Liberal Democrats
Westminster and City of London

Chair's AGM report

London council elections were held in May this year so activity in the first five months of 2026 centred around this. Three candidates, Helen Toeman, Martin Kersch and Luis Garcia were selected but unfortunately Luis had to resign for personal reasons. Anton Georgiou continued as campaign manager up to & including the short campaign despite being a councillor in Brent & running again successfully for that position. His help and guidance were immense during the Marylebone campaign and we are extremely grateful for all his input.

Just before the short campaign Alistair Barr agreed to step in as our third candidate despite having had a recent bereavement in his family. Our 3 candidates canvassed tirelessly in the last 2 - 3 months. As ever, we are very thankful to those who did things other than canvassing to help our candidates. The Conservatives won all three vacancies but Alistair came 4th, Martin 5th and Helen 6th with all three close to the successful candidates. Many thanks to them, Anton and our volunteers.

The next development after the May council elections was the initiative called **Lift London.** This will concentrate on volunteers, fund raising and candidate selection. The idea is to help each London constituency with all three. I have agreed that our local party can be part of the pilot study. The idea is to give advice on these 3 aspects rather than any direct funding. One interesting part is to encourage involvement of the entire constituency rather than a target ward with the aim of increasing voter involvement. The full document should be available in late November or early December this year when the executive can evaluate it. Our connection with King's College London continues and we are very pleased there is an active Libdem student group currently who want to help us. We arrange events there to increase their involvement & support for our local party.

This autumn we have restarted social events inviting outside speakers. These started well with Tessa Munt MP giving a very interesting and entertaining talk about how she gets things done in Westminster! There are several more planned this autumn and into next year. Many thanks to Rob Blackie and Sarah Olney MP for being with us at our 2026

AGM. It will be very interesting to hear from them both about their plans should either be elected as mayor in 2028 and we wish them both well in their campaigns. The third aspect of Lift London (i.e. candidate selection) should provide a more consistent and proactive approach which I hope will make the process simpler but also more ready for upcoming elections.

I would like to thank Peter Toeman, our local party treasurer, for his continuing contribution in keeping our finances under control and Nigel Stokes for his indefatigable contribution to the local party, keeping us on the right track with the benefit of his inexhaustible knowledge of matters political both locally and beyond.

In summary, the local party continues to be busy. Sometimes the way forward to success seems a bit daunting but I hope some of the changes and plans I have outlined may generate more progress. The path with all our Libdem colleagues however do make the journey a pleasant one along the way!

Thank you,

Sally Mitton

Chair

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October 2026