

# Letters to the Editor

## Liberals and the Environment

I regret I was not able to participate in the Liberal Democrat History Group meeting in York in March, on 'Greening Liberalism'. But I'd like to put in a word in memory of Stanley Rundle, the Richmond-upon-Thames councillor who campaigned against 'pollution' and carried an Assembly motion on the subject in the late 1960s/early 1970s, which was years ahead of the advent of the Ecology Party.

Stanley Rundle was the first successful Liberal candidate for whom I campaigned – in the Kew ward byelection just 55 years ago! Dr Rundle broke back on to the council within a year of the 1968 wipeout, when the Tories had won 100 per cent of the seats on the re-warded council. When he regained a seat on the council in February 1969 (Kew ward included his former North Sheen patch) the local paper, the *Richmond and Twickenham Times*, commented that with Dr Rundle back as the sole opposition voice 'one might say that the council leadership and opposition are equally matched'!

Dr Rundle's local campaigning, featuring the door-to-door delivery of the *Kew Comments* newsletter, was largely funded by the monthly collection of old newspapers for recycling.

On another matter, I am sure you will be noting the utter hypocrisy

of the Cameron re-branding of the Tory party as Eco-friendly. Those publicity photos in the near Arctic posing with husky dogs in the snow highlighting global warming. Then the appearance of the blue and green tree logo, which in a very few years sprouted the red white and blue of the Union Jack, and those scornful references to 'green crap'.

*Christopher Graham  
(Co-Chair, Richmond and Barnes  
Young Liberals, 1969)*

## Liberals in the Lords (1)

As Matt Cole indicates in his article on Liberal peers in issue 121, winter 2023–24 ('Like the early Christians in Rome'), the designation of peers as Liberals in *Dod's Parliamentary Companion* is by no means reliable. This may account for the fact that Matt refers to the 3rd Baron Monkswell as a Liberal (p. 30), while in fact Lord Monkswell was one of the diehard Conservative peers who voted against the final stages of the Parliament Act in 1911, and, as far as I am aware, never had any connection with the Liberal Party at all.

It is also worth observing that although the 1st Baron Milverton may have appeared to have been a useful convert from Labour (p. 31), Lord Milverton only took the

Liberal whip in the House of Lords between June 1949 and January 1951, taking the National Liberal and Conservative whip from then onwards, and should not be bracketed in this connection with Lord Ogmore, who was indeed a useful member of the Liberal parliamentary party in the House of Lords.

Can I finally point out that a more reliable source than *Dod's Companion* for identifying those peers who actually took the Liberal whip in the House of Lords between 1918 and the 1960s are the listings in contemporary newspaper reports of the attendees at the parliamentary eve-of-sessions dinners hosted by the party's successive leaders in the House of Lords, to which all peers in receipt of the party's whip seem to have been invited throughout this period (although obviously these listings do not include those peers who were invited but who were unable or unwilling to attend on the particular evening concerned).

*Hugh Pagan*

## Liberals in the Lords (2)

A nuance to Matt Coles's hugely informative article on Liberals in the House of Lords ('Like the early Christians in Rome', issue 121, winter 2023–24) – Frank Russell, though brought up by Lord John and Frances Russell from the age of 11, was, like his more illustrious brother, Bertrand, their biological grandson.

*Roger Jenking*