

NORTH DEVON LABOUR NEWS

RED LINES



BETTER TOGETHER; BEST AS EQUALS.

NEWS SHARED - VIEWS INVITED - CAMPAIGNS SUPPORTED

EDITOR'S WORDS

Wow, this year is flying by and it's been a good few months since the last newsletter, so here's a little update to get you up to speed!

We've celebrated the 70th Birthday of Our NHS - making it to the front page of the local rag (even if they did edit out the Labour bit!).

Change is a-coming because we also had a couple of elections - congratulations to Blake Ladley for a brilliant campaign where we learnt a lot about the voters for next time, and massive congratulations to Ian Crawford who is now the sole Labour Councillor in North Devon!

We have had lovely garden parties, rallies, festivals, and fundraising, and September took a few of us to the Labour Conference (more on that later!).

Last week we witnessed the Tory party displaying all sorts of atrocious behaviours. From super-awkward dancing from the PM to downright lies from the Education Secretary. We heard no policies, just racist rhetoric, classic distraction techniques, and more blaming the past 8 years of austerity on Labour.

We saw Geoffrey Cox prattle on in a "Jackanory" style introductory speech for Theresa May and then watched in horror as ABBA began to play.



The Dancing Queen seems to find hilarity in destroying the country through austerity - homeless deaths have more than doubled in 5 years; 4.5 million children are living in poverty; the Windrush generation being deported after helping rebuild our country; and foodbanks reaching highest ever levels of use...it is gobsmacking that the Tories and voters cannot see what is happening.

We NEED a Labour government now more than ever before. The only way this is going to happen is by fighting for every single seat that comes up. With a by-election coming up in Braunton we need you out on the doorsteps. And we need candidates to sign up now so we can get ready for the upcoming District elections in May 2019. The campaign needs to start now!

We need to get out and talk to our local communities, making them aware

that Labour is a viable choice for North Devon; We need you all to get out there and start turning North Devon red. The Lib Dems and Tories are growing complacent. Let's show them what we're made of.

If you'd like to know more about campaigning with us, or you would like to stand as a candidate, please get in touch via Facebook or send an email to admin@northdevonlabour.co.uk and Val Cann will send you details and be able to answer any questions you might have.

HOW DO WE STOP THE RISE OF THE RACIST AND FASCIST RIGHT?

SATURDAY 13 OCTOBER, 12 TO 3PM



STAND UP TO RACISM NORTH DEVON FORUM

St Ann's Arts and Community Centre
Paternoster Row, Barnstaple

Contact Dave Clinch/Tamsin Higgs for more info.



CONFERENCE REPORT

Mark Cann, Chair ND CLP

It was real privilege to represent North Devon CLP at this year's conference. Of the three conferences I've now attended this was by far the most empowering and motivating. Thanks to the ND-CLP members who made up our team of delegates and visitors – it was great to have the opportunity to share ideas and impressions as the conference progressed. I hope that some of you had the opportunity to see some of our video summaries each day – they can still be seen on the [members' Facebook group](#) along with links to all the major speeches.

Can I use this piece to share my personal highlights and to reflect on the key decisions taken by conference, especially on those issues that we had discussed as a CLP.

John McDonnell's speech on the Monday was excellent. Polly Toynbee writing in The Guardian summed up what was felt in the hall in the headline to [her article](#): "Astute and laser-focused, John McDonnell can win a radical mandate for Labour".

It was a tour de force showing not only a total command of his brief but announcing substantial policies that can reform our economy, from John Lewis-style share ownership for employees to a third of seats on boards for staff; a national investment bank, renationalisation of rail and energy, a return to collective bargaining, fairer pay ratios and taking private finance initiatives (PFIs) back into public ownership. This was as clear a statement as I have heard yet of what our ambitions for the economy are. No wonder the Tories and their cronies are worried.

Also on the Monday we had the results of the priorities Ballots on contemporary motions –

The Top 4 Issues from the CLP Ballot:
Housing 297,032
Schools System 233,883,
Justice for the Windrush 212,612,
Palestine 188,090.



Mark Cann - taking a cheeky pic in Conference Hall before anyone else arrived!

The Top 4 Issues from Affiliates Trade Unions etc:

Brexit 1,878,501,
An Economy for the Many 1,848,812,
Government Contracts 1,845,256,
In-work Poverty 1,845,084.

These were all debated along with emergency resolutions on Grenfell and Crisis in the Car Industry and a motion on Royal Liverpool Hospital. The Brexit motions, as I'm sure you have read, were reconciled in a marathon compositing session where a resolution was agreed, and which conference overwhelmingly passed at the Tuesday session. We can discuss this at the next CLP but our delegation voted for the motion which sought to unify the different positions in the party and leaves us with a clear hierarchy of response and the flexibility we need to deal with the developing mess the Tories are making of the negotiations. The overwhelming mood is that we need to force an early election and allow us to finalise the terms of what happens post March 2019.

The other business that we had discussed at the CLP was regarding the open selection of Parliamentary candidates. After some impassioned debate Conference finally approved the compromise position from the NEC which keeps the trigger ballot system but requiring only 33.3% to trigger a selection rather than the current 50%. We voted against this but it was overwhelmingly adopted – many saying that some reform was better than none. (The Open selection motion was narrowly lost with the Trade Union Affiliates weighing in heavily against). Again we can reflect on this at our next CLP meeting.

Other highlights from the platform were speeches by Emily Thornbury – on Foreign policy and very strong on Anti-Semitism, Dawn Butler on Inequalities and Dianne Abbott on Home Affairs – once again highlighting the breadth of talent we have in the party. In Dianne's case Conference showed a real warmth of support for her given the amount of opprobrium she has received over the years.

While the Front Bench speakers inevitably get the media attention it's worth pointing to the quality of speakers from the floor. Many with individual stories that underline how desperately we need a Labour government. In particular, contributions to the Windrush, Grenfell and Palestine debates were articulate and moving. I must mention one final floor contribution and that was from Dennis Skinner – he has lost none of his passion and wit as he told his own tale of the importance of an open migration system during the Health Debate. He told of the many different nationalities of the Health care professionals that effectively saved his life, pointing out that without them half of London would be dead by now!

And so to the Leader's speech. Jeremy, I always think, is at his best when in informal settings and that speaking from an Autocue is not his forte. But this was an excellent speech – hitting all the right notes and I believe will have persuaded many for those outside the party watching – that he is ready to be our next Prime Minister.

So much more I could write about, but I hope this gives you something of the flavour of Conference 2018 – I know the other delegates and visitors are making their own contributions to this newsletter and will reflect on different things. My thanks to the CLP for allowing me to be your delegate and I look forward to discussing the many issues raised when we meet at our AGM at the end of October.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Conference was in Liverpool this year and it certainly didn't disappoint! So many fantastic fringe events, excellent speakers in the main hall.



The opening rally was packed full with enthusiastic Labour members and the chanting was on form!



North Devon CLP delegates and visitors (minus Martin, who - unbeknownst to us - had gone for a joy ride on the Ferry across the Mersey!).



Blake popped into a Young Labour fringe event where they discussed 'Building A Socialist Culture' - Bhaskar Sunkara was brilliant.



Tamsin meeting Jeremy Corbyn, including a serendipitous bedtime phonecall to her younger two.



Dennis Skinner and director Daniel Draper taking questions after we'd watched "The Nature of The Beast" at The World Transformed fringe.



Paul Mason speaking at the Open Selection discussion on Saturday. Impassioned speeches from Mark Wrack, Emma Coad-Dent MP, Chris Williamson MP,



Siobhan, Barry Gardiner MP and Blake enjoyed a good discussion about Brexit and what it means for North Devon; and asking him to come and visit us.



Tamsin met some councillors from Salford.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

2019 DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Thursday 2nd May 2019.



North Devon CLP team: Mark, Val, Tamsin, Siobhan & Blake.



Blake, David Lammy MP & Siobhan had a really good discussion about the impact Brexit will have on Devon. David is keen for a visit.

It might seem a long way off, but we are determined to field as many candidates as possible. We want every voter to have the opportunity to vote Labour no matter where they live.

There are 25 Wards across North Devon - some elect 3 Councillors others 2 but many just 1. We want at least one candidate in every ward and to this end we are asking all members if they can consider becoming a candidate. We realise that this is not for everyone and there will be other ways to get involved in the campaign but we hope some of you will consider standing.



Sir Keir Starmer had been up since the crack of dawn doing interviews about Brexit, having been up until late sorting out the composite for conference with close to 300 delegates (6 hours solid of debating!). Siobhan attended the same school as Keir (a few years later!), so they chatted about Reigate - and the EU.



Mark and Val were very happy to support the Musicians' Union campaign about keeping music live, letting every child learn music, and support touring visas for musicians post brexit (if needed!).

To be a candidate you need to be resident in North Devon and registered to vote. To be a Labour Candidate you need to have been a member for at least 12 months. If you are interested please respond to this email saying you'd like more information and we can have a conversation about what is involved.

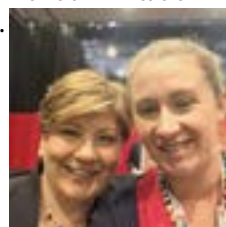


John McDonnell met the ND CLP team and we reminded him of our invitation to visit North Devon.

Can we ask that all members who are prepared to stand let Val Cann know by 31st October and for those who are already able to commit, please complete the form that was emailed out last week or download [HERE](#). It is a standard form used throughout the Party which gives us a brief understanding of your background, interests and experiences.



Dawn Butler MP and her political advisor with Tamsin and Siobhan. We are all phenomenal women!



Siobhan met Emily Thornberry MP after her panel discussion on getting more women into leadership on a global level.

For those of you for whom this will be a first time as a candidate please be reassured that we will give you all the assistance you might need.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions you may have.

admin@northdevonlabour.co.uk

DEFENDING PUBLIC SERVICES

Val Cann, Secretary, ND CLP

I attended a fringe meeting run by the Public and Commercial Services Union at the Labour Party Conference last week. Among the speakers were Margaret Greenwood and John Mc Donnell. My overwhelming feeling from the meeting was not only the despair felt by the staff of all sections of this workforce but their horror at what austerity is causing to the people attempting to use their services.

Their jobs have been lost or threatened by closures of Courts, Border Controls, tax offices and Job Centres. Some people, with years of experience, spoke of being told they had to travel several hours a day to regional centres or lose their job. Some staff are told they must work 6 days a week to cover low staffing levels. They have also suffered severe cuts and pay restraints.



Perhaps the most shocking comments were from Job Centre staff. They talked about the days when their jobs were all about supporting claimants and making sure that they were getting what they were entitled to. They were almost like a C.A.B. with their advice and guidance for vulnerable people. They are now told to 'reduce footfall', 'keep claimants away', 'tell them to use the internet to make a claim!' Many claimants are already finding life difficult and often have no easy access to transport to get to these distant Centres or computers and the skills to use them. One DWP worker said "The

Government told us that claimants would not be out of pocket. Claimants have been forced to travel great distances at their own cost and with a higher risk of sanctions if they are late."

Margaret Greenwood said that people needing Social Security have been demonised by the Tory Government with their anti-claimant attitude. Also, the TV and media culture of portraying the poorest people as scroungers in shows like 'Benefit Street' have encouraged negative attitudes to people who need our support. We are a rich country and should be able to rescue people who, through no fault of their own, cannot afford to live. They may be disabled, in low paid jobs, have been made redundant, have been off sick, have mental health problems. The introduction of Universal Credit has also exacerbated the situation where there are design flaws and administrative glitches that put poorer claimants especially at heightened risk of hunger, debt and rent arrears, ill-health and homelessness. Food banks, for example, have reported that demand for charity food goes up significantly when universal credit is introduced into the local area.

We should be supporting not policing people in need of our Social Security system. In a civilised society, staff should be allowed to deliver Social Security based on dignity and trust and not the punitive model the Tory Government prefer.

Eight years of austerity have pushed public services to breaking point. Enough is enough. Public services need proper funding and staff deserve an above inflation pay rise and the chance to go back to the days when their jobs were based around serving the public as their name suggests.

WRITE TO US!

If you want to make your views about an issue heard, write to us.

Send us photos of events you're taking part in or send as a flier for something you're organising!

We want to tell everyone about the great things our members are doing in North Devon!

We have a huge growing membership in North Devon, and we'd love to share your views across the constituency.

This is your newsletter and we'd love you all to contribute.

Perhaps you're enragged about the state of the roads in your area? Or are you concerned about the lack of resources and entertainment for young people?

Whatever it is, get in touch and we'll share your thoughts with the members via this newsletter.

*email:
editor@northdevonlabour.co.uk*



GAMING, GAMBLING AND THE LINE BETWEEN

Oliver Bell, Vice Chair Membership, ND CLP



Disclaimer: I initially wrote this months ago for a previous newsletter, since then there have been some major developments which have necessitated a re-write though I did not have room to go into detail on the new developments. However, if this article is popular, I will do a follow up covering these events and their significance in more detail.

This is an issue that may be rather alien to many of you but for the few members who are interested in video games as a hobby, or the great many members concerned by the apathy of the UK government to exploitative practices, this particular story may be of interest. Over the past year or so issues have entered the mainstream press and caught the eyes of politicians worldwide, despite previously being confined to discussions on forums and games media. The largest of these issues and the catalyst for this discussion is undoubtedly the concept of 'loot boxes'. In this context the term refers to a box, crate, chest etc containing randomly selected items that is purchased in a game using primarily real world money, many publishers have justified them by comparing them to collectable card packs. These crates have existed in video games now for several years in some form or other, though it is only with the release of Star Wars Battlefront 2 last year that this caught the attention of mainstream media outlets and lawmakers. This led to a failed attempt to have them banned outright in the US and open investigations in many other States. Recently, two European States have concluded that at least some loot boxes breach their gambling laws and are thus illegal gambling. So you may be asking what this has to do with Labour? Well as you may expect the Tory government has done sur-

prisingly little with regards to this issue and until recently the Gambling Commission has only given one, questionable statement. The Labour Party has been a longstanding supporter of consumer protection and it is my belief we should at the very least have a stance on this

Loot boxes and many other 'micro-transactions', a debatable name as some of these can hardly be considered small, became popular not in video and computer games but in the mobile phone games market, where they were much more accepted as the games using them were usually free to play and the items were merely cosmetic with little to no in game advantage; though these too have become more exploitative over time. These migrated to mainstream gaming in games such as Counter Strike and Fifa. Then publishers began to push things farther and farther, Overwatch pioneered loot boxes in a non sport, full priced title last year; but as they were just cosmetics there was very little opposition. However, in the months before Battlefront's release other full priced games, including Middle Earth Shadow of War, started adding loot boxes with game altering content into full priced titles, alongside sudden difficulty spikes to softly pressure people into paying more money. EA, Star Wars Battlefront II's publisher, created a far greater response from the gaming community for it tying the entire multiplayer progression of their full price multiplayer game to loot boxes, which you either pay for or have to earn though a ridiculous amount of play time. This drew enough attention to get politician's involved, the first instance of which that I know of was Chris Lee, a US State Representative referring to it as a 'Star Wars themed online Casino'. With all the attention this garnered many countries started investigating loot boxes as a whole. The Netherlands and Belgium have since concluded theirs and found many loot boxes do in fact breach their gambling laws. In the case of Belgium this includes Fifa 18's and 19's ultimate team mode, note that Fifa is rated as 3+ in the UK despite this mode. Most companies have recently removed their loot boxes from their games in the Netherlands and Belgium, or altered them to make them legally grey. EA on the other hand has outright refused to do so and is now under criminal investigation in Belgium.

The UK Gambling Commission has only re-

leased one major statement on this, stating that under the current UK law a loot box is not gambling, emphasising the need for the item to have monetary worth and the ability to cash out which they believe loot boxes do not have. It is worth noting though that despite this statement, in many cases items gained in loot boxes do have a monetary value and can be cashed out, often but not always this is against the game's terms of service but given how little has been done to enforce it this hardly seems to be an excuse. To take an extreme example, in Counter Strike Global Offensive, a long-standing multiplayer shooter, weapon 'skins', effectively appearances, are obtained from loot boxes. Some of these are exceptionally rare and have spawned collectors for them, an exceptionally rare one was sold by one collector to another for just over \$61,000 on a trading site earlier this year. Even typing 'CSGO skin sale' into Youtube leads to a hoard of videos telling people how to cash out, gamble or otherwise profit from their skins. This has gone completely unregulated and almost completely unchallenged by the game's developer. Other games tend to have more convoluted ways of 'cashing out' but it can be done. Given this I find it hard to believe the UK Gambling Commission has no power to intervene, they might just need a little political pressure to do so. This may be starting to mount as the Commission recently joined with 15 other Gambling Commissions in signing a statement opposing loot boxes as a concept.

While the Netherlands and Belgium have started challenging these practices with Belgium actually taking legal action against EA. In the UK, politicians have been almost silent on the issue. Given how wide spread these purposefully manipulative and addictive practices have come you would expect something to be done when it is brought into the public eye, especially since some of the games involved are rated as low as 3+. As a Party I would like to see us take a solid position on this issue supporting the consumers against loot boxes and similar micro-transactions. Video gaming may not be the biggest issue in the UK today, but it is an issue that affects voters. It is also a matter of principle, do we as a Party believe these increasingly exploitative practices by large game publishers are acceptable in our society?

PROMISES?

Robert Reynolds

Conference season over, again the question is begged, how much more can be borne of hope in small promise?

Though kinder Labour has more of realism, so has now the opposition more of cunning, with respect to social justice the public message just the same; Labour set to fail in predictable circumstances, the Tories only to fail as they intend, either way shared failure guaranteed.

Without deeper thought, any fading hope will depend paradoxically on the depth of the next crisis, on horror sufficiently arresting, such famine or war or climatic catastrophe as no longer to be excused or taken as excuse, spurring-on from the poverty of our ambition and action to-date. Our hope is together, in democracy, real not sham.

It is not enough to have parties merely alternating in explanation and excuse, no matter how frequent our changes of leader, or what the methods of selection or election. To escape the pit, and reach for the stars, we will need to KNOW all of our leaders and fellow citizens can be trusted, at least to be well-meaning, open and honest and diligent, all happy to give-way to arguments if better, and as it may fall ready to make-way for successors in sapiential authority and courage.

No amount of reassurance or promise, of inspirational rhetoric or recalling of past service, EVER should tempt us to forget our need and demand, for the sake of all, for real equal-partnership representative democracy. It can only be with educated agreement on conditional Income-Vote equality, taught with example from generation to generation, that we will free ourselves from rule by institutionalised insecurity and fear, replacing universal corruption with the rule of liberated conscience.

If humanity today can muster collective will and intelligence to claim - or at least to deserve - a viable future in real democracy, then much noise and nonsense will need to be cut-through, sharing words simple and deep enough for even the youngest and cleverest to grasp, looking to immanent Goodwill, the message for all who will accept the gifts together of Reason and Care.

Such potent words are as likely, perhaps more likely to come from the innocent - from the faithful union or the humble constituency - as from noble but confined academia, or the long-tortured ways of pragmatic politics.

What say you?

What better sense and purpose than in partnership?

What meaning of partnership less than as agreed equal-voters?

What power in equality unless in the market, not just in elections?

MEET CLLR CRAWFORD

A Message

To Residents in Roundswell from Councillor Ian Crawford



Dear Resident,

I was elected in June 2018 as councillor for Roundswell ward to fill a vacancy due to a resignation by my predecessor.

My role as one of your representatives on Fremington Parish Council is to ensure that our small contribution to the discussion and decision making within the larger local government arena of district and county councils, is to make sure your voice is heard.

As a passionate environmentalist since the 1970s and following a career as a trades union organiser representing workers in industry, the voluntary sector and local government, I have campaigned for affordable, effective and efficient public transport. I hope to make a difference with your support and participation which I consider to be important in this democratic process.

Issues which I have picked up already include the impact of traffic congestion, with stress to drivers and added

What kind of local environment do we want in terms of facilities and services?

- ideas and suggestions from Roundswell residents can be put into the Neighbourhood Plan, due for decision in October, which sets up the long term plan within Fremington.

- do we want to reduce traffic congestion and all its adverse effects?

- are facilities missing in Roundswell which are taken for granted elsewhere?

- what would you like to see done for our Roundswell locality?

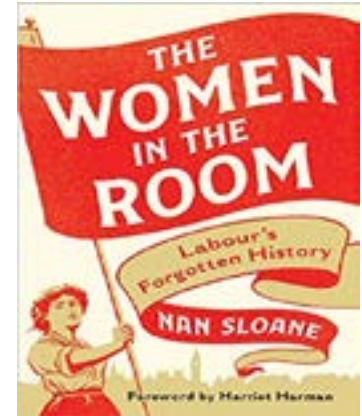
My pledge as your councillor is to call for better funding to give us good schools, good adult care and an effective transport system together with a safe and pleasant living environment.

With best wishes
Ian Crawford

Contact: phone 07917123435
email: ianbluz@gmail.com



WHAT WE'RE READING:



An in-depth look at the forgotten history of the Labour movement.

Nan examines the often excluded working-class women's stories. A really fascinating tome that redresses the balance of the history books, setting the record straight in this male-dominated world of politics. And Siobhan was lucky enough to get her copy signed by the author, Nan Sloane (who leads much of the Labour Women's Network training).

Why not send in your book reviews? What's your latest socialist reading?

We'd love to share your thoughts and educate our members about new books!

BUILD IT IN BRITAIN

Siobhan Strobe, Editor & Vice Chair, ND CLP

For years, the Tories have allowed our industries to decline, and businesses to go without the support they need, meaning that important industrial contracts are going overseas. But now we're witnessing the possible closure of the shipyard at Appledore.



GMB and Unite have launched a new campaign to save Appledore Shipyard from closure, after the news came that Babcock have been unsuccessful in winning a key order.

Although Appledore is not in our constituency, many North Devon residents have spent their lives working in the shipyard and it is a source of great pride for the whole community. To see a successful shipyard struggle to secure work for this committed workforce is heart-breaking, especially after the Secretary of State for Defence only visited the yard in January this year, suggesting a tangible commitment to manufacturing in Appledore. You don't need me to tell you the impact that its closure would have on jobs and the identity of Northern Devon.

Heathcliffe Pettifer, Unite the Union Regional Officer said: "When you consider that the government's National Shipbuilding Strategy was effectively written around Appledore, it's incredible that we are in this position. As a local resident, I know the effect on local businesses this will have and I fear the decline of the area. The unions will be organising a mass rally in Bideford in support of the yard, and we hope this will be widely supported. Considering that the wages at foreign yards can

be more than double what Appledore workers are paid, and the cost of some of the recent ships they have built at Appledore were around the £50 million mark, compared to similar ships by competitors at around £125 million a ship, how can this site not be viable."

Workers - including some good friends of mine - have already spent most of the year on temporary redeployment by Babcock to Devonport Dockyard in Plymouth, but the situation is now more precarious since the recent bid loss.

The Armed Forces of Malta have instead chosen the Italian yard "Vittoria" to build an offshore patrol vessel - which the Appledore workforce were pinning their hopes on. Babcock are apparently continuing to try to secure other work for the site.

Barry Hooper, Unite the Union Con-venor said: "The workforce are really concerned about the future, and morale is low. Many of the workers have now been on the buses back and forth to Plymouth since January. The mood is tense."

New research from the unions highlights the massive impact closure could have on the economy. Under conservative estimates this includes a potential £490,000 per year in lost income tax, £380,000 per year in lost NI, £300,000 per year in lost council tax, and an £800,000 increase in the benefits bill. This is not to mention VAT and other taxation. A huge blow to our local economy too.

We respectfully ask, therefore, that Peter Heaton Jones MP seeks further assurances from the Gavin Williamson MP and the PM that the government remains committed to ship building in Appledore.

Labour have a plan to take our skills, workforce and economy into the future. The plan is simple: Build it in Britain. We need to be supporting this campaign. Keep your eyes peeled on the Facebook page for info regarding a united front mass rally in Bideford.

And, if you haven't already, please sign this petition in support: <https://bit.ly/2NuIRfC>

ACTIVITIES

Take a look at some of the activities our members have been up to over the last few months...



In light of recent American political happenings (ahem, Kavanaugh) the summer Anti-Trump Rally seems more poignant, and Malcolm Cowburn was kind enough to share some of the photographs he took that afternoon back in July.



Members held another successful Green Man Festival stall, this time with eco friendly red windmills to give away!



NDCLP members out early 3rd September to support Labour's Rail Campaign Day at Barnstaple station. #allchangeplease



South Molton members had a successful meet up at The Coaching Inn in September:



Mark & Val hosted the annual Summer party. Great BBQ, fun games, excellent raffle!



To keep the momentum going after a rowing Conference, there was a National Campaign Day on 29th September. The theme was "Rebuilding Britain For the Many, Not the Few" which was met with lots of positivity in Barnstaple.



GET MORE INVOLVED!

Have these inspired you to come and join us?!

We'd love to see some new faces out & about.

Can you help run our street stalls, or deliver some leaflets? Maybe you'd like to have a go at canvassing.

Whatever you are able to do is fantastic and every little effort you make builds a stronger Labour movement, getting us ready for government!

Email us now:
admin@northdevonlabour.org

ARE YOU IN THE FACEBOOK MEMBERS' GROUP?

Join us on [Facebook](#) where we share ideas, make connections, and organise events!

ROY TOMLINSON

DIVERSITY OFFICER



Hello All.

My name is Roy Tomlinson and I was recently elected as Diversity lead for NDCLP. This means I am seen as the link on issues affecting the BAME, LGBT+ and Disabled communities in North Devon.

I've been a Labour Party member for about 4 years and have always had a passion and interest in supporting people from minority communities. My background is in social care and community safety work in which I spent the bulk of my professional career.

As the lead for Diversity I want to help promote the voice and rights of anyone from a minority community. I believe the CLP needs to be aware of any issues that people may have within the local community that arise because they are a member of a minority community. That does not mean that we want to label anyone as being different but we are aware that things like discrimination, prejudice and hate crime can be suffered by people who are from minority communities. The CLP is keen to make sure we represent all facets of our wide membership and ensure that all voices are heard over what issues we campaign on.

So if you are from the BAME (Black Asian or Minority Ethnic) LGBT+ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) or any other minority community I would like to hear from you.

Whatever it may be please get in touch if you feel I can help raise issues and make sure the CLP is aware and responsive to your needs. You can contact me at: admin@northdevonlabour.org

EVENTS

A WALKING GROUP FOR NORTH DEVON LABOUR

SUNDAY 14TH OCTOBER, 11AM

If you enjoy a walk with like-minded people join us on our inaugural North Devon 'Red Ramble'. We will meet at the National Trust carpark on Baggy Point, Croyde, EX33 1PA.

A relatively easy 2 hour walk, round Baggy, through Putsborough and down Combas Lane. Then depending on time & inclination we can either walk back through Croyde or take the path behind the village to the beach and then back to the car.

At the end of the walk you may wish to join us for a pub lunch.

Kids and dogs welcome. Dog owners are warned that in the unlikely case of meeting Chuka Umunna you will be asked to 'call off the dogs'!

If you are interested in joining the walk please email martin@robathan.org.uk so we know who to expect.



361 Eco Fair - Barnstaple
Sunday 28th October
10am to 4pm



The Eco Fair will be a great FREE day out with food & drink stalls and a stage for talks and presentations, adding to the mix.

GROUNDWELL: THE GRASSROOTS BATTLE FOR THE NHS. AND DEMOCRACY.

Film at Pilton Church Hall
Friday 23rd November, 7.30pm



STREET STALL

Saturday 3rd November, 10am
Barnstaple High St

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 14th December.

Following last year's successful Festive Skittles, organised splendidly by Tamsin, North Devon CLP have booked The Black Horse again for our fundraiser!



NOT THE FEW

We spotted a few of our t-shirts at Conference! Here's one we managed to get a pic of:



Head over to the website to get your Christmas pressies ordered now!

<http://www.notthefew.co.uk/>

DON'T FORGET!

Our AGM is on Monday 29th October at The Castle Centre in Barnstaple, 7pm.

Come along to have your say and vote for your executive committee. We are a democratic party, after all!



The North Devon CLP Newsletter is YOUR newsletter.

If you would like to contribute - whether that's an article of interest, a success to celebrate, or if you've got an event to publicise that Labour members might be interested in supporting - please get in touch with the editor: editor@northdevonlabour.co.uk

Join us on [Facebook](#) 

Follow us on [Twitter](#) 

Find us on [Instagram](#) 



[A final pic of Liverpool from outside the museum.](#)