

Liberal History News

Autumn 2017

Directory of election candidates updated for 2017 election

As reported in issue 94 (spring 2017), the Liberal Democrat History Group's website now features a major new resource for students of post-war Liberal history: a comprehensive directory of all election candidates at every Westminster election from 1945. The first comprehensive biographical index to appear of the individuals who have contested a UK parliamentary election under the designation Liberal, Liberal Democrat and Social Democrat, the directory has now been updated to include candidates at the June 2017 general election. It also includes a considerable number of additions and corrections kindly sent in by individuals who contacted the compiler of the

directory, Lionel King, after we put it on our website in April, together with the results of his own further research.

The directory is presented in separate files covering eleven English regions (Devon and Cornwall, East of England, East Midlands, Greater London, North East, North West, South Central, South East, South West, Yorkshire, West Midlands), and Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (Westminster elections only, including Alliance Party of Northern Ireland candidates).

A typical entry includes details of birth and death, where known, education (school/college/university), career(s), elected local government

offices held, party offices held, noteworthy distinctions/achievements, honours, publications etc, etc. Information on previous (or subsequent) activities with respect to other political parties is often included. Spouses and family often receive notice. Entries vary in length and presentation, reflecting the scale of the contribution which an individual made to the party and political life in the region or nationally, to parliament or his/her achievements in wider spheres of activity. Opinions expressed with regard to some of the more colourful personalities listed are those generally held.

As before, the History Group would like to express its sincere thanks to Lionel

On This Day ...

Every day the History Group's website, Facebook page and Twitter feed carry an item of Liberal history news from the past. Below we reprint three. To see them regularly, look at www.liberalhistory.org.uk or www.facebook.com/LibDemHistoryGroup or follow us at: **LibHistoryToday**.

September

4 September 1825: Birth of Dadabhai Naoroji in Khadka near Mumbai. He became the first Indian professor of mathematics and served as Prime Minister of Boroda in the 1870s and was three times President of the Indian National Congress. Naoroji first visited England in 1855 and returned in the early 1880s. He was chosen to fight Holborn for the Liberals in the general election of 1886. He lost, but secured nomination for Central Finsbury and at the election of 1892 gained the seat from the Tories by five votes, becoming the first non-white person to be elected to parliament. Although he lost his seat in 1895, his influence both in the UK and India was and remains considerable.

October

18 October 1990: David Bellotti wins Eastbourne for the Liberal Democrats in a by-election caused by the murder of sitting Conservative MP Ian Gow by the IRA. Bellotti gains the seat with a majority of 4,550, on 50.8 per cent of the vote. Liberal Democrat Leader Paddy Ashdown celebrates, describing the win as his best day as Leader of the Liberal Democrats. Just a week before, at the Conservative Party conference, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had used Monty Python's 'dead parrot' sketch to mock the Liberal Democrats' newly-designed bird of liberty logo. After the by-election, Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker commented that: 'the parrot twitched'. Six weeks later Conservative MPs removed Mrs Thatcher as their leader.

December

5 December 1916: Herbert Asquith resigns as Prime Minister. The crisis that led to the Prime Minister's resignation had been building for over a month. Concern at the military weakness in the British army at the Battle of the Somme led Lloyd George to call for a restructuring of the War Council with himself as chairman. Although not completely opposed to Lloyd George's proposals, Asquith could not accept that the Prime Minister would not chair the Council not continue to be a member of it. Protracted negotiations ensued until Lloyd George forced the issue by tendering his resignation. The Unionist ministers sided with Lloyd George and indicated their preparedness to serve in a government headed by Lloyd George. This was the last straw for Asquith and at 7pm he saw King George V to offer his resignation. British politics – but his rivalry with Asquith split the Liberal Party and contributed to its post-war eclipse by Labour.

King, who was himself a parliamentary candidate (Kidderminster 1964, Sutton Coldfield 1970, Walsall South 1987).

Any further corrections and additional information from readers will be most welcome; please send emails to Lionel King on lionelking1964@btinternet.com.

The directory can be found at <http://www.liberalhistory.org.uk/resources-type/election-candidates-directory>; or, just navigate to the 'Resources' section of the Liberal Democrat History Group website.

Obituaries

Many thanks to Nigel Lindsay and his colleagues for supplying the obituary of Sandy Waugh (below). Remembering the lives of long-standing activists such as Sandy is just as important to Liberal history as are the records of the achievements of MPs and peers on whom we publish longer biographical articles. The *Journal* is always happy to publish obituaries of the foot soldiers of Liberalism such as Sandy.

This is not restricted to activists who have died recently. If any readers have collections of the former party newspapers, *Liberal News*, *The Social Democrat* and *Liberal Democrat News*, reprints of similar pieces would be of interest. Please contact the Editor.

Future meetings schedule

- Sunday 17 September, Liberal Democrat conference, Bournemouth: **Liberals in Local Government, 1967–2017** (see back page for full details)
- Monday 5 February 2018: History Group AGM and speaker meeting – **Election 2017 in historical perspective**, with Professor Phil Cowley and James Gurling (chair, Liberal Democrat Federal Campaigns and Elections Committee)
- March 2018, Liberal Democrat spring conference, Southport: details to be announced
- June / July 2018, London: details to be announced

Corrigenda

The review of Dick Leonard's book *A History Of British Prime Ministers: Walpole to Cameron*, in *Journal of Liberal History* 95 (summer 2017), incorrectly stated that there were no illustrations in the

paperback edition. In fact the same 53 portraits that are included in the hardback version do appear, between pages 433 and 434. The only difference is that

In memory of Sandy Waugh, 1934–2017

Readers will be sorry to learn of the death, on 28 July, of Dr Alexander (Sandy) S. Waugh. Sandy joined the Liberal Party in 1950, and must have been one of the longest serving members of the party at the time of his death. He played a major part in the revival of Liberalism in Scotland, first in Glasgow and then in West Aberdeenshire. He was instrumental in the election of James Davidson as MP for West Aberdeenshire in 1966, in Nicol Stephen's 1991 Kincardine & Deeside by-election win, and in a number of other triumphs in Westminster and Holyrood elections.

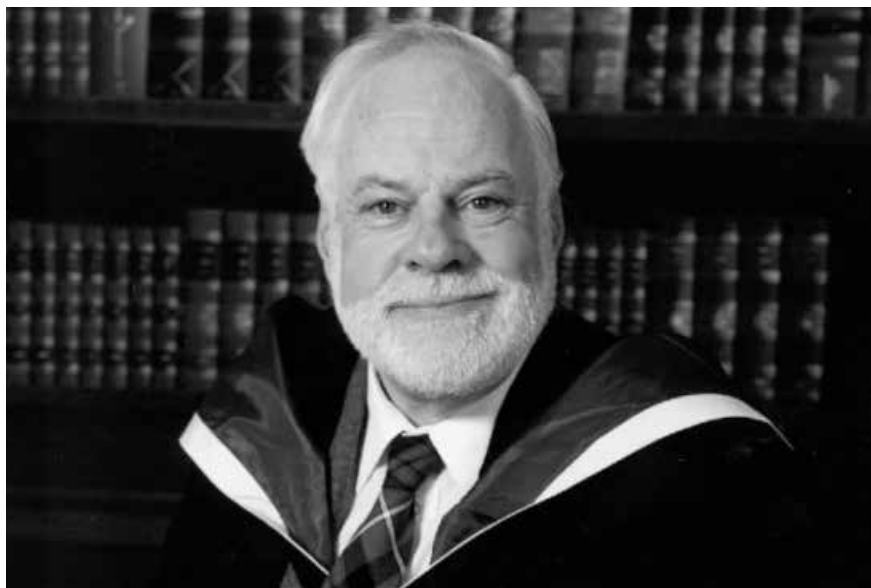
Sandy Waugh was born in Glasgow and attended the High School of Glasgow. He was always proud that this had also been the school of the most Liberal of Prime Ministers, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. While there, he met Edwin Donaldson, who had been a Liberal candidate in the 1922 and 1923 general elections. Sandy attended his first meeting of the Scottish Liberal Party's General Council in 1955, preparatory to a general election in which Liberals fielded only five candidates in Scotland, but set to work with other Liberals in the Glasgow area to build the party's capacity. That work bore fruit in 1961 when, as secretary of the campaign committee in the Paisley by-election, Sandy contributed to an astounding result in which the late John M. Bannerman almost took the seat, gaining

the illustrations are not printed on plates, but on the same quality paper as the rest of the book. Our sincere apologies to Mr Leonard, and our readers, for the error.

41.4 per cent of the vote for the Liberals. In the following year he played an important part in the Glasgow Woodside by-election, where the writer and broadcaster Jack House polled a remarkably high 21 per cent of the vote.

Sandy moved to the Aberdeen area in 1965, to take up a post as personnel manager of Aberdeen Journals Ltd, just in time to apply his management skills in West Aberdeenshire. There James Davidson had taken second place in 1964, despite the seat not having been contested by Liberals at the previous general election. With others, Sandy ensured the financial and organisational preparedness of the constituency association. By the time the snowy polling day of 1966 arrived, there was great optimism in the Liberal camp, eventually justified by a vote of 43.2 per cent, which sufficed to unseat the Conservative and elect James Davidson.

Soon after that, Sandy became constituency chairman and was embroiled in the difficult matter of selecting and campaigning for a successor when Davidson decided not to contest the seat again. Laura Grimond was selected, with Sandy of course chairman of the meeting. A colleague remembers him telling the audience to listen carefully to the words of the motion which he was to put to the meeting to avoid any reference to her selection as a candidate. These were: 'This Association thanks Mrs Grimond



for her speech and expresses the hope that, at the appropriate time, she will make herself available to be adopted as the Liberal candidate for West Aberdeenshire'. This was typical of Sandy's attention to detail and propriety.

He went on to campaign actively for EU membership in the 1975 referendum, before moving house to what was then the North Angus & Mearns constituency later that year, where he threw himself into work for his new political home. Selected a few years later as Liberal-Alliance candidate for the newly-created constituency of Kincardine & Deeside in the 1983 general election, Sandy gained a creditable 29.4 per cent of the vote. He gave generous support to the candidate who succeeded him at the 1987 general election, Nicol Stephen, who went on to take the seat at a famous by-election in 1991. Sandy instead stood in the 1986 elections for Grampian Regional Council. He polled 46.5 per cent of the votes, just 179 votes behind the well-established Tory.

Like Gladstone (of whom, incidentally, he did not much approve) Sandy Waugh was as keen a churchman as a politician. He was an Elder and the Session Clerk of his Parish Church, and in retirement took up academic study of divinity and theology at the University of Aberdeen, graduating with honours in 1999 and going on to gain a PhD with a thesis on church history, focusing on the Disruption of 1843 – a rich source of Liberal as well as ecclesiastical activity.

Dr Waugh (as he now was) continued his political activities, though by now ill-health meant these were more literary than organisational. He had his first letter to a newspaper published in 1953, and by the time of his death had averaged one letter published each month in various newspapers, magazines and periodicals (including the *Journal of Liberal History*). Always pithy, accurate and well-aimed, they usually contained an element of humour as well. He remained happy to share his learning.

This work was supplemented by monographs on many Liberal subjects, each of which is scholarly but readable, and any one of which would make an interesting contribution to the *Journal*. Subjects included 'The Gladstone Political Dynasty', 'The Bright and McLaren Political Dynasties', 'William Mather Rutherford Pringle', 'Lloyd George vs. the Exchange Telegraph Company', 'Glasgow High School Parliamentarians', 'Liberal Hegemony in Scotland, 1832–1918' and 'The Liberal and Labour Parties to 1929'.

Sandy also wrote and made presentations on church matters and Liberal topics to a surprising range of audiences. He made a memorable presentation on 'Aspects of Scottish and Welsh Liberalism' to the Lloyd George Society in Llandrindod Wells in 2012, not long after preparing and presenting a learned paper on the quatercentenary of the King James Bible to friends and scholars in his home town.

Sandy Waugh succeeded in combining political activism with a sense of history. An account of the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 was to him incomplete without links to the crusaders of Acre in 1271, and his doctoral thesis on the Disruption of 1843 went back to thirteenth-century Scotland and King William the Lion. I recall him giving an address to Aberdeen University Liberal Club fifty years ago in which – only partly in jest – he traced the origins of the Vietnam War back to Charlemagne.

Much though he enjoyed exploring historical byways, the chief subject of Sandy Waugh's Liberal academic interest was Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman whom, in common with many Scottish Liberals, he regarded as the greatest of Liberal Prime Ministers. Like Sandy, Sir Henry was a Scot, a Radical, a former pupil of the High School of Glasgow, and a man who was forthright in word and deed. At the time of his death, Sandy had completed a major work on CB: 'Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman – A Scottish Life and UK Politics 1836–1908'. This scrupulously researched and comprehensive book is now being prepared for publication and is expected to be available early in 2018.

Sandy Waugh's Liberalism was unflinching in thought and deed. He will be remembered fondly by Liberals who knew him not only as an effective colleague but as a good and reliable friend.

Nigel Lindsay

Think history

Can you spare some time to help the Liberal Democrat History Group?

The History Group undertakes a wide range of activities – publishing this *Journal* and our Liberal history books and booklets, organising regular speaker meetings, maintaining the Liberal history website and providing assistance with research.

We'd like to do more, but our activities are limited by the number of people involved in running the Group. We would be enormously grateful for help with:

- Improving our website.
- Helping with our presence at Liberal Democrat conferences.
- Organising our meeting programme.
- Publicising our activities, through both social media and more traditional means.
- Running the organisation.

If you'd like to be involved in any of these activities, or anything else, contact the Editor, **Duncan Brack** (journal@liberalhistory.org.uk) – we would love to hear from you.

