

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Westminster and City of London Liberal Democrats will be held on Tuesday, 25th November 2025 at 7:30pm at the Hinde Street Methodist Church, 19 Hinde Street, London, W1U 2QJ (***PLEASE NOTE OF CHANGE OF VENUE THIS YEAR***).

AGENDA

1. Introductions and welcome
2. Apologies
3. Address from Hina Bokhari, London Assembly Member
4. Reports from:
 - a. Chair.
 - b. Treasurer
5. Election of Honorary President (see note 1).
6. Nomination / Election of Officers, and Ordinary Members (see note 2)
7. Noting of the Accounts for 2024 (see note 3).

Note 1 Section 5.c of the English Model Local Party Constitution allows for the election of an Honorary President.

Note 2: We intend to elect individuals who are unopposed and hold a postal ballot in the case of any contested positions. Elections will be held for the following positions: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Elections Officer, Membership Development Officer, Diversity Champion, 8 Ordinary Members

Note 3: The 2024 Accounts for the Local Party have been approved by the Executive Committee of the Local Party and were sent to the Chief Executive at Party HQ before the end of March 2024. Therefore the accounts have been approved and only need to be noted.

Chair's report 2025

2025 was a much quieter year or so I was assured when asked to take over from Phillip Kerle! A by-election was called in Vincent Square in Dec 2024, so it was straight into action when I took over on Jan 1st. Luis Garcia generously agreed to be our candidate and within a very short time had gathered his own team of canvassers who joined in with our established group. He put up a gallant fight but Reform appeared for the first time & we were 4th with the Conservatives taking the seat from Labour. The experience gained will be very useful in the London Council elections in May 2026 and we hope Luis will be a candidate again. Many thanks to Louis Keep for managing all things IT and helping with the campaign.

On a national level our 72 elected LibDem MPs have been very busy in Parliament, sitting on various committees, chairing some and adapting to their new roles in the Commons. Our MPs have been vigorously speaking out on any issues contrary to LibDem values, anything relating to Donald Trump and dare I say it, have conducted themselves as if they are the real opposition to our Labour Government.

After the Vincent Square by election, there were a few quieter months but very soon our executive team had to decide on our target ward for councillor elections in May 2026. After quite rigorous debates, Marylebone, a Tory facing ward, was selected which requires 3 candidates for 3 available councillor positions.

Our Marylebone LibDem team currently comprises Alastair Barr, Martin Toeman and Martin Kersh. They are vigorously setting up their plans for the campaign, frequently canvassing and making themselves known to the constituents in Marylebone. We were very lucky to have Anton Georgiou back as campaign manager in October – a role which he has performed in his exemplary style with knowledge of all things needed to run such a campaign. It is a pleasure to work with someone so able in his field and we owe him a very big thank you. Unfortunately, he cannot stay with us much longer owing to his commitments to a neighbouring LibDem party for their 2026 campaign. We have found (and continue looking) for new volunteers who can learn from his expertise.

A special thank you also to Alistair Barr a former councillor candidate in Marylebone ward in the 2022 council election. He came 4th, only narrowly missing being elected. Alistair remains a member of the executive team but has also made a massive contribution to the running of this current campaign in Marylebone. For several months he organised everything from 'behind the scenes' managing data on Connect, establishing newly formed canvassing walks around the ward while also canvassing regularly. He returned to work at the beginning of October and said he would have to reduce his commitment to the campaign, but this has not been apparent! We are extremely grateful for all Alistair has, and continues, to contribute.

I would like to say a few things about Nigel Stokes our indefatigable secretary of the executive team who appears to know all things pertinent to any political election campaign, provides unlimited advice and help, who seems to be unflappable and comes up with alternative solutions when everyone has run out of ideas. In addition, from a personal perspective he has guided and supported me during my tenure as Chair without ever being critical of anything I suggest, or do as I navigate a very steep learning curve about what is involved in the role.

Another long time member of the executive team, Peter Toeman, who is an accountant, provides a constant overview of our accounts, advice about what is possible and unfailingly insures our accounts are in order and not overdrawn. Many thanks to Peter for his much-appreciated wisdom and generosity in performing this role.

Fundraising has not been a big focus so far this year but with the appointment of Farida onto the executive team earlier this year and John Armah who will be contributing his expertise in this field, we are hoping to restart this very soon.

Finally, I would like to conclude with the possibilities for success in the council elections next year. It has become more apparent that without local councillors on the council, prospects of a successful election of an MP in the constituency becomes very difficult, if not impossible. One of the main reasons for selecting Marylebone as a target ward was to increase our chances of success for at least 1 (or hopefully, 3) councillors and past results suggested this was more likely in this ward rather than any other in Westminster. It would also be a first to have a LibDem councillor on Westminster Council. Therefore, I will conclude by reminding everyone that any help you can offer, in any way that you feel able, will be very gratefully received. Please let us know!

Thank you.

Dr Sally Mitton
Chair,
Westminster & City of London Liberal Democrats

Treasurer's report

Year to date financial performance

For the year-to-date 2025 we have raised £2,485 in donations and £1,322 in membership a. Our campaigning expenses were £5,656 arising from the by-election for the council seat in Vincent Square and the start of our Marylebone 2026 campaign. This includes the costs of staff responsible for running these two campaigns. Other operating expenses including the website, meetings, and for digital services provided by London Region totalled £3,243 partly offset by the repayment of £1,000 from our agent running the 2024 election campaign. Total expenses of £7,899 resulted in a year-to-date loss of £4,092. This loss explains the movement in our cash balance which began the year at £26,832 and is now £22,740.

Peter Toeman
Treasurer

For the accounts for the year to Dec 2024 please see separate document attached to the covering email