

WHY VOTING MATTERS!

Find out why making a *little cross* is a **BIG** deal!



All over the world, people have fought – and died – for their right to take part in elections. Here in the UK, it's less than **100 years** since women were given the right to vote (after years of sometimes violent protest), and in **South Africa** black people were only able to vote for the first time in 1994. Even today, some countries' political systems mean that people are not allowed to vote.

NOT BOTHERED

Despite this, last time there was an election in the UK – where most adults *are* allowed to vote – around 16 million people didn't! And most of them were young people. Why is that? Some don't think their vote will make a difference, believing that all parties and candidates are the same. Others

don't trust politicians or feel that MPs don't represent their views. Currently, many MPs are from rich families, and only a quarter are women. **Should this change?**

YOUR VOTE, YOUR LIFE

By voting, people get a say in the things that are important to them. Different parties have different views on all sorts of issues – from doctors and recycling to education and taxes, so it makes sense to vote for people who have the same views as you. The next party that gets into power could make changes that directly affect *your* life.

So... do you think YOU will vote when you're old enough?



Meet 'Howling Laud Hope'!

CRAZY PARTIES!

In the news, we only tend to hear about the most **popular** political parties, but there are actually lots of smaller parties in the UK, too. One of the most famous 'alternative' parties is the

Official Monster Raving Loony Party!

Their policies over the years have included **the introduction of a 99p coin** (to save on change), and to **give all children two birthdays!** They've never won (surprise surprise), but they have received thousands of votes over the last 33 years!