

# Wells Constituency Labour Party

August 2017

## Dear Members

It is an exciting time in our constituency and in constituencies across the country. Our party is not letting up: we plan to run a permanent campaign until the next polling day. Here, we have been out campaigning all month, with Saturday stalls in Wells, Glastonbury, Street and Burnham. Members are continuing to knock on doors and talk to voters – gathering information for our databases. We are establishing a stronger online presence, and have seen all of our branches strengthen and grow, with new and old members working together on a whole range of exciting ideas. We are preparing for an election at any time.

Our main focus for the foreseeable future is on raising money for our Election Fighting Fund. It is at constituency level that we have to fund our election campaigns. Members work hard all year round to fundraise, but at the moment our funds are very depleted after fighting both county elections and a snap General Election. We are asking all branches and all members to try to contribute to the Election Fighting Fund either by fundraising or by making donations via our new online voting app, which takes only a few minutes and can be accessed here: <http://bit.ly/donatelabour>



Thank you to all those members who are working so hard, in whatever way they are able, to further the cause of Labour and social justice. I couldn't be prouder of you all. Clare Smith, Chair, Wells CLP

## Constituency News

**The August Special General Committee** adopted Standing Orders for Wells Constituency Labour Party. The main aim of these being to enshrine transparency and democracy in our local party administration. One of the results being that all members can now vote at the monthly General Committee.

### Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival



A number of our members had a superb time at the sunny Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival marching under their union banners or one of our two local banners.

### Members Guide



All members will now have received the new Member's Guide, which gives an introduction to our local party and the people in it.



## Any Questions?

Many of us attended the Any Questions Radio 4 program live in Wedmore on 21<sup>st</sup> July.

During a torrential downpour, the production team that has produced news items across the world in the most unhelpful circumstances (think war zone), was defeated. They had to knock on doors to tap into domestic internet providers because the rain made contact with their satellite impossible. Well, we knew Somerset produces some of the best rain clouds didn't we. Despite these problems it was a cracking show; Emily Thornberry, on the panel, is a super spokesperson for Labour and we had a great turnout of local Labour supporters. A question from our North West Somerset Branch secretary was chosen on the night and of course, a photo opportunity was not missed!



Shelia Martin, Den Carter, Emily Thornberry and Michele Powell with Tulki Jenkins and Stuart

## Writing to Newspapers

Please do write into the local newspapers on issues that concern you – this week saw two letters in the Journal, one from Michael Sawdon-Smith on the effects of the Conservative austerity policy locally, while Brexit and its effect upon farming is the subject of Gregory Paul Turner's piece.

# Fundraising

## Any Ideas?

As Clare mentioned in her editorial, Wells CLP needs to build up funds in preparation for the next election campaign. Members have been coming up with a formidable set of ideas and plans covering a vast array of interests including a May Day event next year, a housing initiative, the Banner project, a mega jumble and an inter branch Skittles championship! Keep the ideas coming and if you see any here that you would like to lend a hand with – just let us know!

## 200 Club

The 200 Club is the Labour Party Monthly Raffle run by our Constituency Treasurer, Tatiana Storie. At just £2 a ticket, the 1st prize is £20 and 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes are £10. Money goes direct to the local constituency to help with campaigning.

Here are four ways you can join the club:

- Pay Tatiana in cash or by cheque at our monthly constituency meeting ... OR
- Download a standing order form from the Facebook Group files and take it into your bank ... OR
- Print off the form at the end of this newsletter and take it to your bank ... OR
- Use the details on the form to arrange a standing order via your online banking facility.

Odds on a win are far greater than the National Lottery!

## Facebook Links

Wells Constituency - <http://bit.ly/WellsCLPFacebook>

Glastonbury & Street - <http://bit.ly/GSBranchLPFB>

NW Somerset - <http://bit.ly/NWSomBLPFB>

Shepton Mallet - <http://bit.ly/SheptonBLPFacebook>

Wells Branch - <http://bit.ly/WellsBLPFB>

Wells CLP Youth Labour - <http://bit.ly/WellsCLPYouth>

Level Left Book Club - <http://bit.ly/LevelLeftBook>

## Campaign Dates

### Markets Campaigns

If there is one near you, do come and see us.

#### Glastonbury & Street

Monthly in Glastonbury – 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each month – Glastonbury Market Square (near the monument): next on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1pm-3pm**.

Monthly in Street on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month – in Street High Street (to the right of the Crispin Centre entrance): next on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1pm-3pm**

**Wells Branch** 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds, Wells Market Place – **August 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30am – 1pm**.

**Canvassing** – Wells branch canvassing now changed to **Thursday mornings 10am-1pm** – contact Jacky Carter on [jackycarter42@gmail.com](mailto:jackycarter42@gmail.com).

### Co-option to Town Council

**Wells City Council vacancy** – There will be a co-option due to the passing of the late lamented Chris Briton. Applications by **September 18** – must live within 3 miles of Wells City – details at the Council News page – <http://bit.ly/StCuthbertVacancy>

More information on what is involved can be found at the website – Communities Parish and Local Councils <http://bit.ly/BeingACouncillor>

*Becoming a Labour Councillor* booklet is available in the Files section of the Wells Constituency Facebook page (see Facebook Links above)

Cllr Colin Price is available to help and advise anyone interested in putting themselves forward.

Rod Major is interested. Do apply if you want to be involved in Town Council politics, this is another opportunity to show that Labour is active in Wells.

## Level Left Book Club



The first book, Chavs by Owen Jones, was digested and discussed at the Panborough Inn. An interesting discussion – and it didn't even matter that not all of us had managed to finish the book.

The next book is Post Capitalism – A Guide to our Future by Paul Mason – meet to discuss at the Panborough Inn, Wells Rd, Panborough, Wells BA5 1PN on 11<sup>th</sup> Sept 19:30

## Local Labour Gatherings

### Coffee mornings



**Wells Branch** – **Sept 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30-12:30** at the Lawrence Centre, Union St, just off from the car park – wheel chair accessible. It was good to meet new people in August – look forward to meeting more in Sept.

**Glastonbury & Street Branch** – **Sept 16<sup>th</sup>** at the Friends Meeting House in Street- 11am-1pm. Children and partners will be welcome, and there will be a raffle – with donations of cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received.

### Debate and Discussion

**Wells Branch** – Electoral Reform – **30<sup>th</sup> August 19:00-21:30**. Mary Southcott from Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform will speak on the different methods of Proportional Representation and their relative merits – particularly relevant to the Wells Constituency. Entry free. Refreshments on arrival – donations welcome. Open to all members & friends.

**Shepton Mallet Branch** – Debate: The Pros and Cons of the Eu Single Market. There are many reasons for being uncertain about the UK's post-BREXIT future – even experts dispute the 'right' way forward – we should all be suspicious of the motives that drive Tory enthusiasm for a 'hard BREXIT'. Increasingly, talk of 'hard' or 'soft' options are being replaced with debate around whether Single Market membership would maintain our trading interests, whilst keeping the UK at arm's length, is acceptable or even permissible. All welcome to join in – or just to listen to the arguments – and make up your own minds about the way forward. This is a challenging, frustrating, and confusing, but important topic. **31<sup>st</sup> August 7:30pm** at the Salvation Army Hall, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BU – Open to all members tea and coffee available.



## News & Events

### Oaklands Nursery Consultation

Members are advised that M&S is proposing to develop the Oaklands nursery site on Street bypass as a food hall. A public consultation is scheduled for **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 3pm-7pm**, at the Red Brick Building. More information is available online at [www.streetconsultation.co.uk](http://www.streetconsultation.co.uk)

### Glastonbury Neighbourhood Plan

The Glastonbury Neighbourhood Plan is 'on tour', with meetings planned to discuss themes centred on 'Our Town; Our Community; Our Plan' on :

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> August 11am-1pm** at Cinnamon Lane recreation area and **2pm-4pm** at St Dunstan's Park; and

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 10am-12noon** at Paradise Road and **2pm-4pm** at Manor House Road

### Street PACT meeting

The Street Police, Partners & Community Together (PACT) initiative will be meeting **on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August, at 7pm**, at the Parish Rooms on Leigh Road to discuss local issues.

### Dr Scilla Elworthy



**Wells Literary Festival – 12pm Thurs Oct 19<sup>th</sup> Business Plan for Peace: Making a World without War Possible.** 'We need individuals like Dr Elworthy to start the work of preventing war ... This has been my personal dream for many years' – His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

Scilla Elworthy is a peace builder nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize and founder of the Oxford Research Group – a non-governmental organisation set up to develop effective dialogue between nuclear weapons policy-makers worldwide and their critics.

[www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk](http://www.wellsfestivalofliterature.org.uk)

## National News and Events

**Question Time** –September 21<sup>st</sup>, Question Time is in Bridgwater – this is the link to apply to be a member of the audience <http://bit.ly/QuestionTime21917>

## Branch News

**NW Somerset Branch** - North West Somerset branch spearheaded a campaign and online petition to Save Burnham Library and campaigned outside the library on the 5th August.

Members attended the protest against the reduction in services at Weston Hospital A&E. The Autumn Campaign continues – please see the Quick Date Guide.

### Shepton Mallet Branch –



*Cllr Deborah Towner, Robin Horton, Ant Butler and John Merritt after the local government discussion in The Horseshoe Inn, Bowlish*

The 2017/18 Discussion Programme was launched by local government maven Robin Horton who spoke about the relationships between town/parish, district and county councils and the confusion of geographical boundaries that can appear to some to be a purposeful attempt to avoid accountability. Robin's comprehensive and entertaining presentation gave us the clear and unbiased insights we need to begin to unpick this organisational rat's nest and get on with the business of resisting, opposing and then, ultimately, usurping the overwhelmingly blue-hued councils across the county. Key learning points were:

- Shepton's geographical position on the extremities of the Constituency map explain why James Heappey has shown very little interest in what goes on here.
- Council meetings are accessible to the public, but councillors avoid local scrutiny by making meeting schedules difficult to find. Dates identified so far :

#### **Shepton Mallet Town Council:**

**Full Council (7pm):** 26 Sept, 28 Nov

**Dev. & Plan. (7pm):** 19 Sept, 10, 31 Oct, 21 Nov, 12 Dec

#### **Mendip District Council:**

**Full Council (6.30pm):** 25 Sept, 11 Dec

**Cabinet (6.30pm):** 7 Aug, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 13 Nov, 4 Dec

**Planning (6pm):** 16 Aug, 27 Sept, 18 Oct, 8 Nov, 20 Dec

Country-wide, Labour have around 40% support, which, here, translates to 0 of 46 seats on the District Council, 13% on the Town Council and 5% on the County Council – even UKIP managed more than 10% at County before they all reverted to the Tories on 4 May! How can we redress this? Below are listed some actions we can take:

- Joining the Neighbourhood Plan steering group
- Contributing to the 16-year district plan

- Participating in underpinning working, steering and special-interest groups
- Attending council – including cabinet and other groups open to public participation – meetings
- Coordinating and sharing findings and insights back to the branch members so that we all become better informed.

Excellent to see John Merritt who was an active Labour councillor in the 1970s when he and others ran Urban and District councils under Labour leadership - we need to learn how to restore that voice of common sense and reason to current equivalent District and County councils.

**Glastonbury & Street** – It's been a busy summer – not least in terms of new appointments subsequent to some of our officers taking up roles at constituency level. We've been delighted to establish Kama McKenzie at our helm as Chair, Daniel Croose as Membership Officer and Youth Officer and Vanessa Corby as Women's Officer. We've continued to raise Labour's profile locally since the general election campaigning by maintaining a regular high street presence in both Glastonbury and Street, with several well attended stalls under our belts – one of which saw Drew Gauldon, a satirical Boris Johnson impersonator and card-

carrying Labour member, entertain the troops and engage passers-by. These stalls will be run monthly, on the first and second Saturday of each month in Glastonbury and Street respectively, (see *Campaign Dates*). All members are warmly invited to come along whether to engage actively, to stand alongside some of us supportively, or simply to pose for a selfie with the latest addition to our team, a cardboard Jeremy Corbyn, who does sterling work manning the stalls while we wander off in various directions to distribute literature...

Further afield, several members took our branch banner to the Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival in July. Other members supported Weston-Super-Mare in its battle against the closure of Weston General's A&E department, with Emma-Jane King reporting back to the branch meeting in July on the implications of its closure. Daniel Croose has joined the Unite Youth Council for South West England, putting him in an excellent position to keep the branch – and the constituency – up to date with union developments.

Next branch meeting **5<sup>th</sup> September, 7pm** at the Friends Meeting House, Street. We'll be discussing, how best to effect fundraising activities at branch level – so if this is something of which you have experience, will you come along?

Quick Date Guide	What	Where
16 Aug 10:30	Wells Market Stall	Market Place, Wells
17 Aug 20:00	Wells Canvassing – Thurs am weekly	Wells
From 19 Aug	Glastonbury Neighbourhood Plan	Various venues – see above
24 Aug 15:00-19:00	Oaklands Nursery Consultation	Red Brick Building
28 Aug 11:00	Moat Boat Race – Stall and crew 11am	Bishops' Palace Wells
30 Aug 19:00	Street PACT meeting	Parish Rooms
30 Aug 19:00-21:30	Electoral Reform Discussion / debate on the methods of proportional representation	Wells Town Hall
31 Aug 19:30	Shepton branch – Debate: The Pros and Cons of the EU Single Market	Salvation Army Hall, Shepton
2 Sept 10:00-14:30	WSM CLP Petition Weston town centre for A&E Dept	Weston Super Mare
2 Sept 13:00-15:00	Glastonbury Market stall	Glastonbury Market Square
4 Sept – 20:30pm	WSM CLP Candlelit vigil commemorate 2mths closure	Weston General Hospital
5 Sept 9:00	WSM CLP Protest as Trust Board members arrive for 10:00 meeting	Outside Weston General Hospital
5 Sept 19:00	Glastonbury Branch Meeting	Friends Meeting House, Street
6 Sept 19:30	Wells Branch Meeting	White Hart Hotel, Sadler Street
9 Sept 10:30-12:30	Wells Branch Coffee Morning	Lawrence Centre
9 Sept 13:00-15:00	Street Market Stall	Street High Street
11 Sept 19:30	Level Left Book Club	Panborough Inn
12 Sept 19:00	Wells CLP Meeting	tba
16 Sept 11:00-13:00	Glastonbury & Street Coffee Morning	Friends Meeting House, Street
21 Sept	Question Time	Bridgewater
28 Sept 19:30	Shepton Branch – Discussion : The Labour Party – too broad a church?	
3 Oct 19:00	Glastonbury & Street AGM	tba
4 Oct 19:30	Wells Branch Meeting	White Hart Hotel, Sadler Street
14 Oct 10:00	Wells Branch Book Stall	Wells Town Hall



**Wells Constituency Labour Party Standing Order Form**

To: The Manager

\_\_\_\_\_ (name of your bank)

\_\_\_\_\_ (full postal address of your bank)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following section with your name and address

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following section with details of the bank/building society account from which you wish your standing order to be paid.

Name the bank account is in: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Account number \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the following section, indicating the frequency

I authorise you to charge my account as follows and to continue doing so until you receive written notice to stop or change this Standing Order -

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Periodic sum to be charged (in numbers) £ \_\_\_\_\_

Periodic sum to be charged (in words) \_\_\_\_\_

Frequency \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly/quarterly/yearly

From (date) \_\_\_\_\_

Labour Party Membership no. (ref no) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of bank to be credited:  
Lloyds, 64 High Street, Street, BA16 0ED

Account Details:  
Account No. 00889438 Sort Code: 30-98-28

