

# Focus

European  
Election edition

**Tooting Graveney Ward**

**Editors:**  
Jeremy Ambache  
Stephanie Dearden  
Kate Lawrence  
Surinder Rhode



May/June 2009

## Tooting deserves better



Sarah Ludford MEP with Stephanie Dearden and Jeremy Ambache. "We need more hard working Lib Dem MEPs"

### Make **YOUR** voice heard on 4th June

Britain goes to the polls on Thursday 4th June. We are electing British representatives to go to the European Parliament. By voting you will make sure your voice is heard in Europe.

"The Liberal Democrats believe that we should work together with others in Europe," says Stephanie Dearden. "The economy, fighting crime and terrorism, stopping climate change – all these issues need to be tackled at a European level – and they affect people in Tooting."

London Lib Dem MEP Sarah Ludford says "People can really make their voice heard on June 4th by electing more hard working Lib Dem MEPs to stand up for our area in Europe. It's time we turned our back on Labour's failures and the Conservative ways of the past. We need to be positive about what Britain can achieve by working with other countries."

**STRONGER TOGETHER, POORER APART**

### Council rents: another Tory stealth tax

Local council tenants are shocked to find that the Council has put their rents up by an inflation busting 6%. This makes them the second highest in London. "Wandsworth Tories boast about low Council Tax, but look at the cost here in Tooting. High rents. High parking charges. Potholes everywhere. Uncleared rubbish and dog mess all over the place," says Stephanie Dearden. "And what are Labour doing about it: nothing."

Liberal Democrats say that there should be no Council Tax, and no sneaky local stealth taxes. Replace them with a fair and honest local income tax.

### Bring Back our Lollipop Lady!

Local residents are worried because the Franciscan Road lollipop lady service has stopped. There are real fears for the safety of children crossing this busy road. Focus understands that there already been one incident. "I have contacted the Council on this," says Surinder Rhode. "They the say the service has stopped because the person doing it retired. They are recruiting a replacement. I have urged the Council to sort this out quickly."



Surinder at the crossing point in Franciscan Road. "Residents are worried about safety."

**WORKING FOR YOU** *all year round*

## Your say in the local NHS

The local NHS is asking local people about how to improve health services here. "We are lucky to be near to a big hospital at St George's, but are local doctors' surgeries, health centres and pharmacies good enough?" asks Jeremy Ambache. The consultation covers "South Wandsworth", including Tooting and Balham. It starts in May and goes up until the 4th of August.

The Graveney Focus team has visited some of the local GP practices and we think that investment is badly needed! Also, we think that local residents should have easy access to a much wider range of health services within their GP surgeries. The more people that take part in this consultation the better.

Write to NHS Wandsworth at:

**FREEPOST RRUY-RALU-UJBC**

**Wandsworth Teaching PCT**

**Wimbledon Bridge House**

**1 Hartfield Road, London SW19 3RU**

email [comms@wpct.nhs.uk](mailto:comms@wpct.nhs.uk) or telephone

**020 8812 7605** and tell them what improvements you think are needed.

If you want to see the full consultation document please collect one from our office:

196 Franciscan Road, SW17. Or visit

**[www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.wandsworth-pct.nhs.uk)**

# Focus Action!

Following our article in Focus last time, Thames Water have fixed the sewer problem in **TOOTING HIGH STREET**. For years nothing was done about the smell and health hazard. As soon as the Focus team took it up, the problem was sorted. Local businessman Mehmet Abdi said "I found Stephanie and the team were very understanding to my needs". Thames Water would not comment.

Local residents from **CHASEFIELD ROAD** have contacted the Graveney Focus team because trees have been removed in this street and not replaced. Jeremy Ambache has pressed the Council to replace these trees urgently. Do let us know if you have a similar problem in your street.

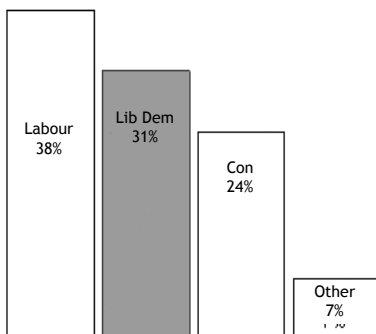
No less than two petitions against heavy lorries have been presented to the Council by local residents in **RECTORY LANE**. One, assisted by Focus, had 104 signatures, and an independent petition, organised by other residents, had 103. Enforcement is the Council's responsibility, and they say they are looking for better ways to do this. Watch this space!

Residents in **BYTON ROAD** asked Jeremy Ambache to help solve a problem of rubbish bags left out on the street being raided by foxes. This leaves a nasty mess on the street. Jeremy has met with the landlord of the flats concerned. The landlord has agreed to remind his tenants only to leave the rubbish out on the day it is due for collection.

During our last survey many residents raised the concern over the amount of **DOG MESS** still found on our streets. Stephanie has talked to the Council about the nuisance. Anyone wanting to make complaints to the council can do so by contacting Mark Callis, Dog Control, on 020 8871 7606 or can email [dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:dogcontrol@wandsworth.gov.uk).

## In Graveney it's Labour or the Liberal Democrats

Council elections are just a year away in 2010. Here in Graveney it is a straight fight between Labour and the Lib Dems. The Conservatives have been in third place since 1986. **Don't let the other parties confuse you with results from other elections!**



**Graveney ward election results May 2006**

**Get in touch! Email us at [graveney@wandsworthlibdems.org.uk](mailto:graveney@wandsworthlibdems.org.uk) call in at 196 Franciscan Road or phone 020 7223 8758**

**[www.wandsworthlibdems.org.uk](http://www.wandsworthlibdems.org.uk)**

## SUPPORT THE AGE CONCERN CHARITY SHOP

Jeremy Ambache and the Focus team support the local Age Concern shop. Jeremy sits on the Board of Age Concern Wandsworth and helps run the local Age Concern which provides a wide range of services to vulnerable and isolated older people.

The Age Concern charity shop is right in the middle of Graveney - at 112 Mitcham Road SW17. They welcome any donations of good quality ladies and menswear, accessories and paperback books. The shop accepts donations during our opening hours of 9.30am-5pm Monday - Saturday. Their telephone is 8682 3944.

Jeremy says: 'The Focus Team support Age Concern as your donations will help raise funds to support local elderly people.'

