

NORWICH News Extra

Votes cast in English
Local Elections June 2009

Con
38%

Lib
Dem
28%

Lab
24%

Lib Dems
overtake
Labour

SEE
PAGE
TWO

SEE PAGE 3



Victory for Gurkhas

SEE PAGE 4



Fighting for our health service

REAL CHANGE

STARTS HERE

Local businesswoman April Pond will clean up Westminster

April Pond has set the early pace in the race to become our new local MP.

A successful local businesswoman and community campaigner, April has a strong record of standing up for Norwich.

April Pond has already been joined on the campaign trail by Norfolk MP Norman Lamb and Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg.

She has built herself a reputation as an effective local campaigner working alongside Liberal Democrat MP Norman Lamb campaigning to save local health services.

Born and bred in Norfolk, unlike the other main candidates April Pond is far from a Westminster insider.

She has spent all her life working and raising her family in Norwich and ran jewellery and catering businesses in the city.

April Pond said: "As a working parent I know the challenges that local families face.

"I'll demand more action from the Government to help ordinary people who are struggling through the recession."

Addressing the issue of MPs' expenses, April said, "I am pledging right now to be open and honest with local people on this."

Norfolk MP Norman Lamb said: "If Norwich wants an independent-minded MP who will stand up for them and fight for Norwich, then April is the right choice."

Find out more at:

www.AprilPond.org.uk



April Pond is an experienced local business woman and has a record of action campaigning with Norfolk MP Norman Lamb to protect Norfolk's NHS services.

Real change needed after years of let downs

From MPs' expenses, to the economy to climate change all we seem to get is let down after let down. Gordon Brown's Labour Government is failing.

With the resignation of local MP Ian Gibson the search is on for a new MP here in Norwich. A by-election brings the chance to put Norwich first and elect a local champion.

What we need is a fresh approach. The Conservatives offer nothing but the same old broken promises. They can't deliver the change we need - they offer more of the same.

Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats have led the way in creating a fresh approach to many of the problems our country faces.

On the economy, MPs' expenses and climate change it is the Lib Dems who are leading the way and showing the change we need.

Local businesswoman can deliver for us

When times are tough we need someone on our side standing up for us - and there's no doubt times are tough right now. Of all the candidates in the upcoming Norwich North by-election April Pond's CV stands out a mile.

April Pond is Norfolk through and through and a successful local businesswoman with a track record of taking on the Government over local health services.

An experienced local campaigner with a record of action for local people sounds like just the kind of thing we need here in Norwich.

Gurkha success

April Pond has welcomed the Government's u-turn over allowing retired Gurkhas the right to live in Britain.

Liberal Democrat Leader Nick Clegg led the campaign in Parliament to get the Gurkhas' right to remain recognised.

Commenting on the victory, April Pond said, "My father is a veteran of D-Day so I have a special place in my heart for veterans, including the Gurkhas.

"I was delighted that I could meet with many local veterans at the recent Veteran's Day parade in Norwich."

April added, "As a local councillor I met with veterans and English Heritage and got agreement for the Norwich war memorial to be turned round at the request of the veterans and the memorial gardens to be renovated.

"The Lib Dems agreed funding for this but Labour overturned the decision and are still failing to deliver for our local heroes."



Labour voters switch to back Lib Dems in Norwich

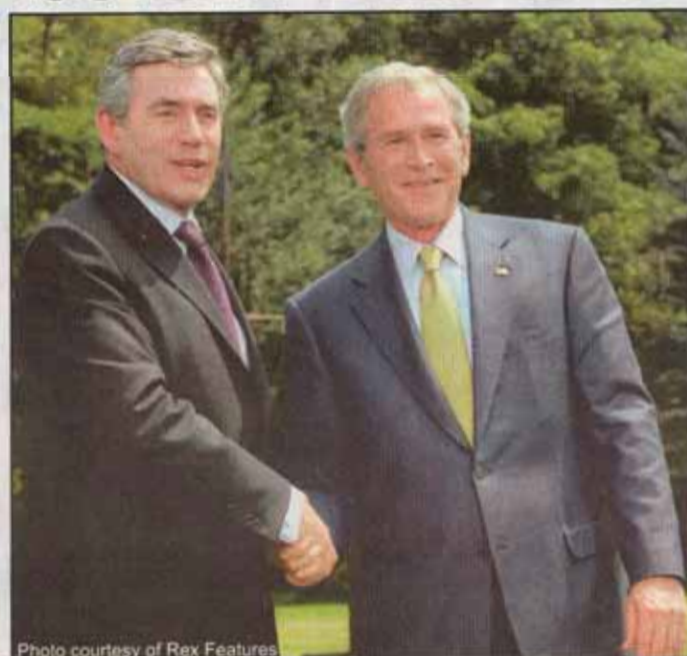


Photo courtesy of Rex Features

Labour voters across Norwich are switching to back the Liberal Democrats as support for Gordon Brown's government crumbles.

People across Britain are feeling let down following the economic collapse and Gordon Brown's handling of the MPs' expenses scandal.

Liberal Democrats overtake Labour in elections

The Liberal Democrats pushed Labour into third in recent local elections and polls show Labour losing further support.

Here in Norfolk, Labour have no councillors in the Broadland District.

The scandal hit Labour city council is in crisis following the Greyhound 'Homes-for-Staff' Scandal and a damning audit commission report into the state of the Norwich Housing Service. even long term loyal Labour voters feel it's time for a change.

Lib Dem Leader Nick Clegg has visited Norwich twice in recent weeks - impressing local people after spending several hours answering questions during a town hall meeting.

Labour has come under fire for selecting an unknown candidate from London with no record of standing up for local people.

Contact April Pond

You can contact April Pond about issues that concern you.

She's always there to help.

Email: hq@aprilpond.org.uk

Call: 01603 416 649

Write or drop in to:

19c Alston Road,

Norwich,

NR6 5DS.

Or visit April's website for all the latest news at

www.AprilPond.org.uk

Green Party drops candidate

Local people have been shocked by the Green Party's decision to drop their original candidate for Norwich North in favour of Rupert Read, who's been labelled 'out-of-touch'.

Local Green Party member Adrian Holmes had stood twice for the Green Party in Norwich North and had already been re-selected for the next election.

Within hours of Ian Gibson's resignation Rupert Read announced his intention to stand after failing to be elected to the European Parliament.

Difficulties over extreme views

Mr Read is already facing difficulties over his extreme views, leading some to question whether he is the right candidate for the Green Party in Norwich.

He has compared eating meat with the holocaust, told people not to go on holiday abroad, and said that the 7th July terrorist attacks in Britain had been 'coming to us'.

Many people are asking whether Mr Read, a career politician, pushed out the previous candidate for his personal political gain, or whether instead Adrian Holmes abandoned Norwich as a dead-end for the Green Party.

The first poll of the campaign puts the Green Party in fourth place. They won just 3% of the votes in Norwich North in 2005 and came fourth in June's elections.

Meet the new Green Party candidate - in words and actions

The dualling of the A11 is being pushed by big business interests.

- Blog post, 1 October 2008

On dualling the A11

Voted against dualling the A11 at Elveden in Full Council at Norwich City Council.

- September 2008

On July 7th Terror Attacks

We in Great Britain have quite simply had this coming to us.

- Letter to the Independent, 12 July 2005

From Norwich, for Norwich

News Extra's exclusive interview with the woman who could be our new MP...

April Pond – Standing up for Norwich.

Local businesswoman and community campaigner April Pond wants to be the next MP for Norwich North. We asked April to tell us about herself and why, at this of all times, she wants to be our MP!

First of all tell us – why here?

This is very much where I belong. I was brought up here. Most of my family still live here – I have a sister who is a midwife in a local hospital and brothers in business and farming.

I started working when I was 16 and have run my own catering and jewellery businesses in the city.

My four children grew up and went to school here. You get to know a lot of

people as your children grow up. Running a business also gets you involved with lots of local activities.

It's my patch, I love the area and I want to see it prosper.

Why do you think you would make a good MP?

First of all I really enjoy meeting people and listening to what they have to say. That's an important skill for an MP and there's not been enough of it from some MPs lately!

I like to think I bring real life experience – of business, having children, seeing elderly relatives through the health system. You need to understand these things to represent people effectively.

People will tell you I'm not afraid of making my

voice heard as well in fact I used to be a jazz singer!

I will make sure I speak up loud and clear for local people. I'll not be looking to be a career politician stuck in Westminster.

What brought you to the Liberal Democrats?

Where do I begin? As a local businesswoman I saw first hand the difficulties caused by a badly run Labour council.

I realised that if you want things changed for the better you need to speak up and get involved. So I ended up standing for the council and served on the Council for many years which taught me a lot.

I admire the way Nick Clegg has been forthright about MPs' expenses – I've made my own pledge that if I am elected I will be

open and honest with local people on this.

I've a lot of respect for Vince Cable taking a lead on the economy.

Being an MP is not the most popular job choice just now – why take on this challenge?

Precisely because it is a challenge, these are difficult times and Norwich

needs an independent-minded, hard working local MP to stand up for local people.

There is a real sense of achievement in listening to problems and being able to do something about them.

And as I said, I like people, I'm rooted in this community and I want it to succeed!



Aspiring MP April Pond

What a mess!

April Pond fights for transport improvements

Local campaigners are calling for National Express to have its franchise withdrawn for the Norwich to London line.

The calls follow a Government announcement that National Express has had its franchise to run the East-coast rail line withdrawn.

April Pond, Lib Dem campaigner for Norwich North, is leading calls to withdraw the National Express franchise and has launched a petition.

Mrs Pond said: "Labour and the Conservatives have made a real mess of the railways.

"We're left in a situation where companies are failing their passengers. Ticket costs are going up and up and we're not seeing a better service in return.

"The whole franchise system needs an overhaul so that the needs of passengers are put before short term profiteering.

"National Express has had enough chances to sort things out for people in Norwich, but they've completely failed us. They were failing passengers on the East Coast line, and they should not be allowed to continue to make money by failing us in East Anglia."

Liberal Democrat Shadow Transport Secretary, Norman Baker, joined April's call saying: "National Express has proved itself incapable of running the East Coast service, now it must also hand back its East Anglia franchise.

"We need a better deal for passengers in areas such as Norwich."

April has been surveying local rail users about the level of service provided by National Express.

If you have views on Norwich's rail services you can sign April's petition on Page 4 and complete her survey online at www.AprilPond.org.uk.



● April Pond is fighting to improve rail services for Norwich. April is carrying out a survey of rail users. You can complete her survey online at www.AprilPond.org.uk.

Time to talk eco-heating

It may seem strange to be talking about keeping local homes warm after the recent heatwave, but local campaigner April Pond is doing just that.

Every winter thousands of older people die because they cannot afford to heat their homes. At the same time millions of tonnes of CO2 pour into our atmosphere due to poorly insulated homes.

Local campaigner April Pond has welcomed Lib Dem plans to insulate millions of homes. April said, "It seems an odd time to talk about insulating homes with the current heat, but we have to start thinking in July about deaths in January.

"Our plans would see a five year programme to insulate every school and hospital. We would also provide funding to insulate a million homes and £1,000 grants to help a million more.

"With many pensioners and families in Norwich feeling the pinch these plans would help people's pockets and the environment.

"As well as saving money and cutting carbon emissions, these plans would also help create thousands of jobs."

Labour heading for poll disaster

Disaster for Gordon Brown as Labour falls below Lib Dems in new poll.

Sunday Telegraph

Labour is heading for a poll disaster in the Norwich North by-election.

Angry residents are hitting back at Gordon Brown's failures on the economy, MPs' expenses and the environment.

Labour slipped to third place behind the Liberal Democrats in recent local elections and polls show them losing support across the board.

Norwich South MP Charles Clarke is predicting Labour will come third at the next general election.

Many local pundits think Labour are heading for third place in the by-election on July 23rd.

Labour have selected an unknown candidate from London with no record of fighting for Norwich.

Speaking to Norwich News Extra, the Liberal Democrat candidate April Pond said,

"Many local people have told me that they are fed up with Labour's let downs. They want a real change.

"Coming from Norwich I know the problems that families in our city are facing - worries over their jobs, stretched health services and poor transport links.

"I'm from Norwich and will work for Norwich."

"Mr Clarke, who represents the Norwich South constituency, warned in an interview yesterday that Labour could potentially come third in the next general election."

Evening News

Brown 'has given up on by-election'

Evening Standard

Bed shortage costs taxpayer thousands

Question marks over Conservative candidates record

In the race for who is our next local MP questions are sure to heat up as to what each candidate has actually done for the people of Norwich. Currently under the microscope is Conservative Candidate Chloe Smith.

Having spent most of her working life in Westminster Miss Smith is not known for her local campaigning credentials.

Westminster politician

Many have questioned whether Miss Smith is too connected to Westminster politics to offer the real change local people are demanding in Norwich.

On all the big issues of the day the Conservatives seem to have nothing to say. From MPs' expenses, the economy and climate change they just seem to offer no practical solutions to today's major problems.

It is no wonder more and more people are turning to Nick Clegg and the Liberal Democrats for the fresh approach to politics that our country needs.



● April Pond has a long record of standing up for Norfolk's health service. She has campaigned with Norfolk MP Norman Lamb to stop the axing of more hospital beds in Norfolk.

Hundreds of operations at the Norfolk & Norwich have been cancelled this year because of a shortage of beds, forcing the NHS to spend hundreds of thousands on putting patients up in private hospitals.

Local health campaigner April Pond, who has warned of the impact this could have on NHS care in Norfolk, said: "Using these private beds is massively more expensive to the local health service than using NHS beds.

"It's ridiculous that we've got a new hospital built at great expense which is simply unable to cope. The private sector is making massive profits out of inadequate local provision of beds."

April Pond and Norfolk MP Norman Lamb are campaigning side-by-side to protect local hospital beds across Norfolk

threatened with cuts. April led efforts to retain St Michael's Hospital in Aylsham.

She said: "I'm very angry that this situation has come about, given the anxiety caused to patients who may be worried about their operation only to be told that it has been cancelled.

"The health trust has closed a number of community hospitals in Norfolk despite protests that it would damage the health service and increase the strain on the Norfolk and Norwich." Norfolk Liberal Democrat MP Norman Lamb shares April's concerns: "This is a bad deal for Norfolk patients. It cannot be right to pay over the odds for private beds. It smacks of crisis management."

A parliamentary question from Norman Lamb showed that total NHS bed numbers across England have fallen every year in the past five years.

Published and promoted by Ian Horner for and on behalf of April Pond (Liberal Democrats) all at 19c Alston Road, Norwich, NR6 5DS. Printed by Sharman & Company Ltd, Newark Road, Peterborough, PE1 5TD

Help April Pond win here

April Pond and the Lib Dems work hard all year round for our area. If you would like to help their campaign, please complete and return this form.

Your name -

Your address -

Postcode -

Mobile -

Email -

www.AprilPond.org.uk

I will vote Lib Dem at the next election

I would like to vote by post

I can display a poster for the election

I can deliver leaflets in my area

I can make a donation to the Lib Dems £50 £20 £10

Other £

Please make cheques payable to the Liberal Democrats. A donation of £10 or more entitles you to become a member of the Lib Dems. Please tick here if you do not wish to be enrolled

REAL ACTION FOR YOU

Sign April's Train Petition

You can return this petition for FREE. I/we the undersigned back April Pond's campaign for the Government to take back control of the National Express-run Norwich line due to their poor service at rip off prices.

Name(s):

Address:

Postcode:

Email:

@

Tel:

Mobile:

Return to: April Pond, FREEPOST RRKT-TLEB-CJET, 19c Alston Road, Norwich, NR6 5DS

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Some of these contacts may be automated. You can opt out of these contacts by contacting us.

The Liberal Democrats would like to use the information above to contact you from time to time to keep you informed of campaigns we may think of interest to you. Please write to us if you do not wish to be contacted in this way.