

Historic landmarks and hidden gems to be showcased during European Heritage Open Days 2023

The Department for Communities is encouraging the public to embrace and explore Northern Ireland's historic landmarks and hidden gems as part of European Heritage Open Days 2023.

Publication of "CAMHS Waiting Time Statistics for Northern Ireland (June 2023)"

The Department of Health (DoH) has today, published quarterly Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) waiting time statistics for Northern Ireland.

Eligible groups for Covid-19 autumn booster announced

An autumn COVID-19 booster vaccination will be offered to those at high risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from vaccination.

Liberal Democrats WIN Somerton and Frome

The Liberal Democrats have delivered another shocking blow to the Conservative government by winning in Somerton and Frome.

Sarah Dyke overturned a Conservative majority of 19,213.

Sarah polled 21,187 votes, winning a majority of 11,008 with a swing of 29%.

What a night. What a result. Somerton and Frome has spoken for the country and sent a message to this appalling government. Ringmaster Rishi is out of touch, out of ideas and out of excuses. Time for a General Election to end this Conservative circus and get these clowns out.

– [Ed Davey \(@EdwardJDavey\) July 21, 2023](#)

The extraordinary efforts of Liberal Democrat members and volunteers delivered this historic result, securing the largest majority and swing on an explosive triple byelection night which saw the Conservatives lose 2 of the 3 seats they were fighting desperately to defend.

The people of Somerton and Frome have spoken for the country. Enough is Enough. It is time for a general election to end this Conservative circus.

[**You can watch the iconic byelection stunt back on our Twitter account here**](#)

This victory is further proof that in vast swathes of the country, the best way to get rid of this Conservative government is to vote for the Liberal Democrats.

Four historic by-election results in two years shows clearly that the Liberal Democrats are a force to be reckoned with. We are going from strength to strength, as voters across the country are backing hard working Liberal Democrat candidates who fight hard for their area.

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[**Greens call for “Welcome Refugees Week” as Tories announce further clamp down on asylum seekers**](#)



Green Party

7 August 2023

In response to the government's so-called "small boats week," the Green party has called instead for a "Welcome Refugees Week". As 500 asylum seekers are set to be housed on a barge off the Dorset coast and the government announces steep increases in fines for landlords and employers who house and give work to asylum seekers [1], Benali Hamdache, Green Party spokesperson on Migration and Refugees, said:

"No barge is a suitable home for refugees. Most people who reach our shores and claim asylum are doing so completely legitimately due to fleeing war, persecution, discrimination or climate breakdown. The vast majority are desperate people who need to be met with compassion. Housing them in a barge is to treat them as prisoners and is heartless.

"The Green Party would open safe and legal routes for asylum seekers. With such routes, many refugees would not be forced into making a dangerous crossing of the English Channel.

"We want this week and every week to be "Welcome Refugees Week." Rather than a heavy-handed approach on landlords and employers who house and give work to asylum seekers, Greens would enable families seeking protection to be accommodated in a house or flat and for single applicants to have their own room if in shared accommodation. We would also allow applicants of working age to be allowed to take up employment. This is not only the humane approach, it also acknowledges the economic and cultural benefits refugees bring to communities across the UK."

Notes

1. <https://news.sky.com/story/bibby-stockholm-asylum-seekers-may-be-housed-on-bergs-barge-from-today-as-govt-unveils-new-migration-policy-12935246>

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