

A golden statue of Lady Justice, the personification of the law, stands against a clear blue sky. She is blindfolded, holding a sword in her right hand and a pair of scales in her left. The statue is positioned centrally in the upper half of the page, behind the main title.

# Croydon Constitutionalists

Bringing Classical Liberalism to South London

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## GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY IN CROYDON

Grassroots democracy was in action in Croydon on Thursday 18th April, when the Croydon Constitutionalists held their inaugural Debate for Democracy. Five democracy honouring pro-Brexit parties spoke and took part in a debate at the Green Dragon on Croydon high street.

Unlike so many in Westminster all parties agree on honouring the biggest vote in British history and the evening focused on a post-Brexit Britain. Questions covered a wide range of topics from knife crime, where a number of participants spoke about the need to rebuild families, alongside tough sentences. Chris Mendes the former Vote Leave lead in Croydon South and now Foundation Party Leader quoted a recent case where someone caught with an assortment of knives on them, was given just a four month suspended sentence.

The parties' policies on the Customs Union was an area of agreement with all saying they wanted to leave it, and move to WTO terms. In the event of us being caught in the Backstop, Richard Plackett who in 2002 stood for Labour in Shirley and is now the SDP London and South East Regional Organiser, suggested they would want to give notice to leave and use the Vienna Convention to ensure we did.

Direct versus Representative democracy was a reoccurring theme, Neville Watson the Democrats and Veterans Party Spokesman for Cities, Urban Communities & Sport, and Sean Finch Libertarian Party candidate in the Lewisham East By Election speaking in favour of a Swiss style model. UKIP Croydon Chair Hoong Wai Cheah, who stood in Lewisham West in the 2017 general election and Old Coulsdon in last year's local elections, spoke about UKIP retaining its deposit in the Newport by-election and how we need to move to a Proportional Representation system for elections.

In a change from the tribal nature of so much of politics the representatives and their supporters stayed behind to enjoy a drink and swap stories from many campaign trails. With the current two party system broken these parties showed how the future of politics can be different.

Audio available on our website at <http://croydonconstitutionalists.uk/grassroots-democracy-in-croydon/>



If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Michael Swadling by email at [croydonconstitucionalists@gmail.com](mailto:croydonconstitucionalists@gmail.com).

