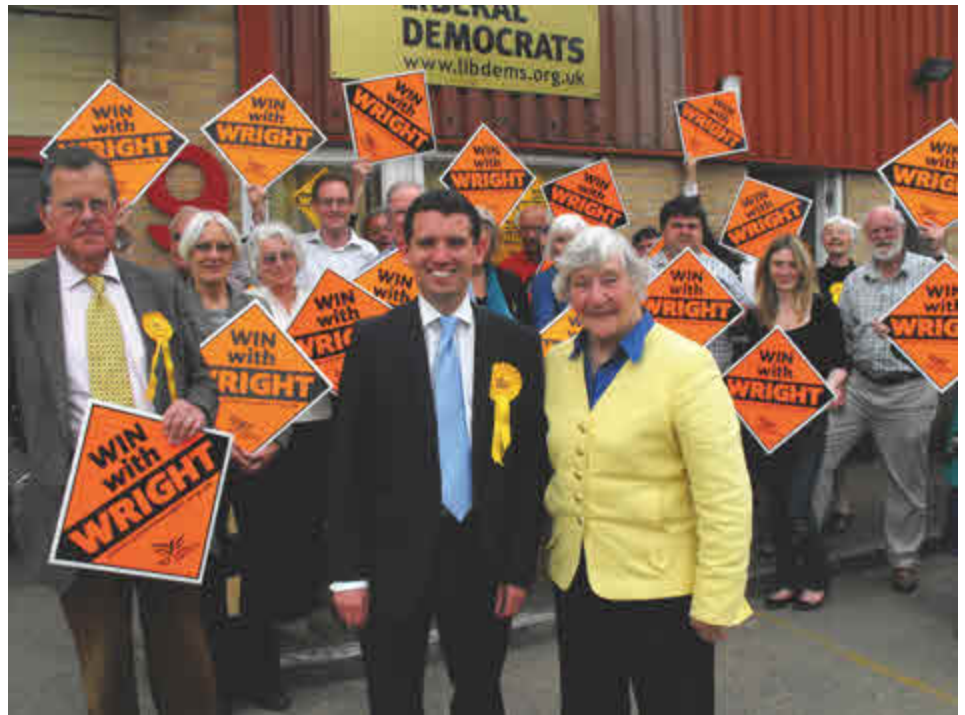
As a local constituency representative, I am also looking forward to getting stuck in to the issues that I have been campaigning on in Norwich for many years. I will keep up the pressure for dualling the A11 into Norfolk, for ensuring that Norwich has better and faster rail links, and in securing a better postal service for Norwich.

Across the East of England, Liberal Democrats have shared concerns over transport links, affordable housing, and providing care for the elderly.

I will campaign hard alongside my Liberal Democrat parliamentary colleagues Norman Lamb, Bob Russell, Julian Huppert, MEP Andrew Duff, and our Lords in the region, to deliver social justice, liberal policies, and a fair deal for our region from the Government. I will also be working with politicians of other parties too.

The success of this parliament is going to be measured by the ability of politicians to co-operate across political divides.

Liberal Democrats should excel in this new collaborative political environment at Westminster. British politics will never be the same again. Thank goodness.



***Simon Wright with Baroness Williams of Crosby during the election campaign***

# Campaigning around the Region



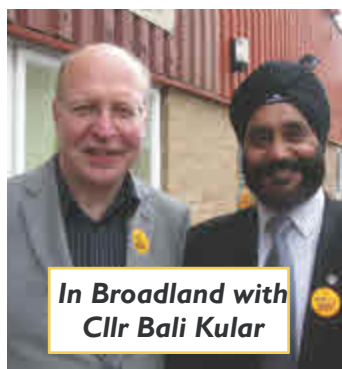
*Meeting Ipswich voters with Mark Dyson*



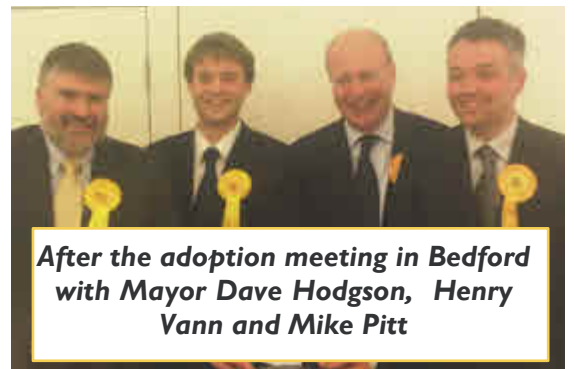
*Seeing the effects of Coastal erosion on the River Blyth with Daisy Cooper*



*On the doorsteps in Watford with Sal Brinton*



*In Broadland with Cllr Bali Kular*



*After the adoption meeting in Bedford with Mayor Dave Hodgson, Henry Vann and Mike Pitt*



*On the streets of King's Lynn with Will Summers*



*In Wisbech with Lorna Spencely and the North East Cambridgeshire team*



*In the rain with Qurban Hussain in Luton*

# About eastern Agenda

*eastern Agenda* is delivered twice a year free of charge to all members of the Liberal Democrats in the East of England. It is the newsletter of Andrew Duff who has been our Member of the European Parliament since 1999.

Andrew is one of 12 Liberal Democrat MEPs from the UK who sit with the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE). The influential ALDE group, the third largest in the European Parliament, is led by Guy Verhofstadt, former Belgian prime minister.

Andrew is ALDE's spokesman on constitutional affairs. He also sits on the Parliament's committee on foreign, security and defence policy. He is Parliament's rapporteur, or draftsman, on electoral reform.

Based in Andrew's Cambridge office are Tim Huggan, constituency officer, Ian Horner, agent, and Alex Scott, case-work officer. Sietse Wijnsma and Petr Novak are his parliamentary assistants in Brussels and Strasbourg.

For more information about Andrew's work, see his website [www.andrewduff.eu](http://www.andrewduff.eu).



*Andrew Duff MEP with Lib Dem parliamentary candidates from across the East of England*

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### INTERN WANTED

Andrew Duff is inviting applications for a part-time intern to assist in the Cambridge office.

This internship is the perfect way to get valuable experience in European politics. Our internship usually starts in September.

There is plenty to do!

INTERESTED?

Contact Tim Huggan on 01223 566700 or email [tim@andrewduffmep.org](mailto:tim@andrewduffmep.org) with your c.v.

**eastern Agenda**  
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