

Wells Constituency Labour Party News

July 2018

Dear Members

Congratulations all our members and supporters on a wonderful year to date and another successful AGM. Thank you to all who stood for executive and Co-ordinator positions.

We have our full complement of delegates to the Party Conference and we look forward confidently to next year and our preparation for election success.

We need to be on an election footing from day one. Will there be a General Election? Some commentators are speculating about an election before Christmas.

Whatever the decision, we are already well placed. Our Vice-chair (Campaign) - Jacky Carter - has put us on a sound footing with our canvassing and electoral roll data across the constituency and our branch teams will be using this data in all our canvassing and campaigning work.

I am also looking forward to next year's ceilidh, the public meetings, (another Rural Affairs Panel, please), the street stalls, door knocking and of course, the May Day Rally. Trades Unions and other socialist organisations around the region are planning to be there and we can aim to make the event an even bigger success. I must again mention the team effort and I am sure the team is getting into gear as I write.

Since our AGM, I have already attended a very successful branch meeting at Shepton Mallet and, with your agreement, shall be trying to attend one or two other branch meetings as appropriate.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the CLP meetings as they move around the constituency. I may well meet some of you in either of our Trades Union Councils as well - Bridgwater and Mendip, both well supported by Labour Party members.

Your Secretary (and currently your stalwart newsletter editor), Gill and I have had a few discussions already and we are keen to see more people making use of the Northload Street Office.

Our main priority now is getting ready for the elections and I look forward to seeing candidates in

all branches and in as many wards as possible for the District Council and Town/Parish elections next year. We also have a strong field of potential parliamentary candidates, both women and men and we need to find opportunities for candidates to show their calibre in as many forums as possible. We shall be looking to branches to provide these opportunities as well as at CLP events.

Lastly – we need sound policies to support our candidates and we shall be working hard to finalise our manifesto for both the Sedgemoor and Mendip Districts and, through the Local Campaign Forums, with our comrades in neighbouring CLPs.

Our heartfelt thanks are due to Clare and Michael who steered our ship to the (much fainter blue) harbour that we now find ourselves in. I look forward to working with you all and quite honestly, I can't wait to get started.

Comradely wishes *John Fones, Chair, Wells CLP*

Congratulations to our new team of constituency officers voted in at the AGM. Some people remained in post and it was exciting to see not only a new chair and secretary but also five members who had not been officers before stepping up. I think it shows a healthy and vibrant constituency and I wish the whole team all the best in the year to come.

Many thanks to all!

Chair – John Fones

Secretary – Gill Pettitt

Vice Chair (Campaigns) – Jacky Carter

Vice Chair (Policy) – Ant Butler

Vice Chair (Membership) – Geri Laithwaite

Treasurer – Tatiana Storie

Women's Officer – Carol Stanaway

Press – Kate Pearce & Gareth Lowe (Job Share)

Disability – Emma Jane King

LGBTQI – Lou Hart

Rural Affairs Officer – Gregory Paul Turner

Fundraising Officer – Den Carter

TULO – Richard Capps

Political Education – Sheila Martin

Clare Smith, Previous Chair, Wells CLP



Constituency News



Most of our new Officers and Co-ordinators are pictured above: Richard Capps, Colin Price, Emma Jane King, Den Carter, Gareth Lowe, Carol Stanaway, John Fones, Gill Pettitt, Tatiana Storie, Jacky Carter, Ant Butler, Geri Laithwaite, G Paul Turner. Image: Kate Pearce (behind the camera but also a new Co-ordinator)

Preparing for May 2019

Alongside the regular campaigning that the Branches are involved in – street pitches and door-knocking – we must think ahead to May 2019 when we will have the District Council elections. Our constituency is spread over two Districts, Sedgemoor and Mendip. Both Districts are shared with our neighbouring constituencies.

We cover about a third of Sedgemoor (8 out of 23 wards) with the rest being in Bridgwater & West Somerset and over half of Mendip District where we have 19 wards and Somerton & Frome cover the remaining 15. It would be nice to think that we can offer a full complement of candidates so that wherever constituents live they have the opportunity to vote Labour.

If anyone has even the slightest inclination to be a District Councillor please contact me to talk about it at wellscampaigns@gmail.com To allow all our supporters to vote Labour we'll need 27 candidates, 8 in Sedgemoor and 19 in Mendip.

We are in the early stages of forming Local Campaign Forums for each District with the relevant neighbouring constituency in order to design and implement the campaign strategy most effectively. It'll also mean that we identify the key issues and have a common manifesto with consistent policies across the Districts.

Jacky Carter, Campaigns Officer, Wells CLP

Spam

Please check your spam folder as some members have been receiving their minutes and newsletters there. If you find that is where they have been going, please mark these emails as 'not spam' so you are always aware of what is going on in our constituency.

Constituency Meetings

There will be no General meeting in August. We are having a holiday! CLP meetings will resume in September. Some branches will, however, be meeting, so do look out for their notices.

Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission will make its final recommendations on boundary changes to parliament in September. Currently it is expected that it will advise moving the boundary of Bath and North East Somerset south, so that it encompasses wards Chewton Mendip and Ston Easton; Chilcompton, Ashwick and Stratton; Shepton East and Shepton West. If these changes are approved they will come into effect at the next scheduled General Election (2022).

Shepton Bye-election

A quick report back on Shepton bye-election.

G Paul Turner and Gill Pettitt stood for two of the four places that had become vacant. We had fantastic support from the rest of the constituency and even from outside the constituency. At the end of canvassing we had knocked on all doors at least once in Shepton West ward and spoken to 35% of the constituents.

At the end of the day, Labour did not gain any seats. We were up against a popular independent candidate who founded the extremely well-attended Shepton Park Run, which has just reached its first anniversary. The Conservatives won the other seat.

It was a very useful exercise; we learned a great deal, and we now want to use what we learned across the rest of the constituency for the upcoming May 2019 District elections.

What did we learn?

- That, at least for local elections, it is tremendously helpful if you are known locally as someone who supports the community.
- That women tend to achieve a higher percentage of the votes than men.
- That becoming known through local community social media Facebook or Twitter is to some extent advantageous to getting your message across.

<http://bit.ly/donatelabour>



<http://bit.ly/donatelabour>



Campaign Dates

Wells Moat Boat Race



Image: Wells Voice

On Bank Holiday Monday, 27 August is this year's ever popular Moat Boat Race in Wells.

Come along to see the fun, chat with us on the stall – and – if you're up for it, join the Labour Party team on the moat. We are in it to win it, so need your commitment now! A team of 4-6 people will see us through, though stand-bys would also be welcome. Under 17 year olds can make their own team.

Interested? Contact Jacky Carter at wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com

Monthly Marketplace Campaigning

Glastonbury & Street

In the absence of a quorate meeting in July (see Branch news), the branch has not yet agreed campaigning activity for August. What follows is consequently *proposed activity only*, and you can keep in touch on Facebook and/or by emailing gandsblpsecretary@gmail.com to find out what is confirmed nearer the time.

- **Street, Thursday 2 August, 6–8 pm, High St and Farm Rd:** Walkabout leafleting at Street's new evening market
- **Glastonbury, Saturday 4 August, 12 noon–1 pm, 28 Northload St:** Meet for coffee and a catch-up at the offices, ahead of the street stall
- **Glastonbury, Saturday 4 August, 1–3 pm, Glastonbury Market Square (near the monument):** Street stall (weather permitting)

Wells

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

Door-to-door Canvassing

Wells branch will be canvassing on **Tuesday afternoons, between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm.**

Contact Jacky Carter for details, at wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com

Women's Forum



Thursday 19 July 2018, 7pm–9pm

Burnham Community Centre

Berrow Road, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 2ET

Please join us for a member-led discussion in what we intend to be an inclusive safe space for all women to come together to discuss, share and learn from each other on topics important to us, in line with Labour Party policy and values. This time, we will be asking:

'What keeps you awake at night?'

- Refreshments will be provided.
- There is no cost for attending (and no collection will be made).
- No fundraising activity will be discussed.
- Despite its informal structure, the Women's Forum has a role in policymaking, education and raising awareness.
- The Forum meets quarterly and moves around the Constituency, to maximise your ability to attend.
- We promote car sharing and ask that if you need a lift, or can offer a lift to others, please make it known to your branch women's officer.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Carol Stanaway, Wells CLP Women's Officer,

wellsclpwomens@gmail.com

Jean Buckler, NW Somerset BLP Women's Officer,

jeanbuckler@hotmail.com

Den Carter, Wells BLP Acting Women's Officer,

dencarter1@aol.com

Vanessa Corby, Glastonbury & Street BLP Women's Officer, gandsblpwomens@gmail.com

Cath Booth, Shepton Mallet BLP Women's Officer, cethlenfeyfolk@gmail.com

*Inclusion, Engagement, Equality
Nobody is equal until everybody is equal*



Local Labour Gatherings



Burnham-on-Sea Social and Stalls

28 July from 12 noon to 5:00pm at **Ritz Social Club**, Victoria Street, Burnham on Sea. Admittance 50p per person – **Labour Party Members & under 18s Free** Book Stall plus 16 pitches for other sellers, approx. 2m per stall.

Electricity available - bring extensions reels.
Members who paint, sculpt, create objects d'art, sell vintage items or carve, are welcome to participate.
Cost Stallholders £10:00- LP Members Stalls FOC.
FFI Tony Cursons secretary@nwsomersetlabour.org.uk

Debate and Discussion

Shepton Mallet

Education and Skills – discussion and debate at St Michael's Parish Rooms, 6 Park Road, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP. Thursday 26 July, 7.30 pm – 9pm.

These discussions are informed and informative – well worth going along. Free parking is available in the courtyard of the church. All members welcome!

Links

Newsletter

Send items - 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>

Other News and Events

Sorted!

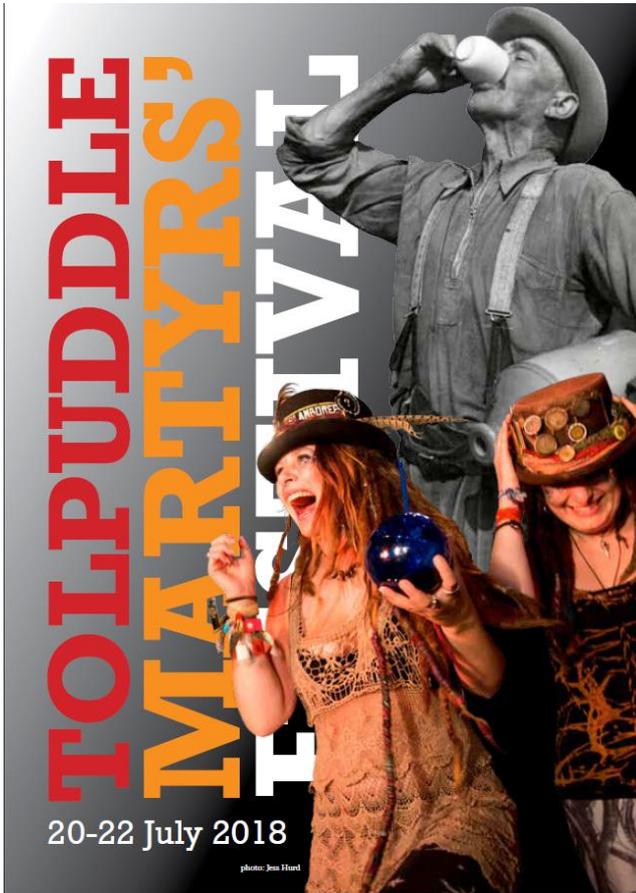
Good news in Somerset – the types of plastic we can recycle have increased dramatically! Somerset Waste Partnership now take rigid plastic food and household tubs, pots and trays. Not from your doorstep – all 16 recycling sites across the county accept them. Plastic bottles remain the only plastic to be picked up at the kerb side. Full information is here <http://bit.ly/2uaErTI>

Some plastics can be recycled elsewhere – supermarkets do not only take carrier bags – you can put any stretchable plastic in their containers. Rigid film cannot be taken there.



Tolpuddle Martyrs' Festival

20-22 July is Festival time. Wells' banners will be there. Camp for the weekend or come for the free day and march on the Sunday. Get the full program of events here <http://bit.ly/TMFFlyer>



National News and Events

There have been, for some months, many accusations and counter-accusations around antisemitism. Thankfully, we can now refer to the IHRA working definition of antisemitism, which Labour has adopted. You can find the definition here <http://bit.ly/defineantisemitism>

Other news

I am passing over the mantle of Newsletter Ed. to Gareth Lowe – as I have taken on the job of CLP Secretary. I've enjoyed bringing the news to you, and I hope that you have enjoyed reading through and participating in our campaigns, opinions and events.

Gareth will be using the same email address – wellsclpnewsletter@gmail.com Please keep him up to date with your activities and thoughts – it is so much easier if you supply the information direct to rather than hope that he finds it. Every single member sees this newsletter; it is one of the most effective means to keep members informed of your activities.

Gill Pettitt, Newsletter Ed.

Branch News

Glastonbury & Street

July was a bit of a battle for Glastonbury & Street branch – rather like that of England's team in Russia, with which both our meeting and campaigning clashed!

First, the quarter-final and remarkable weather meant that only one branch member (as well as the CLP chair) joined branch chair and secretary at the Northload St offices on 3 July, and a decision was consequently taken to close the meeting and to carry July's agenda over to be considered at the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday 7 August.

How brilliant it was, then, that four members joined me in the office and on the stall in Glastonbury on Saturday 7 July – despite the 3 pm kick-off of a semi-final – to allow us to participate in a national day of campaigning focusing on the 70th birthday of our beloved NHS. To that end, materials sent to us by the national campaigns team included leaflets and an ENORMOUS 'birthday card'!



Despite the blazing sun and scorching heat, we easily managed to fill the card, with everyone we spoke to sharing their experiences and very few passing us by once they understood why we were there.

It was heartening to see how this single issue unifies us as a public – and even more so to hear many people

acknowledging that only Labour has a plan to save the NHS as a properly and publicly funded service, free at point of use. The card will be delivered to Glastonbury's own West Mendip hospital.



Vanessa Corby, Secretary, Glastonbury & Street BLP
gandsblpsecretary@gmail.com



Shepton Mallet

Election fever has struck Shepton Mallet! Actually, no – but a Conservative councillor has resigned from Shepton town council, triggering a bye-election. It was estimated that it would cost around £6,000 of town council money to run the election. Shepton branch decided not to run a candidate, but instead to leaflet households with a creatively witty message exposing the profligacy of local Tories.

In the end the Tories withdrew their candidate (presumably fearful of “money wasting” accusations) and an independent fell unopposed onto the Council.

We continued our political education programme with a wide-ranging discussion on Palestine with contributions from all at the well-attended event.

Subject to change, (but aligned with local or national issues and policy matters), the education programme will continue with:

- 26 July: Labour’s proposed Education Service
- 30 August: Justice and Home Affairs - Safer Communities
- 27 September: Health and Social - tackling health inequalities
- 25 October: International Commission - Sustainable Development Goals
- 29 November: Energy and Environment and Culture Commission - a Greener Britain

2019

- 31 January: Work and Pensions - addressing in-work poverty and working age inequalities
- 28 February: Housing, Local Government and Transport - Giving people the power to shape their local communities

We would like to invite all members of the Constituency party to the education sessions. Meetings start at 7.30pm and we try to complete branch business by 8.00, leaving plenty of time for discussion.

Kevin Powell, Chair, Shepton Mallet BLP

Wells

This month has been business orientated and with personnel changes in some roles, at branch and CLP level, there’s another dynamic year ahead. Thanks are due to our outgoing team and especially our chair Clare Smith who mobilised this CLP in spectacular fashion and moved us on considerably. Congratulations to all officers.

Work in branch continues with canvassing weekly, national campaign days, coffee mornings and engagement in local events and initiatives such as our planned participation in the August Bank Holiday Moat Boat Race which we attended last year with a successful stall and this year we hope to actually participate in the race itself. If you’d like to crew on the SS Wells Labour Party please do let us know. You need to be over eighteen (and probably able to swim!)

We have engaged with several local events, the Plastic Free Wells free swap saw some of us decluttering and recycling goods we no longer need on a sunny Sunday morning and I and other members attended the Convergence Conference organised by Spark which was excellent and had many examples of local empowerment and service provision, creatively circumventing councils in co-operative community driven activities which are meeting needs and providing solutions to the very real problems caused by austerity measures. An interesting and inspiring event.

Please do come along to our coffee morning and get involved, we are really keen to get to know as many members as possible and would love to hear your ideas on how you’d like your local party to function. We look forward to welcoming you to any of our activities and events.

Den Carter, Chair, Wells BLP

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

Councillor Chris Inchley	cllr.c.inchley@sheptonmallettowncouncil.gov.uk
Councillor Colin Price	c.price@wells.gov.uk
CLP Chair, John Fones	wellsclpchair@gmail.com
CLP Secretary, Gill Pettitt	wellsclpsec@gmail.com
CLP Campaign Officer, Jacky Carter	wellsclpcampaigns@gmail.com
CLP Newsletter Ed., Gareth Lowe	wellsclpnewsletter@gmail.com
Rod Major – Moat Race	rod@nchq.co.uk 01749 670100
G&S BLP Secretary, Vanessa Corby	gandsblpsecretary@gmail.com



Quick Date Guide

When	What	Where
14 Jul, 10:30-12:30	Wells BLP Coffee Morning	Lawrence Centre, Union St, Wells
17 Jul, 19:15-21:00	Street Parish Council meeting	Parish Rooms, Street
19 Jul, 19:00-21:00	Wells CLP Women's Forum	Burnham & Highbridge Community Association, Burnham-on Sea, TA8 2ET
21 Jul, 10:30-12:30	Wells BLP Market Place Campaign	Wells Market Place
25 Jul,	NW Somerset Branch meeting	TBC
26 Jul, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP meeting followed by Education and Skills discussion: Labour's proposed Education Service	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP
28 Jul, 12 noon-17:00	NW Somerset BLP Social Evening	Ritz Social Club, Victoria St, Burnham on Sea
1 Aug, 19:00-21:00	Wells Branch meeting	TBC
2 Aug, 18:00-20:00	Street evening market campaign*	High St/Farm Road, Street
4 Aug, 12 noon	Glastonbury pre-campaign briefing*	28 Northload St, Glastonbury
4 Aug, 13:00-15:00	Glastonbury campaign stall*	Market Square, Glastonbury
7 Aug, 19:00-20:30	Glastonbury & Street Branch meeting	28 Northload St, Glastonbury
14 Aug, 19:00-21:30	Glastonbury Town Council meeting	Town Hall, Glastonbury
21 Aug, 19:15-21:00	Street Parish Council meeting	Parish Rooms, Street
22 Aug,	NW Somerset Branch meeting	TBC
27 Aug, 11:00-early eve	Wells Moat Boat Race -stall & racers	Bishop's Palace, Wells
30 Aug, 19:00-19:30	Shepton Mallet Branch meeting	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet
30 Aug, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP: Justice and Home Affairs – Safer Communities	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP
4 Sep, 19:00-20:30	Glastonbury & Street Branch meeting	28 Northload St, Glastonbury
5 Sep, 19:00-21:00	Wells Branch meeting	TBC
11 Sep, 19:00-21:20	Glastonbury Town Council meeting	Town Hall, Glastonbury
12 Sep, 19:00-21:00	Wells CLP General Meeting	TBC
18 Sept, 19:15-21:00	Street Parish Council meeting	Parish Rooms, Street
26 Sep,	NW Somerset Branch meeting	TBC
27 Sep, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP: Health & Social – tackling health inequalities	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP
18 Oct, 19:00-21:30	Women's Forum	TBC
25 Oct, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP: International Commission – Sustainable Development Goals	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP
29 Nov, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP: Energy & Environment & Culture Commission – a Greener Britain	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP
31 Jan 2019, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP: Work & Pensions – addressing in-work poverty & working age inequalities	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP
28 Feb, 19:30-21:00	Shepton Mallet BLP: Housing, Local Gov. & Transport – Giving people the power to shape their local communities	St Michael's Parish Rooms, Shepton Mallet, BA4 5BP

Key: **Red** = Branch / CLP Meetings and campaigning
Grey = Debates / discussions & fun events
 No Shading = non-Labour events of interest
 * TBC, contact gandsblpsecretary@gmail.com for confirmation/details



Labour's 200 Club

This is the Labour Party Monthly Raffle - £2 per ticket with a 1st prize of £20 and 2nd 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

