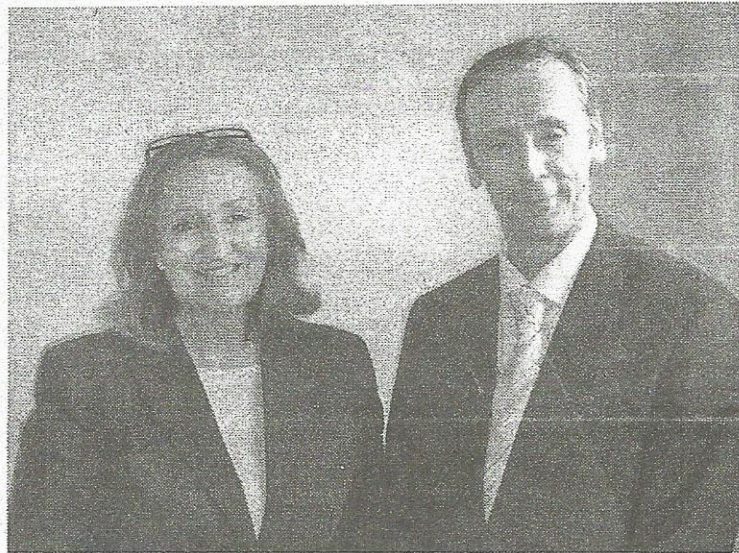


UKIP is Brexit 'guard dog' - deputy leader



UKIP's national deputy chairman Suzanne Evans was in New Milton on Saturday to support local businessman Paul Bailey's campaign for the forthcoming county council elections.

Branch chairman Ann Vasilescu thanked the audience at the Catholic church hall for such a good turn-out and reminded them of the significance of the referendum vote last year and said Brexit would offer the opportunity to solve not just international problems caused by EU membership but national and local ones as well.

Mr Bailey (who is pictured with Ms Evans) said it was important to be able to challenge the Tory-dominated county council and he expressed his support for the police and local services - particularly local care and the NHS. On a lighter note, he related a story from the general election hustings over the question of how many copies there were of the Magna Carta. It was said only two copies existed, but he suggested there

was a third - UKIP's 2015 manifesto which Ms Evans was responsible for writing.

She in turn emphasised the importance of UKIP's role as the 'guard dog' of Brexit. The party needed a new direction, she said, to give people another choice between the politics of Jeremy Corbyn and the Tories. She said they supported personal freedoms, a small state and low taxes and she pointed out how the Tories had stolen many of their policies.

There followed a lively question and answer session that covered reform of the House of Lords, the relationship between Douglas Carswell MP and Nigel Farage, UKIP's failure to win the Stoke by-election, and the Tory general election expenses investigation that included the controversy over the South Thanet constituency. Independence for Scotland were also debated, with the conclusion that if a referendum was held, Nicola Sturgeon would probably lose.