

BRITISH DEMOCRACY has been weakened by the Labour Government, egged on by the Liberal Democrats at every stage. The Liberals want proportional representation for Westminster elections, because it gives small parties great power which they do not deserve.

In the PR-based elections for the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly, the Liberals came a poor fourth. Yet, they share power with Labour in both bodies - because PR usually leads to weak coalition governments, dependent on unrepresentative small parties. Conservatives reject this corrupt and undemocratic system.



Celebrating Julian's 1997 Victory



Filming the 'Ridge Riders' Programme in the Forest

ON LAW & ORDER, Liberal Democrats and Labour are traditionally soft. In just two years, the government's early release scheme has let out 31,000 prisoners who have served less than half their sentences - including criminals convicted of manslaughter, attempted murder, sexual assault and drug-dealing. Conservatives will scrap the scheme.

ASYLUM POLICY is a shambles. Genuine refugees who deserve our help and shelter are heavily outnumbered by bogus claimants who disappear long before their claims are rejected. Conservatives will keep all asylum-seekers in reception centres until it has been decided whether or not they are entitled to stay.

IN EDUCATION & HEALTH, there will be less political interference. Conservatives will cut red tape and allow firmer discipline in schools. All schools will be given proper control of their budgets. Labour's obsession with hospital waiting-list numbers has meant that the most serious cases are often not treated first. Conservatives will ensure that patients are given guaranteed waiting-times, starting with those most seriously ill.

In the last Parliament, the Labour Government disgracefully blocked my Private Member's Bill to improve conditions for in-patients in psychiatric units. In the next Parliament, if elected, I shall campaign for the return of proper standards of cleanliness and hygiene in hospital wards.



Visiting a New Forest School



At a 109th Birthday Party!

PENSIONERS will be paid more and taxed less by the Conservatives. One million pensioners will be freed from taxation altogether. The earnings limit before tax will be raised substantially, and the over-75s will receive an extra pension increase.