

# ELECTION NIGHT SPECIAL

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ALL THE RESULTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTS IN  
GREATER MANCHESTER - PAGES 6 & 7



# Boris is full steam ahead after big win



Then and now...  
A look back at 1987...

By Elis Brighthouse

SO, that 10pm Exit Poll was correct - the Tories did win a huge majority.

So big that you have to go back to Margaret Thatcher's victory in 1987 to find a bigger one.

But what was life like 32 years ago and is there any similarities between then and now from a cultural point of view?

We've donned our best 1980s threads and headed back in time to find out...

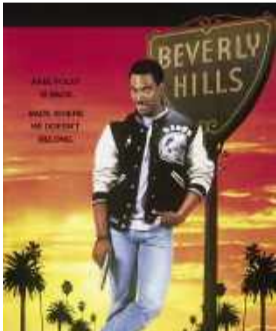
Whitney Houston was top of the UK charts on polling day - June 11 - back in 1987 with I Wanna Dance



With Somebody

The Christmas number one that year was the Pet Shop Boys' Always On My Mind which, incidentally, kept the great festive tune of all time - The Pogues's Fairytale of New York - off the top spot.

We're still not sure who will be number one this Christmas but this year's festive Top of the Pops line-up includes the likes of Lewis Capaldi and Freya Ridings.



The top-billed actors in 1987 were Steve Guttenberg, Chevy Chase and Danny Devito while in 2019, while remaining men, the top three spots are taken by Dwayne Johnson, Chris Hemsworth and Robert Downey Jr.

Similarly, film tastes have changed with American action comedy film Beverly Hills Cop II being top movie back in '87 whilst this year, the Marvel superhero film Avengers: Endgame has taken both top grossing movie of the year and of all time.



# Who next for Labour as Corbyn quits?

By Ben Parsons & Sean Byrne

**AFTER a second election defeat in two years it seems only a matter of time before Jeremy Corbyn resigns as Labour leader.**

But who's in line to replace him? Will the party remain in the grips of a Corbynite cult or will the party make moves to woo centrists?

Here we look at the potential runners and riders...

## Keir Starmer

Currently the bookies front-runner to be the next Labour leader, Starmer is the Shadow Secretary of State for exiting the European Union.

A member of parliament since 2015, Starmer holds what is expected to be a safe seat for Labour in Holborn & St. Pancras, and has been linked as a potential successor for Corbyn for a while now.

According to a recent YouGov survey, 68% said they would be satisfied with Starmer replacing Corbyn should he step down following the expected heavy defeat.

The election of the former Director of Public Prosecutions would also be a statement of intent from the Labour Party, as the 57-

year-old has made it quite evident that he is not a Corbynite himself.

Having voted against Corbyn in the last two leadership contests within his party, Starmer has often spoken out against Corbyn's reign, and has been critical of his so-called procrastinating approach to Brexit.

Whilst it is still early days in the speculation regarding who might next for the Labour hotseat, Starmer certainly looks to be a strong candidate at this stage.

## Rebecca Long-Bailey

Long-Bailey has been named as another potential successor for Corbyn after Labour's dramatic collapse. She is described in her Twitter profile as a 'proud socialist' and is kept her Salford and Eccles constituency seat last night.

The Shadow Business Secretary has held her seat since 2015, and has a history of working in callcentres, a furniture store and postwoman before turning to politics.

## Yvette Cooper

Cooper's name always seems to be floating around whenever discussions are held regarding a potential new party leader.

Having been an MP since 1997, Cooper has enjoyed a long career of politics, and is one of the more experi-

enced candidates within this list.

This wouldn't be her first shot at running either. Following the resignation of Ed Milliband in May 2015, Cooper announced she would be running to become the new Labour party leader.

However after finishing third with only 17% of votes, she subsequently resigned from her position of Shadow Home Secretary in September that year.

Despite being an outside candidate at this point, Cooper should definitely not be ruled out altogether to become the next Labour leader.

## Angela Rayner

Another Greater Manchester MP, Rayner represented Ashton-Under-Lyne since succeeding the retired David Heyes in 2015.

In doing so, she became the first woman MP in the 180-year history of her constituency. She's also served as shadow Education secretary since 2016.

She hit the headlines in November 2017 when she revealed she had become a grandmother at the age of 37!

Rayner may just be the right kind of person to win back the working class heartlands who look to have turned away from the party in their droves.



CONTENDER: Kier Starmer is the bookies' favourite to replace Corbyn (top).

## Will election result mean softer Brexit?



TALKS: EU chief Michel Barnier

Brexit will now definitely happen and the UK will leave the EU on January 31 next year - but what form will it take? **Richard Hansen investigates...**

The implications for returning Prime Minister Boris Johnson are far reaching. For the first time since 1992 the Conservatives have a majority of more than a few seats. As a result, they are no longer held hostage by the Hard Brexit-advocating European Research Group (ERG) on the backbenches of their party.

After all, the ERG are widely known to have handed Theresa May her "red lines" with regard to freedom of movement, memberships of the single market and customs union as well as

jurisdiction of the European court systems.

Johnson now has the numbers in parliament to afford a number of Conservative rebels in any future trade deal and has much more freedom to pursue a different deal of his own.

This may lead Johnson to soften his rhetoric on Brexit and move onto a more One Nation Conservative footing. Rarely in his political life has Johnson been in a position to reveal his true stance on many issues but he may finally be allowed the political space to show this.

It is widely known that before declaring for a campaign in 2016 he wrote an article advocating Remain and another advocating Leave, coming down on the side

of Leave as he felt it would be more politically advantageous.

Johnson, with his metropolitan background, may soften his Brexit position now that he has the room to do so. This may prove popular with a wider cross section of the electorate and opposition parties will find it harder to oppose if it is seen to cause less damage to the economy.

It may also set the Tories up for future electoral challenges, as many of these traditionally Labour voting constituencies will have only lent the Tories their votes in order to accomplish Brexit. Any future deal with the EU will have to minimise economic impact in these areas otherwise they risk

swinging back to Labour in the next election.

Furthermore, this thumping majority will undoubtedly strengthen the UK hand in future EU negotiations which may also lead to a more favourable trading relationship.

While the UK will definitely leave the EU on January 31 next year, the future relationship is still yet to be negotiated so we will not have to wait very long for Johnson to show his true political colours.

The trust put in him by working class voters - for whom he can thank for his majority - will not last long unless he is able to keep these people on side.

Only time will tell but we might not have to wait long...



# Victory: Johnson rides the blue wave

## Tories 'pinching themselves' after big victory

By Gwyn Wright

**THE Boris Johnson era has begun.**

The Conservative Party won an overall majority of 78 in an election that has realigned British politics.

The party made gain after gain in traditionally Labour, Leave-voting seats in the north and midlands which failed to back Theresa May last time.

Addressing first-time Conservative voters this morning, he said: "Your hand may have quivered over the ballot paper before you put your cross in the Conservative box."

"You may intend to return to Labour next time round."

"If that is the case, I am humbled that you have put your trust in me and that you have put your trust in us."

"I and we will never take your support for granted."

"Parliament must change so that we in Parliament are working for you, the British people."

The Prime Minister increased his majority in his suburban London seat of Uxbridge and South Ruislip from 5,034 to 7,210.

Traditional Labour voters abandoned the Labour Party in scores of seats, producing some astonishing results as the evening unfolded.

Eighteen seats which had been held by the Labour Party at every election since the war fell to the Conservatives in a blue tide.

The result in Blyth Valley in the north east, which has returned a Labour MP since its creation in 1950, provided an early indication that the exit poll, which forecast a Conservative majority of 82, would be vindicated.



**BACK HOME:** There's no need for Boris Johnson or girlfriend Carrie Symonds to think about moving out of Number 10 after last night's results.

Scores of Labour seats fell throughout the night including Tony Blair's former seat in Sedgefield, Dennis Skinner's Bolsover seat and Workington, which had attracted media attention for being a 'must win' seat for Johnson's party.

Chancellor Sajid Javid said the Conservatives had become the "party of the working class" and that the government "will listen to them".

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab held his

Esher and Walton seat with a reduced majority of 2,743, holding off a Liberal Democrat challenge.

The Conservatives lost a handful of seats in the South of England including Putney to Labour and St Albans to the Liberal Democrats.

The results suggest class has become a less reliable indicator of voting patterns and factors such as age and education have become more important.

The Prime Minister's

strategy of squeezing the Brexit party with a hard-line strategy while pledging billions extra into public services after nearly a decade of austerity appears to have paid off.

Johnson has been in campaign mode from the first day of his premiership, appointing feared Vote Leave supremo Dominic Cummings as his Chief of Staff and announcing a wish list of spending priorities from the steps of Downing

Street.

The government announced a blitz of domestic policies throughout August, from new infrastructure in the north to extra money for the NHS and a return to traditional approach to law and order.

Parliament was consistently pitted against 'the people' as the Prime Minister struggled to leave the European Union by the previous deadline of 31st October and the result appears to suggest

large swathes of the public became weary of Brexit delay and rallied around that well versed mantle of 'getting Brexit done.'

The Conservatives will now have to decide how they intend to keep new recruits from Labour on side and face a choice between adopting more statist policies on the economy and public services or sticking to a traditional free-enterprise approach.

## And now the hard work is starting for PM

By Gwyn Wright

**BRITAIN has elected its first single party majority government in over a decade.**

So what happens next? Downing Street announced this morning there will be a minor Cabinet reshuffle on Monday, and the Withdrawal Agreement Bill will receive its second Commons reading a week today.

Britain will almost certainly leave the European Union at the end of January and enter a transition period.

A major Cabinet reshuffle will take place in February, with a Budget statement following in March.

Eleven months of frantic trade talks with the EU will follow if the government intends to meet its deadline of negotiating Britain's future trading relationship with the bloc by December 31 2020.

If no trade deal is agreed by that date, the PM will have to choose between falling back on World Trade Organisation rules or extending the transition.

EU27 heads of state and government were meeting in Brussels when the exit poll was announced.

EU officials hope the thumping Tory victory will enable the PM to negotiate a closer relationship with the bloc than he has indicated, as he will no longer have to rely on the European Research Group of Eurosceptic Conservative MPs for votes.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyden said: "We have the structures internally and are ready to negotiate whatever is necessary. It will be important to get the mandate for the steps from the EU Council so this would be our focus."

The pound enjoyed its biggest surge in a decade after the exit poll \$1.35 against the dollar in early trading this morning.

Nicola Sturgeon is set to write to the Prime Minister next week to ask him to transfer all powers that would allow her to hold a new referendum from Westminster to the Scottish Parliament. He is almost certain to refuse this request.

The Scottish National Party increased its tally of seats north of the border, and took Jo Swinson's seat in East Dunbartonshire.

The First Minister said: "I have just won an election on the strength of the argument that it is Scotland's right to choose."

## Boris takes on all-comers and is triumphant

By Gwyn Wright

BORIS Johnson was a back-bench MP in May when he made what turned out to be uncannily accurate prediction.

"We need to get Brexit done properly and then knock Corbyn out of the park," he wrote.

In his wildest dreams, he couldn't possibly have imagined

just how far of the park he would knock Mr Corbyn.

Few would have predicted that he would lead the Tories to their biggest majority since the 1980s and take political scalps not just of Corbyn but several other of his main opponents in one of the most astonishing nights of British politics.

DUP leader Nigel Dodds, who led his party's opposition to every attempt to get Brexit

through the Commons - lost his seat to Sinn Fein at 3.06am. Sinn Fein's main nationalist rival, the SDLP, stood aside in the seat.

As results all went Johnson's way in Labour heartlands that declared early - from Blyth Valley to Darlington and Workington - Corbyn admitted defeat at 3.26am. He said he won't lead his party into the next election but didn't announce an exact date for his resignation.

Jo Swinson - who once threatened to topple the Tories in swathes of Remain-voting southern seats - was out of a job less than twenty minutes later as the SNP won her East Dunbartonshire seat.

Nigel Farage, who had propelled the PM to the top job as sceptical MPs reluctantly agreed to back him or face being gobbled up by the Brexit Party - watched his party clock up just

2 per cent of the vote.

As results poured in from Labour-Tory battlegrounds, it became clear that an unleashed Johnson would not need to rely on the European Research Group of Eurosceptic back-benchers in crunch votes, unless he actively chooses to court them.

Remainer rebels such as Dominic Grieve, David Gauke and Anne Milton also failed to

make a Commons comeback as independents.

A triumphant Johnson has just one rival left standing.

Nicola Sturgeon is demanding that Holyrood be given the unilateral power to trigger a new independence referendum.

Johnson will almost certainly refuse, but a new constitutional crisis may be starting just as the last one has ended.



## How a political stunner finally unfolded

By Alice Fuller

IT became known as the Brexit election and in one of the most dramatic nights in UK politics, Boris Johnson achieved the victory he needed to fulfil his promise to 'get Brexit done.' This was how the night unfolded:

**10pm**

The ballots closed and the exit poll suggested Labour were in for a disappointing night with just 191 seats to the Tories' 368.

**11.27pm**

Newcastle beat its local rival Sunderland to be the first constituency to declare a result. Labour's candidate Chi Onwurah was the first MP of the new parliament.

**1am**

Huge shock when the Conservatives took the symbolic Labour stronghold Workington. The Cumbrian seat is home to the Workington Man - the white working-class voter who traditionally identifies with Labour, but backed Brexit.

**3.06am**

Chuka Umunna failed to win Cities of London and Westminster, despite a Remain-fuelled swing to the Liberal Democrats. He was defeated by Tory Nickie Aiken.

**3.15am**

Liberal Democrat Sarah Olney took pro-remain Richmond Park from the Tories' Zac Goldsmith.

**3.25am**

The Tories broke through Labour's "red wall" by gaining Tony Blair's old constituency Sedgefield.

**3.26am**

Jeremy Corbyn confirmed he will step down as Labour leader and will not lead the party into another general election.

**3.36am**

Nick Fletcher became the first Tory MP for Don Valley in South Yorkshire, taking the seat from Labour's Caroline Flint who has spent 22 years as their MP.

**3.41am**

Boris Johnson thanked Lord Bucklehead, Elmo and voters across Britain after winning back his seat in Uxbridge and South Ruislip.

**3.45am**

Jo Swinson lost her East Dunbartonshire seat by 149 votes to the SNP's Amy Callaghan. SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon was caught on camera celebrating wildly.

**4.32am**

Former Conservative and key Brexit player Dominic Grieve lost his Beaconsfield seat to his Tory successor Joy Morrissey.

**5.01am**

Boris Johnson officially declared winner as the Tories secure their 326th seat.



OUT: Jeremy Corbyn has announced he won't lead the Labour Party in another General Election

# Here ends the cult of Corbyn

## Labour leader off after crushing poll defeat

By Anna Cooban

FIRST came the exit poll, then came Blyth Valley. When the former mining town turned blue for the first time in its history, Labour knew all was lost.

Tory candidate Ian Levy won 17,440 votes to Labour candidate Susan Dungworth's 16,728, a 10% swing in a constituency that has remained staunchly red since its creation in 1950.

Moments after his victory, Mr Levy said: "I will be going to London on the train on Monday. We're going to get Brexit done."

After Blyth Valley came Workington. The Cumbrian town swung 9.73% from Labour to Tory, ousting the incumbent Sue Hayman, turning blue after 40 years of red loyalty.

As the counts rolled in, Labour lost ground in many of their historic safe seats. Redcar, a north east coastal town, shunned Labour, handing the

Tories a 3,527-vote majority. In Sedgefield - former Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair's seat - voters ushered in a Tory MP for the first time since 1931 with a comfortable majority of 4,513.

The Tory party took working class areas in key north east and Midlands battlegrounds, undoing decades of Labour support and throwing the party into turmoil.

Candidates and pundits piled in to give their verdict on the cause of the party's biggest defeat since 1935.

The diagnosis? It's complicated.

Was it Corbyn's leadership style? His indecision on Brexit? The promise of a second referendum? Anti-Semitism in the party?

Each voice shared their post-mortem, but nearly all agreed that Jeremy Corbyn's leadership was dead. And, at 3.26am, the Labour leader agreed too.

"I will not lead the party in

any future General Election campaign," he announced as he held onto his Islington North constituency.

Stoke-on-Trent Central MP Gareth Snell had predicted his own defeat before the votes were tallied.

He said: "Obviously, I suspect my seat will be part of the list of seats that fall to the Conservatives."

At 4.25am, Mr Snell lost by 670 votes to his Tory rival Jo Gideon.

Mr Snell blamed Labour's confused Brexit position and argued the party was too swayed by pro-Remain MPs sitting in Leave-voting areas.

"This is one of the worst results the Labour party could ever have imagined," he added.

Former Labour home secretary Alan Johnson gave one of the most stinging indictments of the party's leadership.

He said: "Corbyn was a disaster on the doorstep. Everyone knew he couldn't lead the working class out of a

paper bag."

Sitting next to the chair of Momentum Jon Lansman in the ITV news studio, he tore into the far-left activist group for their influence on Labour's direction.

He said: "Jon's developed this Momentum group, this party within a party, aiming to keep the purity. I want them out of the party. I want Momentum gone. Go back to your student politics."

Other Blair-era Labour figures came out to offer their assessment of their party's failure.

Former Labour spin doctor Alastair Campbell said: "This is not just a defeat for Jeremy Corbyn, this is a defeat for the politics he represents."

"This delusion that they just have to keep on with is Corbynism and eventually the British public will see it for what it is and will flock to support it, is never going to happen."

While the causes of

Labour's seismic defeat are still debated, it is clear the party can no longer rely on historically red areas for their support.

Voters in Labour strongholds have moved resoundingly away from their socialist roots in a national context monopolised by Brexit.

As the country moves into a new decade, Britain's most prominent left-wing party will certainly undergo further transformation.

The old guard may fight to re-introduce a newer New Labour:

Momentum will likely continue to press their far-left agenda, convinced it is the messaging and not the policies that failed to persuade voters this time.

New faces and ideas will begin to fill Labour's void, hoping to represent a country now changed beyond recognition.

## Labour look to women for future leader

By Alice Fuller

Jeremy Corbyn announced his imminent resignation as Labour party leader, but who will win the race to replace him?

Labour has had 22 leaders but the party has never been headed by a woman.

The Conservatives have seen two female leaders in Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, and Jo Swinson was the first woman to be elected as leader of the Lib Dems.

Sian Berry, Caroline Lucas and Natalie Bennett have all led the Green Party.

Women dominate the list of contenders for Corbyn's replacement.

Shadow business secretary Rebecca Long-Bailey and shadow Brexit secretary Keir Starmer are favourites to take over.

Both are 3/1 to succeed Corbyn according to Labrokes, with Yvette Cooper in third position at 8/1.

Shadow education secretary Angela Rayner, currently 10/1, was tipped as a possible successor by Alastair Campbell.

He said in GQ Magazine that whoever comes after Corbyn "has got to be a woman."

Laura Pidcock, who lost her seat to the Conservatives in North West Durham, also features on the bookies' list at 12/1.

John McDonnell is next most likely with odds of 16/1.

Whoever takes over will be tasked with rebuilding the party after a disastrous night that saw them only gain one seat in the whole of the UK, Putney.

Ms Long-Bailey avoided the question of whether she would be keen to replace Mr Corbyn.

She said: "We will be having discussions within the party."

"Leading is certainly not something I've been thinking about and we will have to convene, look at the election, why we lost it, and determine a process going forward."

"It's been a devastating night. It has been a very difficult campaign for everybody."

Labour's Jess Phillips, another possible contender, said: "I don't know what is going to happen next, but what I do know is that if we think this is just some personality contest at the top of the party, that that's going to be the answer to rescue the single greatest vehicle for social change, then we will inevitably end up in a poor situation."

"So I'm not going to sit here and start some sort of election race or even demand that Jeremy Corbyn goes because the Labour Party was never just about Jeremy Corbyn."



# Lib Dems stutter as Swinson loses seat

## Party on hunt for new leader

By Alice Fuller

IT was a grim night for the Liberal Democrats as leader Jo Swinson lost her seat to the SNP. Ms Swinson lost her East Dunbartonshire constituency by 149 votes to Amy Callaghan.

Nationally the Lib Dems finished with 11 seats, down one from 2017.

Ms Swinson steps down as leader just five months after being elected.

Lib Dem party rules state the leader must have a seat in the Commons.

Sir Ed Davey and Baroness Sal Brinton will be acting leaders for the party and a leadership contest will be held in the new year.

SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon was filmed celebrating as she learned her party had beaten Ms Swinson.

She grinned and cheered silently pumping her arms as she watched TV coverage of the declaration.

Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage described her response as "graceless and nasty" on Twitter.

Ms Swinson, who started the campaign saying she could be the next prime minister, said the election results would bring 'dread and dismay' to millions around the country.

She said: "I still believe that we, as a country, can be warm and generous, inclusive and open."

The Lib Dems had pinned their campaign on axing Brexit but the strong remain message failed to resonate with voters.

Her policy of revoking Article 50 may have cost her the support of those in favour of a people's vote.

The Lib Dems have had to fight to regain support following its performance in the coalition.

She has repeatedly apologised for her role in austerity measures during this period.

This is the second time Ms Swinson has lost her seat.

She took the constituency from Labour in 2005 and held onto it five years later.



OVER AND OUT: Jo Swinson stepped down as Lib Dem leader after losing her seat last night.

She was defeated in 2015 when the SNP surged in popularity, but won back her seat in 2017 when support for Ms Sturgeon's party fell.

It was a disappointing night for the party but Sarah Olney in Richmond Park offered some relief.

She won the seat from the Conservatives' Zac Goldsmith and it was the

party's first gain on election night.

Liberal Democrats president Sal Brinton said: "I want to thank Jo Swinson for her honest and fearless leadership of the Liberal Democrats."

"In this election, we gained more votes than in 2017 and we have been joined by many new MPs.

"In the weeks ahead we will elect a new leader and our party will continue to be the rallying point for anyone who believes in a country where everyone has the chance to get on in life."

Ms Swinson said: "Some will be celebrating the wave of nationalism that is sweeping on both sides of the border.

"And I do congratulate all those who are newly elected.

"These are very significant results for the future of our country and I will be making further remarks later."

It was a bad night all round for the party with a host of their 'big' transfers missing out on a return to Parliament.

Chuka Umunna and

Luciana Berger from Labour, and the former Tory minister Sam Gyimah all joined the party before the election wads called and party bosses had hoped their personal vote might hold up.

But all three were left disappointed when they lost their individual seats.

Despite the setback, Brinton said the party would continue to fight for what it felt was right.

She said there were "nuggets of gold" the party could take from the election, including the fact it increased its share of the vote by 4.2% and getting "some good new MPs".

"All is not lost," she added, pledging that the party's MPs would "continue to fight, if not for our place in Europe, then for the best deal possible".

A new leadership contest is expected to get underway in the next few days.

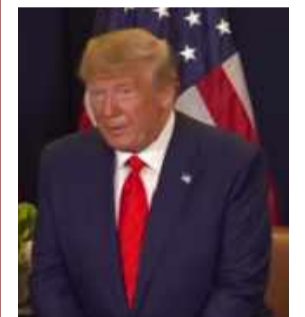
## Trump promises 'massive' trade deal in 2020

By Alice Fuller

WORLD leaders began congratulating Boris Johnson today on his election victory.

US President Donald Trump (below) tweeted: "Britain and the United States will now be free to strike a massive new Trade Deal after BREXIT. This deal has the potential to be far bigger and more lucrative than any deal that could be made with the E.U. Celebrate Boris!"

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison



similarly pointed to the post-Brexit implications of the Tories' win.

He said: "Congratulations @Boris Johnson on a resounding victory and being returned as UK PM. Looking forward to the stability this brings and a new deal for Oz with the UK."

Former US Vice President Joe Biden (below) is currently running for the Democratic party's nomination for the presidential race in 2020.

He made sure the implications of the UK result on the US election were noted at a San Francisco fundraiser on Thursday.

Reports from the event claim Mr Biden pointed to UK voters' rejection of Labour's far-left policies as



evidence for the wisdom of his centrist approach.

European Council president Charles Michel said the EU was ready to negotiate a free-trade agreement with Britain but called on London to work in good faith.

He said: "I would like to congratulate @BorisJohnson on his victory."

"We expect a vote on the withdrawal agreement as soon as possible. EU is ready for the next phase. We will negotiate a future trade deal which ensures a true level playing field."

Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz said Mr Johnson's election win is a "victory of values" over anti-semitism.



JOY: SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon was caught on camera celebrating Ms Swinson losing her seat.

**ALTRINCHAM AND SALE WEST**

	<b>GRAHAM BRADY</b> CONSERVATIVES 26,311 ▼ 3.0%		<b>ANDREW WESTERN</b> LABOUR PARTY 20,172 ▼ 2.0%
	<b>ANGELA SMITH</b> LIB DEM 6,036 ▲ 3.3%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 74.9% ▲ 2.8%

THE REST: GERALDINE GOGGINS (GREEN PARTY) - 1,566 (+1.0%); NEIL TAYLOR (LIBERAL) - 454 (+0.3%); IRAM KIANI (INDEPENDENT) - 224 (+0.4%)

**ASHTON UNDER LYNE**

	<b>DAN COSTELLO</b> CONSERVATIVES 14,281 ▲ 5.1%		<b>ANGELA RAYNER</b> LABOUR PARTY 18,544 ▼ 12.3%
	<b>DEREK BROCKLEHURST</b> BREXIT PARTY 3,151 ▲ 8.2%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 56.3% ▼ 4.2%

THE REST: GEORGE RICE (LIB DEM) - 1,395 (+2.0%); LEE HUNTBACH (GREEN PARTY) - 1,208 (+1.8%)

**BOLTON SOUTH EAST**

	<b>JOHNO LEE</b> CONSERVATIVES 13,918 ▲ 4.6%		<b>YASMIN QURESHI</b> LABOUR PARTY 21,516 ▼ 7.7%
	<b>MARK CUNNINGHAM</b> BREXIT PARTY 2,968 ▲ 7.3%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 58.7% ▼ 2.7%

THE REST: DAVID FIGGINS (GREEN PARTY) - 791 (+0.7%)

**BOLTON WEST**

	<b>CHRIS GREEN</b> CONSERVATIVES 27,255 ▲ 7.4%		<b>JULIE HILLING</b> LABOUR PARTY 18,400 ▼ 8.8%
	<b>REBECCA FORREST</b> LIB DEM 2,704 ▲ 2.6%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 67.4% ▼ 2.8%

THE REST: PARIS HAYES (GREEN PARTY) - 939 (+1.9%)

**CHEADLE**

	<b>MARY ROBINSON</b> CONSERVATIVES 25,694 ▲ 1.4%		<b>ZAHID CHAUHAN</b> LABOUR PARTY 6,851 ▼ 6.8%
	<b>TOM MORRISON</b> LIB DEM 23,358 ▲ 5.5%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 74.9% ▲ 0.6%

**DENTON AND REDDISH**

	<b>IAIN BOTT</b> CONSERVATIVES 13,142 ▲ 6.1%		<b>ANDREW GWYNNE</b> LABOUR PARTY 19,317 ▼ 13.5%
	<b>MARTIN POWER</b> BREXIT PARTY 3,039 ▲ 7.9%		<b>TURNOUT</b> XX% ▲ X%

THE REST: DOMINIC HARDWICK (LIB DEM) - 1,642 (+2.1%); GARY LAWSON (GREEN PARTY) - 1,124 (+1.7%); FARMIN DAVE (MONSTER RAVING LUNATIC PARTY) - 324 (+0.3%)

**LEIGH**

	<b>JAMES GRUNDY</b> CONSERVATIVES 21,266 ▲ 9.4%		<b>JOANNE PLATT</b> LABOUR 19,301 ▼ 15.1%
	<b>JAMES MELLY</b> THE BREXIT PARTY 3,161 ▲ 6.7%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 60.07% ▼ 0.8%

THE REST: MARK CLAYTON (LIBERAL DEMOCRATS) - 2,252 (+2.8%); ANN O'BERN (INDEPENDENT) - 551 (+1.2%); LEON PETERS (UKIP) - 448 (-5.0%)

**MAKERFIELD**

	<b>NICK KING</b> CONSERVATIVES 15,214 ▲ 3.0%		<b>YVONNE FOVARGUE</b> LABOUR PARTY 19,954 ▼ 15.1%
	<b>ROSS WRIGHT</b> BREXIT PARTY 5,817 ▲ 13.1%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 59.7% ▼ 3.5%

THE REST: JOHN SKIPWORTH (LIB DEM) - 2,108 (+1.9%); SHEILA SHAW (GREEN PARTY) - 1,166 (+2.6%)



**MANCHESTER WITHINGTON**

	<b>SHENGKE ZHI</b> CONSERVATIVES 5,820 ▲ 0.7%		<b>JEFF SMITH</b> LABOUR PARTY 35,903 ▼ 3.9%
	<b>JOHN LEECH</b> LIB DEM 7,997 ▼ 0.9%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 69.2% ▼ 2.6%

THE REST: LUCY BANNISTER (GREEN PARTY) - 1,968 (+2.1%); STEPHEN WARD (BREXIT PARTY) - 1,308 (+2.5%)



**ROCHDALE**

	<b>ATIFA SHAH</b> CONSERVATIVES 14,807 ▲ 2.8%		<b>TONY LOYD</b> LABOUR 24,475 ▼ 6.4%
	<b>CHRIS GREEN</b> THE BREXIT PARTY 3,867 ▲ 8.2%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 60.1% ▼ 4%

THE REST: ANDY KELLY (LIB DEM) - 3,312 (-1.1%); SARAH CROKE (GREEN PARTY) - 986 (+2.1%)

**SALFORD AND ECCLES**

	<b>ATTIKA CHOUDHARY</b> CONSERVATIVES 12,428 ▼ 0.7%		<b>REBECCA LONG-BAILEY</b> LABOUR PARTY 28,755 ▼ 8.7%
	<b>MATT MICKLER</b> BREXIT PARTY 4,290 ▲ 8.5%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 61.6% ▲ 0.6%

THE REST: JAKE OVEREND - (LIB DEM) 3,099 (+3.4%); BRYAN BLEARS - (GREEN PARTY) 2,060 (+2.4%)

**STRETFORD AND URMSTON**

	<b>MUSSADAK MIRZA</b> CONSERVATIVES 13,778 ▲ 0.0%		<b>KATE GREEN</b> LABOUR PARTY 30,195 ▼ 6.5%
	<b>ANNA FRYER</b> LIB DEM 2,969 ▲ 3.9%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 69.2% ▼ 0.7%

THE REST: GARY POWELL (BREXIT PARTY) - 1,768 (+3.5%); JANE LEICESTER (GREEN PARTY) - 1,357 (+1.4%)





**WIGAN**

	<b>ASHLEY WILLIAMS</b> CONSERVATIVES 14,314 ▲ 3.3%		<b>LISA NANDY</b> LABOUR 21,042 ▼ 15.5%
	<b>WILLIAM MALLOY</b> THE BREXIT PARTY 5,959 ▲ X%		<b>TURNOUT</b> 59.5% ▼ 3.6%





THE REST: STUART THOMAS (LIB DEM) - 2,428 (+3.3%); PETER JACOBS (GREEN PARTY) - 1,299 (+1.3%)







### BLACKLEY AND BROUGHTON

 <b>ALEXANDER ELIAS</b> CONSERVATIVES 9,485 ▲ 3.0%	 <b>GRAHAM STRINGER</b> LABOUR PARTY 23,887 ▼ 8.6%
 <b>JAMES BUCKLEY</b> BREXIT PARTY 2,736 ▲ 7.1%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 52.6% ▼ 3.4%
THE REST: IAIN DONALDSON (LIB DEM) - 1,590 (+2.3%); DAVID JONES (GREEN PARTY) - 920 (+1.2%)	





### BOLTON NORTH EAST

 <b>MARK LOGAN</b> CONSERVATIVES 19,759 ▲ 3.2%	 <b>DAVID CRAUSBY</b> LABOUR PARTY 19,381 ▼ 6.1%
 <b>TREVOR JONES</b> BREXIT PARTY 1,880 ▲ 4.3%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 64.5% ▼ 2.7%
THE REST: WARREN FOX (LIB DEM) - 1,847 (+1.3%); LIZ SPENCER (GREEN PARTY) - 689 (+0.8%)	





### BURY NORTH

 <b>JAMES DALY</b> CONSERVATIVES 21,660 ▲ 1.8%	 <b>JAMES FRITH</b> LABOUR PARTY 21,555 ▼ 7.6%
 <b>GARETH LLOYD-JOHNSON</b> LIB DEM 1,584 ▲ 1.5%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 68.1% ▼ 2.8
2017 RESULT: Liberal Democrats: 22,156 (45.7%), Conservative: 20,548 (42.4%), Labour: 3,376 (7%), BNP: 1014 (2.1%), UKIP: 950 (2%), Green: 246 (0.5%), English Democrat: 106 (0.2%), Others: 112 (0.2%)	





### BURY SOUTH

 <b>CHRISTIAN WAKEFORD</b> CONSERVATIVES 22,034 ▲ 2.3	 <b>LUY BURKE</b> LABOUR PARTY 21,632 ▼ 10.2%
 <b>RICHARD KILPATRICK</b> LIB DEM 2,315 ▲ 2.5%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 66.9% ▼ 2.3%
THE REST: ANDREA LIVESSEY (BREXIT PARTY) - 1,672 (+3.3%); IVAN LEWIS (IND) - 1,366 (+2.7%); GLYN HEATH (GREEN PARTY) - 848 (+1.7%); MICHAEL BOYLE (IND) - 277 (+0.6%); GEMMA EVANS (WEP) - 130 (+0.3%)	





### HAZEL GROVE

 <b>WILLIAM WRAGG</b> CONSERVATIVES 21,592 ▲ 3.3%	 <b>TONY WILSON</b> LABOUR PARTY 5,508 ▼ 8.0%
 <b>LISA SMART</b> LIB DEM 17,169 ▲ 5.9%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 67.6% ▼ 2.2%





### HEYWOOD AND MIDDLETON

 <b>CHRIS CLARKSON</b> CONSERVATIVES 20,453 ▲ 5.0%	 <b>LIZ MCINNES</b> LABOUR PARTY 19,790 ▼ 11.6%
 <b>COLIN LAMBERT</b> BREXIT PARTY 3,952 ▲ 8.3%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 59.2% ▼ 3.2%
THE REST: ANTHONY SMITH (LIB DEM) - 2,073 (+2.2%); NIGEL AINSWORTH-BARNES (GREEN PARTY) - 1,220 (+2.6%)	





### MANCHESTER CENTRAL

 <b>SHADEN JARADAT</b> CONSERVATIVES 7,734 ▲ 0.6%	 <b>LUCY POWELL</b> LABOUR PARTY 36,823 ▼ 7.0%
 <b>JOHN BRIDGES</b> LIB DEM 3,420 ▲ 3.2%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 55.5% ▲ 0.4%
THE REST: SRAH CHADWICK (BREXIT PARTY) - 2,335 (+4.5%); MELANIE HORROCKS (GREEN PARTY) - 1,870 (+1.9%); DENNIA LEECH (SEQ) - 107 (+0.2%)	





### MANCHESTER GORTON

 <b>SEBASTIAN LOWE</b> CONSERVATIVES 4,244 ▲ 2.2%	 <b>AFZAL KHAN</b> LABOUR PARTY 34,583 ▼ 1.3%
 <b>JACKIE PEARCEY</b> LIB DEM 2,448 ▲ 0.2%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 58.3% ▼ 2.7%
THE REST: ELIZA TYRRELL (GREEN PARTY) - 1,697 (+1.6%); LESLEY KAYA (BREXIT PARTY) - 1,573 (+3.5%)	





### OLDHAM EAST AND SADDLEWORTH

 <b>TOM LORD</b> CONSERVATIVE 18,589 ▲ 3.2%	 <b>DEBBIE ABRAHAMS</b> LABOUR PARTY 20,088 ▼ 11%
 <b>PAUL BRIERLEY</b> BREXIT PARTY 2,980 ▲ 6.5%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 64.0% ▼ 1.2%
THE REST: SAM AL-HAMDANI (LIB DEM) - 2,423 (+1.7%); PAUL ERROCK (POS) - 1,073 (+2.3%); WENDY OLSEN (GREEN PARTY) - 778 (+17%); AMOY LINDO (IND) - 233 (+0.5%)	





### OLDHAM WEST AND ROYTON

 <b>KIRSTY FINLAYSON</b> CONSERVATIVES 13,452 ▲ 2.7%	 <b>JIM MCMAHON</b> LABOUR PARTY 24,579 ▼ 9.9%
 <b>HELEN FORMBY</b> BREXIT PARTY 3,316 ▲ 7.5%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 60.8% ▼ 2.4%
THE REST: GARTH HARKNESS (LIB DEM) - 1,484 (+1.3%); DAN JERROME (GREEN PARTY) - 681 (+0.6%); DEBBIE COLE (POS) - 533 (+1.2%); ANTHONY PRINCE (UKIP) - 389 (-3.3%)	





### STALYBRIDGE AND HYDE

 <b>TAYUB AMJAD</b> CONSERVATIVES 16,079 ▼ 0.2%	 <b>JONATHAN REYNOLDS</b> LABOUR PARTY 19,025 ▼ 12.3%
 <b>JULIAN NEWTON</b> BREXIT PARTY 3,951 ▲ 8.5%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 57.4% ▼ 2.1%
THE REST: JAMIE DAWN (LIB DEM) - 1,827 (+2.0%); JULIE WOOD (GREEN PARTY) - 1,411 (+1.0%); JOHN EDGE (LIBERAL) - 435 (+1.0%)	





### STOCKPORT

 <b>ISY IMARNI</b> CONSERVATIVES 11,656 ▲ 0.5%	 <b>NAVENDU MISHRA</b> LABOUR PARTY 21,695 ▼ 11.3%
 <b>WENDY MEIKLE</b> LIB DEM 5,043 ▲ 7.8%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 63.7% ▼ 0.9%
THE REST: LEE MONTAGUE-TRENCHARD (BREXIT PARTY) - 1,918 (+1.9%); HELENA MELLISH (GREEN PARTY) - 1,403 (+1.9%)	

### WORSLEY AND ECCLES SOUTH

 <b>ANNIE SAUNDERS</b> CONSERVATIVES 17,227 ▼ 0.2%	 <b>BARBARA KEELEY</b> LABOUR PARTY 20,446 ▼ 11.3%
 <b>SEAMUS MARTIN</b> BREXIT PARTY 3,224 ▲ 7.2%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 59.4% ▼ 2.5%
THE REST: JOE JOHNSON-TOD (LIB DEM) - 2,510 (+3.2%); DANIEL TOWERS (GREEN PARTY) - 1,300 (+1.1%)	

### WITHENSHAW AND SALE EAST

 <b>PETER HARROP</b> CONSERVATIVES 13,459 ▲ 0.4%	 <b>MIKE KANE</b> LABOUR PARTY 23,855 ▼ 8.9%
 <b>SIMON LEPORI</b> LIB DEM 3,111 ▲ 3.7%	 <b>TURNOUT</b> 58.7% ▼ 1.4%
THE REST: JULIE FOUSERT (BREXIT PARTY) - 2,717 (+6.1%); ROB NUNNEY (GREEN PARTY) - 1,559 (+2.2%); CAROLINE BELLAMY (CLGB) - 58 (+0.1%)	



## Powell says Labour must look within

By Kit Roberts

LABOUR have faced a catastrophic result across the country, as even seats once considered safe have fallen one after the other to a bulldozing Conservative campaign.

However, in Manchester Central at least, the party has held onto some of its home territory. Veteran candidate Lucy Powell maintained a comfortable majority of just under 30,000 votes.

Whilst this does represent a slight reduction in her majority, she has survived the severe losses suffered by Labour throughout the UK.

Powell, however, voiced sadness and concern over the severity of Labour's defeat, saying in her acceptance speech: "Such an overwhelming defeat means we really do need to look deeply and profoundly at what has gone wrong. That means an honest, objective, serious analysis about how we can reshape our party for the future."

Her tone was reflective of the mood of many Labour representatives, who watched the results pour in with increasing frustration and disbelief.

Powell is not willing to lay the blame for this catastrophe for Labour in any one place, telling MM: "I think this goes beyond just an issue with Jeremy or the leadership. There have been big shifts coming in politics for a while. Brexit was actually a wake-up call for some of that."

"We've got to take a long, hard look at ourselves here, there are many issues at play that will need profoundly addressing if we are set ourselves back on a course for being electable again. A quick change of leader will not suffice."

Nonetheless, in spite of this small Labour bastion weathering the Conservative storm, Powell is under no illusions that the next five years will be very difficult for the people of Manchester.

She told MM: "I think people in Manchester will suffer greatly under a Conservative government, as they have done already, whether it's around being tied into debt on universal credit, or stuck on hospital waiting lists, or not being able to feed their kids and being driven to food banks."

Under further austerity and uncertainty over Britain's position in the world, these realities are set only to increase in the near future.

"I'm not looking forward to being in Parliament with a big Tory majority, I'm really not, watching them just do whatever they want, whenever they want. That's deeply depressing."



GOOD TUNE: Labour's Jeff Smith is used to playing to big crowds... as a former Hacienda DJ.

# Ex-DJ Jeff gets to spin again after win

By Kit Roberts

**In a rout, there are sometimes people who stand firm and do not give ground.**

In Manchester this morning, the Labour supporters in Manchester Withington did just that.

Labour's Jeff Smith has held his seat, being one of few Labour MPs to increase his majority from 2017, gaining a lead of just over 30,000 votes.

A high turnout worked in Labour's favour here today, with Manchester Withington boasting a 69% turnout, the highest of any constituency at the Manchester Central count today.

However, this island of hope for Labour

## Withington MP gets vote of confidence

remained an exception. Smith began his victory speech on a sombre note by thanking the people of Withington: "I had hoped that the rest of the country would follow their lead, vote for hope, vote for change, and vote for a Labour government. That's not been the case. Clearly it has been a terrible night for the Labour Party."

Nonetheless Smith, a veteran Labour Party member, went on to draw solace and courage from the experiences of the past. He said: "I joined the Labour Party when I was sixteen. I've seen some pretty tough times. The

Labour Party has always recovered. We lost in 1983, we came back to introduce the minimum wage."

He is not however, in any doubt about the challenges ahead, stating flatly: "This will be a difficult few years for many people."

When questioned after his victory speech about his plans for the future, Smith elaborated further, telling MM: "I think the plan is to take some time to assess what's gone wrong for the Labour Party. It's been a great result for Manchester, but desperately disappointing for the rest of the country. We need to

take some time and learn the lessons of this national defeat."

His tone echoed that of his colleague and fellow MP Lucy Powell, as he called for reasoned,



HAPPY: Tory Shengke Zie

thought out investigation into Labour's defeat: "I don't think we should leap to any conclusions, we need to look at the data and do a proper analysis, and talk to the voters and talk to the people who have not put their confidence in the party nationally."

Dr. Shengke Zie, the Conservative Party candidate for Manchester Withington, was disappointed today to not be elected to Parliament, but understandably content with the overall result.

He said to MM: "I've got to be happy about the results nationally, because it just shows that

our programme seems to be on its way to being accepted by a very large margin."

The magnitude of this margin leaves the future of Britain almost entirely in the hands of a Conservative majority.

There is little doubt, in spite of scoring a precious victory in Withington, Labour faces an uncertain future in the UK.

Smith however, believes that Labour is up to the challenge. When asked if he believed that Labour will return, he resolutely declared: "Absolutely. We've come back before, we'll come back again."



PLEDGE: Graham Stringer says party needs to do more.

## MP says Labour have 'failed'

By Billy Brake

"It's a successful night for the Labour Party in Manchester, it has been a dreadful night for the Labour Party nationally" said Graham Stringer after retaining his seat.

The Labour MP defended his position as representative in the House of Commons for Blackley and

Broughton, though saw his share in the votes drop by nearly ten percent.

Stringer received 23,887 of the votes, while his nearest competitor was the Conservative's Alexander Elias, with 9,485.

Stringer, acknowledged the challenges facing the Labour party.

"The Labour Party was found and has worked for

the 120 years since its existence to fight discrimination.

"And I think we have failed as a party, nationally, to deal with the accusations of anti-semitism.

"So I pledge myself over the next four and a half years to making the Labour party more effective with dealing with those accusations.

"Justice delayed is justice denied."

However, Stringer also stressed that patience is crucial for his party moving forward.

"Jeremy Corbyn has said he's not going to fight the next election. I think we need a really serious analysis, a reflection, of what's gone wrong."





# How do you solve a problem like Labour?

## MPs give their views after night of disaster for party

By Isabel Baldwin

A BRUTAL exit poll was just the beginning of an election result of nightmares for the Labour Party, but in the wake of their devastation how do they begin to rebuild themselves?

Labour voters were left reeling as many Labour strongholds across the country turned blue on election night in Labour's worst result since 1935.

The loss of the Labour heartlands has revealed that the cracks below the surface of Corbyn's Labour are only deepening and need addressing fast before the pillars of the party crumble.

Whilst all five constituencies of Manchester Central remained red, the Labour candidates could not deny that the party faced a serious problem of rebuilding itself.

Following the release of the exit poll, re-elected MP for Wythenshawe and Sale East Mike Kane said, "We are going to have to have a huge review of why our message didn't break through. [...] We have to review our leadership, our policies, our messaging.

"And also we are going to have to detoxify a little. We didn't comport ourselves in certain aspects very well at all over the last couple of years and that needs to change."

The shadow secretary for schools under Corbyn acknowledged the issue one again in his winner's speech, saying, "There's been a huge disconnect between our traditional values and what's happened this evening. In the analysis of what we do we have to get back to what it is that people want, what people were saying and why people weren't voting for us tonight.

"And I pledge that I will listen harder than ever. I pledge I will work harder than ever to return a future Labour government. A



END OF THE LINE: Corbyn will step down once a new leader is found.

Labour party that should be representing the traditional values of the Labour Heartlands here in the North, the South and the Midlands, and yes in Scotland."

It is undeniable that the accusations of anti-semitism and the failure of the party to address those accusations has haunted Labour for the past few years.

Labour MP for Blackley and Broughton Graham Stringer emotional addressed Labour's defeat, pledging himself over the

next four and a half years to making the Labour party more effective with dealing with accusations of anti-semitism.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," he said.

"I think we need a really serious analysis, a reflection, of what's gone wrong," he added.

"Leadership was an issue, the credibility of some of our policies, many of which were excellent, was an issue.

"But there's probably also an issue of trust and understanding of those parties."

Before the declaration of his seat, Jeff Smith MP for Manchester Withington was already thinking ahead to the steps Labour need to take if they are to ever make progress again.

"It's a terrible night for the Labour Party and we need to have an honest appraisal of what's gone wrong and why we weren't able to convince the electorate that we were a government that they could trust. And learn the lessons," he claimed.

"I don't think we should rush into judgment on it. I

think we should just have a period of sober reflection and have proper honest analysis of where we went wrong," he added.

"You can't get away from the fact that leadership is important and policy is important. We need to look at the direction the party has taken in recent years and reflect on where it's got us."

Following Jeremy's Corbyn's announcement that he will not lead the Labour party into another General Election, a void has

been left for a new leader to step in and raise the party from the rubble.

Upon the decidedly needed self-reflection the Labour MPs call for, the policies they campaigned for must be seriously considered to have hindered the party.

Perhaps Corbyn led Labour one radical step too far in the eyes of the British people and Labour should now look to remodel itself on the New Labour from which Blair had so much success.

## Kane sets out stall to combat Tory agenda

By Isabel Baldwin

**MIKE Kane retained Wythenshawe and Sale East once again with an outstanding majority of 10,396.**

Whilst it felt like the rest of the country turned blue, the constituencies of Manchester Central stayed true to the red and Wythenshawe and Sale East was no exception.

Labour secured its stronghold as Kane streamed ahead of his opponents winning comfortably with 23,855 votes and leaving Conservative rival Peter Harrop far behind with only 13,459 votes.

In his winner's speech, Kane pledged to campaign to rebuild Wythenshawe hospital, bring the HS2 station to South Manchester, to extend the metrolink station, and to fight for the 3,000 families who he claims are going to be worse off under his Tory government in my constituency.

"My constituents are going to be worse off under a Conservative government," Kane said.

"But that brings me to the point that it's been a very, very bad night for Labour," he continued.

"There's been a huge disconnect between our traditional values and what's happened this evening. In the analysis of what we do we have to get back to what it is that people were saying and why people weren't voting for us tonight.

"And I pledge that I will listen harder than ever. I pledge I will work harder than ever to return a future Labour government. A Labour party that should be representing the traditional values of the Labour Heartlands here in the North, the South and the Midlands, and yes in Scotland."

"It's a great, great privilege to represent your hometown seat in Parliament, as I have done for last five years and hope to do so again for next few years," he added.

Following the disappointing exit polls for Labour earlier in the evening, Kane was already adamant that the Labour Party needed a thorough self-reflection.

"We are going to have to have a huge review of why our message didn't break through. We have to review our leadership, our policies, our messaging," he said.

"And also we are going to have to detoxify a little. We didn't comport ourselves in certain aspects very well at all over the last couple of years and that needs to change."

## Gorton stays red despite national Labour collapse

AFZAL Khan cemented his position as the Labour Member of Parliament for Manchester Gorton, writes Billy Brake.

Khan, first elected to the seat in the 2017 election, was comfortably ahead of the Conservative's Seb Lowe on 4,244, and the Liberal Democrat's Jackie Pearcey, who received 2,448 votes.

"I'd like to thank the

people of Manchester Gorton for putting their faith in me to carry on as their Member of Parliament.

"When I was elected in 2017, I promised to always put the people of Manchester Gorton first.

"That is what I have done, and that is what I will continue to do, ensuring the people that I am elected to

represent have a strong voice in parliament.

"[Manchester] is a city I am proud to call my home and is a city that has shown us in unequivocal terms that it is Labour through and through."

Khan continued to maintain the core principles of Labour are alive and well, and insists the party can recover from its devastating

defeat in this election, which suggests a look to the future for the party.

"Our Labour party values of solidarity, community, and social justice are also deeply held Mancunian values, and it is these values which drive me to work my hardest to make Manchester Gorton a fairer place to live.

"I know that the national

picture is not favourable, I'm as disappointed as many of you here.

"But I know that in the past we have had setbacks, and we have come back. And I'm confident we will come back as a stronger party."

Across the constituency, a total of nearly 44,545 votes were cast - a 58% voter turnout.



VALUES: Afzal Khan.

## Johnson uses victory speech to reaffirm pledges

By Dane Massey

BORIS Johnson has pledged to stand by his promises to "get Brexit done" and invest more into the NHS by building new hospitals and recruiting more nurses and GPs.

The announcement came after Johnson won over 25,000 votes in his constituency of Uxbridge and Ruislip South, one seat which will contribute to the largest Tory majority since Margaret Thatcher in 1987.

Central to that message was his urge to "get Brexit done".

He said: "This One Nation Conservative government has been given a powerful new mandate to get Brexit done."

"And not just to get Brexit done, but to unite this country to focus on the priorities of the British people and above all the NHS."

In his manifesto, Johnson promised the building of 40 new hospitals, a policy many have questioned whether or not is possible.

Johnson, however, reiterated this message at his count.

He said: "Yes, we will recruit 50,000 more nurses and 6,000 more GPs, and we will build 40 new hospitals. And I'm proud to say that one of those hospitals will be right here in Uxbridge and South Ruislip."

The former Mayor of London also pledged his thanks to the people who turned out to vote.

He said: "It's an absolute pleasure to do this job and work for you and I thank once again everybody who has worked so hard all night to count for us. The returning officers. I thank my fellow candidates in all their glory."

"But above all, I want to thank the people of this country for turning out to vote in a December election that we didn't want to call."

"But which I think has turned out to be a historic election that gives us now in this government – the chance to respect the democratic bill [Brexit] of the British people to change the country for the better and unleash the potential of the entire people of this country. And that is what we WILL now do."

# Keeley wins 4th General Election

By Matthew Chivers

BARBARA Keeley retained her seat in Worsley and Eccles South for the Labour Party, winning her fourth consecutive General Election.

Keeley received 20,446 votes which is over 5,000 less than she received in 2017, the Conservative candidate Arnold Saunders clawed back a large part of the Labour majority with 17,345 votes.

Seamus Martin and the Brexit Party received the third most votes and overtook the Liberal Democrats from the last election, who were this time led by student Joe Johnson-Tod.

Daniel Towers gained 1,300 votes for the Green Party, improving on the 842 votes that Tom Dylan gained last time around.

Since the birth of Worsley as a constituency in 1983 when Terry Lewis held the seat, and its evolution into Worsley and Eccles South in 2010, Labour have never lost here.

Keeley, the Shadow Cabinet Minister for Mental Health and Social Care, expressed her pride at her victory and outlined the key policies that she felt led to the successful

retaining of her seat.

She told MM: "It is a real honour. This is the third election in a short number of years, but I am really pleased to be able to carry on the work I am doing with people in this constituency."

"I think people are deeply concerned about the NHS and I think the notion of privatisation and a deal with Trump about issues of Brexit is a big thing to people. People want the NHS protected."

"I think people are as concerned as they normally are about the NHS, about policing, about education and about everything that affects them and their families."

"The social care crisis is very important to millions of people in this country who need proper social care and they're not getting it at the moment."

Saunders is a freelance Rabbi and alongside being the Conservative Party candidate, he is a Salford City councillor for Kersal, a position he has held since 2017.

Having cut the Labour share of 57% from the last election to 45% this time around, Saunders

believed voters had been persuaded by the Prime Minister's campaign rhetoric.

He told MM: "I was very pleased, I am really proud of my team and Boris and CC HQ who's victory this is this evening for the Conservative Party."

"At the end of the day that's the most important thing for me that the Conservative Party have got back in for five years."

"I think people took to Boris' message of getting Brexit done, and then 'unleashing Britain's potential'. Interestingly if you look at the Brexit Party vote, it is slightly more than the Labour majority."

Martin led the Brexit Party to third place in this count with 3,224 votes.

He believed the Brexit Party campaign was hampered by Johnson's refusal to allow for a larger representation of the Brexit Party across the United Kingdom, he made clear what he would like from the Brexit process.

Martin told MM: "My great concern is his deal is a bogus Brexit and I'm greatly concerned that so many people have had the wool pulled over their eyes."

"We in the Brexit Party want a clean-break Brexit and to have sensible and mutually beneficial sector-based mini-deals with the EU."



TOUGH: Keeley admitted it had been a tough night for her party.

## 'Bittersweet' for RLB on tough night



BITTERSWEET: Long-Bailey won on a disappointing night for Labour

By Emma Gibbs

LABOUR'S Rebecca Long-Bailey has described her third win of the Salford and Eccles seat as "bittersweet" in the 2019 general election.

Rebecca's victory speech was filled with critical analysis and concern over the poverty and hardship that some of the local people of Salford have faced under a Conservative government.

And speaking to MM she said: "We've seen really great colleagues across the North and across the whole country have lost their seats, so it is quite a bitter-sweet victory tonight really. "The people of Salford

deserve a better quality of life, and the sad fact is, is that over the last five years they haven't had that quality of life."

"There are families who will wake up in the morning and will not be able to give their children a breakfast and many of those people will be in work. There will be people walking for miles to zero hour contracts only to be told by their boss that 'there won't be any work for them today', and they'll have to walk home."

She praised her campaign team for doing a "fantastic job in one of the coldest times of the year" and making sure that the

Labour party message was heard in Salford.

Long-Bailey won with a total of 16,327 votes over the new Conservative candidate Attika Choudhary.

Speaking to MM about the pro-Conservative exit poll before the election results were announced Choudhary said: "I'm not sure what's going to happen and I think that the exit poll has shown Conservatives are about getting Brexit done and that is what the people had come out to vote for."

Choudhary secured 12,428 votes.

The Brexit Party's Matt Mickler was third (4,290

votes) while the Liberal Democrat's Jake Overend (3,099) was fourth, and the Green Party's Bryan Blears (2,060 votes) last.

Standing as MP for Salford and Eccles since 2015, she is a former Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and grew up near the Old Trafford football ground.

Bailey-Long has also recently been touted as a potential Labour leader to replace Jeremy Corbyn.

When asked if she would celebrate her victory, Bailey-Long said: "I might have a hot chocolate, maybe with a bit of brandy."



# Tories triumph with slim margin

## Just 402 votes between parties

By Joe Hagan-Duckers

JUST 402 votes separated Labour and the Conservatives in Bury South as the latter gained the Greater Manchester seat from Jeremy Corbyn's party, in a truly abysmal night for Labour.

Turnout was down in Bury South from 2017, where the figure was 69.34%, but only 66.64% decided to come out in this year's election.

Christian Wakeford, the new Conservative Member of Parliament, was visibly shocked after finding out his 22,034 votes had won him the seat, which he was predicted to lose to Labour's Lucy Burke in the exit poll. Wakeford told MM that the result is going "to take a few days to sink in" after the announcement at Bury's Castle Leisure Centre.

The announcement itself, took an unusual tone, gathering all the political candidates aside whilst telling them quietly the results before revealing them on the stage to the onlooking public. Nevertheless, The Conservatives now have their first Member of Parliament in the constituency since 1997.

Crucially, Wakeford credited his party's Brexit policy, helping him gain votes in an area which voted 54.51% in favour of leave in 2016. The new Tory MP also revealed that he will be supporting any Brexit issue that his leader Boris Johnson will put to parliament in order to ensure the United Kingdom leave the European Union.

Whereas his party was very repeatedly calling for Brexit to be done as quickly as possible, Wakeford believes the Labour Party's policy on the matter and the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn help shift voters towards the Tories.

Wakeford will be taking over from Ivan Lewis, who stood as an Independent in this election after resigning from the Labour Party. Lewis won only 1,366 votes and was understandably disappointed with the



WIN: Christian Wakeford took Bury South from the Labour Party.

result after being the Bury South MP since 1997. The former Labour MP resigned from the party following their handling of his sexual harassment case and problems with anti-Semitism, which prompted calls from the Chief Rabbi urging British Jews to not vote Labour.

Bury South is home to one of the largest Jewish communities outside of London and Wakeford believes party's problem with the issue had a massive impact on voters.

"Certainly, in the Jewish community there was real fear of anti-Semitism and

what that could mean under a Jeremy Corbyn government, so they've resoundingly supported the Conservatives.

Some of them, for the first time ever."

Nevertheless, the exit poll did initially have some promising signs for Labour. It was predicting a 74% chance of holding the Bury South, in a night where they lost their grip on so many traditional Labour seats. But just like so many other seats it lost marginally, handing Boris Johnson's Conservatives with a majority.

Richard Kilpatrick, the

Liberal Democrat candidate, finished in third place with 2,315 votes and issued a clear warning to the incoming Wakeford.

"I just really hope that the new Conservative Member of Parliament goes down to Westminster and remember the people that elected him tonight.

A large universal population, a large number of people who didn't necessarily in a very hard Brexit and represents the people of Bury South in the best possible way."

Glyn Heath was the Green Party candidate in Bury South finishing with

848 votes, finishing in last place but conceded he was realistically hoping for a Labour hold.

"I was hoping Labour would hold Bury South, it's been a very difficult campaign because it was a many horse race.

Ivan Lewis was standing as an independent and there are strong Liberal Democrat areas, but, if any party was going to win, I wanted it to be Labour."

The Brexit Party candidate Andrea Livesey only managed to win 1,672 votes in a constituency clearly concerned with the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

# Blue wave sweeps through Bury North again

By Matt D'Henin

BURY North has swung blue, with James Daly overcoming the 4,500 majority picked up by Labour's James Frith in 2017.

A slight 61-vote margin announced at 3.45am led to a recount of ballot papers. Final results were postponed again by a second recount an hour later.

At 5.15am, it was finally declared that Conservative candidate James Daly had won with 21,660 of the votes, compared to Frith's 21,555.

Gareth Lloyd-Johnson of the Liberal Democrats finished with 1,584, Alan McCarthy of the Brexit Party gained 1,240 votes, while the Green Party's Charlie Allen collected 802.

Prior to the ballot, Brexit was declared by both candidates as one of the key doorstep issues confronted by canvassers. In Bury, the 2016 referendum wielded a 55% majority to leave, and clearly the mood hasn't changed around the town.

Asked whether the seat was won and lost over both parties Brexit proposals, Daly said: "That's what I was elected upon - get Brexit done - and that's what I'll vote for."

But don't be dismayed by Daly singing from the Boris Johnson hymn sheet, in our 5-minute conversation he comes across passionately about Bury coming first: "In terms of the promises that I've made to the people of Bury, I will not deviate from them."

Daly can bet his tenure will be judged upon his ability to uphold promises to taxi drivers on free MOT centres being opened, to having more OFSTED outstanding schools across the constituency.

"I had a very local campaign, and I'd like to think Bury people supported my bold, positive vision for the town."

"I genuinely believe politics is a top down thing, you don't go to London to massage your own ego, you stay in Bury. If there's a pothole outside your drive, that's politics, that's the first thing you do for people, to prevent their wheels getting ruined."

Frith's open stance to remain perhaps may have lost him his seat, for which the 42 year old only occupied for 2 years, but the father of four backed his narrow loss as a testament to the strength of his campaign; particularly in comparison to other Labour losses across the nation.

When I asked if his seat was lost on a national interest rather than in Bury, he interjects:

"Of Course it was. Of course it was."

"When voters were looking for answers they found a wishlist instead of a plan for their lives."

"We lost by 111 votes - on a night where people have had their majorities cut by 10,000."

"Frankly the Labour Party needs to take a long hard look at itself. I don't buy into the briefings that this was strictly a Brexit election. The idea that you send out now to pick up the pieces of this election - to a country that's just rejected you - that this is actually what they meant by it is just full of birds."

With regards to the incoming Tory government, the gracious Mr Frith launched his scathing opinion on what it means to Bury:

"We live in very anxious times, and it's played its part. My fear is what a Boris Johnson majority government means for towns like ours. I don't see any evidence of the real answers. We've heard a slogan but no scrutiny from Boris Johnson. He chose to hide in a fridge the day before an election, he didn't want to face the heat of that scrutiny."

MM also caught up with the Leader of the Council David Jones, who didn't hold back in his scornful assessment on what a majority Conservative Government will look like in Bury over the next 5 years.

"We're in the process of setting our budget for the council for the next year, indeed the next three years. With a 5 year Tory Government, Children Services and Adult Care will be the hardest hit. It jumps out at you straight away!"

"The most vulnerable in society are going to suffer."

"It's an absolute horrendous crying shame that we are not able to look after the most vulnerable in society."



COUNT: It was a dramatic night in Bury as the Tories took both seats.



## Crausby bows out after 22 years at Bolton NE

By Anna Staufenberg

IN the weeks running up to this very wet and windy General Election, Bolton North-East was listed as one of the too-close-to-call seats that might swing the result nationally.

David Crausby has headed the roost since 1997, and he spent the tense hours leading up to the result anxiously waiting to hear if he'd been elected for a seventh time running.

"It's like going to the dentist," he tells me. "I hate counts."

He had reason to be nervous. Newcomer Mark Rory Logan moved over from his Northern Irish home turf a few months ago and had gathered a considerable amount of support for such a short amount of time.

This despite the fact that Labour, as their North-East campaign coordinator Karen Ron explained, believes he has no intention of staying there.

Although eyes are on Mr Logan and Mr Crausby, there is also a smattering of Libdem, Brexit Party and Green supporters milling around in Bolton Arena, where tables of volunteers are sorting through voting cards.

At around 3.20am, a woman steps onto the podium and calls the candidates forward to the stage. The results are in.

It is closer than imagined. A sober Mr Crausby stood with his hands clasped in front of his stomach as the numbers show a Conservative win. Mr Logan spoke about the opportunities now available to a newly blue Bolton North East.

"Bolton has a proud industrial history, and I believe we can truly put it back on the map where it deserves to be.

"Tonight's results show a rejection of Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell's policies. They are overtly ideological, and I think it shows that the UK just does not have the appetite for that kind of government and that kind of economic system."

As to where he will focus his attentions on entering Parliament, Mr Logan said: "First and foremost before Christmas I will be backing Boris' [Brexit] plan, looking at the end of January 2020.

"That's going to be overwhelmingly the most important issue that the country faces, but it also presents to us a great opportunity about how the UK can look in the future," he finishes.

Mr Crausby's concession speech is gracious. It has been an honour to serve the constituency for nearly 23 years, he says.

"It's disappointing but all good things must come to an end. That's democracy, you take the victories and you've got to take the failures."



SOLO WIN: Yasmin Qureshi held onto her Bolton South East seat for Labour on a dreadful night for the party.

# Qureshi only Lab light on bad night

## Support for party disappeared in other seats

By Nia Price

**LABOUR'S Qureshi made it four from four in Bolton South East, maintaining the seat she first won back in 2010.**

Conservative's John Lee followed with 13,918 votes, Brexit Party's Mark Cunningham was a distant third receiving 2,968, Liberal Democrats's Kevin Walsh 1,411 and Green Party's David Figgins 791.

Despite maintaining her seat, Qureshi was severely disappointed with Labour's national defeat. They are currently on 203 seats, their worst performance in an election since 1935.

"I think it's sad. Not just because the Labour Party and great MPs have lost their seats, but also because a lot of the people who are worst

affected by nine years of austerity under the Conservatives are the ones that are going to suffer the most in the next five years."

Qureshi blamed Labour's defeat on Brexit, a 'dishonest campaign' run by the opposition and personal attacks by 'hard right wing newspapers' which vilified leader Jeremy Corbyn, who has since confirmed he won't lead the party at the next election.

She believes what is next for the party is for it to 're-evaluate its policies, programmes and messages.'

The Labour MP hopes to continue to address domestic issues in her consistency with her top priorities being the NHS, schooling, police officers and community safety.

Bolton South East's Conservative leader

John Lee was ecstatic as the party experienced historic gains.

"The people of Bolton feel like they've been let down by Labour. That's been proven on the local election and by losing another seat here and we are looking forward to coming back and fighting again."

Lee was confident that Qureshi could have been defeated at this election, blaming the party's insufficient resources for the consistency, with a 'skeleton crew' running the campaign and slim budget of £1,000.

He believes Corbyn was the Conservative's 'best tool' for winning this election through persuading previously loyal Labour supporters to vote for the opposition.

"I knocked on a door two days ago and there was an 87 year old woman

who came out and said that she'd voted for Labour since she was 21 years old and she just couldn't vote for Jeremy Corbyn, and we're hearing that time and time again."

Brexit Party's Mark Cunningham was disappointed with the 2,968 votes that he received but maintained that leaving the EU is the 'change' that the country needs to 'move forward'.

"Even in May of this year with the Brexit Party only a few weeks old when we won the European election, it tells me that's a clammer for change and somewhere along the line we need to deliver it soon to make this country better for everybody."

Green Party's David Figgins was pleased with the gains the party had made this election receiv-

ing 254 more votes than in 2017.

"When you look at the increase in our vote, which is looking like it's doubling nationally, that surely shows that climate change is an increasingly desperate issue that we need to tackle now."

Figgins also highlighted that an increase of the Green Party vote share nationally demonstrated that electoral reform and proportional representation is required for a 'more representative democracy for everybody.'

In response to the results Lib Dem's Kevin Walsh said: "This country is stuck between a rock and a hard place and the only way we are actually going to get out of this mess now is through electoral reform."

## Brexit and growth the priority for returning MP Green

By Louise Hall

BEFORE the 'tsunami' exit poll predicting a Conservative landslide hit the headlines it was thought that the win for Bolton West could have gone either way.

In 2017 it was one of the most hotly contested seats in Greater Manchester with the Conservatives Chris Green having won by less than 1,000 seats.

But by the time Green was announced to have brought home the win with almost 9,000 votes, it was clear this was no longer a two-horse race, and the conservatives had cemented their majority in this once marginal seat.

Upon winning, Green told MM: "Well the number one priority is to deliver on Brexit we have to deliver by the end of January and negotiate a new deal with France and Germany and all the other nation states across Europe because ultimately we are going to be great friends with them.

"Also, we have to make sure the economy is sound because that is where the money comes from to pay for all our vital services."

Hilling's loss was only a small part of huge losses for Labour across the board throughout the evening, eventually having secured a landslide majority by the early hours of the morning.

She said: "People saw this very much as a Brexit election. People in this country are sick of Brexit after three years and I think that even with enormous cut through it will be far from done in January."

Rebecca Forrest, the Liberal Democrat candidate was also disappointed that her flagship policy of stopping Brexit was now off the table, said: "I still think that people deserve a say on the final Brexit deal, when the referendum happened it was not clear what leave was and it meant so many different things to different people and many people have changed their mind in the meantime, both ways.

"I do think we deserve a say on what that final deal will be."

Paris Hayes, the Green Party candidate, and one of the youngest candidates to stand in Greater Manchester, was happy with the Green Party result despite a conservative landslide.

Hayes, who is just 18, continued to passionately encourage voters to take action climate change action and emphasised the importance of a Green voice across the UK.

He said: "It shows that now more than ever there is a need for green voices in parliament and green voices up and down the country."



# Scare for Nandy as Labour hold Wigan

## Majority cut by 9,000 as Brexit bites hard

By Elizabeth Botcherby

**LABOUR'S Lisa Nandy retained her Wigan seat for the fourth consecutive election but saw her majority shrink by over 9,000 votes.**

Nandy secured 21,042 votes and a majority of 6,728 over second placed Conservative candidate Ashley Williams (14,314).

However, it was the Brexit Party who were the big winners with William Malloy taking 5,959 votes as the town made a big statement on Brexit.

Wigan voted heavily in favour of Brexit in 2017, with a 62.96% leave vote, and this result suggests that the traditional Labour stronghold is losing faith in the party.

In her victory speech, Nandy praised her fellow candidates and the standard of this election battle.

She said, "I'd like to thank my opponents, particularly William [Malloy] and Ashley [Williams], for coming out and fighting a clean campaign and showing that politics can be better than the state of the current political debate."

She went on to describe this election campaign as the toughest that she can remember before thanking local party members for their support.

"Together we've protected people through ten years of Tory government and, to every single volunteer who has come out in the rain and the wind and the cold to fight for a better country, thank you so much. You have inspired me every single day to get up and keep fighting."

However, she also launched a scathing attack on the state of the Labour party and promised to bring the party back to the voters.

She said, "I have met too many people during this election who are lifelong Labour voters who told me that they needed a Labour government



**TOUGH NIGHT:** Labour's Lisa Nandy retained her seat but with a much smaller majority this time around.

but simply couldn't vote for one this election."

"They have been telling us, in towns like Wigan, for some time that all is not right and this was summed up by



the woman who said to me "I didn't leave the Labour party. Labour has left me."

"So I want to say to everyone of my brilliant colleagues who is losing their seat tonight, every

single person who will wake up tomorrow in fear of what five more years of Tory rule means to them and every single one of those voters who want to put their cross in the Labour box: I have listened and I will make it my mission to bring Labour home to you."

Second placed Ashley Williams was pleased with his performance but also voiced his relief that the Brexit Party vote wasn't greater than the Labour majority.

He said, "It's a positive result. The local Conservative members are all happy with the result and it stands them in good stead for the local elections."

"I didn't want the Brexit Party vote to be bigger than the majority because then I would have been annoyed at the

splitting of the vote. But, a lot of the people in Wigan who didn't vote Labour this time probably wouldn't ever vote Conservative. We haven't lost votes; it's the Labour Brexiteers who have left."

Both the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party also made gains on 2017. Stuart Thomas (Lib Dems) received 2,428 votes, up 1,512 on 2017, whilst the Peter Jacobs (Green) secured 1,299 votes.

Whilst this is the closest contest since the 1999 by-election - when Labour won with a majority of 6,729 - one has to consider what the outcome could have been with a higher voter turnout. Wigan had a turnout of 59.7%, unexpectedly down 2.9% on 2017.



**BATTLE:** Tory Ashley Williams said he was happy with his vote.

## S-Leigh bells ring for Tories as party snatch Labour seat

By Philippa Baker

**Victorious Tory James Grundy attacked Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and the party's pro-Brexit stance after snatching an historic victory for Boris Johnson in the reddest of red heartlands.**

Jo Platt's re-election campaign clearly fell far short yesterday, as she lost the staunchly held red seat to party rival who secured 45.27% of votes, a massive swing of +32 from 2017.

In his victory speech delivered to raucous cheers and resounding applause, Mr Grundy said: "This should not be considered her fault that she has not won. On this occasion however it was not to be (for Labour) through a combination of anger over Brexit and anger over Jeremy Corbyn."

"Let it be clear that it is his fault that Jo lost tonight, and no reflection on her. I stood on a campaign promise to get Brexit done and fix our town. I intend to stick by that promise."

After becoming the first female MP for Leigh in 2017, Jo Platt was clearly upset by the result. In a reaction to the historic loss, Councillor Platt admitted: "It's a weight on your shoulders", adding "I am devastated more for the people of Leigh."

"We are still very aware that the Leigh people need that Labour representative. We will carry on fighting."

Responding to MP Grundy's verbal attack on her party's leader: "To blame one person for this I don't think is quite correct. We've had the most chaotic time in Westminster in regards to Brexit."

Instead Jo Platt blamed Tory social policies, alongside increasing electorate resentment towards Brexit: "It was nine and a half years of austerity that we have endured. The fact is that Brexit might be part of that anger."

"I've had thousands of conversations during this election campaign. They [people] will tell you that they wanted to get their Brexit done", she added.

The loss of Labour's one fifth majority from the 2017 General Election is a likely reflection of the 2016 Brexit referendum, where Leigh voted resoundingly pro-leave, in contrary to councillor Platt's firm pro EU stance.

Labour have been campaigning fiercely in Leigh with one Labour supporter - Samantha Brown - admitting: "My children don't know who I am, I've been up since 6am with my husband."

# Stockport sticks with Labour

By Lyell Tweed

**STOCKPORT has stuck with Labour this general election beating the second-place Conservative candidate by over 10,000 votes.**

This produced the lowest turnout at the Stockport Town Hall count with 64.01% of registered voters heading to the polls.

Navendu Mishra beat off challenges from the Conservative's Isy Imarni and Wendy Meikle to comfortably return Labour to Stockport after the resignation of long-standing Labour MP Ann Coffey.

Mishra's majority of 10,039 votes is significantly less than the 14,477 majority that Coffey gained in 2017; however, a comfortable victory for Labour here will be a high in a night of lows.

Ann Coffey had represented Stockport since 1992 but stepped down in February 2019 in protest at Jeremy Corbyn's Brexit stance and Labour's ongoing problems with Anti-Semitism.

She defected to Change UK along with other Labour party figures such as Chuka Umunna

as well as Conservatives such as Anna Soubry.

However, in October of this year she decided not to run again with Change UK and instead threw her support behind the Liberal Democrat candidate, Wendy Meikle.

The results of elections leading up to this, especially the European elections, promised for a tightly run general election.

The Liberal Democrats beat the Labour party by nearly 13,000 votes with Labour coming a tight third.

However, the hopes of the Liberal Democrats were severely diminished at the sight of the BBC exit poll which gave Labour a '99+%' chance of holding the seat.

In the end it was the Conservatives that gained second with this general election not following any trends of other recent elections.

Mishra used his speech to talk defiantly about investing in Stockport and fighting against austerity and cuts to public services in the area.

He said: "Over the past decade Stockport's public services have been decimated by Conservative cuts and brutal austerity.

"Tens of millions of pounds has been stripped from our council's budgets and the NHS has been underfunded with a funding shortfall in our schools."

In defiance to this he exclaimed that: "It doesn't have to be like this. Stockport deserves better!"

He then criticised the Liberal Democrats role in the coalition between 2010 and 2015.

"I'll fight to reverse the vicious policies of this government and the Liberal Democrat coalition that was inflicted on our communities."

The packed ballroom looked on as people kept counting votes for the remaining seats. It was clear Mishra had a lot of support in the room and was very happy to speak to people after his declaration.

Mishra, who is from Stockport, spoke passionately about his drives to improve the town.

"I give you my word as your member of parliament that I'll be a strong voice and a champion for Stockport, I'll campaign and fight for all our public services, our schools and our health service, our social care and our children's ser-

vices."

The seat was always expected to stay as Labour, with all the polls leading up to the election and the exit poll itself agreeing on this.

Mishra summed up his speech saying: "I thank the

people of Stockport for electing me to be your MP, I know together we can build a brighter future for Stockport under Labour. A future where no one goes hungry; no one is homeless; and no one lives in poverty."



**STAYING PUT:** Labour's Navendu Mishra might have been a new candidate for Labour but he was able to retain the party's seat.

## Robinson sees off Lib Dem Cheadle challenge



**RETURN:** Mary Robinson (centre) is back for a third term.

By Lyell Tweed

**CHEADLE** provided the most interesting and closely run seat of the night at the Stockport count.

Mary Robinson has been re-elected to the seat with a relatively slim majority, making it even closer than the 2017 battle for this seat.

Robinson achieved 2,336 more votes than the closest challenger; Tom Morrison and the Liberal Democrats.

This seat was a seat that the Lib Dems had targeted at the start of the election as one that could swing their way; however, they didn't quite do enough in order to regain this seat this time.

While a very healthy turnout of 75.25% and a 5.5+% increase in Lib Dem voters, Mary Robinson was still able to cling onto the seat.

The announcement was delayed a number of times leading to speculation that it might require a recount, but this was not to be with the Lib Dems seeming confident that they had won when their number was called.

The swing of some Labour votes to the Lib Dems could have been extremely useful but in the end the split in votes between the two parties helped Robinson to another victory.

MM asked whether this tightly run race meant that

they had to campaign harder this election.

"People have been great; our activists have been wonderful and also people we've talked to on the doorstep have been very understanding about the reasons for the election and the challenges that we've had.

"We've only had a few short weeks in which to do it but we've packed an awful lot into that time and I think it shows not only in our local campaign but also the national campaign and we've been able to get the messages across that we needed to."

The Lib Dems were clearly upset that they had not quite done enough to take this seat

back and left straight away.

Robinson, similarly to William Wragg of Hazel Grove before will be heading to parliament for a third term as an MP, but this time with a strong majority and mandate.

She revealed to MM how enthusiastic she was to start again and what was in store for her and her Cheadle constituency.

"It's very exciting, I've got my own plans to deliver and take forward in Cheadle those are around ensuring that we protect our greenbelt as well as getting the housing that we need and ensure that we get our fair share of police officers."

There was no mention of

Brexit from Robinson, which is understandable as more than 57% of her constituency voted to remain in the EU.

In her victory speech Robinson declared: "What we've witnessed tonight with results up and down the country is a decisive vote for hope over the politics of continuing deadlock and division, the people of this country have asserted their authority."

She matched the general mood of most of Conservatives tonight at the ballot counts with enthusiasm for what is to come clear to see.

She said: "I'm really looking forward to the challenges and getting on with the job."



# Rayner tight lipped on JC

## Ashton MP wouldn't be drawn on leadership

By Dan Haygarth

LABOUR'S Shadow Education Secretary Angela Rayner refused to be drawn on whether her party needed a new direction after battling to retain her seat in Ashton-under-Lyne.

On a disastrous night for Labour nationally, the party held on to the three Tameside seats, but their vote share decreased in all, as the Conservative Party made gains.

Rayner expressed pleasure at her re-election but was evidently disappointed by the party's overall performance.

She said: "At the moment I'm reflecting on my result tonight. I'm very pleased that the people of Ashton have re-elected me."

"I don't think it's worth me speculating on what happened nationally, but I'm really upset about what has happened nationally, some of my good friends and colleagues have lost their seats."

"There's still many children in poverty and still many people feeling the effects of austerity and I worry about the future with a majority Conservative government."

When asked about the failings of Labour's campaign, Rayner said: "I think we've got to reflect upon the mood, especially in our northern working-class areas. It's obvious that there's been an issue there."

"We've got to go through that period of reflection as a party."

Meanwhile, Conservative candidate Dan Costello, whose campaign centred on Brexit, won 37% of the vote in the constituency – a 5.1% increase for the party.

Following the declaration of results, he tweeted: "Wasn't meant to be this time, but delighted to reduce the Labour majority to 4,263 (11%). A fantastic result on an amazing night for the Conservatives."



WINNER: Victorious Angela Rayner would not be drawn on party leadership speculation.

Costello's strong showing and emphasis of his pro-leave message in a town that had voted to leave the European Union by almost 62% in 2016, meant that Brexit Party candidate Derek Brocklehurst failed to make a real impression in the party's first general election.

Brocklehurst won 8.2% of the vote to finish third and stated: "I'm a bit dubious of the Conservative Party to deliver on the message. I wouldn't trust the Conservatives, I don't trust Boris, he seems to swing from one way to another."

Pro-remain parties the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party won

3.6% and 3.1% of the vote respectively.

George Rice, who stood for the Liberal Democrats expressed pride at his performance. He said: "I'm really pleased, we've gone up by 2% in our vote share and I think it shows there's a real demand for liberal values in Ashton and I'm really happy with my first time standing for parliament."

He added: "If I'm going to lose to anyone, I'm quite happy to lose to Angela Rayner. I met her at the hustings and she seems genuinely passionate about the issues, we just differ on how to solve them".

The Green Party's Lee

Alan Huntbach claimed that was not surprised with the Tameside results, but was vocal in his criticism of the national results.

He said: "a Conservative majority means that we've got to work twice as hard for environmentalism, but we will do – it won't knock us."

"As a Prime Minister he (Johnson) couldn't have come at a worse time, alongside Donald Trump. I'm devastated."

Though Labour held onto Ashton and a key member of the shadow cabinet has been re-elected, few would argue that their performance in Ashton, a historically safe seat, was anything but a disappointment.

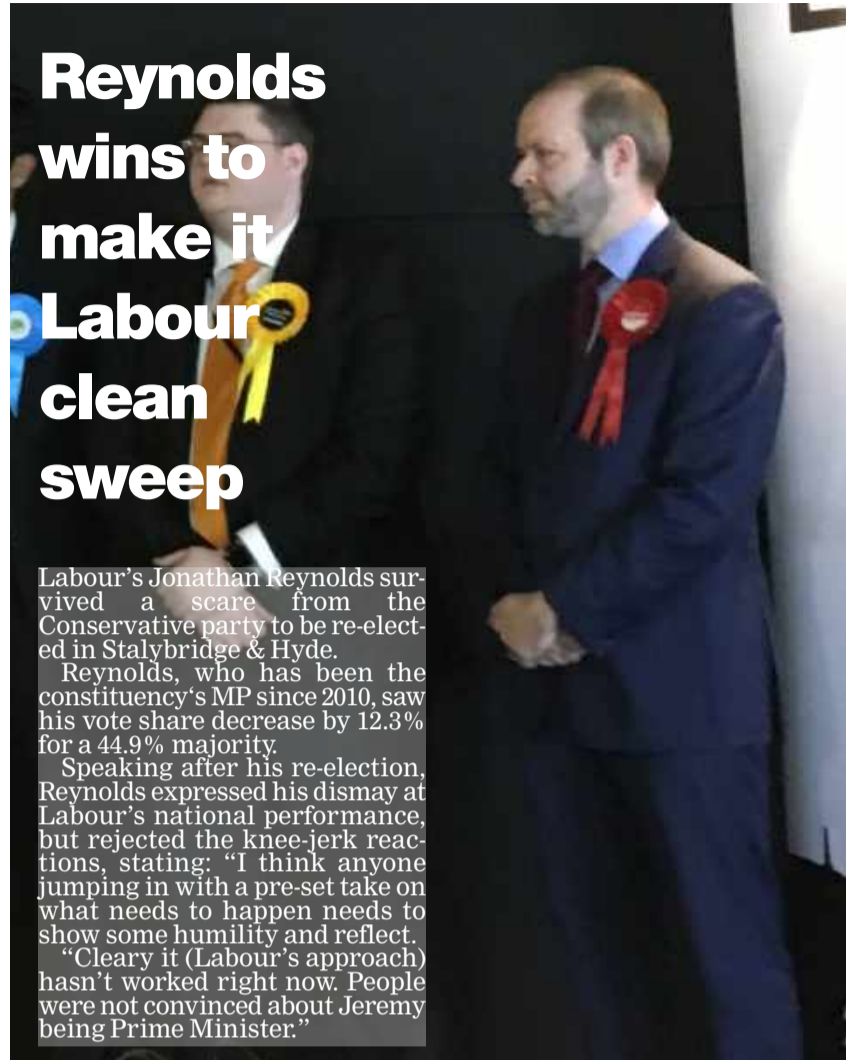
## Reynolds wins to make it Labour clean sweep

Labour's Jonathan Reynolds survived a scare from the Conservative party to be re-elected in Stalybridge & Hyde.

Reynolds, who has been the constituency's MP since 2010, saw his vote share decrease by 12.3% for a 44.9% majority.

Speaking after his re-election, Reynolds expressed his dismay at Labour's national performance, but rejected the knee-jerk reactions, stating: "I think anyone jumping in with a pre-set take on what needs to happen needs to show some humility and reflect."

"Clearly it (Labour's approach) hasn't worked right now. People were not convinced about Jeremy being Prime Minister."



## Gwynne delivers bright light for Labour on night of electoral doom in North

Labour has held on to the seat of Denton and Reddish for another election, one of few spots in the Red Wall that has stayed intact in a day of national decimation for Labour, writes Richard Baker.

However, in a rather familiar trend in this year's election, the Tories crept up on the Labour majority, Denton was no exception.

Brexit ambiguity in an area that is sure of its Brexit persuasion, resulted in Andrew Gwynne's majority to be hacked down by 13.5%, the Conservatives increasing their vote share by 6.1% in the process.

Brexit Party candidate, Martin Power took nearly 8% of the vote, an indication of the seat that voted 61% to Leave in 2016 and an indication that hurt Labour this evening in the North West.

It was a seat that the Tories expected to lose but they showed an all too real 'Blue Scare' for Andrew Gwynne in a seat he's held since 2005.

Gwynne said: "We have bucked the national trend to some extent", but conceded he was "very disappointed with the national picture."

Tameside soon felt a small, hard-fought pocket of red as Johnson's army of blue took hold of the nation.

Although Conservative Iain Bott fell second to Gwynne, he did not go home an entirely unhappy man.

"I'm really happy we've made inroads into Labour's Red Wall. We started off with a massive majority and we've made put a massive dent in that."

A massive dent indeed, Labour votes fell from 25,161 in 2017 to 19,317 in 2019 here in Denton.

Bott added: "It was always going to be a tall order to beat the majority that Andrew had, but I'm really thrilled that we've taken it down to what we have."

Gwynne highlighted this watershed moment in the Labour Party, a night when Corbynism seemed to grind to a defined halt.

"Labour has got to take stock, dust itself down and listen to what the voters are saying," he said.

A "credible alternative government" was now their next duty to British voters as they "rebuild in a post Brexit world."

He called to "bring Britain together as one" and also thanked the loyal Labour voters of Denton, on a night when Labour was certainly not the order of the day.

"We've still got to listen to the voters but I think what it shows is when you are embedded in the community, when you try to represent the views of the community, even in tough years, the community will support you."

"We've got to very quickly relearn the lessons from 1983 because I don't want another decade of children and families that desperately need Labour to have to wait that long."

Many Labour folk here in Tameside were scared tonight, a husk of their usual selves in front of a rejuvenated pack of Tories who smelt blood as Labour majorities slumped downwards.

Gwynne won here tonight but it was a rather hollow victory, a victory that glazes over the chronic deficiencies that this most recent election has brought to light.

Denton proved to be one of many seats where Labour lurched home to a thin victory, in an area that they are all too used to sprinting defiantly to convincing majorities.

## Green vows to carry on fight in Commons

By Nick Pratt

AFTER a turbulent night for the Labour party nationally, there was celebration locally for MP Kate Green as she retained her seat in Stretford and Urmston.

The seat has been a red sway since the 1990s and shortly before 4am it was announced that the constituency was a Labour hold with Ms Green obtaining 30,195 votes which was equivalent to 60.3% of the vote share.

Ms Green opened her winning speech by declaring "It's an absolute honour to have been re-elected by the voters of Stretford and Urmston and I want to thank you for putting your trust in me to represent you in parliament."

Despite the positive locally for Ms Green, attention quickly turned to the national picture with the Labour MP saying "I wish I could say too it has been a good night for the rest of my party in the rest of the country, I'm devastated to see good colleagues lose their seats and I must say I fear for the direction our country will now take".

Winning by a majority of 16,417, the Labour parties nearest rival was the Conservative candidate Mussadak Mirza who received 13,778 votes. The conservative candidate kept things short and sweet, thanking everybody who voted for him, before turning to the national picture saying, "we've had a really good night as a party".

Anna Corina Fryer of the Liberal Democrats came 3rd receiving 2969 votes, Gary Powell of the Brexit Party came fourth notching up 1768 votes and Jane Frances Leicester of the Green party completed the vote with 1357. After the first December general election for almost 100 years and perhaps the biggest election of many of our lifetime, did the weather play a part in people not turning out?

In Stretford and Urmston there was a slight decrease in the number of people turning out, as 69.4% of the population turned out compared to 70.1% in 2017 a deficit of 0.7%, with Ms Green praising all parties fighting for votes in what she described as "filthy weather".

She is up for the fight though, vowing that she will only have the best interests of the people of Stretford and Urmston but the country as a whole

She said: "My job will be to hold the new government to account in the best interests of the people I represent here and indeed as a member of parliament the people of this country."



# Brady back in again as Tories retain Sale

By James Crump

THE Conservatives' Sir Graham Brady was re-elected as the Member of Parliament for Altrincham and Sale West after a booming national result for the Tories.

It was a crushing night nationally for Labour and The Liberal Democrats and despite talk of a three-way marginal, the Lib Dems barely made a dent in proceedings, leading to a comprehensive Tory win.

After a 4:15am declaration it was confirmed Brady had gained a smaller percentage of the vote than in 2017 but still managed 26,311 and a percentage share of 48%.

The seat, which has been held by the constituency stalwart since its formation in 1997 was targeted by Labour as a possible soft marginal.

It was always going to be an uphill battle for the seat to turn red, but the feeling was that Labour were on

the rise with candidate Andrew Western seen as the man best placed to break Brady's hegemony.

In the 2017 election, Labour gained 12.2% on the Tories in Altrincham and Sale West saw this election as an opportunity to push Brady hard and oust him in a shock result.

It was clear as soon as the exit poll hit that hope of a Labour win was not just wildly idealistic but downright naive. Western ended up with 20,172 votes, losing 2% from Labour's 2017 result.

"I am extremely concerned about the results we have seen nationally and what that means for the direction of our country.

"And I just want to say this to the residents of Altrincham and Sale West and across Trafford, as leader of this council and a local campaigner I will continue to fight for you."

Former Labour MP, Angela Smith, who is most well-known for her "Funny Tinge" remark hopped to

Change UK (now, the Independent Group for Change) and then to the Liberal Democrats in the space of a few months.

The constituency voted to remain by 61.41% in the 2016 referendum on membership of the EU and with a known candidate in Smith, it is clear the Lib Dems targeted the seat in the hope of a three-way race.

Perhaps Smith's racist remark earlier in the year, or the party's lack of vision and fall in popularity under leader Jo Swinson cost her.

What is clear is that it was a disaster for "the party of remain" with Smith only attaining 6,036 votes. The slate was bursting at the seams with the Liberal Party and the Greens standing candidates, alongside Iram Kiani who ran as an Independent.

The minor parties fared as well as they could have hoped, as the Greens's Geraldine Coggins finished with 1,566 votes, the Liberal

Party's Neil Taylor attained 454 and Kiani mustered 224, losing her deposit in the process.

Voters turned out in force with 75.1% compared to 72.28% in 2017.

Talk of Tory triumph and Labour failure permeated the air all night and Brady turned up at the count clearly confident of his victory.

He was more than happy to play to his base.

Brady said: "It is an enormous privilege for me, ladies and gentlemen to be elected for the seventh time by the people of Altrincham and Sale West.

"To represent my home constituency in Parliament is a great honour and as Kate (Green) said in her acceptance speech, it's also a huge responsibility and there is a huge job for us to do."

The campaign ended in a comprehensive victory for the Conservatives and Brady's time as MP for the Greater Manchester constituency continues.







# History made as first Tory MP elected

## Rochdale falls to blue wave on shock night

By Chris Bradford

**The Conservatives have ended 36 years of Labour rule in Heywood and Middleton after winning by 663 votes in tonight's general election.**

Chris Clarkson, a former Salford councillor, received 20,453 of the votes, equating to 43.1%. He surpassed the 38% of the vote that he achieved just over two years ago in June 2017. The turnout was 59.6%, which was down on 62.4% of June 2017.

The result meant that there was an 8.3% per swing from Labour to Conservatives.

Ever since 1983, the seat has never returned anything other than a Labour MP. However, history was not on incumbent's Liz McInnes side as the Conservative's Clarkson overturned a 7,617 majority.

McInnes had held the seat since a September 2014 by-election, following the death of long-serving MP Jim Dobbin where she defeated UKIP by 617 votes.

Met with heckling from Labour activists after the result was announced, Clarkson said: "I am looking forward to going back to London to get Brexit done so we can get on with the priorities in the area."

The result could be described as a political earthquake. Heywood and Middleton was not projected to swing to the Conservatives. Tuesday's updated YouGov MRP projected Labour to retain the seat by 9%.

Brexit Party candidate, Colin Lambert, a former Labour councillor and former leader of Rochdale Council between 2010 and 2014 said he hoped Prime Minister Boris Johnson would now keep his election promise to 'get Brexit done'.

He said: "I hope that Boris sticks to his



**HISTORIC:** Chris Clarkson was surrounded by supporters as he celebrated becoming the constituency's first Tory MP.

promise and we get a proper Brexit free-trade deal."

Conservative candidate for Norden Peter Winkler, Clarkson's agent, noticed a generational shift on the doorstep.

He said: "Traditional Labour voters had voted Labour for three generations, but we're going to vote Tory this time."

Despite this election being dubbed the so-called Brexit election, Europe was not on everyone's lips.

McInnes raised the importance of the NHS, school funding and crime on the doorstep but it clearly didn't resonate enough.

She said: "Brexit came up at some points but the Tories have been doing the negotiations. In all conscience, I could not

accept the May or Johnson deal."

She derided Johnson's decision to call the December general election – the first in almost a century.

McInnes admitted that this made canvassing very difficult and people did not want to be thinking about politics.

"In winter, you behave a bit different – it's dark when you get home from work or school, you close your doors and put your heating on – you're not that receptive to opening the door."

"We have got Christmas coming and one thing that has kept me going – is watching everyone's Christmas decorations going up ... but people are thinking about presents and where they are going to be spending Christmas.

Despite that, she was in defiant mood amidst Labour's punishing night at the polls.

Heywood and Middleton was not an anomaly on a night of shocks, especially in the north.

What were previously traditional Labour heartlands such as Leigh, Burnley, Redcar, Blyth Valley and Don Valley to name a few swung to the Conservatives.

And after watching her party being wiped out in many areas, McInnes said she wanted to see a return to the traditional Labour values that would help those who needed it to thrive.

She added: "I want to see a return to a sense of social justice, helping the weakest and vulnerable – not telling them to go to a food bank which seems to be the Tory way."

## Lloyd in reflective mood as he retains seat

By Anastasia Maseychik

**LABOUR'S Tony Lloyd held onto his seat in Rochdale in a rare positive result for the Labour party in their traditional northern heartlands.**

Lloyd, who's served as shadow Northern Ireland secretary, won 24,475 votes to secure a majority of 9,668.

In his victory speech, the former Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner admitted it had been a bittersweet night.

He said: "For me to be re-elected is a great honour, but it is a night where my party has done badly across the country. But I will simply say this: the people of Rochdale were very clear in what they voted for."

The Conservative candidate Atifa Shah came second with 14,807 votes, followed by the Brexit Party's Chris Green with 3,867, Liberal Democrat Andy Kelly with 3,312 and the Green Party's Sarah Croke with 986.

Labour suffered heavy losses across the country on a night to forget for leader Jeremy Corbyn, who confirmed he would not lead the party into the next election.

And Lloyd told MM: "Clearly, the politics that I stand for have suffered a reversal tonight. Labour has got to look at how it reconnects with people across the country and examine what it needs to do to make sure we're projecting something that gives us credibility again in the constituencies we need to form a Labour government."

"That is a serious and profound issue for us. But we can't give up on the values that we represent. We need to make sure we're not running away from the major issues even in a moment of defeat."

"I've been a MP when Labour has won elections and when Labour has lost elections. After every election you've got to look seriously at what the public have been saying to us. There are places like Rochdale where the Labour vote has held up strongly. In other areas, disappointing is a very mild word for what I feel."

Labour's majority in Rochdale has fallen by 5,151 votes since the election in 2017 from 14,819. Voter turn-out for Rochdale also fell from 64% to 59.6%.

Rochdale councillor Janet Emsley admitted things on the doorstep had been tough.

She said: "Reaction has been mixed. We've got areas where our vote has soured and we've got areas where national issues are clouding what's going on locally."



**VICTORY:** Tony Lloyd retained Rochdale for Labour.

# McMahon keeps seat for Labour

By Adam Wareing

LABOUR just about held on to Oldham West & Royton despite a disastrous night nationwide for the party.

The party won 24,579 of the votes, with their closest competition, the Conservative Party, finishing 11,137 votes behind on 13,452.

Despite winning comfortably, Labour candidate Jim McMahon won 5,267 less votes than he did in 2017.

Oldham Civic Hall was filled with worried Labour representatives when the exit poll was announced at 10pm, but their fretting was directed towards the other seat in the town.

Debbie Abrahams managed to hold her seat by the slimmest of margins, helping her party to retain the seats they have held since its inception.

Mr McMahon was clearly disappointed by the national picture despite his win, saying: "I'm fearful for what a five-year Tory majority will mean for a town like Oldham."

"We've been the first in line to get hit when the public sector cuts came in and they've continued. We've been hit hard on policing, on the NHS, and on local public services in

particular.

"I do think the public services are in crisis and the idea that the Tories have another five years to see that through genuinely worries me."

Although much of his work will surely surround Brexit, he is committed to supporting his constituency in Parliament.

He said: "Where the Tories are doing damage to my town I'll be the first to stand up and hold them to account."

"But, across big issues like adult social care we need cross party consensus."

Traditionally a Labour stronghold, the party struggled throughout the campaign to gain the support they were used to.

He said: "Earlier on in the campaign the labour vote was good but it was soft, and a lot of people were not quite sure how they'd vote on the day."

"Quite a lot of the campaign was trying to reinforce people by going back and revisiting."

"Some of it was firm, but I don't think it was firm enough to give confidence."

Conservative Party candidate Kirsty Finlayson expressed her disappointment in the parties inability to gain seats in

Oldham, but she believes the votes should be a wake-up call to Labour.

She said: "I'm gutted that both of us (Conservative candidates standing in the area) missed out and if it wasn't for other parties we could have gained in Oldham East this evening."

"I think the increase in the vote share shows that people want real change in the North."

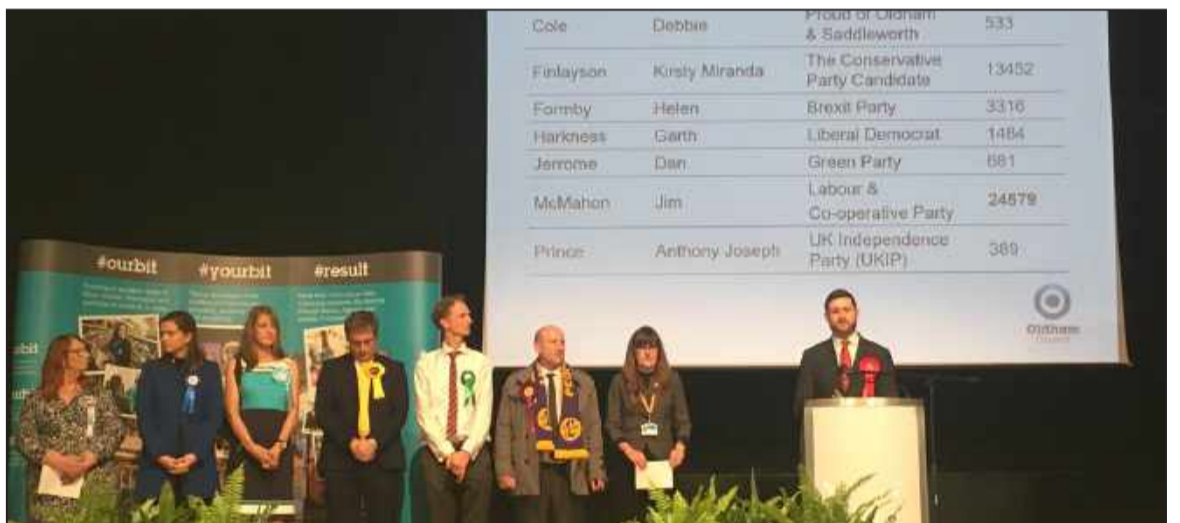
"Hopefully what will come out of this is that the Labour Party will work harder for their votes next time because there are much slimmer majorities."

As for the campaign, Mr McMahon said: "I'm incredibly proud of the labour family and the way we've campaigned. Nationally we can't escape from how difficult this election has been."

Under the leadership of Jeremy Corbyn both Labour MPs were confident that they could be part of the new government, but it wasn't to be.

"A lot of us came into this election excited about the opportunity to transform the country and that obviously didn't cut through. We need to rebuild which might take time."

The voter turnout was 61.03%, a decrease of 2.07% compared to the 2017 campaign.



POSITIVE: Jim McMahon kept his seat in a rare bright moment for Labour on a dreadful night at the polls.

## Double joy for 'reds' as Abraham wins again



CHRISTMAS CHEER: Debbie Abrahams made it two from two.

By Luke Madeira

DEBBIE Abrahams held on to her Oldham East and Saddleworth seat, despite falling behind on the earlier Exit Polls.

She received 20,088 of the votes, a significant decrease from the 25,629 she won in 2017.

The independent polls had suggested a 61% chance of a Tory upset in the constituency, but Labour pulled through to retain a seat they have held since its inception in 1997.

Mrs Abrahams spoke of the tone in which this election has been fought.

She said: "It has certainly

been the most difficult election that I have encountered."

"I have to say my fellow candidates have behaved in a friendly and amicable way, but beyond that there has been a nasty tone to the campaign and to politics which we shouldn't have."

"Politics is about public service and to name call and make things personal detracts from what we're about. We must be better than this."

Mrs Abrahams has held the seat since 2011 and had been slowly winning a higher percentage of votes election by election until now.

Despite winning, it nearly turned out to be a catastrophic result for a party who have suffered huge setbacks up and down the country.

It was the closest the Labour Party have come to being unseated in the constituency since 2010, when they defeated the Liberal Democrats by just 103 votes.

The constituency voted 59% leave in the Brexit referendum, and that seemed to persuade some voters to side with the Conservatives and their 'Get Brexit done' message.

Mrs Abrahams spoke to MM afterwards about a dreadful night for her party

and said: "It's absolutely devastating for the party."

"I think it's the worst result since 1935 and we need strong opposition to be able to stand up to the Government that now has a massive majority."

"It's really worrying."

Mrs Abrahams went on to talk about her worry for the constituency she continues to represent, saying: "Towns like Oldham have already suffered under the Conservative government and the council's lost almost half its budget."

"Royal Oldham Hospital has got 43,000 people waiting for operations, so what do we think is going to happen

in the future?"

There was much speculation that the Brexit Party's decision to stand in the constituency ultimately cost the Conservatives, something candidate Tom Lord agreed with.

He said: "I think there is certainly a way you could analyse it and come to the conclusion that the presence of other candidates, and particularly the presence of the Brexit party, cost us."

"Had those votes come to the Conservative party it could have been different."

"I'm very pleased, very encouraged. Nationally we're very happy as well."