

### Free

An end to tuition fees and the reintroduction of grants.



### Green

Building environmental objectives into every policy.



### Fair

No-one should be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity



General Election 2001

# Manifesto

For Young People & Students

## For a Liberal and Democratic Britain

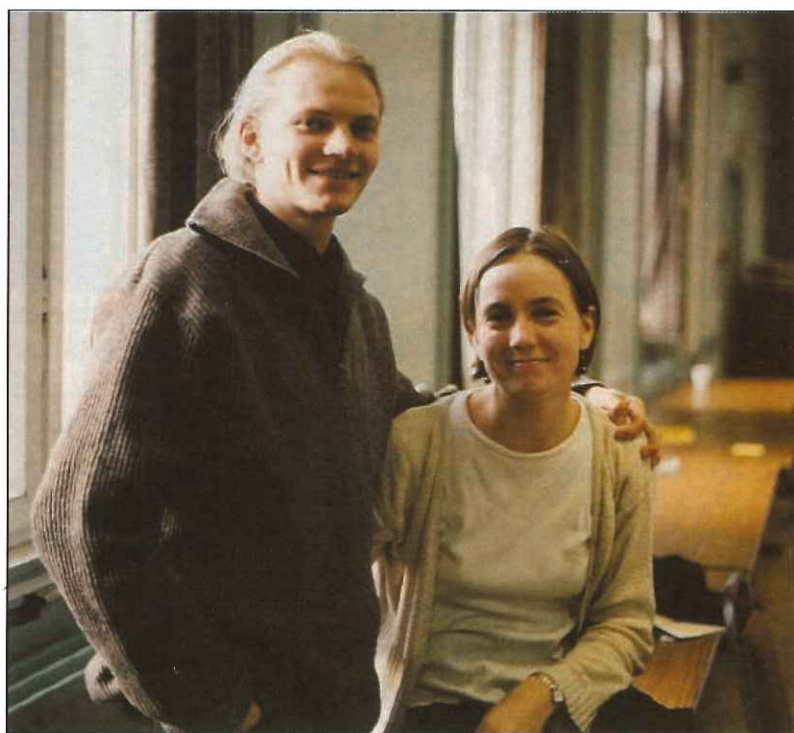
# EDUCATION

The Liberal Democrats are committed to a first-class education system offering every individual the best start in life and the best chance to succeed at work throughout their life. This is the key to a prosperous economy that, in turn, benefits everyone.

Education spending has been lower under Labour than under the Tories as a proportion of GDP.

Liberal Democrats recognise the value of education, and, if necessary, will raise the basic rate of income tax by 1p to raise an extra £3 billion to properly fund it.

We have a good record on



education, abolishing Scottish tuition fees and working on it in Wales.

Our local education authorities run some of the best schools in the country.

◆ We would **abolish tuition fees** and re-introduce grants for poorer students without introducing top-up fees.

◆ The Lib Dems would **re-establish student benefit** entitlements during the summer.

◆ We would **reduce primary class sizes** across each Local Education Authority.



# GREEN ACTION

We are the greenest of the three main UK-wide political parties and would build environmental objectives into every government policy. We will set tough targets for the reduction of pollution and waste. This would reduce global warming, cut air pollution and prevent waste.

We will:

- ◆ Promote rapid development of renewable energy sources.
- ◆ **End fuel poverty** through a national home insulation programme targeted at low-income households.
- ◆ **Tax pollution, not people** by enforcing a wider "polluter pays" principle.
- ◆ Improve the quality of our transport network, paid for in part by urban congestion and workplace parking charges.
- ◆ Extend free off-peak local travel on public transport for those over 60, and **half-fares at all times for those under 19 and in full time education.**
- ◆ Reduce vehicle excise duty on smaller, energy efficient cars and scrap it for the greenest.

For more information on the subjects covered here see Lib Dem policy papers 31,29,8,22, and the Pre-Manifesto "Freedom in a Liberal Society".

**"The Liberal Democrats exist to build and safeguard a fair, free and open society, a society in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality and community and in which no-one shall be enslaved by poverty, ignorance or conformity."**

preamble to the Liberal Democrat Constitution.

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# BRITAIN'S ECONOMY

Liberal Democrats believe that a thriving economy is the best way to provide people with economic freedom and to ensure low levels of unemployment. A stable and sustainable economic framework boosts business and creates jobs for all.

We would:

- ◆ Remove age discrimination in the social security system by **restoring benefit entitlements to 16 and 17 year olds.** We would aim to restore full housing benefit for those under 25.
- ◆ Prevent exploitation in the workplace by introducing a **uniform minimum wage** for all over 16.
- ◆ Reduce taxation for the lowest paid, by aiming over time to lower the 10p tax rate to zero.
- ◆ **Make those who earn the most contribute more,** by introducing a new top tax rate of 50p on taxable income over £100,000 per year
- ◆ Increase old-age pensions.
- ◆ Hold a referendum on entry into the single European currency.

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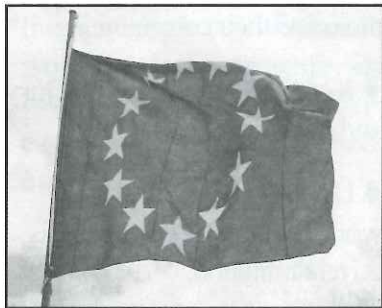
## WIDER WORLD

We base our international policy on a commitment to democracy, human rights and good governance.

As we face the many challenges of the future such as globalisation and adjustment to climate change we will continue to apply our liberal principles and seek a fair deal for everyone, no matter where in the world they live.

Amongst other things we would:

◆ **Make the EU more democratic**, more decentralised and diverse. Power would be held at the lowest appropriate level.



◆ Work in the EU on issues such as pollution, defence and trade, and help meet our duties to the wider world through boosting the UN.

◆ Work towards the introduction of a Global Competition Authority to check the power of transnational corporations, and **increase overseas aid to 0.7% of GNP**.

◆ Let the public decide on our involvement in the single European currency.

# FREEDOM TO CHOOSE



**Liberty and the idea of freedom lies at the very heart of all Liberal Democrat thinking. We want all people to live free from conformity.**

In the area of civil rights we would:

◆ End discrimination on grounds such as sex, sexual orientation (including **the repeal of section 28**), race, disability, age or gender identity; reintroducing benefits for asylum seekers and ending discriminatory asylum laws.

◆ Restore the right to peaceful protest and set the

principal that the law should only prohibit actions that harm others.

◆ Hold a referendum on **fair votes for Westminster**. We will introduce Single Transferable Vote for local elections and **reduce the minimum age for voting and candidacy to sixteen**.

◆ **Replace the House of Lords** with an elected second chamber.



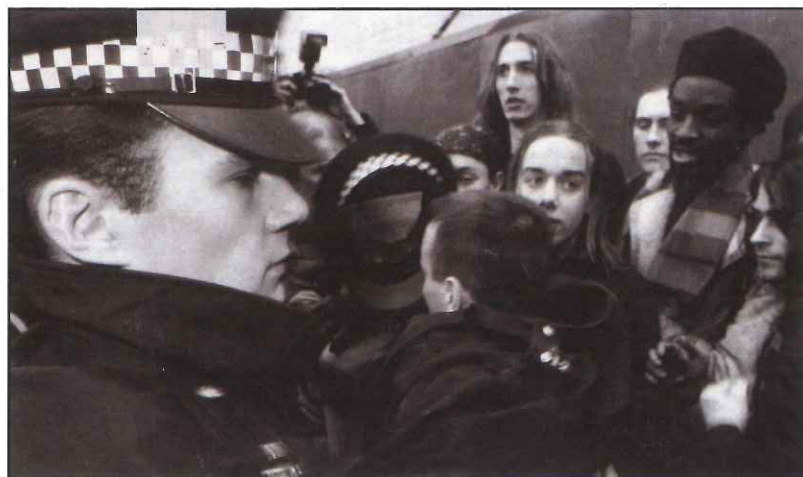
# YOUR HEALTH

Liberal Democrats believe that good health in a clean environment promotes freedom and social justice by ensuring that people are able to make the most of their life chances, regardless of their background or financial circumstances. We are fully committed to the NHS and aim to take some of the heat off the NHS through action to prevent illness, limit pollution, and reduce poverty.

We will:

- ◆ Recruit **more doctors and nurses** and provide more beds and increase pay for the lowest paid NHS staff.
- ◆ Ensure that all people, regardless of wealth, age, and sex, have **equal access to healthcare**.
- ◆ Improve efficiency and **slash bureaucracy in the NHS**.
- ◆ Champion preventative healthcare.

# CRIME



Tony French

The Liberal Democrats believe that the state exists to help people live free from oppression. One example of oppression is crime and the fear of crime. We would tackle this through a combination of effective policing, rehabilitation and crime prevention. We would stop portraying young people as criminals and remember that they are very often victims of crime.

We will:

- ◆ Employ **6,000 more**

**Police Officers** and put more of them on the beat, ensuring good communication between them and their communities.

- ◆ Keep the right to trial by jury and not restrict it.
- ◆ Use prison where prison works but put more emphasis on rehabilitation.
- ◆ Combat youth crime by investing in decent leisure and sporting facilities and by **tackling bullying at school**.

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