

## NOT THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

We underline we are not the Liberal Democrats. The Liberals have a long history behind many social improvements. Lloyd George introduced the State Pension; Beveridge designed the NHS; Keynes showed that government spending was needed to stop a recession hurting the vulnerable. ConDem austerity policies are hurting the poor, the sick and the young. This is not a Liberal approach – it is the destruction of our social fabric.



### JOHN CLARK

- Farms in Cropton.
- Member of Ryedale District Council since 2003.
- Member of North Yorkshire County Council since 2009.
- Challenges the Tories on both Ryedale and North Yorkshire County Councils.

### JOHN CLARK'S PROMISES

Only three:

1. **To work hard.**
2. **Be honest.**
3. **To ask the awkward questions.**

Want to help? Please contact:

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**LIBERALS: ACTION NOT PROMISES**

## No To AUSTERITY

### John Clark Writes:

In 1945 Britain was worse off than the present crisis. However successive governments did not go down the austerity route.

- The NHS was created—hospitals and surgeries were built.
- Welfare benefits were increased over successive parliaments.
- Council houses were built in their millions.
- Support was given to farming so as to massively increase food production.
- Taxes were raised on luxuries.
- Shortages were rationed.

Compare this with the present mess.

- The NHS has massively increased needs and is now creaking at the seams.
- Welfare benefits have been cut and are about to be savaged even further.
- Social house building is at its lowest level for years and is nowhere near covering need.
- Farmers are forced to sell milk at less than the cost of production—leading to decreased production and increase in imports.
- VAT has been increased on essentials.
- Shortages are created for the poor.
- Vast numbers of people, including those with jobs, are forced to use Food Banks.
- Reduced funding to Local Government results in cuts to libraries, buses, music in schools etc.

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**Liberal for Thirsk and Malton**

**John CLARK**

**X**

**ELECTION COMMUNICATION**

## TRANSPORT

I am completely opposed to HS2.

- Railways should be brought back into full public ownership.
- More freight must be moved from roads to rail.

## Living WAGE

- The minimum wage needs to be a 'living wage' over £10 per hour.
- There must be a maximum wage of, say, 5 times the 'living wage'.
- High salaries do not guarantee the best—just support the greediest.

## HOUSING

Britain has become addicted to the Housing Market.

As Britain has an aging population the need for an ever increasing number of houses is questionable. Ryedale has an older than average population. Outside 'market forces' drive young people out of Ryedale.

- Affordable housing must be built for and retained by the local people.
- Second 'homes' must be taxed heavily like other luxuries.
- Ryedale does not need more 'unaffordable housing'.

## PEACE AND JUSTICE

Liberals call for:

- A stronger UN.
- An end to following in the wake of any more G. Bushes.
- British nuclear disarmament.
- A total ban on the sale of all arms.
- An end to all imprisonment without 'fair' trial.
- A ban on any evidence that has or may have been obtained by torture.

## ENVIRONMENT

The environment is more important than any other issue. Everything humans do depends on it. Meanwhile, climate change continues.

- Fossil fuel use must be dramatically reduced.
- Liberals completely oppose all fracking—it's a threat to water quality, farming and tourism.
- No to GM crops.



## FOOD AND FARMING

- The nations health, welfare and economy all need people to eat good quality food. This must include schools, hospitals, prisons, care homes as well as home.
- Farmers must receive a guaranteed farmgate price above the cost of production. To quote from our 2005 election address.
- Multimillion pound profits for supermarkets while producers are driven out is wrong.

## EUROPE

- Liberals oppose 'a centralised single state'.
- Our policy is to reduce the EU grip.
- Re-negotiation must make dramatic changes—if not then Britain should vote to leave the EU.

[www.thirskandmaltonliberals.org.uk](http://www.thirskandmaltonliberals.org.uk)



## HEALTH

- Finally the other parties are beginning to accept the Liberal policy of combining health and social care.
- The NHS must be in public ownership.
- The privatisation started under Tony Blair must stop.
- Britain must train and recruit more NHS nurses, doctors and dentists.
- The series of crises needs more investment, not squeezing nurses pay or trying to achieve 100% bed occupancy.

## PENSIONS

The level of the State Retirement Pension is a disgrace.

- A pension for a couple should be over £200 per week (if at 1980 levels)
  - There is at present a shortfall of £4000 per year per couple—this applies to all pensioners.
  - Means testing pensioners results in:
    - those who have saved losing out
    - over a million low income pensioners suffering
- Income Tax should be increased to cover this abuse of Britain's elderly.

## EDUCATION

- Education must be empowerment, not a state imposition.
  - Oppose the national Curriculum—it is a dangerous power for central government.
  - Abolish league tables—reduce testing to a minimum.
  - Abolish tuition fees and reintroduce student grants.
- Education is not a commodity to be bought only by those who can afford. An educated population is a national asset.