

Cabot News

Serving Kingsdown, Cotham, Brandon Hill, Redcliffe, Spike Island and the City Centre

Edited by Mark Wright & Anne White



Thirty years of service!

SUMMER 2004

Lib Dems praise Bristol's Eco centre



● **GREEN CONCERN** - Charles Kennedy MP and local campaigner Stephen Williams visiting the sustainable EcoHouse at Bristol's Create Centre

LIB DEM LEADER, Charles Kennedy MP, visited Bristol on 2nd June as part of a campaign to draw attention to environmental issues.

First stop was the Create environmental centre, where Kennedy and local Lib Dems were treated to a tour of exhibits promoting recycling, sustainability and low impact living. The highlight of the visit was an interactive demonstration of the Lifeskills education project for children and vulnerable adults.

Later in the day, Kennedy visited the Airbus factory, where a EU-funded research project is developing new aircraft wings which reduce fuel consumption and therefore pollution.

Stephen Williams, prospective MP for Bristol West, stresses the importance of European collaboration on the environment: "Global warming and pollution are international issues and it's only through working together that we can begin to solve them. Bristol is lucky to have a facility like the Create Centre as a focus for vital work at the local level."

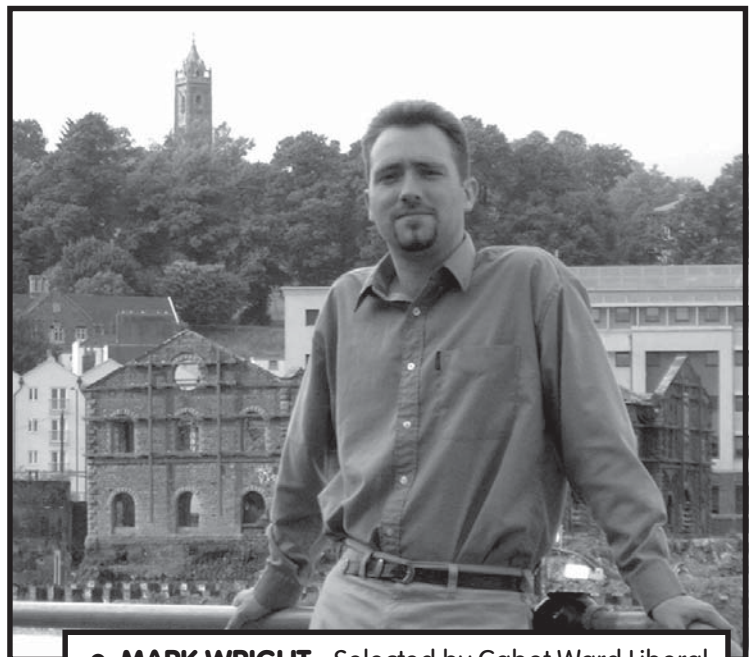
The Lib Dems have consistently been rated as having the best environmental policies by Friends of the Earth. They have also recently nominated Euro MP Graham Watson as the 'greenest' in the southwest.

Cabot Selects Candidate

CABOT Ward Liberal Democrats have selected local boy and ward chairman Mark Wright as their candidate for the local elections scheduled in May 2005.

On that day - which looks likely to also be the day of the General Election - Mark hopes to join Cabot's other Lib Dem councillor, **Anne White**, in the fight to make Bristol's services work for residents.

Mark is the quintessential local lad. Brought up by a single mother on the deprived South-Bristol council-estates of Hartcliffe during Thatcher's lean 80's, his long association with Cabot ward began at secondary school when he was educated at QEH on Brandon Hill. On leaving QEH school he went to Bristol University, studying for a degree and then for a PhD. Since obtaining his PhD he has worked in IT in the City Centre, and has lived by the docks for the last 7 years. This long list of Cabot involvement means that Mark combines both youth and exuberance with the invaluable local experience of 20 years of living, schooling, learning and working inside Cabot.



● **MARK WRIGHT** - Selected by Cabot Ward Liberal Democrats to fight the local elections in May 2005

Lib Dems... the only realistic alternative to Labour

Liberal Democrats - Action for Bristol

Another Ferry!

Cabot residents on Spike Island will once again be able to cross the docks with ease, for the first time in many decades, thanks to The Bristol Ferry Boat Company and the City Council. The SS Great Britain Cross-Harbour ferry will shuttle between the SS Great Britain site and Capricorn Quay, at the bottom of Jacob's Wells Road.

Costing just 20p (but free for the first month), the service will operate during commuter hours on weekdays. In addition, a seasonal service will run from 11.30am until 4pm weekdays, and 10.30am until 4pm weekends. In our last edition we urged Cabot residents to make use of these environmentally friendly means of transport, in order to safeguard the future of the service and keep the docks alive, and we do so again!

Cabot Website Online

Cabot Liberal Democrats are pleased to announce a significant step forward in our internet presence. We now have a new website at www.cabot-liberals.org that will serve as an information repository and resource. In addition, you can contact us at any time for local issues by emailing us at: mark@cabot-liberals.org

Wapping Wharf Still Too High

Local residents and stakeholders reacted with mixed feelings to the latest revision of plans by site developer Umberslade Ltd at a public meeting on 27th July. While the preposterous original plans for 8-storey high buildings are long gone, local residents - particularly of Wapping Rd - were still annoyed at the 5-storey high blocks proposed across the site.

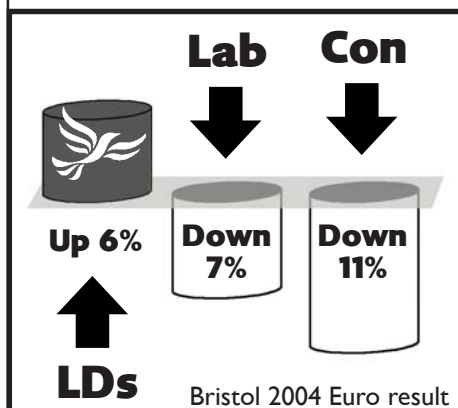
Prospective **Lib Dem** councillor for Cabot, **Mark Wright**, was at the meeting and started by commending the developers on the many improvements to the original plans, such as imaginative use of existing historic structures and general site layout. He then challenged the developers on the continuing issues of height and site density, urging them to solve both problems by simply removing the middle floor from the whole development.

"I then told them that I expected them to resist this obvious and easy way to solve the objections to the plans, because reducing the height of the blocks to a more acceptable 4-storeys would have the effect of eliminating grand views from the plush penthouses of the blocks - thereby greatly reducing their sale value", Mark noted.

Record Breaking Harbour Festival

180,000 people poured into Cabot over the first weekend in August for the 2004 Bristol Harbour Festival. Beautiful weather combined with a larger and better laid out site plan to create the best festival yet. This year the whole of Queen's Square was used, taking some pressure off of the Canon's Marsh Amphitheatre side of the event. Even so, many of the paths were still jammed solid with people for much of the day; perhaps next year the site - which is wholly within Cabot ward - should be even bigger to allow people to move more easily?

Lib Dems score Euro victory



The Lib Dems were Euro winners in Bristol!

THE ENGLAND FOOTBALL TEAM may have had a bad Euro summer, but not so for the **Liberal Democrats!**

The Lib Dems gained two new Euro MPs, while in Bristol their vote rose by an **impressive 6%**. Support for the other two main parties took a tumble. There were also council elections in many parts of the country, with the Lib Dems gaining over one hundred new local councillors.

Overall, the Lib Dems took 29% of the vote, beating Labour into a **poor third place**. The biggest gains were in Birmingham, Cardiff and Newcastle, which joins Liverpool in the list of big cities with a Lib Dem council. Once again, the Tories failed to make any impact in the big cities, showing that they have little hope of winning the next General Election. The Lib Dems have since gained Leicester South from Labour in a by election - the Tories came third!

Relief for Bristol skateboarders

At last a resolution seems likely to the impasse between Bristol's skateboarders and civic leaders. Since the redevelopment of College Green and the Canon's Marsh Amphitheatre, both sites have been used by Bristol's skateboarders as arenas, causing some minor damage to stone edges and upsetting some people.

It seems that even when they are outside getting fresh air and exercise, teenagers just can't get a break these days! Dedicated skateboard parks exist elsewhere in the city, but are generally in dull locations, with none of the appeal or life of the city centre. Now the City Council has appointed landscape consultants Reckless Orchard to draw up plans for a skating landscape in Castle Park, also in Cabot ward. If everything goes well, the park could be open in a year.

Contacting your local Cabot Lib Dem Team...

www.cabot-liberals.org

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