


- **IMPORTANT NEWS FOR PENSIONERS**
- **CAMPAIGN AGAINST COUNCIL TAX**
- **CHANGES FOR REMEDIAL SWIMMERS**

The political
make-up of
BathNES council

29	26	10
	CON	OTH
LIB DEM		

Abbey FOCUS

AUTUMN 2003

www.bathlibdems.org.uk

www.donfoster.co.uk

BALANCED APPROACH NEEDED: ALL SWIMMERS NEEDS MUST BE MET

Aquaterra, the company managing the main swimming pool in Bath, has reduced the temperature of the water for remedial swimmers, causing anger and frustration.

Councillor Nicole O'Flaherty is negotiating with Aquaterra to solve the problem of water temperature for the remedial swimming sessions.

She said "unfortunately government regulations do not allow swimming in water hotter than 30 degrees and as the leisure centre is a public pool Aquaterra feel it should be available to the public at all

times."

One solution being examined is to heat the smaller leisure pool to a higher temperature for non-swimmers, and the large pool to 30 degrees.

Abbey ward Liberal Democrats are supporting the remedial swimmers, and are calling for the needs of all swimmers in the city to be adequately met.

A decision on the long-term future of the pool's temperature is due in January. If you would like to register your support for the remedial swimmers, please use the contact form overleaf to get in touch.



Decision due in January

ABBEY PENSIONERS MISSING OUT ON NEW CREDIT

Don Foster, Liberal Democrat MP for Bath, has launched a major new campaign to urge all local pensioners to apply for a new Pension Credit which was introduced in October 2003.

Pension Credit

The Pension Credit is a new entitlement that will give extra money to pensioners with small amounts of savings and private pensions.

Don saiyyd "The early take-up of the new pension credit has been atrocious. The Government has written to over one and a half million pensioner households and yet

has only managed to generate a handful of successful claims." So, if you're claiming a pension, find out if you're entitled to the credit, using these details:

DON'T MISS OUT...

**Call 0800 99 1234 or visit
www.thepensionservice.gov.uk
to find out if you are eligible**

Liberal Democrat Action:

- Rebecca Fountain was cleaned up and restored to public use in time for the Summer
- 5000 residents have taken up a new garden waste collection scheme—call the Action Line on 394041 for more information.
- New bicycle racks have been installed in Laura place, and more streets signs have been installed across the ward.



*Working for you -
all year round.*

YOUR ABBEY WARD FOCUS TEAM

Agnes Melling	332153
Mike Jones	335988
Valerie Sabir-Ali	464826
Cyril Sahoy	445792



DON FOSTER MP
31 James St West, Bath
BA1 2BT.
Tel: 338973

AXE THE TAX!



Since 1997, the average Council Tax Bill has gone up by more than £455 a year, a rise of 70%. In every part of the country this unfair tax is hurting people on low and medium incomes.

The Liberal Democrats understand the popular feeling against the Council Tax. We want to abolish the tax altogether and replace it with a fair tax based on ability to pay.

“Council Tax is an unfair tax completely unrelated to the ability to pay. Liberal Democrats want to bring in a fair Local Income Tax to pay for local services.”

- Cllr Paul Crossley, leader of B&NES

IRAQ TOPS CONFERENCE AGENDA

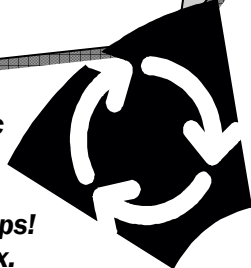
Local Liberal Democrat Ghazi Sabir-Ali was a star of the recent Lib Dem national conference.

His question on Iraq brought a passionate answer from Charles Kennedy MP on the reasons his party were right to oppose a war that did not have UN sanction.



■ Ghazi Sabir-Ali

You can now recycle plastic containers. Put them out with your green box, but remember to remove the tops! Call 394041 for a green box.



DON FOSTER MP WRITES...



In the middle of October, the Liberal Democrat party Leader, Charles Kennedy MP, announced a reshuffle of the front bench. I accepted the post of Shadow Secretary for Culture, Media, and Sport.

I'm delighted to take on this new and exciting challenge. It's the job I asked for. After Transport, what could be better than a portfolio that links to Bath's tourism, heritage, cultural and sporting achievements?

Of course, regardless of the portfolio I hold, my main priority will continue to be representing the best interests of my constituents, so if I can be of service please don't hesitate to get in touch.

My contact details are on the bottom of the front page, and you can also find details of residents surgeries at www.donfooster.co.uk



IS IT FAIR, MR BLAIR?

Tony Blair MP
PRIME MINISTER

INCOME: £175,000

COUNCIL TAX: about £1,100



Hazel Dunning

SOMERSET PENSIONER

INCOME: £11,000

COUNCIL TAX: about £1,100



Over To You

Your opinion is important. Please contact us using this form, or the contact details overleaf.

NAME:

PHONE / E-MAIL:

MESSAGE:

- ☐ I would like to deliver *Focus* up my street
- ☐ I would like to be kept informed of news from the Lib Dems

Return this form to: Bath Liberal Democrats, c/o Bath Lib Dems, 31 James St West, BA1 2BT

The Liberal Democrats and Don Foster MP may contact you from time to time to keep you informed about subjects we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information you have provided to be used to help with this.