

# Wells Constituency Labour Party News

March 2018

## Dear Members

It has been a very interesting month for our CLP. One of our strategic aims is to create more links with our rural communities outside of the towns themselves. This month our rural affairs officer, G Paul Turner, organised a panel event in Wells Town Hall and we were pleased to welcome Labour Shadow Cabinet Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, David Drew, onto the panel, together with Jyoti Fernandez of the Landworkers' Alliance and Paul himself. The audience was diverse and included farmers, and smallholders. It was a fantastic event given Labour notoriously finds it hard to reach out to these groups. The success of the evening was very much down to Paul and his team, so many thanks to them for all their hard work.

We can send four delegates to annual conference again this year so if you are interested in being a delegate for us then let us know at [wellsclpchair@gmail.com](mailto:wellsclpchair@gmail.com). The conference is in Liverpool on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of September. We will be voting on our delegates at the all member meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> May. If you do not want to be a delegate then you can still attend as a guest and full details are now on the national Labour site.

Three town council seats in Shepton are up for grabs this May and we need members to stand for these positions. We will be fighting hard to continue to get the Labour message out in the town and have more councillors join Deborah and Chris.

Finally, as ever, we need money to continue campaigning, to send our delegates to conference and to make sure we have enough to fight any snap general election. The link below allows you to donate directly to the local party either with a one-off payment or a regular direct debit.  
<http://bit.ly/donatelabour>

Many thanks to everyone for all their hard work.

*Clare Smith, Chair, Wells CLP*

## Constituency News

### 100 innovations & Day One

We are now gearing up for campaigning in the council elections. The Party has produced a booklet detailing 100 ways Labour councils across Britain have made a difference – <http://bit.ly/100innova> - well worth a read, especially if you are canvassing

Another booklet is **On Day One**, which describes how Local Government can help Labour deliver from Day One. <http://bit.ly/LPDayOne>

### March CLP Meeting

Many thanks to everyone who made it to the CLP meeting tonight. It was a good turnout and we voted on two issues

1. Should we support Mandatory reselection for our MP's at the end of their parliamentary term. PASSED in FAVOUR of the motion.

2. Should we make it a rule that 3 people must be present in any campaign activity where contact with the public is likely to occur. NOT PASSED Amendment made.

We also had a guest visitor, Dave Chappell, who spoke to us about forming a trade union council for Mendip.

*Clare Smith, Chair, Wells CLP*

[Ed. Dave Chappell encouraged us to join Unite Community which welcomes people whether working, retired or unemployed, and gave a surprising résumé of Wells' more radical history!]



## Library Consultation

The closing date for the consultation has been extended from 22 April to 13 June. Additional information and updated questionnaire is available at <http://bit.ly/SCCConsult> A new Consultation is scheduled for Shepton Mallet - 27 March 19:00 Shape Town Council Offices.

## Councillor Report

### Wells City Council

Since Christmas I have been trying to reinstate the Water Tap by the Bishops Barn, along with looking at installing a bottle refill station at Wells Town Hall and the Bus Station. As you can imagine, it's not just running a water pipe outside but it will be a way forward in the reduction of single use plastic bottles.

On the subject of Buses, it's coming up to the end of the financial year for parish council's support of the 67 that covers Wells, Wedmore, Burnham and Wookey Hole. I have been working hard to make sure Wells City Council support this vital rural bus service. Please use it if you can, as I am reminded of "use it or lose it".

We have managed to buy the last Red Telephone Box in Wells and intend to reposition it by the Town Hall and, working with the Rotary Club of Wells, to install a defibrillator. This will also preserve the last Gilbert Scott P6, as it's known, for future years as one of the ten most iconic British symbols.

If anyone would like to deliver postcards in support of us continuing to be a member of the Customs Union then let me know and I will pass your name on to local campaign organiser. [c.price@wells.gov.uk](mailto:c.price@wells.gov.uk)

*Colin Price, Wells City Councillor*

### Council Elections STOP PRESS

There will now be **4 elections** for Shepton Mallet Town Council: 2 in the East Ward and 2 in the West Ward. We expect election day to be May 3<sup>rd</sup> in line with council elections nationally.

We have one firm candidate for Labour: Paul Turner. We would like three more candidates who would campaign and take a seat if elected. Councillors must live within 3 miles of Shepton Mallet parish boundaries.

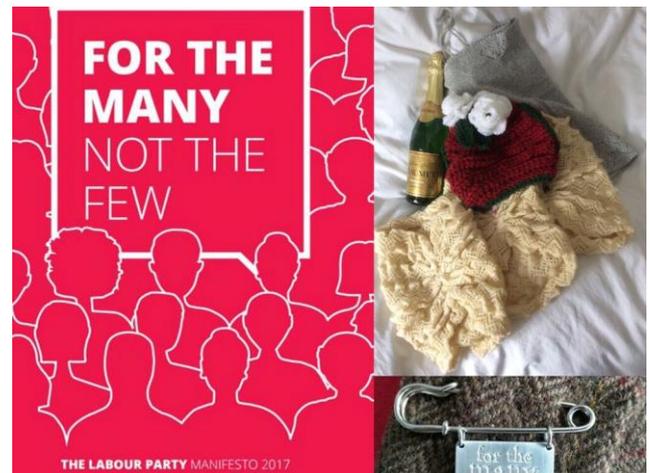
Our present councillors, Chris Inchley and Deborah Towner, say that duties of a Councillor are a bit like a piece of string. You can turn up to meetings to have your say and vote, but you can also get involved with the community, develop projects and advocate for people who have problems. You can therefore spend a few or many hours a week doing this rewarding aspect of involvement in the community.

*G Paul Turner, Treasurer, Shepton Mallet BLP*

## Local Labour Gatherings

### Ceilidh

The Ceilidh is upon us, and it is touch and go whether this newsletter gets to you before it happens on Friday night of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March. However, if we catch you in time – we might entice you to come just for our stonking raffle! Prizes to win include a signed manifesto and photo; a Labour tea towel and some lovely metal badges; three snoods; a tea cosy; a bottle of sparkling Perry and a vest.



### Rural Affairs Panel

We held a Rural Affairs Panel Event on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March in Wells Town Hall. David Drew MP, Shadow Minister of Farming and Rural Affairs, Jyoti Fernandes from The Landworkers' Alliance and Paul Turner our Rural Affairs Officer were on the panel.

Ian and Paul created a publicity leaflet, about 800 of which were distributed through farmers markets, farm shops, our Voter ID sessions, street canvassing, the Rotary Club, the NFU and Unite. We visited between 40 and 50 farmers on their farms across the constituency. Reception was overwhelmingly positive. Farmers and the public really are re-assessing where farming and food interests are better represented politically.

John Burbridge from Unite's farmworkers section, the Chairs of South West NFU and Somerset NFU, an Alpaca journalist, smallholders, farmers and farmworkers, someone from Climate Alliance, Elizabeth Pole who travelled up from Tiverton and Honiton CLP, a vet, Labour members and public were in the audience.

Questions dealt with the contrasting Conservative and Labour policies on Brexit, the Conservative's 2018 Command Paper consulting on a radical post-Brexit future for English agriculture, environmental protection, animal welfare, agricultural support and protection, entry into the industry, and the sale and marketing of agricultural products at wholesale and retail level.



Den and her team provided a tremendous spread of non-alcoholic refreshments. There was disabled access and public parking nearby. Michael chaired the session. There was ample time for conversation before and after. This was a great first step reaching out to the farming and agrifood vote in the constituency.

*G Paul Turner, CLP Rural Affairs Officer*

## May Day Markets



A book stall in the barn by the café, music on the bandstand, children's entertainments and campaigning and artisan stalls. This is what we have to look forward to on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pam Fraser has been building up a lovely selection for us. But what about our Labour Stall?

Can you crafters and artists out there contribute anything red and white and Labour related to make our stall stand out from the crowd?

Contact Pam through [wellsclppress@gmail.com](mailto:wellsclppress@gmail.com)

## May 5 WANTS YOU!



The May Day planning group is deep into the development of what promises to be a brilliant day. We are going to have banners from Trades Unions and the Labour Party parading through the streets and all the groundwork and risk assessments are being completed by a small group of Labour members.

In doing this we can now see the amount of participation we are going to need on the day!

- **20 to steward the parade and arenas**
- **6 for the food stall (allowing for rotas)**
- **6 for the Book Sale**
- **10-20 to help hold banners!**

*Can you help? Please let us know on 01749 870078*



## Wells International Workers' Day!! May 5<sup>th</sup> - Parade - Rally - Family Friendly Stalls & Music

**11:30 Assemble:** Sadler Street (North end by Brown's Gate)

**12 noon Parade Departs**

**12:30pm Rally and speeches:** Bishop's Barn (including Ruth George MP)

**to 4pm Family Fair - Free Children's Entertainment** Bishop's Barn

While you listen to musicians at the bandstand you can browse the stalls that celebrate workers locally and internationally including Sustainable Wells, Amnesty International, WRAG (Refugee Aid), CND & Peace Group, and local artisans demonstrating blacksmithing, weaving and spinning.

ffi email: [wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com](mailto:wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com)



**FOR THE MANY  
NOT THE FEW**



## Campaign Dates

### Door-to-door canvassing

Well, now the weather is warmer and, judging by the flowers coming out, Spring is really on the way and I hope we can step up our efforts with Campaigning in the Constituency.

You will have been asked by the Region or National Organisers if you can go and help them get the 2 extra Labour Councillors they need in Plymouth to get a majority on the council. If you do go down could you let me know?

We've been talking about possible problems a fair bit lately, wondering why the active group is so small compared with the membership and there is a feeling that it may not just be a lack of time which inhibits people.

If there is a specific reason which stops you from volunteering or some practice that we could avoid which might allow you to join in I'd be very grateful if you would bring it to my attention in a quick e-mail.

*Jacky Carter, Vice Chair Campaigns*



**Door-to-door canvassing cont'd**

**Wells branch** canvasses on **Thursday mornings, between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm.** Contact Jacky Carter for details, at [wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com](mailto:wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com)

**Telephone Canvassing**

Sometimes telephone canvassing is the best option and we are pleased to announce that we are now up and running with the new Labour Party System called **Dialogue**. This system enables us to call from our own home, but the call is logged to Labour Party Head Office, which also pays the expenses so you can remain anonymous and don't have to foot the bill!

Michael Sawdon-Smith has trialled the system, he says, "The system is quite simple and just needs a Labour logon, a computer (or laptop) and a phone line."

Michael called 32 people in less than ½ an hour and recorded 13 responses, "I think this might just work," he says, "In terms of getting info about who is voting which way and just showing people that there is an active Labour Party now [in Wells]."

He can arrange training sessions at the Labour Party Offices in Glastonbury. Please get in touch with him if you are interested. [wellsclpsec@gmail.com](mailto:wellsclpsec@gmail.com)

**Monthly marketplace campaigning**

If there is an event near you, do come and join us.

**Glastonbury & Street**

**STAND WITH US.**

As usual our Branch Street Stall campaign will take place on the first Saturday of the month. Please come and support us on 7<sup>th</sup> April. We will be meeting at the Northload St., Glastonbury office from 12:00 onwards and then, weather permitting, we will set up the table, a short distance away, at the Market Cross.

Nobody needs to engage with the public, we're far more effective when we have a good number of people on view. Increasing awareness of our existence is our main aim. Handing out leaflets is easy but not essential. Feeling good about standing with comrades is guaranteed.

- **Glastonbury**, first Saturday each month, Glastonbury Market Square (near the monument) – next on **Saturday 7 April, 1–3 pm**

**Wells**

We meet near the entrance to the market opposite Sadler Street.

- **Wells**, third Saturday each month, Wells Market Place – next on **Saturday 21 April, 10.30 am–12:30 pm.**

**Welfare Rights for Elderly People**



**At Wells Town Hall, 2 pm - 4 pm, 25 April.**

Are you one of the many pensioners missing out on possible entitlements after a lifetime of making National Insurance contributions? Wells BLP is holding a panelled event in the spring with speakers, including Jane Worth from Age UK, to inform and direct us to help that is freely available but often we are unaware of.

- Do you have a disability?
- Are you caring for someone?
- Do you want to know your Rights?

Look out for more information on this event in later editions.

*Kevin Russell, Wells BLP*

**Coffee mornings**



**Wells**

We had another lovely gathering in March – met some new faces; enjoyed some delicious cake and muddled through some decisions on banner making.

The next Coffee morning will be **Saturday 12 May, 10.30 am–12.30 pm**, Lawrence Centre, Union St, near the car park (wheelchair accessible)



## Other News and Events

### Refugee Talk

Rissa Mohabir speaks with and for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. She is the Director of Trauma Awareness Training, which produces Humanitarian Advocacy Productions and Publications.



Den Carter, our Wells Branch Chair, who has arranged this talk says “Rissa’s work and the appalling condition refugees are arriving here in should be something we are aware of.”

Her presentation includes:

- Introduction: Trauma Awareness Listening Project
- Video short Under the Shade of the Tree – Somali Women’s Group – A vivid and poignant group narrative of the trauma endured on the journey to safety
- Disabled Refugee and Asylum Seekers with specific needs of war injuries
- Short film: Nobody Ever Asks – Somali woman personal experience of war wounds and loss of limb
- Case Presentation Slides: Two Somali men’s account of the impact of bullet and shrapnel injury
- Questions and Answers

She will be talking from **7 pm** on **Thursday 12 April** at the **Lawrence Centre in Wells**.

## Links

**Newsletter** - [wellsclpnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:wellsclpnewsletter@gmail.com)

### Web

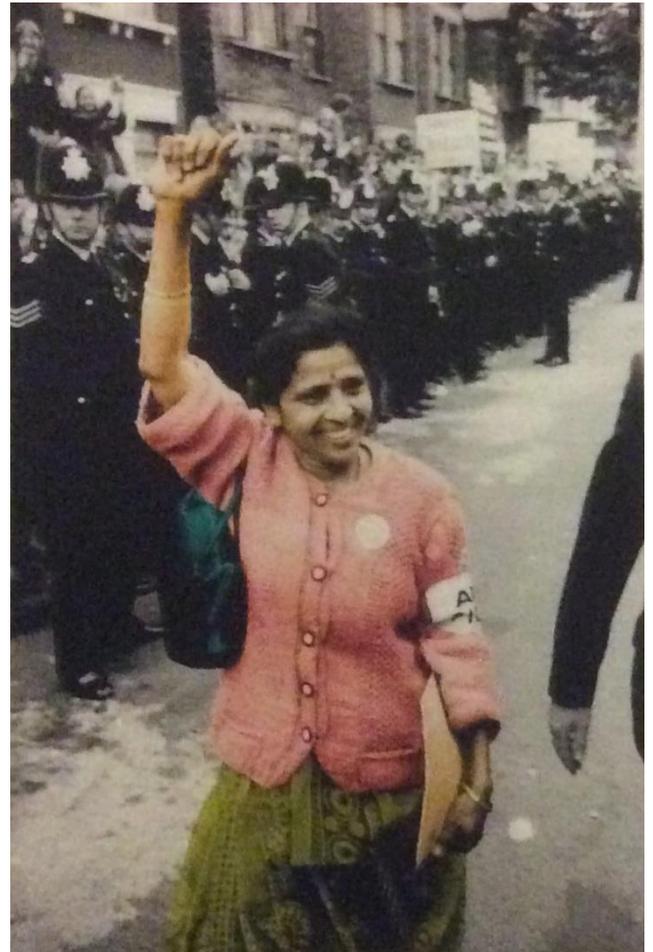
Wells Labour - <http://wellslabour.org.uk/>  
 NW Somerset BLP - <http://nwsomersetlabour.org.uk/>  
 Campaign videos - <http://bit.ly/NWSomerset>  
<http://bit.ly/WellsBookFair>  
<http://bit.ly/CheddarStall>

### Facebook

Facebook Guidelines - <http://bit.ly/FBGuideLine>  
 Wells CLP - <http://bit.ly/WellsCLPFB>  
 Wells CLP Youth Labour - <http://bit.ly/WellsCLPYouth>  
 Glastonbury & Street BLP - <http://bit.ly/GSBLPFB>  
 NW Somerset BLP - <http://bit.ly/NWSomBLPFB>  
 Shepton Mallet BLP - <http://bit.ly/SheptonBLPFB>  
 Wells BLP - <http://bit.ly/WellsBLPFB>  
 Level Left Book Club - <http://bit.ly/LevelLeftBook>

## We are the Lions Mr Manager!

*A new play by Neil Gore*



**Friday 6 April 7:30 pm** (doors open 6:45 pm)

**Box Office** - 01749 870078

St Michael’s Church Hall,  
 160a Gloucester Road, Bishopston,  
 Bristol BS7 8NT

£10 waged £8 unwaged

‘The story of Jayaben Desai ... makes you laugh, feel and think ... a powerful story, powerfully told.’

*Clare Brennan, The Observer*

This is a new drama marking the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grunwick strike 1976-78. **We are the Lions Mr Manager** is about Jayaben Desai’s inspirational fight for freedom, equality and human dignity. It is based on the experiences of Jayaben Desai and members of the Grunwick Strike Committee and their long battle against the management and establishment forces to gain Union recognition. She turned the dispute into a national movement for human rights and dignity inspiring future generations.



## Branch News

### Glastonbury & Street

We came out of our hibernation as planned on the first Saturday of March, only to be beaten into submission by the tail end of ‘the beast from the east’. Our new Constituency Office was our planned rendezvous point and even though we had cancelled the street stall we were still able to meet and have hot drinks and chat about plans for a Labour government, plans for the office and up-and-coming events. Thanks are due to Michael Sawdon-Smith, Liz Eavis and her team who have done a lot of work to make this invaluable asset fit for purpose.



Den, Kerry, Kama, Vanessa and Michael with Jeremy Corbyn

Our Branch meeting decided that the consultation for the A361 upgrade was far too short in time scale and options. Branch member Lou Hart, LGBTQIA+ officer, volunteered to write to interested parties and express our concern.

In Street the subject of Library Closures is causing a lot of concern and the Branch have been discussing possible campaigning tactics. However, Ian Fraser said that for now at least, individual members would be attending consultations and public, non-party political protests, whilst the Party, at all levels would continue to attack the policies and in particular the austerity which is causing these cuts. Cuts which affect the most vulnerable members of our society in the worst way possible. It’s my hope that our energies can be focused on getting Labour councillors elected at the next elections.

Thank you to members who turned out on a wintry night for the March meeting and sorry that the room was so cold. Our next meeting, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April will be at our usual venue, the Friends Meeting House, Street, but in the much cosier library room. All members are welcome.

*Ian Fraser, Vice Chair, Glastonbury & Street BLP*

### NW Somerset Branch website

Have a look at the website that John Fones has set up for NW Branch members – it’s gradually building up a

library of information from agendas and minutes to campaigns and photo galleries.

<http://nwsomersetlabour.org.uk/>

### Wells

An interesting month with extreme weather conditions - I hope everyone hunkered down, keeping safe and warm!

Branch work has continued, we are currently working on an initiative to rid Wells of plastic in conjunction with other groups and as well as campaigning in the Market Place and keeping our visibility high, there’s been a great deal of planning for the many events we’ve organised here in the next two months.



Shelia Martin enjoying the splendour of one of our book fairs

I really want to take a moment to ask all our members to come and support these events. There is an enormous amount of work being done to raise our profile here in Wells and whilst I don’t suggest we can take this seat in the next GE, what I believe we can - and will - do, is to place councillors in local seats and begin to influence and ultimately change decisions made here. In order to establish ourselves as a credible force, we not only need the funds our events generate, but we need the reach into our community which is why we are making such an effort to put on talks and events which will show voters our many positive and dynamic intentions.

Please join us for our ceilidh on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, our Welfare Rights for Retired People on April 25<sup>th</sup> and of course the International Workers Day Parade and Fair on May 5<sup>th</sup> - all good ways to meet fellow members and build our Labour community here. We would love to hear your ideas and concerns and for you to feed into our programme of works.

Do come and meet us - we’re a friendly and welcoming bunch!

*Den Carter, Chair, Wells BLP*



## Quick Date Guide

When	What	Where
23 March, 14:30-17:30	SCC Library Consultation - Cheddar	Cheddar Library
23 March, 20:00-23:00	Ceilidh	Wells Town Hall
27 March, 19:00	Shepton Mallet Library Consultation	Shape Town Council Offices
29 March, 19:30	May Day Planning	Northload St Office, Glastonbury
3 April, 19:00-20:30	Glastonbury & Street branch meeting	Friends Meeting House, Street
4 April, 19:00-21:00	Wells Branch Meeting	The Globe, Priest Road, Wells
5 April, 19:15-19:30	Shepton Mallet Branch Meeting	St Michael's Church Hall, Shepton Mallet
5 April, 19:30-21:00	How the rural community may be better served by Labour	St Michael's Church Hall, Shepton Mallet
6 April, 19:30	We are the Lions Mr Manager!	Gloucester Road, Bristol
7 April, 12:00-15:00	Glastonbury Street Campaign	Northload St Office / Market Cross
10 April, 19:00-21:30	Glastonbury Town Council meeting	Town Hall, Glastonbury
11 April, 19:00	Wells CLP General Meeting	Highbridge Social Club, Church St. TA9 3HR
12 April, 19:00	Refugee Talk	Lawrence Centre, Wells
17 April, 19:00-21:00	Glastonbury Town Council AGM	Town Hall, Glastonbury
18 April, 19:00-21:00	NW Somerset Branch Meeting	TBC
19 April, 19:00-21:30	Women's Forum	Highbridge
21 April, 10:30-12:30	Wells Street Campaign	Market Square, Wells
25 April, 14:00-16:00	Welfare Rights for Elderly People	Wells Town Hall
1 May 19:00-20:30	Glastonbury & Street Branch Meeting	Friends Meeting House, Street
2 May, 19:00-21:00	Wells Branch Meeting	The Globe, Priest Road, Wells
5 May	International Workers' Day Rally	Wells
9 May, 19:00-21:00	Wells CLP General Meeting	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet
12 May, 10:30-12:30	Wells BLP Coffee Morning	Lawrence Centre, Union St, Wells
16 May, 19:00-21:00	NW Somerset Branch Meeting	TBC
24 May, 19:15-19:30	Shepton Mallet Branch Meeting	TBC
13 June	Somerset Library Consultation ends	<a href="http://bit.ly/SCCConsult">http://bit.ly/SCCConsult</a>
24 June, 19:00-21:00	Wells CLP Annual General Meeting	TBC
19 July, 19:00-21:30	Women's Forum	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet
18 October, 19:00-21:30	Women's Forum	TBC

Key: Red = Branch / CLP Meetings and campaigning  
Grey = Debates / discussions & fun events  
 No Shading = non-Labour events of interest



## Directory – contact addresses for information on this month’s articles

Councillor Chris Inchley	<a href="mailto:cllr.c.inchley@sheptonmallettowncouncil.gov.uk">cllr.c.inchley@sheptonmallettowncouncil.gov.uk</a>
Councillor Colin Price	<a href="mailto:c.price@wells.gov.uk">c.price@wells.gov.uk</a>
CLP Chair, Clare Smith	<a href="mailto:wellsclpchair@gmail.com">wellsclpchair@gmail.com</a>
CLP Secretary, Michael Sawdon-Smith	<a href="mailto:wellsclpsec@gmail.com">wellsclpsec@gmail.com</a>
CLP Campaign Officer, Jacky Carter	<a href="mailto:wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com">wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com</a>
CLP Newsletter Ed., Gill Pettitt	<a href="mailto:wellsclpnewsletter@gmail.com">wellsclpnewsletter@gmail.com</a>

## Labour’s 200 Club

This is the Labour Party Monthly Raffle - £2 per ticket with a 1<sup>st</sup> prize of £20 and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize of £10. Takings go directly to the constituency to help with campaigning.

You can pay our Treasurer, Tatiana, by cash or cheque at our monthly constituency meeting; download a standing order form from the Facebook Group files to take to your bank; print off the form below and take 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 very high!

**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