

Membership Development Officer's Report to the Annual General Meeting (21 November 2023).

This year has truly been the year of the election in Bedford Borough, with the Council elections taking place in May and then a parliamentary by-election taking place in Mid-Bedfordshire in October.

As a result of the election period, and the huge amount of time and effort concentrated on achieving strong results, the number of physical face to face activities for members was reduced in the first half of the year.

However, in the second half, we have re-started organising events to engage members and to help the local party carry out some fundraising activities. We held a very successful Race Night in July at St Marks' Church which was well attended and this was followed up with a Wine Tasting evening in October.

In amongst these events, we have kept members updated with regular email and written correspondence, including updates on our plans and news from the Council Group on Bedford Borough Council. We have also been holding ad hoc meets for members and campaigners, for example, following Action Days and campaigning.

This is my first year in the role, and I would like to say thank you Wendy Rider for all of her hard work in this role prior to me, and also for the continued support she has offered to me across this year. She works tirelessly to support the organisation of our events. I would also like to extend my thanks for members for their support and attendance.

As we head towards 2024, we still have some events left to come, and it would be great to see as many members and supporters there as possible. On Saturday 25 November, we are holding a quiz night (if you would like to attend, please email me at graham.21@me.com) and a Minced Pie and Milled Wine event on 9 December.

Graham Pratt
Membership Development Officer
North Bedfordshire Liberal Democrats.