

Greens celebrate 2 million votes in England and Wales as Green Wave rolls across Europe



27 May 2019

Huge support for 'yes to Europe, no to climate change'

European parliamentary group is third-largest

Green Party co-leader Jonathan Bartley has this morning celebrated his party's total vote in the European election topping 2 million.

Jonathan said: "The result of this election, with 12 per cent of the vote, a tally of more than 2 million, shows huge support for our message of 'yes to Europe, no to climate change'.

"To beat the Tory Party in a national election for the first time is just the icing on the cake."

Jonathan added: "The result in the UK is a reflection of what has happened across Europe. The Greens/EPA group in the European parliament is leaping to be the third-largest group, with great results from the German, French, Finnish and many other European green parties.

"The pollsters did not see approaching the 50% boost in the group to 75 seats that the voters have delivered.

"As our European parliamentary co-president Ska Keller told the BBC last night, we want to deliver on transformational climate action and the promise of social action in Europe.

"Austerity in the UK and far beyond has done great damage. The political philosophy that has allowed the wealth of the 1% to soar while many millions struggle is one of the key causes of the 2016 Brexit vote. It is causing great dissatisfaction with the politics-as-usual approach of the old parties

across Europe.

“Green politics is new, different and exciting. That’s a message that particularly has captured the imagination and votes of young people across Europe and I look forward to seeing what our great team of seven MEPs can achieve in Europe.”

Notes

Greens were elected for the first time as MEPs in the Eastern, North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber regions. Greens retained seats in London, the South East and the South West (where Molly Scott Cato was re-elected).

Greens topped the vote in Bristol, Norwich and Brighton and Hove and scored notable second places in Sheffield, Cambridge and Oxford.

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[Green Party says case for the People's Vote is now overwhelming](#)



27 May 2019

Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party of England and Wales, tonight said that the result of the European elections was a clear direction that the UK should call a People's Vote now, giving voters the chance to choose between remaining in the EU and leaving under a deal agreed with the EU.

Sian said: “Giving the people the final say over the country’s direction is

now clearly the only way forward, the way to draw a line under the Brexit chaos.

“The vote tally for clearly Remain parties is higher than for that of the Brexit Party and Ukip. The people have spoken.

“We are in a state of political crisis in the UK. But to understand that we need to look at the causes of the anger and frustration in Leave majority areas, Westminster austerity, our archaic Victorian voting system, and the concentration of power in London.

“We have to be tough on Brexit and the causes of Brexit.

“And we have to turn our focus to addressing the climate emergency, our social crisis that sees millions insecure and uncertain they’ll be able to feed and house themselves, the damage done to the NHS by privatisation and underfunding and the many problems in our education system.”

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[Greens more than double number of MEPs in spectacular European election result](#)



27 May 2019

The Green Party is tonight celebrating a spectacular election result that has seen its number of members of the European parliament in England double,

rising from three to seven.

The first Brussels Green Party representatives were elected in the Eastern, North West, West Midlands and Yorkshire and Humber regions. Greens seats were retained in London, the South East and the South West, where MEP Molly Scott Cato was re-elected.

The party finished fourth in the total vote, above the Conservative Party, the first time the Greens have beaten the Tories in a national election.

Sian Berry, co-leader of the Green Party, said: “Following on from our spectacular local election results where we more than doubled our representation, tonight’s result is proof of the size and power of the Green Wave that is sweeping across the country.

“Our message of ‘yes to Europe, no to climate change’ clearly resonated strongly with voters, many of whom will have been casting their vote for our party for the first time.

“We topped the poll in Bristol, Norwich and Brighton and Hove, and scored brilliant seconds in Sheffield, Cambridge and Oxford.

“We’ll be sending a wonderful team of people to Brussels who’ll be working for the transformation of our society so that it delivers the promise of a social Europe, one that cares for and supports its people, while living within the physical limits of our one fragile planet.”

Sian added: “There is clear evidence from this of strong support for the UK remaining in the European Union, but also for tackling the causes of Brexit – the massive damage done to so many communities by austerity, tax-dodging and diminution of workers’ rights.”

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[German candidate reflects on standing for the Green Party in the North West Region](#)



22 May 2019

Astrid Johnson, 55, is a candidate in the Green Party in the North West region in tomorrow's election.

Writing for Metro, she's reflected on the experience of being an EU27 candidate in these elections, and how she's felt since the 2016 referendum result.

She wrote: "I fell in love with England when I was 12 years old. I came for a language exchange, and immediately knew that I wanted to move to live here from my native Germany. I loved the easy-going politeness of the English people in comparison to the formalities of home.

"So over twenty years ago I left Germany to enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere of London. In 2009, I went to the Proms, and met my now husband.

"My step daughter is 19, and she wants to go and live in Paris. But without freedom of movement from the UK's membership of the EU, her options are likely to be much more limited than the ones I had when I was younger."

Astrid added: "I felt immediately at home when I moved to the UK, but since 2016 I've felt like 'a migrant'. This is my home, but I'm not being treated like it is.

"Applying for settled status is frightening and angering. Even the technology is not fit for purpose. Why do they tell me I have to have an Android phone? (I don't.)

"Why should I have to 'apply' to stay in my own home? Why did I not have a vote in 2016?

"Those with resources, skills and money will probably find a way through eventually, but what of those without the language skills, the computer knowledge, or the resources to navigate their way through the new 'settled status' procedure? What about their children, if they don't have sufficient documentation?"

Astrid concluded: "I want to improve life here in Manchester and the North

West, my home, to make things better for my neighbours, my community, the country in which I hope to live for the rest of my life. But I also see the EU as a way that we can make life better for people across Europe.”

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[Greens rally against hate in Burnley today](#)



21 May 2019

Green Party candidate for the North West region Gina Dowding, also a Lancashire County Councillor, will today be speaking at a rally in Burnley for a community preparing to resist messages of hatred and xenophobia.

Reports suggest that Stephen Yaxley Lennon, AKA Tommy Robinson, is coming to Burnley, and is likely to be in the ward of Green councillor Andy Fewings.

Andy is organising a rally in conjunction with local anti-racism organisations offering solidarity and support to the community and a strong anti-hate message.

He has invited Gina Dowding, lead candidate for the North West and a Lancashire County Councillor, to address it.

Gina said: “We have seen this carrier of the message of hate going from place to place across the North West, from Liverpool to Oldham, Warrington to Preston, seeking to fan the flames of bigotry.

“Now he is trying Burnley. But this town has already demonstrated that it is

united against the poisonous fiction that people can't stand together.

"The BNP has died in the town and shows no signs of making a comeback. Instead the Greens are rising, and following the local elections this month are now the second-largest group on the Council."

Gina added: "The Green Party stands for everything that he doesn't. We stand for hope not hate, for unity not division, for finding solutions to problems not blaming others for them.

"The Green Party, from local councils through to Brussels, offers positive leadership that looks to a brighter future, celebrating diversity."

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