



Spring 2004

# FOCUS on Europe

## Fiona Hall: a voice for you in Europe

**Fiona Hall** is head of the Liberal Democrats' North East team in the European Elections this June.

Fiona lives here in Northumberland — the only top candidate from the main parties to do so. Fiona understands the issues in Northumberland because she is a researcher to Berwick Liberal Democrat MP Alan Beith and works with local councillors across the county.

Fiona has been campaigning to axe the unfair Council Tax, protect local public services and make sure there is proper discussion on the proposed school re-organisation in Northumberland — as well as campaigning on those European issues which affect us locally (see overleaf).



Liberal Democrat European spokesperson Fiona Hall (centre, front row) works with local councillors and the Hexham Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Andrew Duffield (third from left, back row).

**Your vote counts!** In the last European Elections, the Liberal Democrats were just 2,000 votes short of winning a seat in this region. Please use your vote to make sure that this time we elect an MEP who knows our area and works with our local representatives.

# Working for you on the issues that matter

## ACTION on Funding

Our region was failing to use European funding available to us — and was about to lose £18 million as a “fine” for under-spending! Fiona Hall and the Liberal Democrat team highlighted the problem. As a result, Government Office North East has changed the way it deals with funding applications.



## ACTION on pollution



Liberal Democrat European spokesperson Fiona Hall has campaigned **for** better recycling facilities, more local produce and environmentally-friendly packaging in supermarkets and **for** proper arrangements for disposing of banned garden chemicals. Fiona has also



campaigned **against** the planting of GM crops and **against** this region being dumped with toxic waste and contaminated “ghost ships”.

## YES to a referendum

It is likely that agreement will be reached this summer on a European Constitution — an issue on which Liberal Democrats believe we should have a referendum.

Unlike the Conservatives, who **refused** to hold a referendum on the Maastricht Treaty, Liberal Democrats have consistently argued for referendums on significant European issues.

### ***Did you know?***

*Liberal Democrats would like to see a ban on smoking in public places. But Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament **opposed** a Europe-wide ban — because it is a matter which should be decided by individual national governments, not at a European level.*

*“Decisions should always be taken as locally as possible,” says Lib-Dem European spokesperson Fiona Hall.*