



# GRINS CAN ONLY GET **BETTER**

Sunak's gamble backfires as Starmer wins a Labour landslide

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## Bullish Farage finally achieves MP dream

By Tacita Quinn

Nigel Farage has warned the Labour Party that he and Reform UK are coming for them.

The 60-year-old was elected in a landslide victory as the parliamentary member for Clacton following seven previous attempts to become an MP.

Since the announcement he was taking over as leader of Reform, Farage has overseen a considerable rise in support for the party over the last month culminating in them winning four seats.

As well as Clacton, they were elected in Great Yarmouth, Boston & Skegness and Ashfield.

Farage immediately hit out at the Labour Party, saying they will now target Labour Votes.

He said: "There's no enthusiasm for Labour, there's no enthusiasm for Starmer whatsoever.

"In fact, about half of the vote is simply an anti-Conservative vote.

"This Labour government will be in trouble very very quickly – we're coming for Labour, be in no doubt about that."

On the Conservatives, he said: "This is the beginning of the end of the Conservative Party.

"To have done this in such a short space of time says something very fundamental is happening."

In Clacton, Farage gained a majority of 8,405 votes, over the Conservative Party candidate Giles Watling, who in the 2019 election had a majority of 24,692 votes.

The outspoken former Conservative Party deputy chairman Lee Anderson secured Reform its first seat of the night in Ashfield, having defected to Reform in January.

In his speech he thanked the people of Ashfield for re-electing him under a different party, and surmised that the win can be seen as part of an election night reckoning.

Reform UK also won seats in Great Yarmouth and in Boston and Skegness, with Rupert Lowe and Richard Tice winning seats.

Tice said: "This really is quite extraordinary what we have achieved.

"Just three years ago as Reform UK nobody had heard of us, we were 0% in the polls."

The rise and appeal of Reform UK will no doubt be felt keenly by the Conservative Party who suffered significant losses across the country due to Reform UK splitting the right-wing vote.

# CHANGE STARTS NOW VOWS PM STARMER

## We will rebuild Britain and fight until you believe again

By Amelia Stout  
in Westminster

The UK woke today to a Labour government for the first time in 14 years, following a historic landslide defeat for the Conservative Party.

The Labour leader and soon-to-be Prime Minister Keir Starmer said in his victory speech: "We did it, you campaigned for it, you fought for it, you voted for it, and now it has arrived. Change begins now.

"Across our country, people will be waking up to the news, relieved that a weight has been lifted, a burden finally removed from the shoulders of this great nation.

"Now we can look forward, walk into the morning, the sunlight of hope, pale at first but getting stronger through the day, shining once again on a country with the opportunity after 14 years to get its future back."

Deputy Leader Angela Rayner also made an impassioned speech after regaining her seat in Ashton-under-Lyne earlier in the night.

She told her constituents: "From the first day you placed your trust in me, it's been a great privilege to represent you in Parliament. I'm proud to have support right across our community but I'll never take it for granted.

"So let me say to all those parents doing the most important job there is, raising the next generation, to the small businesses that tirelessly toll every day in the engine room of our economy, to the working people who are the bedrock of our country, there is no greater honour than to serve you."

After holding onto his seat, shortly before Labour achieved the necessary 326 seats, outgoing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded that the result of the election was already certain.

With 412 seats and counting, the landslide victory hails a new dawn for the Labour party, which suffered its worst defeat since 1935 at the last election.

Amid a slew of notable gains across the country, Labour ousted a number of big names in the Conservative party, including Liz Truss, Penny Mordaunt and Grant Shapps.

Despite the historic victory, the party did endure disappointing defeats in some areas.

Among these were Chingford and Woodford Green and Islington North, after Starmer controversially kicked former Labour MPs Faiza Shaheen and Jeremy Corbyn out of the party prior to the election, forcing them to run as independents.

In vote share terms, Labour only secured 34% of total votes, only narrowly surpassing Jeremy Corbyn's 32% vote share in his notorious 2019 defeat.



CHEERS: Labour supporters in Glasgow celebrate a series of big wins in Scotland (Reuters)

Pollster Sir John Curtice told the BBC: "This looks more like an election the Conservatives have lost than one Labour have won."

Sunak travelled to Buckingham Palace at lunchtime to start to formal process of handing over power to Starmer.

Later, as persistent rain gave way to watery sunshine, Starmer arrived at Downing Street, where he was greeted by scores of campaign staff and MPs - many now eyeing new ministerial appointments, with the process of filling the Cabinet starting immediately.

After playing tribute to Sunak as the first British Asian to hold the role of PM, Starmer added: "We need to move forward together. This wound, this lack of trust in politics, can only be healed by actions, not words, but we can make a start today.

"Your government will treat every single person in this country with respect.

"Whether you voted Labour or not, especially if you did not, my government will serve you.

"Politics can be a force for good and we will show that. We will govern as country first, party second.

"Our country needs a bigger reset, a rediscovery of who we are. One of the strengths of this nation has always been our ability to navigate away to calmer waters.

"We've turned a blind eye as millions slid into greater insecurity. To those people I say, not this

time. Changing a country is not like flicking a switch, it will take a while but the work of change begins immediately.

"We will rebuild Britain. Brick by brick we will rebuild the infrastructure of opportunity.

"My government will fight every day until you believe again. We are unburdened by doctrine, we are governed only by the determination to serve your interest.

"You have given us a clear mandate and we will use it to deliver change.

"We will unite our country, four nations standing together again, facing down the challenges of an insecure world.

"With respect and humility I invite you to join this government of service in the mission of national renewal.

"Our work is urgent and we begin it today."

Meanwhile, the Liberal Democrats enjoyed their best result for over a hundred years under leader Ed Davey.

Davey, who earlier in the night retained his seat in Kingston and Surbiton, said: "During this campaign I've told you about my own story of caring, and being a carer, for much of my life, and I want to thank all the people who've responded in such generosity.

"I promise you, having put it at the heart of our agenda, we are now going to work on health and care."



ALL SMILES: New PM Keir Starmer thanks supporters





# LOSER SUNAK SEES HIS GAMBLE FLOP

By Tom Judge

The Conservatives have had the worst general election result in the history of the party, with a slew of former and present cabinet ministers and household Tory names losing their seats.

With two seats still to count, they are currently projected to get under 24% of the vote, and just 121 seats.

The biggest Portillo moment of the night came when former Prime Minister Liz Truss lost her previously safe seat of South West Norfolk to Labour's Terry Jermy.

Truss was Prime Minister for just 49 days in 2022, and oversaw the Tory mini-budget which caused financial panic, ousting her as PM and tanking the Conservative polling on an irrecoverable scale.

Departing Prime Minister Rishi Sunak did retain his seat of Richmond and Northallerton, despite doubt from some pollsters.

Sunak said: "The Labour Party has won this general election, and I have called Sir Keir Starmer to congratulate him on his victory.

"The British people have delivered a sober verdict tonight, there is much to learn and reflect on, and I take responsibility for the loss.

"To the many good hard working Conservative candidates who have lost tonight, despite their tireless efforts, their local records of delivery, and their dedication to their community, I am sorry."

In truth Sunak has looked resigned to his fate for weeks, with a campaign pitted with mistakes and missteps - in particular his decision to skip the D-Day anniversary events for a political interview.

He later said he would stay on as Conservative leader, until a new leader can be found and insisted he would not be stepping back from his role as a constituency MP in Richmond, a decision that surprised many.

The night has seen eight current cabinet ministers and another four senior ministers lose their seats.

Alex Chalk, the former Justice Secretary, was the first casualty of the night, losing Cheltenham to the Liberal Democrats by 7210 votes.

Defence Secretary Grant



SHAMBLES: Rishi Sunak survived in his Richmond constituency but many cabinet colleagues lost their seats (Reuters)

Shapps, Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer, and Education Secretary Gillian Keegan were high-profile names to have lost their seats.

Keegan walked off the stage as her Liberal Democrat opponent, Jess Brown Fuller, gave her acceptance speech.

Shapps said: "I want to pay tribute to the selfless courage of the men and women who served in our armed forces.

"I am extremely concerned that unless we quickly commit to spending 2.5% in GDP on defence,

our armed forces may suffer, and so will our friends in Ukraine."

Former leadership contender and leader of the house Penny Mordaunt lost her Portsmouth North seat.

The former MP was tipped to run again for leadership of the party if she retained her seat.

She said: "The Conservative party has taken a battering, because it failed to honour the trust that people had placed in it.

"You can speak all you like of security and freedom, but you can't

have either if you are afraid.

"Afraid about the cost of living, or accessing healthcare, or whether the responsibility you shoulder will be recognised and rewarded.

"That fear steals the future, and it only makes the present matter, and that is why we lost."

Former Business Secretary Jacob Rees-Mogg also lost his seat in North East Somerset and Hanham to Dan Norris, the same man he took it from in 2010.

On losing his seat, Rees-Mogg said: "From the ashes of disaster

grow the roses of success."

Theresa May's Maidenhead seat, which she retired from at this election, also went to the Liberal Democrats.

Veterans' Minister Johnny Mercer, Transport Secretary Mark Harper, and Chief Whip Simon Hart all lost their seats.

Also, the highly recognisable Conservative MP Michael Fabricant lost his seat in Lichfield, and Truss' former Deputy Prime Minister Thérèse Coffey lost her Suffolk Coastal seat.

## Davey delight with his surging Dems

By Abi Fisher

Liberal Democrat leader Ed Davey said the party was having its 'best result for a century' as it broke records last night.

Exceeding exit poll predictions, the party scored 71 seats overnight, up from just 11 in 2019 - when party leader Jo Swinson even lost her seat - and eight in 2015, when they paid the price of the involvement in David Cameron's coalition government.

The Lib Dems toppled Cabinet ministers across the country including Justice Secretary Alex Chalk, Education Secretary Gillian Keegan, Culture Secretary Lucy Frazer, and Science Secretary Michelle Donelan.

Keegan's Chichester seat had a 21,500 majority in 2019 and had been held by the Conservatives for a century.

Across London, the party won six seats, doubling their representation in the capital.

Posting on X as polls closed last night, Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey said: "The Liberal Democrats are on course for our best results in a century, thanks to our positive campaign with health and care at its heart.

"I am humbled by the millions of people who backed us to both kick the Conservatives out of power and deliver the change our country needs."

Davey increased his majority in Kingston and Surbiton from 11,000 to 17,000.

In his acceptance speech, he said: "Many have turned to the Liberal Democrats, many of them for the first time and we want to be your champions."

Nearby, Paul Kohler took Wimbledon with more than 45% of the vote and more votes than the Conservative and Labour candidates combined.

A sharp decline in Conservative support saw Sarah Olney get over 55% of the vote in Richmond Park.

The party's clean sweep of the south west continued with Bobby Dean in Carshalton and Wallington, and Munira Wilson holding her seat in Twickenham - London's south-west now a stronghold for the party.

Luke Taylor won Sutton and Cheam, ending nine years of Conservative power.

The results break records previously set under Charles Kennedy in 2005 when the party secured 62 seats.

These results are the conclusion of a campaign characterised by stunts involving Davey, featuring paddleboards and bungee jumping.

They were tactics that were praised and criticised in equal measure but they were successful in delivering coverage previous Lib Dem efforts had not secured.

Party officials were also recognised in the dissolution peerages list, published shortly before polls closed last night.

Caroline Pidgeon MBE, leader of the Liberal Democrats in the London Assembly, received a peerage.

## Green revolution as party enjoys best ever result

By Wang Sum Luk

The Green Party quadrupled its seats in Parliament in the election, with a party co-leader unseating Labour's shadow culture secretary.

The party surprised commentators by not only holding its existing seat, but winning one constituency from Labour and two from the Conservatives.

Its co-leaders Adrian Ramsay and Carla Denyer both won seats, with Denyer defeating shadow culture secretary Thangam Debbonaire in Bristol Central.

Denyer said: "I'm feeling over the moon and so grateful for all of the support we received from voters in Bristol Central and across the country.

"We went into this election with an ambitious but realistic target to

quadruple our number of MPs.

"The voters have spoken, I think this is the direction of travel for Greens from now on."

Despite being on Labour's opposition front bench, Debbonaire lost by more than 10,000 votes.

After Adrian Ramsay defeated Conservative candidate Richard Rout in Waveney Valley, he said:

"Today we have made history. I am profoundly humbled by the

faith placed in me by the people of Waveney Valley and their embrace of our message of hope and positivity."

In North Herefordshire, Ellie Chowns unseated Conservative Bill Wiggin, a notable result compared to 2019's election, where she only received 9.3% of the vote.

Chowns said: "A historic night for the Green Party - I can't wait to get started."

Former London Assembly member Siân Berry won in Brighton Pavilion, held by Green MP Caroline Lucas before her retirement.

She said: "I promise to work hard as your new Green MP and make sure your voices are heard. I'm infinitely grateful to Caroline Lucas for her support throughout the campaign, and for being such a model of how to be an effective MP for Brighton and the country."





## Dean: Cost of living is our top priority

By Cressi Sowerbutts

At 3:07 this morning, The Mayor of Sutton announced that leafy south west London suburb Carshalton and Wallington had been won by the Liberal Democrats in a landslide after the party lost narrowly to the Conservatives in 2019.

Newly elected MP Bobby Dean won 20,156 votes in the constituency, with Conservative incumbent Elliott Colburn only securing 12,221 votes.

Dean, a Carshalton resident who grew up in council estates in the area, has pledged to stop health-care cuts to St Helier hospital, cost of living support, and to reverse pollution in the River Wandle.

He said: "I'm feeling humbled. People from families like mine don't often end up in politics, so I'm feeling quite a big sense of responsibility for that. But I'm excited and ready to get on with the job."

"We'll be working on the priorities that people spoke to us about on their doorsteps, number one being the NHS, in particular our local hospital St Helier. The future of that hospital has been up in the air for too long."

"The cost of living crisis is also still a priority, people are really struggling, and we'll be campaigning a lot for the state of our local river, and the pollution levels in the Wandle."

Considered part of the stockbroker belt, the area is a largely affluent demographic with issues centred around minimal social housing, healthcare funding cuts, and environmental pollution.

Carshalton and Wallington has been a Liberal Democrat/Tory marginal since 1997, with Colburn securing a narrow 629 vote margin in 2019, one of the tightest majorities in the capital.

While Colburn was a prominent figure in the community (and aged just 26 at the time of his victory), ultimately the Conservatives lost out, and the seat has been claimed once more by the Liberal Democrats.

Colburn said: "It's been truly the honour of my life to be the MP for the place that I've been calling home since I was born."

"It is a wrench to leave, of course it's a wrench to leave, but I'm so proud of what we've managed to achieve together, and I'm so proud of my time in a role that I did not think I would do at that age."

For the Liberal Democrats, however, the win signals a positive future for the party.

Dean said: "It's looking much better than it was before. It's certainly going to be a bigger result than we have had in the last three or four elections."

"We put the NHS and social care right at the heart of our manifesto, and people are responding to that."

The Lib Dems surged in south west London, also winning in neighbouring Sutton and Cheam as well as toppling the Tories in Wimbledon.

# MUNIRA DELIGHT IN LIB DEMS SURGE

## Three gains across the capital in gold rush

By Hana Rajabally

Re-elected Twickenham MP Munira Wilson says she wants to make children a top priority in the new government.

In what was a fantastic night for the Liberal Democrats, they enjoyed huge victories in Twickenham and Richmond Park, as the party surged throughout south west London and the country.

Wilson defended the Twickenham seat with 30,185 votes, a majority of more than 20,000 over Conservative candidate Jonathan Hulley's 8,728 votes.

In Richmond Park, Sarah Olney increased her majority over the Conservatives by almost 10,000 votes as she won 55.5% of the vote.

Wilson said: "I want to keep working on many of the issues that I was working on in the last parliament."

"Not least children's mental health which is in crisis not just here in Twickenham but right across the country."

"I want to see children as a far greater priority for the new government because they've been utterly neglected by the last government."

"I'm just truly grateful to the residents of Twickenham for putting their trust in me in huge numbers."

Wilson said she was delighted by the national result of the Liberal Democrats, who have gained more than 70 seats in this general election, a huge increase from the 2019 election.

She said: "We're taking Conservative constituencies all across the country and again we're just humbled that millions of voters have put their trust in the Liberal Democrats."

"They've elected strong local Liberal Democrat champions to represent them fighting on issues that people care about."

"We put health and care front and centre in our manifesto along with ending the sewage scandal and the cost-of-living crisis, and I think people have responded to that in droves as we can see from the results across the country."

"We're just absolutely delighted and we're determined to hold the new Labour government to ac-



RE-ELECTED: Munira Wilson was returned for the second time in new Lib Dem stranglehold, Twickenham

count every day in parliament"

In both of these south-west London constituencies, the Conservative party's share of the vote dropped by nearly 20%, allowing for the huge majorities enjoyed by both Liberal Democrat candidates.

In Richmond Park in particular, the Conservative vote dropped from 26,793 in 2019 to 11,373.

Olney said: "I am feeling quite overwhelmed actually, it's a huge result, and I just feel so grateful

and proud that the people of Richmond Park have re-elected me as their MP"

Regarding her huge majority, she admitted: "It hasn't really sunk in. It's such a privilege to be the MP for Richmond Park, it really really is."

"I think that people have come out and voted for me this time round on the basis of my record. It's really special."

Olney said that the upswing in

Liberal Democrat gains nationally attests to the resurgence of the party as a serious political contender again, following the disastrous results of the centrist party back in 2015.

She said: "I'm so delighted. We're back as a major political force in the UK."

"We've had a tough few years but we are completely back."

"We've run a really brilliant campaign, a really optimistic, focused-

on-the-issues campaign, and I think people have really responded to that."

"I cannot wait to hear from my new colleagues when I go back to parliament next week and I'm so excited and grateful that people have voted for the Liberal Democrats across the country. The Liberal Democrats are a force to be reckoned with in this new Parliament. We will hold the new government's feet to the fire."

## Philp defies polls to hang onto Croydon South

By Wang Sum Luk

Chris Philp was surprised yet delighted to keep hold of his Croydon South seat, as he admitted the Conservatives need to do better.

The former Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire, defied the exit poll's prediction and retained his place in parliament ahead of Labour's Ben Taylor. The exit poll

had earlier predicted the Conservatives would lose Croydon East, West, and South, but while Croydon East and West were retained by Labour, Philp won his constituency by more than 2,300 votes.

Philp said: "By working hard, by delivering for local people, we have managed to pull off this unexpected victory."

Regarding the Conservatives' electoral defeat, he said: "Clearly,

nationally, these are a bad set of results for the Conservative party."

"We need to listen respectfully to the messages that the voters were sending us, recognise we need to do better in a whole number of areas, respond positively, constructively, to that with plans that help address those concerns."

He said his local priorities included constructing a new pool in Purley, and delivering a new medi-

cal centre and banking centre in Coulsdon.

He also intends to work with the police to deploy more officers in Croydon's town centre to reduce crime.

In Westminster, he hopes to hold Labour's new government to account and advocate for lower taxes and policies that will help businesses prosper.

Philp said: "Ultimately, that's

what helps people improve their standard of living."

When asked how he would celebrate his win, he said: "Straightaway, I'll be getting a little bit of sleep."

He added that his team had been awake for more than 26 hours.

Taylor, who left soon after the declaration of results, was not available for comment.





## Taylor's delight as Tories are axed in Cheam

By Rosa Gac

The Liberal Democrats' Luke Taylor won south west London constituency Sutton and Cheam, following nine years of Conservative representation.

The transport planner and Sutton councillor won 17,576 votes, with Conservative Tom Drummond coming second with 13,775 votes.

Labour candidate Chrisshni Reshekaron came third with 8,450 votes, despite the party's overwhelming success elsewhere in the country.

Taylor said: "I'm feeling overawed and really excited to be able to get to work trying to get a better deal for the residents of Sutton and Cheam.

"It's a historic night for the country after so many years of brutal cuts to public services, cuts to the NHS, the police and local government.

"Now is the time to set things right and to deliver real change."

He said he planned to continue supporting residents through the living and energy crises and push for better funding for public services.

When asked how he was planning on celebrating, Taylor added: "I'm going to go to bed and potentially not knock on any doors tomorrow which will be a nice surprise."

From 2015 to 2024, the seat was held by Conservative Paul Scully, who made headlines earlier this year when he described parts of London and Birmingham as "no-go areas".

Shortly after the incident, Scully announced he would not be seeking re-election, creating an opening for the Liberal Democrats, who had previously held the seat for 18 years.

Drummond ran on an anti-ULEZ campaign, while Reshekaron's campaign focused on the reduction of violence against women and girls.

Taylor was not selected to represent the Liberal Democrats until May this year, after the previous candidate, former BBC journalist David Campanale, was controversially deselected in 2022.

Campanale is currently suing the party, claiming he was the victim of discrimination over his Christian beliefs.

Speaking to South West Londoner before the election, Taylor said: "I was aware of the deselection and it is a very sad situation.

"I know that there's an appeal in process on the deselection but I don't have time to think and worry about that — I believe that HQ are looking after all of that."

Taylor's victory is part of the Lib Dems' wider success in Sutton borough and south west London in general, with wins across the capital.



Rachel Blake (left) is the new MP for Buck House and Labour's Joe Powell now represents London's wealthiest



# BUCK HOUSE NOW HAS A LABOUR MP

By Conor Wilson & Ellie Davies

The City of London has elected a Labour MP for the first time in history.

Rachel Blake becomes the first Labour politician to represent a constituency which includes Buckingham Palace.

Blake, whose party came third in 2019, won with a majority of 2,708 over Conservative candidate Tim Barnes.

Blake said: "I think it does show a change in British politics and I am delighted to have been given the chance to represent this area."

The constituency had been seen as a three-way fight, with the Liberal Democrats having ran the Conservatives close in 2019.

But that turned out to not be the case, so, King Charles III woke up this morning as the first British monarch to be represented by a Labour MP.

It was one of the many former "safe seats" to turn from blue to red, in a disastrous night for the Tories.

Reflecting on losing in an area once considered safe by the Conservatives, Barnes said: "Clearly there is no such thing as a safe seat anymore."

Meanwhile, the wealthiest borough in London has swung back to Labour in an unusual break from its Conservative tradition.

Labour MP Joe Powell won 40.5% of the Kensington and Bayswater vote with 17,025 votes, gaining the seat from incumbent Conservative MP Felicity Buchan by a margin of 2,903.

Powell said: "We've run a really positive, professional, dedicated campaign focused on the things that people told us on their doorstep.

"They really wanted to see change in our community and change nationally, so we're obviously delighted that residents of Kensington and Bayswater have decided to put their trust in us.

"I'm very aware that trust in politics is low in this country at the moment, and that's because we've had too many people who have over-promised and under-delivered."

Powell is not only the newly-

elected MP for Kensington and Bayswater but five weeks ago became a father to twins.

He said: "There's been a lot of juggling and a lot of support from family and friends.

"I'm quite relieved now to at least have the campaign out of the way."

It was a hard-fought battle previously with Buchan winning the then Kensington constituency by just 150 votes in 2019.

Labour's Emma Dent Coad, who ran as an independent in this election, won by even less, 20 votes, in 2017, becoming the first Labour MP in the constituency.

After boundary changes last year, Kensington now includes Bayswater and Lancaster Gate to form the new constituency of Kensington and Bayswater.

If the new boundaries had been in place in 2019, then Labour would have won the seat.

Home to Kensington Palace, the Royal Albert Hall and the Victoria and Albert Museum, Kensington and Chelsea ranked as the richest borough in London in 2022 according to ONS average yearly wage data.

The turnout for the constituency was 54.5%, a notable drop from its 67.7% turnout at the 2019 General Election.

Liberal Democrat candidate William Houngho, who received 2,910 votes, said: "What didn't go well for me tonight was that the public wanted Labour to get rid of the Conservatives, so their priority was to vote tactically.

"I would tell Powell that communities are our core values and you cannot have a top-down approach.

"You need to be embedded in the community and you need to listen.

"Bring them around the table and make them part of the decision making process so that you can find solutions together."

Powell said: "I want to be supporting a Labour government that delivers on the very specific pledges that we've made — the things that will make a real difference in Kensington and Bayswater.

"I think people want to see a government that's on their side and delivering on the things that they really care about."

## 'Sisters' unite in a victory treble

By Madeline Sherratt

Marsha De Cordova hailed Labour's three strong women as they comfortably held on to the seats in Wandsworth.

Battersea was the first London constituency to be announced with De Cordova taking the win with 22,983 votes, a 48.8% vote share.

This was soon followed by victory for Fleur Anderson in Putney, who received more than twice the number of votes as her Conservative opponent, Lee Roberts.

The hat-trick was completed by Rosena Allin-Khan, who won with an ever bigger vote share of 55.2% in Tooting.

Referring to Anderson and Allin-Khan, De Cordova said: "What's wonderful is not only are we colleagues, we're actually friends and it's wonderful to have three strong women representing our borough in parliament."

Anderson's victory speech was interrupted by booing, as a group of hecklers criticised her for failing to turn up to a previous hustling.

Persisting through the intrusion, Anderson said: "I just cannot wait to get going and be part of the Labour government to achieve the change everyone wants to see."

In her victory speech, Allin-Khan joked about the recent 'gamble gate' scandal, in which the Conservative party withdrew support for two candidates after they allegedly placed bets on the date of the general election.

She said: "Those around the Prime Minister will be very disappointed to know that all bets are off!

"Today, all three seats are solid Labour and we've got power once again."

Paying tribute to her 'Wandsworth sisters', the former doctor added that she could not imagine a better team to represent their communities within parliament.

She condemned the Conservative leadership over the last decade, citing its stance on homelessness and minority groups 'like myself'.

Turning to Labour's success nationwide, she concluded: "We turned the page of a legacy of unfairness and cruelty — we are writing a new chapter for our communities, our constituencies, and for our country."

The Green party also saw significant gains in Wandsworth, with Putney candidate Fergal Joseph McEntee taking 3,182 votes, Battersea candidate Joe Taylor taking 4,239, and Tooting candidate Nick Humberstone taking 5,672.

Another notable figure who attended the count, as a Labour counting officer, was former speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, formerly a Conservative MP.

Describing the former Conservative government, he said: "They are the most corrupt, incompetent, and mean-spirited set of ministers that I have witnessed in my lifetime."

### CAPITAL SEATS PER PARTY \*



9 ↓ 12



59 ↑ 10



6 ↑ 3



60%

\* Independent wins Islington North





## Labour star Wes survives a major scare

By Giorgia Bianchi

Shadow Health Secretary Wes Streeting barely held on to his Ilford North seat as Labour suffered from their policy on Gaza in high Muslim population areas.

Leanne Mohamad, 23, was only 528 votes behind Streeting, who won the seat in Ilford North with 15,647 votes.

Mohamad resigned from the Labour Party last year following the newly elected Prime Minister Keir Starmer's stance on the Israel-Gaza war.

Streeting commented: "It is very clear that Gaza has been a real issue for the Labour Party."

However, he expressed his concern about the extent of fake news circulating during his campaign, including a highly "convincing" fake audio clip that spread "mistakes" about his stance on the conflict and his plans for the NHS.

He told reporters: "This is not the way to conduct politics, this is not the way elections should be fought."

He added: "We have got to look at how we maintain and defend the integrity of our elections."

In his acceptance speech, Streeting said: "Tonight, for the first time in 27 years, and only the fourth time in Labour's history, the country has chosen change by returning Labour from opposition to power with a thumping majority."

Reflecting on his April 2021 diagnosis of kidney cancer, from which he has since fully recovered, he added: "The NHS saved my life, and now I will do everything in my power to save our NHS, and that work starts later today."

Labour's huge majority in Ilford South also took a significant hit from an independent candidate backing an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Labour MP Jas Athwal won the election from Noor Begum with 16,537 votes – a 25% decrease in the party's vote share from five years ago.

Athwal stated: "We fought a very positive campaign and put our record in front, and the voters liked it."

Discussing his focus as the new MP for Ilford South, Athwal added: "Having been the leader of the council for 10 years, I think council finance is a real issue."

"We have got to get in and see what the coffers are like in Westminster."

Begum finished on 9,643 votes as the Conservative Party secured third place in both Ilford constituencies.

The Conservative candidate for Ilford North, Kaz Rizvi, received 9,619 votes, while Sayeed Syduzzaman in Ilford South claimed 6,142 votes.

Syduzzaman said he was not expecting these results but affirmed that the Conservatives will persist with their policies and return stronger than before.

Voter turnout in both Ilford North and Ilford South constituencies was noticeably down in this year's General Election.

# SURVIVOR IDS TAKES ADVANTAGE OF SPLIT

## Former Tory leader keeps his seat against all odds

By Harry Hetherington

A meagre 79 votes separated the two left-wing candidates as former Tory leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith was re-elected for an eighth time in Chingford and Woodford Green overnight.

Early predictions hinted at victory in the seat for Labour's Shama Tatler, but she won just 12,524 votes to Faiza Shaheen's 12,445, who was deselected by Labour in May.

Despite seeing his vote share decrease by 12.6% since 2019, Duncan Smith's 17,281 votes were enough to retain the seat he has held since 1992.

Shaheen said: "How often does this happen that an independent candidate gets this many votes, as many as a party that's been around for 100 years?"

"It's not personal to Tatler, but it's something about what the community wants about having a local representative, and that's important to us, and they ignored that and they saw the consequences."

Shaheen was deselected following a party probe into historic social media posts allegedly downplaying anti-semitism accusations.

Asked about her message for Labour, she said: "Parachuting in candidates, trying to destroy someone's life that hasn't done anything is not okay."

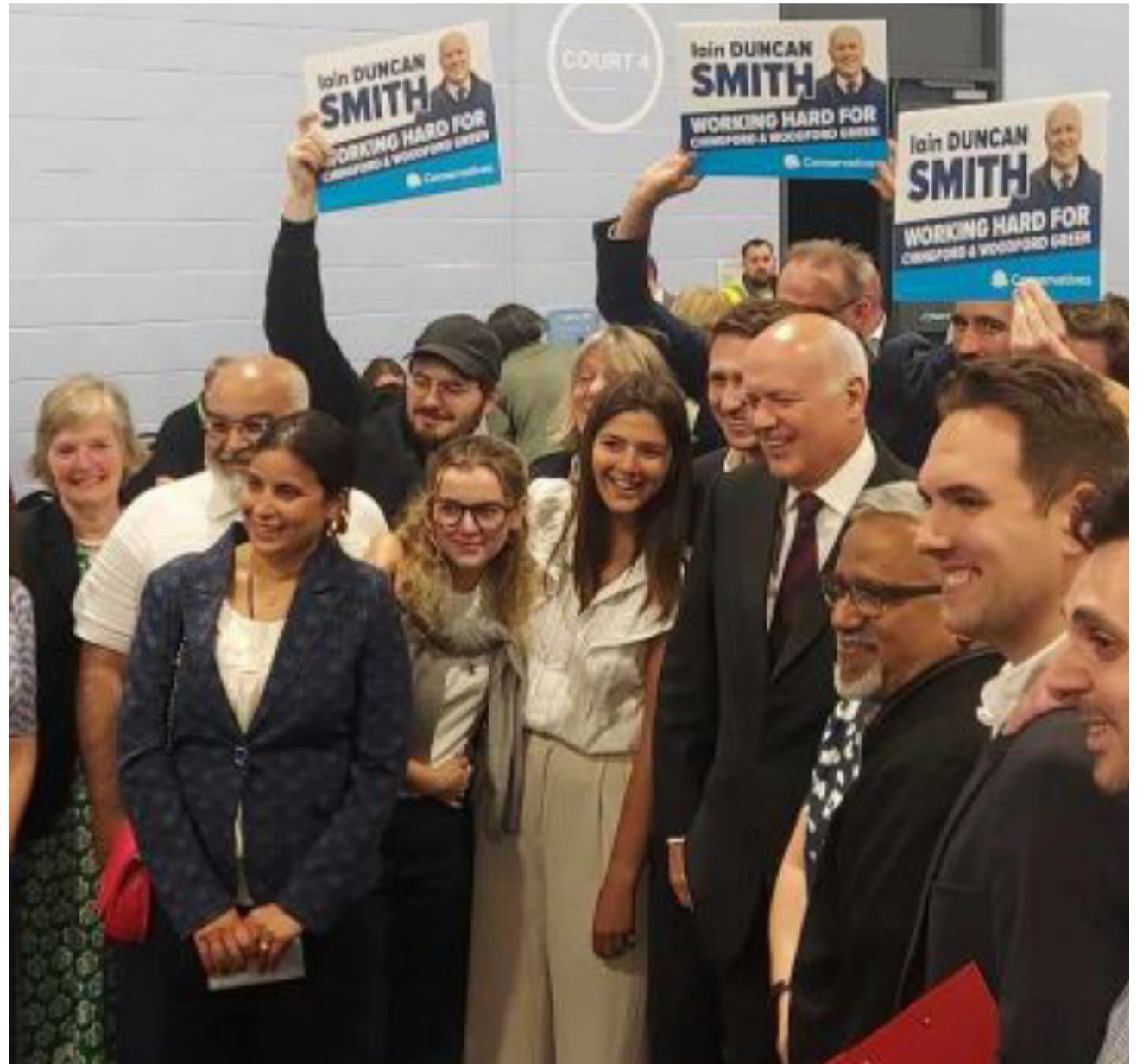
Represented by Tatler, who could not be reached for comment, Labour saw their share reduce by 20.1% in the north east London constituency.

Tatler's and Shaheen's vote shares combined would have been more than enough for an overall majority of votes at 51.5%.

Asked whether he was more grateful to Shaheen for running as an independent or Labour for deselecting her, Duncan Smith said: "What the Labour party does is their problem, not mine."

In attendance supporting Shaheen were two of 50 local Labour members who resigned from the party in an open letter to Keir Starmer over Shaheen's deselection.

Selase Kwawu, 25, said: "Faiza



**SURVIVOR:** Former Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith took advantage of a split in the Labour vote to retain his seat

had this in the bag, it should have been a walk in the park for her, and that was taken from her and from us, the people who actually chose her as our representative.

"It worries me how they're going to treat the general population on a national scale once they get into government."

Asked about the constituency's future, Noelle Harrington, 65, said: "I'm sure Faiza would speak out. She lives in the area, she's the

only person who's affected by the closure of the Broadmead Road Bridge, she's the only person who's affected by Whipps Cross Hospital.

"Iain Duncan Smith isn't and Shama Tatler isn't, they don't live here."

The Chingford & Woodford Green count was one of three at the Feel Good leisure centre in Walthamstow along with Walthamstow and Leyton & Winstead.

Walthamstow MP Stella Creasy was re-elected for Labour and was asked about what a large national mandate meant for their prospects in government.

She said: "The first challenge that an incoming Labour government will have is to convince people that governments can do anything at all, that when a politician says 'we can do X', X will happen."

"What I am very concerned about at the moment is people

have lost all hope in the idea that governments can plan to do things and to make them happen at all.

"People are so used to governments offering the moon on a stick and they're not even bothering to make that happen. I passionately disagreed with the Rwanda legislation but most people had grown increasingly cynical that it was just a ploy to give the Conservatives something to talk about."

## Abbott to become 'Mother' of the Commons

By Abi Fisher

Long-serving MP Diane Abbott held on to her seat of Hackney North and Stoke Newington, albeit with 10% fewer votes than 2019.

Gaining a majority of votes, today's results saw Abbott celebrate her 10th victory in a row, despite questions about her running as a Labour candidate dominating the

early days of the campaign.

Abbott will now take up a role as 'Mother of the House' - one of the most esteemed parliamentary positions afforded to the longest continuously serving female member of parliament. The previous holder was Harriet Harman, who stepped down at this election.

Labour won 13 of the 16 north east London seats, including wins

in Barking, Dagenham and Rainham, East Ham and the new seat of Stratford and Bow.

As the Conservatives lost seats across the country, the party maintained a hold of some seats in the north east.

Andrew Rosindell remains as MP for Romford, though with half as many votes as in 2019, while Data Minister Julia Lopez held on to Hornchurch and Upminster,

closely followed by Reform UK.

Rosindell said: "I'm deeply sad that tonight many of my friends and colleagues across the country have not been returned as members of parliament in the House of Commons and my heart goes out to them."

Brexititeer Rosindell then vowed to do his best to unite Conservative MPs with their rivals from Nigel Farage's Reform UK.

"I want to bring Reform and the Conservative party together as I do not want a Labour Government for more than one term," he added.

"I have barely eaten and had no rest, but tonight it has been proven worthwhile as we have won the seat with a much smaller majority."

"However, I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all the people in my home town and I'm proud to represent them again."





## Former cabinet minister loses in a rage

By Ed Lees

The Conservative campaign was labelled as a disaster by former environment secretary Theresa Villiers.

Villiers, MP for Chipping Barnet since 2005, lost her seat to Dan Tomlinson, Labour's first ever MP for the constituency.

Despite this loss, Villiers declined to comment on whether Rishi Sunak was to blame for the Conservatives' poor election results.

She added: "Barnet is a special place and I've always fought to try and keep it that way.

"I worked as hard as I possibly could on issues that really matter to all of us who live here."

The other two incumbent Conservative MPs in Barnet stepped down ahead of this election, which led to Labour being favoured in the borough.

Villiers campaigned hard on local issues but fell short to Tomlinson by three thousand votes.

Much closer than this was the battle for Hendon between Labour's David Pinto-Duchinsky and the Conservative's Ameet Jogia which came down to just 15 votes.

After several recounts, the results were the last declared for London as Labour took the seat.

Pinto-Duchinsky said: "After 14 years of Conservative chaos, change was demanded and the Labour Party have listened."

Despite the narrowness of this victory, Labour will be satisfied with taking three traditionally Conservative seats, alongside Finchley and Golders Green.

Labour's first ever MP for Chipping Barnet, Tomlinson acknowledged that many of his supporters were first time voters for the party.

He said: "As MP I will demonstrate that our change is permanent.

"We will always stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism as there is no place for it in our party."

In London's most Jewish constituency, Finchley and Golders Green, Labour's Sarah Sackman reclaimed the seat from the Conservatives.

Sackman, who is Jewish herself, won the most Jewish constituency in the country, securing 21,857 and a four and a half thousand vote majority.

Sackman talked proudly about her heritage and Labour's effort to change since the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn.

She said: "Labour has changed and won this constituency's trust. "To Jewish voters, I promise as your MP that I will be keeping up our traditions and never miss a Friday night dinner."

Sackman's closest opponent was the Conservatives Alex Deane, who stood in place of outgoing Conservative MP Mike Freer.

Freer held on in a hard-fought three-way battle in the seat in 2019, which saw Jewish former Labour MP Luciana Berger stand in the constituency following her defection to the Liberal Democrats.



ALL CHEERS: Labour supporters celebrate winning Uxbridge and South Ruislip for the first time in 14 years

# LABOUR'S BEALES STEALS BOJO SEAT

By George Nash

Labour has claimed a historic victory in Hillingdon after taking the seat of Boris Johnson's former constituency Uxbridge & South Ruislip for the first time since its inception in 2010.

In a contest that always promised to be decided by the finest of margins, Danny Beales edged out the Conservative candidate Steve Tuckwell to win a 587 vote majority to take a seat the Tories have held in various forms for more than half a century.

The result comes following two recounts – one of some bundles and one full recount – on a long night in north west London that saw Beales and Tuckwell go head-to-head nearly a year after the two contested the by-election triggered by Johnson's resignation, which the Conservatives won by a slim 495 majority.

Beales, who grew up in the area and was visibly moved during his acceptance speech, said: "It has been a rollercoaster, but I'm delighted with the outcome both across the country and for me personally.

"This is my home constituency, I grew up here. I was motivated to

get into politics by my experience of being homeless in Hillingdon so to get the chance to represent this community, to get the chance to make a difference to people currently struggling with the housing crisis and cost of living crisis, it means so much to me."

While he labelled cost of living "the elephant in the room", Beales was also keen to stress that, on a local level, improving Hillingdon Hospital, a facility fellow Labour MP Wes Streeting last year called "by far the worst hospital I have ever seen", was at the forefront of his plans.

Beales said: "I've always said that is priority number one. People are fed up of 14 years of the promise of a new hospital but we all know work hasn't moved forward.

"We've been very clear that a Labour government will deliver new hospitals, including Hillingdon. As a party, we're ready to put the country first and deliver the change we all need."

Tuckwell, who held the seat for just ten months, was gracious in defeat.

He expressed disappointment at the result but admitted this new chapter in his life is one he will relish.

Tuckwell, a former postman in

the constituency, said: "I'm incredibly disappointed but that's the nature of politics.

"I'm going to reflect on how this result came about so it's a new chapter for me but one I'm looking to help shape for myself.

"I wish Danny every success as the MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip but I will be holding him to account to ensure his performance is right for the people of this constituency."

When asked about the national picture on what was a difficult night for the Conservatives, Tuckwell added: "As a party we need to reflect on what went wrong, why it went wrong, and begin to rebuild."

Meanwhile, results in the other two Hillingdon constituencies were considerably less dramatic.

Hayes & Harlington stuck largely to pre-count expectations, with Labour candidate John McDonnell holding his seat with a majority of more than 12,000 votes.

The former shadow chancellor said: "It's a tremendous victory. People have really had enough of the Tories.

"It looks as though voter turnout has dropped all over the country and we need to address that, but we've got a Labour government now and what we need to do is get that Labour govern-

ment working as rapidly as possible."

McDonnell highlighted poverty and a lack of public service as being key issues facing residents in his constituency, but admitted that his first priority will be housing.

He said: "We've got a housing crisis. We haven't got enough homes being built and the ones that have been built are out of the reach of local people because of the price."

When asked about former ally Jeremy Corbyn's victory as an Independent candidate in Islington North, McDonnell added: "I'm very pleased for him personally but I just wish he had been a Labour candidate.

"I'll be making the call now for him to have the Labour whip restored. Jeremy needs to be welcomed back into the Labour Party.

"He is an asset and he has demonstrated in his own constituency how he can bring voters out."

Despite the Conservatives' poor showing nationally, David Simmonds held his seat in Ruislip, Northwood & Pinner after winning with a 7,500 majority.

Simmonds was quick to thank those in his constituency who voted for him but also acknowledged the need for a period of Tory reflection.

## Corbyn vows to practice a gentler politics

By Tom Judge

Former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn took Islington North, running as an independent after being ousted by the party by new PM Keir Starmer.

Corbyn took the seat, which he's held for more than 40 years, with 24,120 votes just under half the total votes, and seven and a half thousand more than Labour candidate Praful Nargund.

In his acceptable speech, Corbyn emotionally thanked the people of Islington North.

He said: "I owe my life, and my learning, and my abilities entirely to the people of Islington North, this victory is a dedication to them, and steadfastness in the face of opposition, steadfastness in the face of abuse.

"We have shown what kinder, gentler more sensible, more inclusive politics can bring about, I couldn't be more proud of my constituency than I am tonight, I'm proud of our team that brought this result."

In October 2020, Corbyn was suspended from the party for saying antisemitism was "dramatically overstated for political reasons".

He was reinstated but the Labour whip was withdrawn and he sat as an independent for the remainder of the last parliament.

He was then blocked from becoming the Labour candidate in March 2023.

Nargund, the Labour candidate, is a local councillor in Islington and worked in private healthcare and was selected as a candidate at the outset of the election.

Corbyn has represented the seat for over 40 years, first winning in 1983, making him the joint longest serving MP in Parliament.

Putting out a statement to social media following his result, he refers back to the slogan that the Labour Party used prolifically when he was leader.

He wrote: "Tonight's result in Islington North gives us a glimpse of a different future, which puts the interests of the many ahead of those of the few."

Rupa Huq won her Ealing Central and Acton constituency with 22,340 votes, having held the seat since 2015.

The sister of former Blue Peter presenter Konnie Huq, Rupa gave an exuberant speech to cheers and applause at Perceval House, headquarters of Ealing Council.

She said: "What a night, we voted for a fresh start, for a changed Labour party.

"After 14 crippling years of austerity, we will rebuild this country after the state it has been left in."

The Labour winner for Ealing Southall and deputy leader of Ealing Council, Deirdre Costigan, declared herself an MP for all.

Costigan, who replaced Virendra Sharma who stepped down as Labour MP earlier this year, secured 23,000 votes.

She said: "I will support you, no matter what your race or religion, or whether you voted for me or not."





Sunak is to blame slams beaten Brooks

By Clara Aberneithie

Bexleyheath and Crayford's unsuccessful Conservative candidate blamed the Tory leadership's lack of understanding of working class and suburban values for their defeat.

The constituency had been Conservative since 2005, but sensationally switched to Labour on Friday morning with Daniel Francis polling 15,717 votes compared to Mark Brooks' 13,603.

Brooks was standing after David Evennett, who had sat in the seat for 19 years, announced he would stand down in May.

Brooks said: "The key thing is that the prime minister should have surrounded himself with Conservatives who fully understood the mood, the values, the hopes and aspirations of the spectrum of our country, including here in suburban London.

"He needed to show a respect and understanding of our working-class values.

"It's vitally important for the Conservatives in the future to be firmly in touch with people like me, sons of van drivers, daughters of nurses.

"They need to listen to them far more than they have done over the past five years."

Reform polled 9,861 votes, the Liberal Democrats 2,204, and the Greens 2,076.

With a 13,000 Tory majority in 2019, this success for Labour marks a huge swing in the this previously true blue constituency.

Voter turnout this time round was down 4.1% since the 2019 election, at 62%.

The loss for the Conservatives is indicative of a nationwide defeat, with more than 400 seats in Labour's hands

Some seats in South London have remained blue, including Croydon South, Bromley and Biggin Hill, Orpington, and Old Bexley and Sidcup.

Labour's Daniel Francis, who won in Bexleyheath and Crayford, told us: "Locally, we need to start urgent conversations to repair train services and health provision, as well as consider the national picture.

"I have lived in this borough my whole life and understand the priorities and aspirations of working people here because they are my priorities too.

"I have heard from local people and seen in the result that some people have expressed frustration in the way they have cast their vote.

"I can understand that frustration after 14 years of enduring Conservative chaos and sticking plaster politics.

"Never again can we go back to that chaos, to a government who is more interested in looking after its mates, to breaking the rules rather than maintaining them.

"To a government which decides, for its own economic irresponsibility, to play fast and loose with the finances of the British people."

# I'M A CHANGED MAN SAYS LAB'S COYLE

MP was suspended from the party for 15 months

By Freddie Clemo

The Labour stronghold remained in Bermondsey and Old Southwark, with controversial candidate Neil Coyle winning almost 45% of the vote.

Coyle, who had a total of 16,857 votes, previously made racist comments towards a journalist and was accused of bullying Labour parliamentary staff, leading to his suspension from February 2022 to May 2023.

This controversy meant that a close contest with Liberal Democrat candidate Rachel Bentley was predicted, but she came second with 9,070 votes, making up just 24.1% of the votes.

"I've turned my life around and I'm proud of that," said Coyle.

"I'm proud of the team that supported me through that, and I'm proud of the community that recognised that."

Coyle was optimistic about the result before it was announced, and said he felt "very positive" following his campaign.

"I'm feeling relieved and very pleased," Coyle said after the results were announced.

He said: "I know that the community is positive and we ran a really positive campaign. I was optimistic, I wouldn't have been campaigning if I felt I wasn't going to be successful."

Coyle apologised for 'publicly stumbling', attributing it to his struggles with alcoholism, and promised to remain sober.

"I want to thank the local community and also those people who have continued to put their trust in me, and to know that it was a blip and not a permanent issue," he said.

"First priority now is opening up the office to continue the hard work that goes on here. Some constituents said 'if you're going to be in government you won't be here' and that is not true.

"My commitment is to this community, I'll be here week in week out, this is my home.

"The first thing for me is to continue my support and hard work locally."

Coyle has been an MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark since 2015 and aims to continue tack-



CONTROVERAL: Neil Coyle's campaign had worked hard after racist comments and allegations of bullying

ling the constituency's lack of affordable and safe housing.

His constituency, home to The Shard and Borough Market, is also home to 27.6% of children under 16 who are living in poverty.

Nationally, Coyle is excited by the prospect of a new Labour government that can fix the NHS and work to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Piers Corbyn, Jeremy Corbyn's brother, stood as an independent candidate and was vocal in his support for Palestine.

Piers also expressed views that climate change and the Covid-19

pandemic were hoaxes.

Although he only got 403 votes, he beat the other independent candidate, Barry Colin Duckett, who only attained 247 votes.

He said: "I was very pleased with the energy and the numbers of people that supported me."

He speculated that the low turnout rate of 54.38% reflected the demoralised attitude people had towards contemporary politics.

Corbyn also extended a good word for his brother, Jeremy, for winning as an independent candidate in his Islington North constituency.

He added: "Voters should support him unconditionally because he works so hard in the constituency."

In Peckham, Miatta Fahnbulleh will take over the seat previously held by Harriet Harman, who she credits for paving the way for female politicians.

Miatta Fahnbulleh elected by the new parliamentary candidate for Peckham and other candidates She won 22,813 votes, making up 58.8% of the total votes.

"It is a fantastic result, proper support in Peckham means the world," Fahnbulleh said.

"And obviously the results that have played out across the country are phenomenal – It feels like it's a good night for us.

"The work begins now. The first issue that is up front and centre is housing. Too many people are living in homes that are not up to standard.

"Second is the economy, the cost of living, and trying to get wages up. I want to create actual opportunities for people in Peckham. Third is getting the streets safe, which is a message I've heard loud and clear particularly from young people."

## Conlon vows to be a strong voice for disabled

By Lara Bowman

A disability advocate who is the son of Keir Starmer's chief of staff has won Bromley's brand new seat of Beckenham and Penge.

Labour's Liam Conlon, son of Sue Gray, secured more than double the votes of Conservative Hannah Gray, virtually half of the overall vote.

The Conservatives held the previous seat of Beckenham since its inception in 1950, while Labour had previously held Lewisham West and Penge.

Conlon is the only Labour MP who has ever been in a wheelchair and was one of the youngest people ever to have a hip replacement, having had an accident as a child which meant he couldn't walk until he was 17.

He said: "Disabled people pay the same tax as everyone else, but they are fundamentally denied a service, and face economic and social exclusion as a result.

"I remember what it was like when I was 13 and I would go to the cinema with friends and they would get on the train or the tube and I couldn't, because public services don't work for disabled people.

"Unless you've got disabled people raising their voice, nothing will change.

"We need to hammer it home like 'Violence against Women's and Girls' is constantly in the news – it needs to become another rallying point.

"No one's expecting anything overnight, but there has to be action, and I'm now an MP who can advocate."

Conlon and more than a thousand Labour volunteers had 40,000 one-on-one chats with constituents, and claimed that boundary changes – along with national and local anger at the Tories – contributed to their historic victory.

He has promised to revolutionise disabled access in Bromley within 100 days, starting with a focus on transport accessibility.



10

“We will rebuild  
Britain. I invite you to  
join this government  
of service in the  
mission of national  
renewal.”

- Sir Keir Starmer  
Prime Minister

