news

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# Candidates for the elections

**THE candidates for May's local elections in Halesowen and Sandwell have been announced.**

Polling day is on Thursday, May 5, and campaigning is already under way with Labour, the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, the Greens, UKIP and the BNP all fielding candidates.

The Conservative party is hoping to keep its hold on the full council and Halesowen Area Committee and, in Sandwell, Labour is hoping to consolidate its historic grip on power.

Cradley and Wollescote ward (formerly Cradley and Foxcote) has more candidates than any other ward including a BNP presence. The candidates are: **Richard Body**, Labour; **Margaret Hanson**, Liberal Democrats; **John Payne**, Green Party; **Louis Redding**, Conservative; **Robert Weale**, BNP and **Glen Wilson**, UK Independence Party.

In Hayley Green and Cradley South, the candidates are: **Mike Heeley**, UKIP; **Mike Kelly**, Labour; **Christopher Lees**, Green Party and **Ken Turner**, Conservative.

In Belle Vale ward, the candidates are: **Bob James**, Conservative; **Dennis Neville**, Green Party and **Donella Russell**, Labour.

In Halesowen North, the election is a two-way battle between **Hilary Bills**, Labour, and **Karen Shakespeare**, Conservative.

In Halesowen South, the candidates are: **Ian Cooper**, Labour; **Ray Franklin**, UKIP; **Alan Taylor**, Conservative; **Tim Weller**, Green Party.

In Sandwell, there are some familiar names standing for election including veteran Ann Shackleton, who has had a recent spell in the council's cabinet.

In Blackheath ward, **Debbie Elwell**, Conservative, will be contesting the election with **Robert Price**, Labour.

In Cradley Heath and Old Hill, Councillor Liz Bowler's husband **Alan Bowler** is hoping to join her on the council with the Conservative party and is battling it out with **Robert Johns**, of the Liberal Democrats, and the Labour incumbent **Ann Shackleton**.

Rowley ward is also a two-way fight with **Thomas Millward**, Conservative, and **Barbara Price**, Labour, hoping to be elected.

In Oldbury, **Edward Barnfield**, Conservative, is contesting the election with **Elaine Giles**, Labour.

Both Dudley and Sandwell borough councils have announced the election counts will not take place until Friday, May 6.

Voters taking to the polls will also be asked to take part in the national referendum about a possible change to the way MPs are elected to Parliament.

## Talk on writer

A TALK on the writer George Eliot will be presented at a meeting of Haden Hill Historical Society.

It will be given by Malcolm Vaughan at the meeting on Wednesday, at Old Hill Cricket Club in Haden Park Road at 7.30pm. Entry is £2.

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