

April was invested in the town.

"The regeneration of Dover is key to jobs, investment, infrastructure and transport," Mrs Smith added.

"I want to see us attracting more employers and start-ups, and I would be calling for an enterprise zone in the Western Docks – for maritime businesses such as engineering and logistics firms – and the Betteshanger Sustainable Development Park. We could become world leaders in the type of logistics and engineering we specialise in – importation of things which have to be moved quickly."

Green Party candidate Jolyon Trimmingham has been prevented from door-to-door campaigning by a family crisis, but branch co-ordinator Sarah Gleave outlined their policies.

"We are an anti-austerity, low-carbon-future party," she said.

"Living wage jobs are needed."

The Greens are also proposing a tunnel, but above ground, and an extra freight track in the Channel Tunnel funded by redirecting money from the Thames Garden Bridge or HS2.

"There are many beautiful but dilapidated buildings in Dover, so we'd create jobs through a social housing programme which would renovate them. Let's ensure we keep the beautiful area of outstanding natural beauty around Dover," Ms Gleave added.

The party is also in favour of an EU referendum, EU reform and caps on bankers' bonuses, and opposed to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.

"We have fierce sympathy for people who feel fewer jobs and a bigger labour force cause wages to be com-

KOS PREDICTS...



Ukip's rise may have long since slowed from a sprint to an asthmatic crawl, but its influence here is likely to be key in determining Charlie Elphicke's future. It's hard to see past a Tory victory, but Dover is the sort of seat where the issue of immigration will have an influence and it could cut his vote. It won't deliver a Ukip victory, but it could allow Labour to claw it back...expect this still to stay Tory, however.

pressed," Ms Gleave added.

"We believe in fair controls on immigration, but EU migrants pay £20 billion more in taxes than they take in benefits, and are not the reason for gaps in healthcare, schools, and social care. These can adequately be funded from the £120 billion of unpaid tax."

Clark set for return ticket to Commons

By Sarah Linney

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GREG CLARK could run naked down the Pantiles, goose-stepping and wearing a swastika armband, and he'd still get in."

That'd be Tunbridge Wells, then. Independent candidate Graham Naismith's assessment just about sums up a constituency where only the Tory, the whole Tory and nothing but the Tory stands a chance of getting in.

Greg Clark, who has represented the constituency since 2005, sits on a majority of 15,576. Even at its lowest,



CAMPAIGNER:
Greg Clark

CANDIDATES

Full list of confirmed candidates:

- Greg Clark (Con)
- Kevin Kerrigan (Lab)**
James MacCleary (Lib Dem)
- Marie Jones (Green)**
Colin Nicholson (Ukip)
- Graham Naismith (Independent)**

in the 1997 election, when Tony Blair swept to power, the Tory majority here was still 7,506.

Yet there was shock on the Conservative-controlled borough council in 2012 when leader Bob Atwood was ousted by Ukip's Piers Wauchope, now the North Thanet parliamentary candidate, by just 46 votes. Proof that a small number of votes can make a difference – and change is possible.

Mr Clark's list of issues he would like to tackle if he wins a third term include improvements to the A228, quicker treatment for people with mental health issues, aircraft noise, flood defences, and a fully operational 24-hour stroke unit at the hospital.

"The dualling of the A21, which I have campaigned for, started this

month, and my next campaign will be to get it dualled between the Blue Boys roundabout and the Lamberhurst bypass," he said.

"I've helped reinstate some train services that were cut for the London Bridge work, and in the next Parliament there will be no inflationary rise in train fares. We also need more flexible tickets for part-time commuters."

Green candidate Marie Jones raised the cost of both buying and renting housing and woeful public transport provision, with buses to some villages running just every two hours.

"I tried to employ an apprentice in my business, and one of the biggest problems was that they couldn't get here or back," Ms Jones said.

"I would like to rationalise trains and buses, and I would certainly try to negotiate with the bus companies."

She says better public transport would alleviate the parking and traffic problems in the town centre – and wants to see efforts to improve living standards nationwide to ease pressure on housing in the south east.

Labour candidate Kevin Kerrigan says the party's national policies – including an extra £2.5 billion a year for the NHS and an end to the bedroom tax – would benefit local voters.

"The NHS is a big issue locally. Up

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KOS PREDICTS...

Should you be a fan of the safe bet, then sell the house, the kids and the kidneys and put it all on Tunbridge Wells remaining until Tory control by the early hours of May 8. Fortunately, however, Greg Clark is a good MP and has made some significant interventions on key local issues. It may be disheartening to rivals, but it's impossible to see past a true blue victory here.



to 20 per cent of people wait in A&E for more than four hours, and there has been poor leadership at Pembury," he said.

"Since the Coalition came to power season ticket fares for local commuters have risen by 22 per cent.

"All the tiers of local government here are run by one party, and there's a complacency. Look at the Royal Victoria Hall – the council are pushing on with their own plans despite what the community thinks. If people are elected to represent you they should work with you to decide what is best."

For Ukip candidate Colin Nicholson, the biggest issue is development.

"I would vote against all development on greenfields and in conservation areas," he said.

"If you are going to build 20,000 houses in the borough by 2026 there will be a strain on schools and hospitals. We haven't the infrastructure."

Liberal Democrat James McCleary names traffic as a major issue and says more cycle paths and a nationwide review of train fares are needed.

HISTORIC: Kent's most famously Conservative constituency, Tunbridge Wells will, it's safe to say, stay Tory

"I get school places a lot on the doorstep. People who live right next to schools often have to drive to one ten or 20 minutes away - which adds to the traffic in the town," he said.

"The Lib Dems started the petition to get the old cinema site demolished, and we are now campaigning to get something built there."

Independent Graham Naismith wants to empower the public to help tackle low-level crime like littering, make people who are caught littering three times clean the streets, and provide tax relief for parents who educate their children privately.

"I can't win, but people like me grab votes that the other parties want

and that's what changes politics," Mr Naismith said.

"The Greens and Ukip won't get in, but they are the reason we are debating things like the environment and Europe. Every vote for me is a vote the Tories will try to win next time.

"There is no-one dictating to me – I just want the best for the town."

PREVIOUS RESULTS

Past general election results for Tunbridge Wells:

2010	
Greg Clark (Con)	28,302 (56.2%)
David Hallas (Lib Dem)	12,726 (25.3%)
Gary Heather (Lab)	5,448 (10.8%)
Victor Webb (Ukip)	2,054 (4.1%)
Hazel Dawe (Green)	914 (1.8%)
Andrew McBride (BNP)	704 (1.4%)
Farel Bradbury (Independent)	172 (0.3%)
Majority 15,576 (31%)	

2005	
Greg Clark (Con)	21,083 (49.6%)
Laura Murphy (Lib Dem)	11,095 (26.1%)
Jacqui Jedrzejewski (Lab)	8,736 (20.6%)
Victor Webb (Ukip)	1,568 (3.7%)
Majority 9,988 (23.5%)	

HOPING FOR CHANGE: Independent candidate Graham Naismith



They want to govern – but YOU decide!



Everyone is interested in what will happen in Kent, but the result will be decided by YOU, the voters.

Help to make up your mind by following the twists and turns of the election campaign

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