

Meet our new party president

The new President of the Liberal Democrats is...

Mark Pack

Many congratulations to him on his election and commiserations to Christine Jardine. Both were superb candidates and fought an election in the best traditions of Liberal Democrat internal elections.

I'd also like to give my thanks also to the staff and volunteers who have been counting in Liberal Democrat HQ since early this morning and who have run this set of elections whilst also preparing for and playing their party in the General Election campaign.

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Author:

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Leaders evading scrutiny, whether it was Corbyn ducking phone-ins or Johnson hiding in a fridge.

Voters feeling forced to choose the least worst option, squeezing out positivity.

Even before it started, we saw an exodus of MPs, especially women, ground down by abuse, intimidation and threats.

I'm proud that the Liberal Democrats provided a welcoming home for those abandoned by their parties, those who were hounded out, like Luciana Berger.

Though sadly the results have seen us lose Luciana from Parliament and many other talented MPs such as Tom Brake, Sam Gyimah, Chuka Umunna, Jane Dodds. I'm so sorry I couldn't get them re-elected.

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A Labour party mired in anti-Semitism, complaints unresolved, the Jewish community fearful. It took Labour months to expel a member who wrote about gassing Jews. When Alastair Campbell voted Lib Dem, they kicked him out in just 2 days.

Brexit party representatives filmed talking about being 'outbred' by Muslims and revelling in a story about plans to encase a pig's head in concrete in the foundations of a mosque. **Watching that footage, I felt sick.** Yet this is the party that has handed Boris Johnson the keys to number 10.

The Conservatives are failing on Islamophobia, and the Prime Minister willingly received the endorsement of Tommy Robinson, Britain's biggest racist.

Many people will look at the last few weeks, at these results and be filled with dread about the future of our country.

If we want to be that open-minded, warm-hearted society, we need to stand up, join together, and fight for it.

I understand. **I am worried too.**

This goes beyond our future relationship with the European Union. It is about our relationships with one another in the United Kingdom.

Do we value every individual for who they are? Are we an open, welcoming, inclusive society?

I still believe we are, at heart, or at the very least that we can be.

But there are many forces that seek to divide us, to allow resentment and fear to fester.

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I'm proud in this election to have fought for what we – and millions of people – believe is the best future for our country: remaining in the European Union.

When 19 Labour MPs helped pass Johnson's Brexit deal in the House of Commons, it was clear we had to act. We forced Johnson to request an extension to Article 50, but without Labour's support, couldn't assemble a majority for a People's Vote, leaving a General Election as the only chance to remain in the EU.

So I did not shirk the debates and the phone-ins, I turned up to the interviews, and I stood up proudly for our beliefs. I'm proud that Liberal Democrats have been the unapologetic voice of Remain in this election, giving people the chance to choose to stop Brexit.

But I don't regret trying.

Obviously it hasn't worked. And I, like you, am devastated about that. **But I don't regret trying.**

Trying everything. Because the prize was to save our future, our children's future, in Europe, where we can work together to tackle the climate emergency, trade freely to boost our living standards, and be a strong beacon for human rights around the world.

We have been true to ourselves, and true to our liberal values.

And as your leader I have been true to myself, too.

As a Scot, a Brit, a European.

As a liberal, a humanist, a feminist.

As a daughter, sister, wife, and a mum to two small kids.

Being myself, whether people attacked my vision or my voice, my ideas or my earrings.

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I'm proud to have been the first woman to lead the Liberal Democrats, and

even more proud that I know I won't be the last.

In Sarah, Wera, Layla and Christine we have 4 fantastic and experienced women MPs. In Daisy, Munira and Wendy we have exciting new talent. They will take the Commons by storm, I'm just sad I won't be with them.

As I've travelled the country during this campaign, I have loved meeting so many Lib Dem members and activists. **The teams really have been extraordinary, with our party at our highest membership numbers in our history.**

You have shone with optimism, courage and determination. Thank you all for everything you have done.

And I'd like to say a special thank you to my staff, both in my leader's office and in my constituency. You are all amazing.

Together, we have refused to simply be spectators, sitting on the sidelines while our country heads down a damaging path, of which Brexit is only the first step.

Our country is in the grip of populism, with nationalism resurgent in all its forms.

It is easy to despair. But I say let's foster hope instead.

In Rebecca Solnit's *Hope in the Dark*, she quotes Vaclav Havel:

"The kind of hope I often think about, I understand above all as a state of mind, not a state of the world... Hope in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success, but, rather, an ability to work for something because it is good, not just because it stands a chance to succeed."

She then goes on to say:

"Hope is not a door, but a sense that there might be a door at some point, some way out of the problems of the present moment even before that way is found or followed."

There will be a door, there will be a way out of this nationalist surge, and we have to work together to find it.

It's a huge job to be done, the answer is that we step up, we organise, we join together. Though I won't be your leader, I will be walking alongside you.

We will reflect, regroup and refresh. We must continue to grow our liberal movement, both attracting Lib Dem members, and by reaching out to work with those who share our values, wherever they are.

All of us who share an alternative vision for society have a responsibility to learn from this result, and find new answers.

Next week is the shortest day.

We will see more light in the future.

Join us for that journey.

Let's explore the way together, with hope in our hearts.

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Author:

I'm angry

I'm tired, I'm sad and I'm frustrated.

In 6 seats, we were less than a thousand votes away from winning. That is agonising. Some of these campaigns saw increases in vote share of 20-30% – an extraordinary leap forward, achieved by hard work from fantastic teams.

We lost three outstanding MPs. Jane Dodds in Brecon and Radnorshire, Tom Brake in Carshalton and Wallington and of course, Jo Swinson in East Dunbartonshire.

We are still coming to terms with these three results. Jo missed out by just 149 votes. To have lost our Leader so soon after she was elected is a very bitter blow.

And on top of all that, we have a Boris Johnson majority Government.

Despite these disappointments, **we got 1.2 million more votes yesterday** than in the last General Election. Our vote was up 4% across the country. We have now established ourselves in close second places in a string of seats. We held three of our Scottish seats despite the SNP's best efforts, and kept

three London MPs against the Tory surge.

We elected 11 brilliant MPs:

Alistair Carmichael in Orkney and Shetland

Christine Jardine in Edinburgh West

Daisy Cooper in St Albans

Ed Davey in Kingston and Surbiton

Jamie Stone in Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

Layla Moran in Oxford West and Abingdon

Munira Wilson in Twickenham, taking over from Vince Cable

Sarah Olney in Richmond Park, retaking the seat from the Conservatives

Tim Farron in Westmorland and Lonsdale

Wendy Chamberlain in North East Fife – which we lost by 2 votes last time!

Wera Hobhouse in Bath

That is a talented team and I know they will make their voices heard in Parliament against the new Conservative Government.

After any election, there are lessons to learn – and believe me, we will be thinking a lot about our results over the next weeks and months. But we were honest and open with voters about our vision, and I stand by that decision.

Let's all get some sleep and some rest. And then let's get ready to hold this Prime Minister to account.

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Author:

Britain still needs the Liberal Democrats

We wake this morning to a double blow. A Conservative majority Government, hell-bent on pushing Brexit through, and the loss of our Leader, Jo Swinson from Parliament.

First, let me pay tribute to Jo. Her declaration speech in the early hours of this morning moved us all. Focusing on the future of our country and, importantly, standing by our principles and values as a Party. She will make a formal statement later today.

Parliament and our party will sorely miss her determination, passion and talent.

If you are wondering what happens now, Ed Davey will act as temporary Leader in the Commons and our Party President, Sal Brinton will help fulfil the

other functions of Leader for the wider Party. Together they will jointly assume the Leadership functions of the party.

There are some wonderful gains amongst the shocking loss. Seeing talented people like Munira Wilson, Wendy Chamberlain and Daisy Cooper win, and Sarah Olney retake her seat – is something from which we can collectively draw strength.

We have achieved astonishing rises in vote share in places like Esher and Walton, Wimbledon, South Cambridgeshire and so many more. There is much we can build on from here, and we will be careful to learn the lessons to build for the future.

As I write, there are still some results yet to come in, so we will send you another update later.

Britain still needs the Liberal Democrats, today more than ever.

Thank you for everything that you have done during the course of this campaign and for the cause of Remain.

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[Every Vote Counts](#)

We've been fighting Brexit since day one.

We've asked Parliament to support a confirmatory referendum (a People's Vote) on Brexit **17 times** – and we're not going to stop. We've got another motion **ready to go** as soon as Parliament returns.

Every single Liberal Democrat MP elected today will work to stop Brexit.

But there are just 3 hours left to elect Liberal Democrat MPs who will stop Brexit.

Have you voted today?

[Yes!](#)

[Not yet](#)

Only the Liberal Democrats can take significant seats from the Conservatives today.

Thank you so much for your support. With your help, we can stop Boris, stop

Brexit and build a brighter future.

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