



saturday 26 feb 2022



nw.lib.dm/conference



Liberal Democrats North West

Spring 2022 Conference Agenda

Conference Agenda

Time	Main Room - Zoom
10 00	Welcome , with Regional President Jackie Pearcey
10 10	Speaker: Christine Jardine MP
10 30	Lords Report : Lord Storey
11 00	Speaker: Alistair Carmichael MP
11 30	Planning for a Successful General Election Speaker: David Crowther, Vice Chair Candidates
11 45	Boundary Commission for England Update. Mark Clayton, Vice Chair Standards & Practice
12 00	Tony Greaves Memorial Lecture , with Baroness Pinnock
12 30	Lunch break
1 30	Speaker: Jamie Stone MP
2 00	Speaker: Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP
2 30	Policy Motion 1: Fair Game Manifesto Chair: Andrew Haldane
3 00	Policy Motion 2: Rural Housing, Second Homes and Holiday Homes Chair: James Tattersall
3 30	How you can win two more seats in the North West and help your local party at the same time - speakers Tom Morrison and Lisa Smart. Chair:s Jane Brophys
4 00	Getting Ready for 2024 , with Sam Al-Hamdani and Louie Hamblett, Vice Chairs Membership, Diversity and Inclusion
4 30	Speaker: Wendy Chamberlain MP
4 45	Regional Government: Putting a Plan into Place Speakers: Vice Chairs Policy Andrew Haldane and James Tattersall
5 15	Closing Remarks: Tim Farron MP (video) & Jane Brophy

Welcome to Conference



Welcome back to Zoom.

Over the last few weeks our Regional Executive team have been working hard to assemble this online conference.

And we have a great programme to look forward to as a result.

There's a great lineup of Westminster politicians joining us as well as our leader in the Scottish Parliament - the first time we've had an MSP join us at our conference. Two peers, two key seat candidates and our own Tim Farron too.

Alongside which we have policy discussion on two issues affecting our communities here in the North West

As we look to May we face a big round of local elections and I trust all across the region arms are being twisted to ensure as many candidates are on ballot papers as possible. The first step in getting people to vote Liberal Democrat is giving them that opportunity!

Looking further ahead, this year it is important that as many constituencies as possible select parliamentary candidates. Even if this parliament runs its full five-year term, we are already half way through, and due to the pandemic behind where we would normally be in candidate selection. So if being a council candidate in May gives you a taste for it - why not put yourself forward for parliamentary candidate approval?

Have a great day in!

Cllr Jane Brophy
Chair
Liberal Democrats North West

Policy Motions

Motion 1: Fair Game Manifesto

Proposer: Chris Hogg

Summator: Will Clark

- 1 1. Conference commends Kendal Liberal Democrats for their motion which secured Kendal Town
2 Council support for the manifesto for football proposed by Fair Game, their call, together with
3 ALDC for other councils to do likewise and we commend those councils which have heeded this call.
- 4 2. Conference endorses the Fair Game manifesto which seeks to;
 - 5 a. Vastly improve the governance, management, and financial controls at clubs by introducing
6 an independent regulator for football which would inspect clubs and have the ability to re-
7 ward or punish based on their performance against a sustainability index.
 - 8 b. Protect the heritage assets of clubs (name, colours, badge, nickname), increase fan engage-
9 ment and improve equality, exclusivity and diversity making football truly a game for all.
- 10 3. Conference therefore joins with Councillor colleagues and others in urging the Minister for Sport,
11 Members of Parliament, and the Local Government Association Culture Tourism and Sport board,
12 to work towards implementing Fair Game's manifesto.'

Policy Motions

Motion 2: Rural Housing, Second Homes and Holiday Homes

Proposer: Stan Collins

Summator: tbc

Conference:

- 1 1. Notes the existing shortage of housing for local people in many rural areas and the disruption of
- 2 long-established communities which this causes;
- 3 2. notes the increased pressure on that limited supply from conversion of family homes to second or
- 4 holiday homes;
- 5 3. notes that tenants are being evicted from their homes to create holiday homes
- 6 4. notes that homes suitable for people setting up home for the first time are sometimes extended to
- 7 such an extent that they cease to be 'starter' homes;
- 8 5. notes the potential for tax abuse and fraud associated with holiday and second homes; and
- 9 6. further notes the great difficulty in providing new affordable housing in rural areas.
- 10 Conference calls upon Federal Policy Committee's current Housing Policy working group to address these
- 11 problems with the following measures:
 - 12 1. Require planning consent for change of use to a second or holiday home to be time-limited;
 - 13 2. Make deemed consent for existing second homes to be non-transferable;
 - 14 3. Empower councils to raise a flat-rate charge on second homes and holiday homes varying by com-
 - 15 munity based on the shortage of housing in that community, the proceeds to be used solely for the
 - 16 provision of permanent housing and the administration of the charge;
 - 17 4. Remove the small-business business rates exemption from holiday homes;
 - 18 5. Provide greater protection for all tenants;
 - 19 6. Give greater planning powers to planning authorities over extensions which would deplete the
 - 20 stock of affordable housing;
 - 21 7. Require councils to investigate and prosecute council tax and business rates fraud; and
 - 22 8. Require planning authorities to make adequate provision for permanent residential housing recog-
 - 23 nising changing patterns of working.
- 24 Conference also calls upon Lib Dem parliamentary teams in both houses to make use of opportunities to
- 25 amend legislation to achieve or move forward the measures in this motion.

Guest Speakers

Christine Jardine MP

Spokesperson for the Treasury. MP for Edinburgh West.

Christine Jardine has been a journalist, a broadcaster and university teacher. Christine has been at the centre of Liberal Democrat campaigning since 2009 and was the Scotland Media Adviser in Downing Street during the coalition and took 19,030 votes to come second to Alex Salmond in Gordon in 2015.

She was then elected in the 2017 and 2019 General Elections.



Lord Storey

Lord Storey, Spokesperson for Education, Whip

Mike Storey is the Education Spokesman for the Party in the Lords. He was a working Headteacher of a large inner-city primary school, renowned for its arts - receiving an Arts Council gold award - and enterprise education, until 2012.

He believes passionately that children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds should be given opportunities to develop their talents and the chance to succeed.

Under his leadership, Liverpool moved from being one of the worst performing, to the most improved authority. He oversaw the regeneration of the city, delivering a European Capital of Culture year.

He became a Life Peer in 2010 and speaks on education, arts and regeneration matters in the Lords. In 2015 Mike was appointed as the Liberal Democrat Principal Spokesperson for Education.

Guest Speakers

Alistair Carmichael MP

Spokesperson for Home Affairs, Political & Constitutional Reform, and Northern Ireland. MP for Orkney and Shetland.

Alistair was elected to Parliament in 2001 as MP for Orkney and Shetland. He was born and raised on Islay. He first worked in the hotel industry before attending University of Aberdeen where he graduated with a degree in Law in 1992. After graduating, Alistair worked as a Procurator Fiscal Depute then moved into private practice as a solicitor.

After the 2010 election, Alistair was appointed as Chief Whip to the Liberal Democrats and Deputy Chief Whip to the Coalition Government. He held this role until October 2013 when he was appointed as Secretary of State for Scotland.

He was appointed Chief Whip to the Liberal Democrats after the 2017 general election, and was reelected as an MP in the 2019 general election.



Baroness Pinnock

Spokesperson for Communities and Local Government, Whip

Kath has been a member of Liberal Party and then the Liberal Democrats for 40 years.

She will give our inaugural Tony Greaves memorial lecture.

As Leader of Kirklees Council, she introduced the Warm Zone scheme which provided free loft and cavity wall insulation to every household (200,000) in Kirklees. As a consequence, nearly 100,000 homes were treated and fuel poverty reduced as well as carbon emissions. The scheme achieved national recognition and awards.

In 2015 she was appointed the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson for Children. In October 2016 she was appointed Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Guest Speakers

Jamie Stone MP

Spokesperson for Defence and Digital, Culture, Media & Sport. MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross.

Jamie joined the Liberal Democrats after meeting Charles Kennedy in the 1980s. As the Liberal Democrat Councillor for Ross and Cromarty District Council he represented Ross and Cromarty at the Scottish Constitutional Convention that paved the way for the establishment of a Scottish Parliament in 1999. He then won three elections as an MSP.

In 2017, Jamie was elected to Westminster as the MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross and was re-elected in 2019.

As Defence spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats, Jamie has singled himself out as leading the fight for improved mental health support for veterans. In 2020, he introduced a bill to ringfence NHS funding for Mental Health support, which gained cross party support.



Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP

Leader of the Liberal Democrats in the Scottish Parliament. MSP for Edinburgh Western.

Alex was elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2016 and became our party leader at Holyrood on 20 August 2021, succeeding Willie Rennie in the role.

At the 2015 UK election, Nick Clegg quoted Cole-Hamilton when delivering his resignation speech. He referred to the 2011 Scottish Parliament election, saying "In 2011 after a night of disappointing election results for our party in Edinburgh, Alex Cole-Hamilton said this: if his defeat was part-payment for the ending of child detention, then he accepted it with all his heart. Those words revealed a selfless dignity which is very rare in politics, but common amongst Liberal Democrats."

In 2021, his result in Edinburgh Western set the record for the most votes ever cast for a single candidate in a Scottish Parliament election.

Guest Speakers

Wendy Chamberlain MP

Chief Whip and Spokesperson for Scotland, Wales and Work & Pensions. MP for North East Fife.

Following her degree in English from Edinburgh University, Wendy joined Lothian and Borders Police in 1999, serving for 12 years as a Police officer.

She left the Police in 2011 and following a career break to look after her young children, joined the MoD contractor, Right Management, working at MoD Caledonia, Rosyth, as the Scottish Regional Employment and Training Manager on their military resettlement contract, supporting service veterans into positive employment outcomes.

Having stood as both a Council and General Election candidate in 2017, she was selected as the Westminster Prospective Parliamentary candidate for the constituency of North East Fife in June 2018. She was elected to Parliament in the 2019 General Election.



Tim Farron MP

Spokesperson for Housing, Communities & Local Government, and Food & Rural Affairs. MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale.

Since becoming an MP in 2005 Tim has held hundreds of advice surgeries all over Westmorland and Lonsdale, helping tens of thousands of constituents along the way. Everyone locally knows someone who has been helped by Tim!

This culminates in his annual summer tours, when he visits rural villages and communities around South Lakeland, where surgeries wouldn't normally occur.

He was party leader 2015 - 2017, and party president 2011 - 2014.



Guest Speakers



Cheadle is the most marginal Liberal Democrat/Conservative seat held by a Conservative MP in the North West. When the election is called it will be a clear choice between Tom and the Conservative MP.

Tom Morrison

Cheadle

Tom Lives in Cheadle Village with his wife Carla. He is a councillor in Cheadle Hulme North and Chair of Governors at a local primary school.

Tom was raised by his mother Kate, a voluntary sector worker who often had to work several jobs at a time to put her sons through school. Growing up in a council property, Tom saw first-hand the devastating effects both Labour and Conservative policies had on communities across the country.

Citing the moment a Liberal Democrat councillor helped get his mum a council house, Tom says that was the moment he became aware of the "positive impact politics could have on people's lives and how I could be involved in helping people achieve their potential."

Find out more & help him win:

<https://www.cheadle-libdems.org.uk/>

Lisa Smart

Hazel Grove

Born and brought up in the North West, Lisa lives in Romiley with her partner Ed, who grew up in High Lane, and their rescue dog Bonnie. She is an elected Councillor for Bredbury Green & Romiley.

Lisa is known locally and nationally for being gutsy and getting things done, whether it is leading on the successful campaign to secure Specialist Status for Stepping Hill hospital, working as a Director of the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust or convincing Council bosses to give Asset of Community Value status to protect local green space.

The climate emergency and the need for us to protect green space, tackle air pollution and protect wildlife are all areas that Lisa is campaigning hard on.

Find out more & help her win:

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



Hazel Grove is the second most marginal Liberal Democrat/Conservative seat held by a Conservative MP in the North West.

When the election is called it will be a clear choice between Lisa and the Conservative MP.



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