

sponds to the pre-1918 Brentford constituency won by the Liberals in 1906. Labour won Spelthorne, Wimbledon and Mitcham in 1945, including parts of the modern Twickenham, Sutton & Cheam and Carshalton & Wallingford constituencies.

20 Local Liberal Democrats disputed the calculation by Thrasher and Rallings based on vote shares in council elections. Their ballot box tallies suggested that at least one ward provided more Lib Dem voters to Gordon than the

Thrasher and Rallings split assumed. See further <http://www.electiondata.telegraph.co.uk/pcon276.htm>

21 M. Meadowcroft, 'The Alliance: Parties and Leaders', *Journal of Liberal Democrat History* 18, Spring 1998, p. 22.

22 I recommend Martin Baxter's general election predictor (<http://www.financialcalculus.co.uk/election/index.html>) for any readers who want to explore the current electoral arithmetic further.

NEWS

Jo Grimond honoured in St Andrews

On 27 July 2004, Jim Wallace MSP, Deputy First Minister and Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, unveiled a memorial plaque at the birthplace of Jo Grimond, the former Liberal Party Leader and Mr Wallace's predecessor as MP for Orkney and Shetland. Jo Grimond was born at No. 8 Abbotsford Crescent, St Andrews (now part of the University of St Andrews), almost ninety-one years before, on 29 July 1913.

As Jim Wallace said, 'Jo Grimond was the Leader of the Liberal Party between 1956 and 1976, a period of sweeping changes in British society and in the world at large. Jo's intelligent, eloquent and good-humoured contributions to the big debates of these times earned him an immense public respect among people of all political opinions.

His passionate advocacy of many progressive ideas – Scottish Home Rule, international-

ism, of individual freedom and empowerment, to name but a few – earned him the well-deserved sobriquet of 'Radical Jo'. He succeeded in reviving the intellectual basis and the electoral prospects of a much-weakened post-war Liberal Party. Attracted by the persuasive force of his personality and arguments, very many talented new supporters rallied to the cause of modern Liberalism.

The Liberal Democrats and the country owe much to Jo Grimond, who sadly did not live to see the re-establishment of the Scottish Parliament for which he had campaigned for so long, and the return of his party to government. The major shift in the party's fortunes over recent years is down to the hard work and commitment of the many, but no-one should doubt that the catalyst for the enduring revival of the party's fortunes was the energetic and inspiring leadership of Jo Grimond.'

The cost of the memorial plaque was met by generous donations from a number of Jo Grimond's friends, colleagues and contemporaries from across the United Kingdom, and also from a younger generation to whom he remains an inspiration.

From left: Iain Smith MSP ; Jo Grimond's children, Magnus, Johnny and Grizelda; Dr Brian Lang, Principal of St Andrews University; and Jim Wallace MSP.

