

# FOCUS

**Your Local Newsletter**



**No. 255**

## Council is letting down our children



Two damning reports released at the end of last year show that the results from Primary schools in Waltham Forest are some of the worst in the country and the worst in London.

Primary education figures show that we have been below the national average for two years and a recent Ofsted report has shown that our children are now the least likely to be able to attend a good or outstanding primary school. Of the 150 authorities across the country Waltham Forest is the 11th worst authority and along with Hackney we are the worst in London. Money spent on fireworks and other events can't hide the fact that this Labour Council is letting our children down.

**Focus says:** *Every parent in Waltham Forest should be able to say that their child attends a good or outstanding Primary School.*

*There are excellent schools and excellent teachers in our borough but many schools do not get the help from this Labour Council to overcome the difficulties they face.*

*We don't believe more Academies are the answer but we do need better local leadership to deliver a better education for our Borough's children. It cannot be right that our children are the least likely in the country and in London to be able to attend a good or outstanding primary school.*

**Lib Dem Focus Team  
Service & Action  
All Year Round**

### More Money for Our Schools

In government the **Liberal Democrats** introduced the **Pupil Premium**. This is additional money put into our schools to help the more disadvantaged children.

Schools can use this money as they think best — catch-up classes, one-to-one tuition, extra IT support, etc.

This year the pupil premium will rise to £900 per pupil. This will bring an extra £12,603,000 in to Waltham Forest schools.

**Focus** understands that **Buxton School** has been allocated £587,700. Using this money wisely will give all our children a much better start in life.



### Community Ward Forum

The next meeting of the community ward forum will be on

**Monday 18 March.** It will be held in the **Epicentre**, just off Cathall Road, at the top of West Street, and will start at 7.30pm.

### New round of Funding

The Community Ward Forum will once again be awarding local groups a share of £10,000 to support their activities during 2013.

If you know of a voluntary group that could benefit from some money contact **Lib Dem Cllr Liz Phillips** at [cllr.liz.phillips@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.liz.phillips@walthamforest.gov.uk) with your suggestions or email the Town Hall for an application form from [Penny.Allier@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Penny.Allier@walthamforest.gov.uk)

Please be quick as applications have to be in before 1st February.

### Planning News

#### Woodhouse Tavern

The Planning Committee refused consent for the **Woodhouse Tavern** to be demolished and the



erection of a four storey building comprising 14 flats. The reasons for refusal included: loss of a public house, proposed

building too high and insufficient parking on site.

#### 8 Winchelsea Road

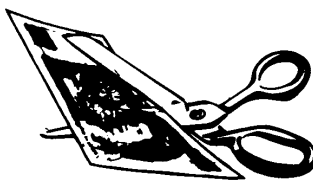
This building was converted into flats without planning permission. The Council's planning officers then refused a retrospective application, but it went to appeal.

**Cllr Liz Phillips** has written to the Planning Inspector asking him to refuse the appeal. Focus will report the outcome.

# More Cuts in Income Tax

One of the main targets of the **Liberal Democrats** when they went into government was to raise the income tax threshold to £10,000.

This means that anyone earning under that amount would be taken out of tax altogether and anyone over that amount would pay less, leaving more money in their pay packet.



In April this year the threshold is being raised a step nearer to £9,440. This will mean that 20 million workers will pay £600 less income tax this year. So far 2.2 million of the lowest paid workers have been taken out of the tax system.

**Focus says**, "Cuts in the amount of income tax we pay can only be good and a move in the right direction".

## Liberal Democrat Focus Team Service & Action All Year Round

### Let's be neighbourly in 2013

**Focus Team member Rupert Alexander** is aware of a website: [www.streetlife.com](http://www.streetlife.com) - this website provides readers with a free simple place to voice opinions, and share local knowledge, advice, skills and belongings with people living nearby.

Rupert says: "Having joined **streetlife.com**, the site appears to promote neighbourliness and encourage a supportive and friendly community. Also, people who are busy and less mobile may find connecting online makes them feel more involved and included."

**Joining is simple** – sign up at [www.streetlife.com](http://www.streetlife.com) with your postcode and email address. You will be automatically linked to people and conversations where you live.

### Can you help deliver Focus Newsletter

The Cann Hall Focus Team would like to hear from you if you can spare an hour every six weeks to deliver the popular **Focus Newsletter** in a street near your home. Please contact a member of the Team for more information. Thank you.



### We Want to Hear From YOU

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I think something should be done about ...*

**Please return to THE FOCUS TEAM, 53 SANSOM ROAD E11 3HD**

The Liberal Democrats may contact you from time to time to keep you informed on issues we think you may find of interest. Please let us know if you do not wish the information above to be used for this purpose.

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## Liberal Democrat Councillors Surgery

2nd & 4th Saturday every month  
(except bank holidays)  
between 10.00am and 12.00 noon at:  
**Buxton Primary Phase School**,  
(formerly Cann Hall School)  
corner Woodhouse Road/Cann Hall Road  
No appointments necessary

### Your Right to Vote



The new electoral register was published on 1st December 2012.

In order to vote your name needs to be on the register. If you did not fill in your form during August/September 2012 or have recently moved in contact **Electoral Registrations** on **8496 3000** in order to get a registration form.

### Jig Saw Puzzles

**Lib Dem Focus Team member Clyde Kitson** enjoys doing jig saw puzzles during the winter months.

He regularly swaps them with neighbours.

If you enjoy the same hobby, and would like to swap any of your jig saw puzzles please get in touch with Clyde (details below).

Jig saws tend to be between 500-1500 pieces and in good condition.



### Contacting your local Lib Dem Focus Team

**Cllr Liz Phillips - 8556 4444**  
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**Liberal Democrats - Working All Year Round**