

Lynne Beaumont

KENT VIEW
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Our MP should live locally. If elected, I'll commute to London. I'll claim no second home expenses, and have no other paid job."

Lynne Beaumont, Jan 2010



INSIDE: Prize Sudoku exclusively for Kent View Readers

Lynne Beaumont

A look at her life and her campaigns through the noughties

Standing up for local people and fighting to change British politics for good!



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LYNNE: HER DECISION TO MOVE TO SHEPWAY AND WHY SHE'S NEVER LOOKED BACK



LYNNE TALKS ABOUT THE BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE GURKHA JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

Exclusive

A look at the woman, her campaigns and her life



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Homeless issues



Lynne Beaumont

Tells us what sort of MP she will be



Why and when did you move to Shepway?

"I moved to the area over 25 years ago when I decided I wanted a family, and that I wanted to raise my family here. I've lived in Hythe, in Folkestone and now Peene and have never once regretted that decision: it's a fantastic place to live, and sometimes we forget that.

"Whilst raising my family here I've become increasingly involved in our community. For example, I spent over 10 years as a Governor at the school where my 2 daughters - and now my eldest grandson - went to school."

You're well known for you local campaigning. How do you do it?

"I'm proud of having been involved in local community work for years - I was a School Governor long before I was ever a Councillor.

"But no campaign is will achieve anything without lots of people working together - and they do. There is a great sense of community here. I know fantastic people with great stories to tell from across the

area, making their own positive impact on the area. I see examples of local people every day working so hard, volunteering their time to make our area better. From picking up litter to being involved in their local church, the Salvation Army, town and parish councillors, charity collectors and so many others. Together, we can achieve great things."

You are standing to be our next MP. What do you think of MPs in general?

"Many people rightly asked how it is acceptable to claim £17,000 for gardening and maintenance. It just can't be right. If we're going to start to trust MPs again, they need to make some simple decisions. No second home expenses. No second jobs - they should be full time MPs."

'When I talk to people they want our MP to be involved in their area. That's what I would aspire to be'

Where possible, they should live in their constituency and commute: as many local people do."

What sort of MP would you make for Folkestone and Hythe?

"When I talk to people, they want our MP to be involved in their area. To be involved - day in, day out. To listen to them, and not to tell us what is going on in Parliament, but tell Parliament what is going on in Folkestone and Hythe. That's what I would aspire to be.

"I also think its essential that our MP should live locally full time. If elected, I'll commute to London. I'll claim no second home expenses, and have no other paid job. Being an MP should be a full time job, not on top of highly paid directorships and part time jobs on the side."

What mistakes have you made?

"My greatest mistake in politics was really early in my career. I was newly elected to Shepway District Council in 2003. In the budget sessions that followed I was told there was only one option for the Councils budget: drastic tax increases or savage service cuts. I questioned it, but in the end listened and voted with my then leaders. That was a bad mistake. There are always more options, and it taught me that.

"The people I listened to are no longer members of the Lib Dems and haven't been for years, but I'll never forget."



Pictures from above: Lynne on her wedding day, with husband, Peter Carroll, and her two daughters, Katy and Alice; Bottom right: Lynne; Bottom middle: Lynne with daughters Alice and Katy on Horn Street; Bottom left: Lynne with mum, Pat Bass.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEASON PRATER

Hurray, the nights are getting lighter again! With the new year comes a whole host of changes - a little like an early spring clean and as you will see from this issue of Kent View changes are afoot in our local area.

Our Cover Story focuses on the woman so many local people are talking about, Lynne Beaumont. We've got an exclusive interview with Lynne, as she gears up her campaign to become the new local MP. We're all very impressed with Lynne. She's articulate and dynamic, with a passion for the local area and a depth of experience working for communities that has to be marvelled at. I hope you enjoy this look at one of the area's leading figures.

We've also got our great features - the View Sudoku, recipe and much, much more!

Season x

Lynne Beaumont

A LOOK BACK AT THE NOUGHTIES - SOME OF LYNNE'S CAMPAIGNS



SAVE OUR SCHOOL

In May 2006, Harcourt School in Cheriton was threatened with closure by Kent Council. Lynne was approached by parents at the school to join the campaign to save the school and change the County Council's mind. As Local mum, they knew Lynne would understand the commitment to their school. Harcourt School is in the heart of Cheriton and unlike many schools in the area has its own fields with space for children to play.

Lynne worked with those local parents to get a massive campaign going, lobbying local County Councillors, involving Michael Howard as local MP and getting together a huge petition to show the support for the school locally.

With signs, posters in windows and banners, when members of the Council turned up there was no doubting the opinion of local people. Children from the school even recorded a campaign song to the theme of "We Will Rock You" - they certainly rocked Kent!

The campaign got results: Kent County Council changed their mind and the school saved. A recent inspection gave the school a great review: Harcourt is now going from strength to strength!



SAVE OUR ROYAL VIC

In 2006, the Royal Victoria Hospital was threatened with a major reduction in services, including the potential loss of the Derry Unit, and the sell-off of the main building of the hospital.

After being approached by local people and nurses at the Royal Victoria, the Save our Royal Victoria Campaign was born - with Lynne taking the lead on pushing the hospital trust to protect all services at the hospital.

With incredible support from local people, the campaign ensured all services were kept at the Royal Victoria. This consultation meant just that, the NHS and the PCT listened, and saved our services.

DRAWING THE LINE

Sometimes its the little things that mean so much. In 2007, lorry parking in Kingsmead, Folkestone was making access to the then new Folkestone Academy really difficult. It was also a major health issue with human waste being thrown from cabs overnight, which students then had to walk past in the morning.

Lynne got involved and after two years working with the Academy and the Highways department, new parking restrictions were introduced making life easier and safer getting to the Academy.

"Making things better for local people gives me a real buzz. The new lines in Kingsmead make a big difference to those using the road. It improves access to the Academy via Kingsmead and therefore also reduces use of the Lucy Avenue entrance."



Photos clockwise from above right:

Lynne Beaumont with fellow Lib Dems in May 09 with the problem lorries;

Right: with the newly painted yellow lines, and not a lorry in sight;

Below right: Lynne leading the campaign against Police cuts;

Below left: Lynne with Matthew Kershaw, Chief Operation Officer East Kent Hospitals Trust;

Left: Lynne chairing a meeting of the Royal Victoria's future.



NO TO POLICE CUTS

When Kent Police forced a cut of 35 police in Shepway, Lynne was at the front of the campaign against those cuts. Kent Police claimed the Police would be replaced by a similar number of PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers), but then many fewer were appointed.

Lynne backs our PSCO teams, and wants to ensure they remain, and that the team is enlarged. Lynne says:

"Our PCSOs know their community, and have developed trust with the people in the area. We need that sense of community - its the only way of improving where we live.

"If offered more Police or more PSCOs, I'd take more Police. In reality that isn't going to happen. But I will fight tooth and nail to keep our dedicated PSCO team on our streets."



The campaign to allow all retired British Army Gurkhas the right to live in Britain reached a successful climax in April last year.

The campaign was started in large part by Shepway Lib Dems in 2004. The then PPC, Peter Carroll, was approached by four retired Gurkhas who were desperate to stop one of their colleagues being deported.

Lynne explained, 'No retired Gurkhas were allowed to stay in Britain at that time. We had no idea that they were so badly treated.'

Later in 2004, the Government changed the rules so British Army Gurkhas who retired after 1997 could stay. Cruelly, veterans of the First Gulf War and the Falklands were excluded from the the country they were prepared to fight and die for.

Lynne helped forge the retired Gurkhas into a campaigning force. She joined protests outside Parliament and worked with other Lib Dem colleagues.

In 2008, someone suggested getting Joanna Lumley involved. Her father had served with the Gurkhas for 30 years.

Lynne said, 'Joanna's involvement helped make front page news and the issue rocketed up the political agenda.'

GURKHA JUSTICE BEHIND THE SCENES

In September 2008 a High Court Judge told the Government to come up with a new way of treating pre 1997 retired Gurkhas. Eventually, the Government announced its new policy in April 2009.

Joanna: "Ashamed of The Government"

It was to be one of the campaign's darkest days. A shocked Joanna Lumley said that she was 'ashamed' of the Government.

Lynne said, 'We were devastated. Only a few extra retired Gurkhas would be allowed into Britain.'

The campaign team fought on. The Leader of the Liberal Democrats Nick Clegg put an Opposition Day motion to the Commons and it was debated on

29th April 2009. The Government suffered an historic defeat.

Joanna Lumley said, 'The House of Commons spoke for the nation. Brave Labour rebels defied their whips to win for the Gurkhas. It was a day that made me proud of our Parliament.'

However, it still appeared that the Government might try and offer only minimal concessions. So Joanna Lumley then went to meet Gordon Brown. On 21st May 2009 the Home Secretary announced the Government had changed its mind. All retired Gurkhas could now come to live in Britain. The campaign was won. A famous victory for the bravest of the brave.

Joanna Lumley said, 'So many countless thousands of people supported this campaign. My thanks go to each and every one of them.'



ASK ME WHY I'M WALKING

From 5th December to the end of February this year, a pioneering project in Folkestone saw somewhere to sleep for

the homeless in the area. The project started almost a year ago. In the winter of 2008 people died on the streets of Folkestone. Lynne heard about the deaths, and was determined never to allow this to happen again.

Lynne met with various groups and the project was born.

Lynne said: "There is no way I was going to allow people to continue to

die on our streets. There were so many great organisations helping people in Folkestone. All it needed was a push to bring it together."

In November, Lynne spent a week walking around Folkestone for 8 hours a day, raising the profile of the homelessness problem in Folkestone. The walk had two aims: to tell people about the homeless problem in the town and to raise funds for the project.

LET'S KEEP THE MARSH SPECIAL

Lynne joined Keep the Marsh Special Alliance (KMSA) in 2005, and has been active ever since. KMSA have played a key role in opposing the expansion of Lydd Airport for large jets and up to 2 million passengers a year.

Lynne does not believe the development of Lydd Airport for regular jet aircraft flights is in the best interests of Romney Marsh. Local polls held also show big majorities against the plans from local people. Lynne says: "Yes, we need employment, but not at any cost."

Lynne has launched the idea of co-ordinated promotion of "green" tourism across the Marsh. By bringing together local businesses, councils, residents groups, Natural England, the RSPB and others, Lynne hopes to see the creation of hundreds



of local jobs and a big boost to spend money on Romney local tourism. Lynne says: "Lots of people share the dream - we just need to get them all together to achieve it. We need to get visitors to enjoy and beautiful place to live."

Prize Sudoku - Sponsored by No. 11



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The Sudoku craze has swept the nation and here at Kent View we've got our own brain-teaser to offer. And thanks to Douglas at Folkestone's fantastic No.11 restaurant we are able to offer this month's Sudoku with a prize! The winning entry pulled at random on 1st March will win a three course meal for 2 at No.11.

Send your completed entry with your name and address to: Kent View, Freepost RSEZ-TGTS-CTGA, 98a Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, CT20 3BY

Fill the grid with the numbers 1 to 9 so that each row, column and 3x3 block contains all numbers 1 to 9.

Recipe of the Month (from No.11)

Welsh rarebit with smoked mackerel

40g butter	1 tsp Whole grain mustard	is best)	Hand full of rocket
20g Plain flour	1 Anchovy fillet	1 Egg yolk	Smoked mackerel fillet
425ml milk	Splash of Ale (Whitstable bay	20g Mature cheddar	Slice of bread
2 tsp dijon mustard		Pinch of parsley	

Heat the butter in a pan, don't let it brown. Add flour and mix to a paste. Pour in milk and bring to the boil. Whisk constantly so it doesn't burn. Leave to cool for a few minutes. Add mustards, anchovy, ale, egg yolk, cheese and parsley. Put bread under high grill and toast one side. Then spread rarebit mix on un-cooked side. Pop back in grill and leave until rarebit mix resembles a leopard skin. Meanwhile, warm smoked mackerel under grill, so it's warm. Place toasted rarebit on plate with rocket to the side, lay mackerel on top and enjoy!

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