

General Election Special

Ian Boulton (Labour)

My family has lived in this area for generations. As a child, I lived in Winterbourne and Patchway and, 46 years on, I live in Staple Hill with my partner who is a Matron at Southmead Hospital. I am a South Gloucestershire Councillor for Staple Hill where I am currently Deputy Leader of the Labour Group.

As Chair of South Gloucestershire Council, it was an honour to represent our communities. I have attended hundreds of events and met thousands of people as I have worked hard to champion our region.

I run a business and chair a local Regeneration Partnership where I work in our most deprived neighbourhoods.

Filton and Bradley Stoke is the West of England's economic powerhouse. Our MP needs to work to ensure we have the skills, infrastructure and resources to maintain our



Ian Boulton (third from left) on the campaign trail with supporters/candidates in Stoke Gifford

reputation as a centre of excellence in hi-tech manufacturing.

I see the effect this Government's austerity cuts have had on our most vulnerable residents. I will work with my colleagues from all parties at South Gloucestershire Council

to constantly remind whoever forms the next Government of the importance of local services. I would work to promote our area and encourage inward investment.

As our economy makes a bumpy and uncertain recovery the cost of living is still causing too many hard working families to suffer. I would work to increase the minimum wage to a more viable level.

Our current MP promised to maintain Frenchay Hospital as an Acute Hospital. It is now closed completely. The knock on effects on our new hospital at Southmead without the planned community beds in our region have been well publicised. I will campaign for more Community Hospitals to be provided, including at the former Frenchay Hospital site, and call for a better integrated Health and Care Service.

- ianboulton.org.uk
- twitter.com/IanBoulton

Dr Diana Warner (Green Party)

The local Green Party serving Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency are a small team dedicated to making change, and sharing the need to act to make all our lives better. We are determined to let people know that if all of us pull together we can live in flourishing communities where everyone is cared for.

When we talk to people on the doorstep and on the street, we find common concerns; not enough houses, high rents and worries about the health service, falling living standards and uncertainty about jobs. Local transport either on foot, cycling, in cars or by public transport can cause daily difficulty or frustration. People can feel cut off and isolated. Some look further and voice concerns about environment or the desperate plight of people in other parts of the world.

We leave people who talk to us with a



Diana Warner (second from left) on the campaign trail with Green Party supporters

new feeling of hope, because they see that the Green Party is honest and democratic and that we share their values. Unlike other

parties, we refuse donations from business and only accept individual donations up to seven thousand pounds, so we aren't influenced by financial considerations. One member has one vote, the same as our MP Caroline Lucas, our leader Natalie Bennett and our South West MEP Molly Scott Cato. At conference every viewpoint is heard and considered.

We are able to show people that the Green Party has coherent policies based on working cooperatively and that we can provide a blueprint for deep rooted change to our economy, environment and community.

This is why I am standing as a Green MP candidate. To make a real difference to my patients' health and the health of the community I serve.

- dianawarnerfbs.wordpress.com
- twitter.com/DWarnerGreens

Other known candidates are Pete Bruce (Liberal Democrat) and Jack Lopresti (Conservative), who will be offered space in our May magazine. For the latest Filton and Bradley Stoke general election news, visit: www.bradleystokejournal.co.uk/elections/2015-general-election/

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General Election Special

Church gives local people a chance to grill their major party candidates

From healthcare to the economy, crime and employment – residents from Bradley Stoke and the surrounding areas will get the chance to quiz some of their local parliamentary candidates on the issues that matter to them at an election forum on Sunday 12th April.

Local candidates from the five main political parties will be taking part in a hustings event at Bradley Stoke Community School from 7.30pm to 9pm, hosted by Bridge Community Church.

To make the event more accessible, people are being offered the opportunity to submit their questions online beforehand. Questions will also be taken from the audience on the evening itself.

Hosted by local businessman and Bridge Community Church member Dotun Olowoporoku, the forum will give people in the community a chance to meet Conservative candidate Jack Lopresti, Labour candidate Ian Boulton, Liberal Democrat candidate Peter Bruce, Green Party candidate Dr Diana Warner and UKIP candidate Ben Walker and hear their views on major issues that are important to people living in the Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency.



Forum host: Dotun Olowoporoku

Host Dotun said: "Being able to have a meaningful debate like this is so exciting because, here in the UK, our democracy, with all its flaws, is far more mature and sophisticated than the democracy in Nigeria, where I was born."

"The candidates will answer questions on areas which are important to us locally. Issues such as jobs, education and immigration don't just affect our individual lives but our life as a community and nation."

"We want to use our vote wisely and want to hear what each party has got to say before we make our decision."

The hustings is being hosted by Bridge Community Church and supported by local churches



Sunday 12th April 7:30pm - 9pm at Bradley Stoke Community School
Join a debate with leading representatives from



Supported by Christ the King and St Chad's Patchway

Bradley Stoke Community School, Fiddlers Wood Lane, Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS
Hosted by Bridge Community Church www.bridgechurchbristol.org

Christ the King in Bradley Stoke and St Chad's in Patchway.

Dotun continued: "This election forum will give local people a chance to meet their local candidates and make an informed opinion about who can best represent their views locally. It's also an opportunity for the candidates themselves

to hear the beliefs and views of their constituents so that they can hopefully go some way to representing them nationally."

To pre-submit your question, visit <http://bit.ly/fabsef>

● To find out more, call the office at Bridge Community Church on 0117 230 3330 or email info@bridgechurchbristol.org

Ben Walker (UKIP)

Since the European Elections, we haven't stopped canvassing and campaigning throughout Filton and Bradley Stoke.

The electorate's unhappiness with the current coalition government and the mess Labour left this country in runs deep through all localities and our candidates and campaign team continue to work tirelessly for the area to ensure residents get the best from their elected representation and candidates.

For too long, councillors from parish, town and South Gloucestershire Council have consistently let residents down.

Whether it be charging you for your green bin, slashing services or supporting the building of thousands of houses on Filton Airfield, adding to the current traffic nightmare we all face; their consistency never wanes. They act in their own interests, in unison and follow the current below average MP like lemmings. This isn't representation and we all deserve better.

In May, you have a choice; a choice to change this by electing local people who are willing to stand up for you and this area. We offer that change and have a strong record of action.

I grew up, live and work in this

area just like all our candidates. I care deeply for it and its betterment. Having served in the Royal Navy and as a local councillor since 2007, my sense of public service is at my core and I wish for nothing more than to represent this area and serve you as your Member of Parliament.

Remember, it's your area and your choice. Every vote counts and I hope you can support me, along with our candidates to work for you and end the five years of parliamentary silence and bad decision making we have all suffered.

• www.benwalker.org.uk
• twitter.com/CLlrBenWalker



Ben Walker out canvassing in BS32

General Election Special

Pete Bruce (Liberal Democrat)

I have been visiting communities over the last few weeks and finding out more about what people are saying currently.

One thing is that we don't seem to understand coalition government. Entering a coalition was necessary because of the tough financial position and the seats. Coalition means neither party get to do all they originally intended. Perceptions of the LibDems shifted with the negotiated outcomes, but we are still the same party of values for a fairer society with opportunity for all. We may desire clarity and prior expectations, but this is not how coalition government works. It reflects the way the world is changing - we need to get on board and engage with a new collaborative politics. The old ways of left and right ping pong are over.

A second common view is that more people



Pete Bruce (left) on the campaign trail

are not sure who to vote for than at previous elections. There is an interest in a wider range of opinion and ideas, and this is healthy. But we often seem to hear one thing one day and the opposite the next whether from businesses, science or politicians. We need an

honest interpretation of the facts, but we must take some responsibility for this ourselves rather than leaving it to partisan groups. I stand for a strong economy, fairer taxes on those who can afford it, more funding for an efficient, non-privatised NHS and care system, for environmental protection and localism.

Watch out for hustings, follow the debates and look at the www.fabslibdems.org website for more information on our thoughts, including local housing and transport issues. Have a say, listen to ideas and engage in debate during the election. Changing politics and our society for the better needs new perspectives and solutions, so join in for these few weeks. The world is changing and we need to keep ahead of it.

- www.fabslibdems.org
- twitter.com/petebruce4

Jack Lopresti (Conservative)

I have always enjoyed elections; typically I spend most of the day and evening knocking on doors and talking to people.

We've received a very positive response on the doorstep and I always enjoy meeting people. Most people do seem to appreciate that this Government has had to make some very tough decisions but the economy has been turned around.

Local residents are interested and excited about the prospect of the regeneration of the Filton Airfield site with the prospect of thousands of new jobs and much needed homes. I have reassured people that the transport infrastructure improvements and investment are taking place with the funding confirmed for the MetroBus, a new railway station at Filton North and the Stoke Gifford By-Pass.



Jack Lopresti (third from right) on the campaign trail with Conservative Party supporters

There is still a great deal of anger about the last Labour Government's decision to downgrade Frenchay Hospital, but I will continue to work for the provision of

the proposed community hospital. South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group has received a 7% increase for their 2015/16 budget. A Conservative Government will increase health spending by £8bn and, as I always say, to support great public services you have to have a successful economy.

Europe and concern about the European Union is also a topic frequently raised. My response is that only a Conservative Government can deliver a renegotiation of our membership and finally give the British people a say on whether we wish to remain part of the European Union.

If you have any questions to ask me or if I can help in any way, please email me at jacklopresti.com or call 01454 617783.

- www.jacklopresti.com
- twitter.com/reelectJack2015

Contributions from the other three candidates for the Filton and Bradley Stoke parliamentary seat – Ian Boulton (Labour), Ben Walker (UKIP) and Dr Diana Warner (Green Party) – were published in our April magazine, which can be viewed online at: issuu.com/bradleystokejournal
For the latest local election news and information, visit: www.bradleystokejournal.co.uk/elections/

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