

NORTH DEVON LABOUR NEWS

# RED LINES

WE ARE  
North  
Devon  
Labour

BETTER TOGETHER; BEST AS EQUALS.

NEWS SHARED - VIEWS INVITED - CAMPAIGNS SUPPORTED

## EDITOR'S WORDS

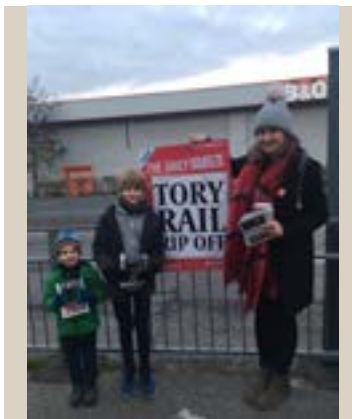
It's been a long cold few months since the last newsletter, but that's not put off dedicated campaigners from getting out on the streets of North Devon!

We've had the Rail Campaign, street stalls, and fundraisers, and there's been several nail-biting moments in the Houses of Parliament, keeping us on the edge of our seats! Not to mention the B word.

The Campaign Committee is busy preparing for the District Elections in May, and we really want to field as many Labour candidates as possible, to allow people an opportunity to vote Labour. See Mark's piece opposite for more info!

I've begun the Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programme and so far it's been incredibly inspiring. I'll write more about it soon, so watch this space! And I'm looking forward to representing NDCLP at Women's Conference later this month as your delegate. Thank you for allowing me and Annie this opportunity.

February is also the month where many of us are taking the lead from Tom Watson MP and Luke Pollard MP and going Fizz Free! Could you give up fizzy drinks for a month? Taking part in Fizz Free February is a brilliant way to reduce your sugar intake by cutting



Editor (Siobhan) with her two little activists - Eoin and Finn

out fizzy drinks. It can also help you and your family save money! Click here to pledge to take the challenge!

Three great reasons to go Fizz Free:

- you can save £438 a year if you stopped drinking one bottle of soft drink, per day, for a year
- drinking just one 330ml can of fizzy drink a day could add up to over a stone weight gain per year
- tooth decay is the leading cause for hospitalisation among five to nine year olds in the UK

Will you join me and #GoFizzFree this February?



## CHAIR'S CORNER

Whatever other election may or not take place in the next month or two, what is certain is that on May 2nd we will be contesting the 2019 District Council elections here in North Devon. We are determined to field as many candidates as possible.

Thanks to those who have already come forward offering to stand but we still need some more candidates. There are 25 Wards - some elect 3 Councillors, others 2, but many just 1. Our goal is to have at least 1 candidate in every ward so that all residents in North Devon have a chance to vote Labour.

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 get in touch by emailing Val Cann at [admin@northdevonlabour.org](mailto:admin@northdevonlabour.org) saying you'd like more information and we can have a conversation about what is involved. 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.

We realise that standing is not for everyone and there will be other ways to get involved. We will be discussing our plans for these elections at the next CLP meeting on Thursday 7th February at the Castle Centre at 7pm.

## GAMING AND THE LABOUR PARTY.

### WHERE DO WE STAND?

Oliver Bell, Vice Chair Membership

As you may remember I previously wrote a piece on loot boxes in gaming and promised a quick follow up, well I am now going to deliver, but more than that I intend to spark a serious discussion on where Labour's policy should lie with what is a booming but politically ignored sector. Around the Christmas period and the New Year various news outlets jumped on the story that video games now make up more than half the entire UK entertainment market, more than music and video combined with a value of £3.86 billion.

Despite this making the UK the 5th largest video game market and firmly cementing that video games are not as niche an entertainment form as some people make them out to be, I expected this to be overlooked by politicians entirely; so I was quite surprised to see some mention of it from the Labour Party. For instance, in his newsletter on Jan 5th Tom Watson notes, "That makes it all the more important going forward that we have the right policies in place for the UK's top creatives to take advantage of the gaming boom here and abroad." I have to say on this issue I agree with him, but it raises the question of what the right policies are.

Firstly though, let's go from what is right to one thing that is very wrong in the industry, back to the mess that is loot boxes in video games. I mentioned in my last article that Belgium was seeking legal action against EA; well it looked like that was exactly what is going to happen as EA were not backing down. They not only refused to remove loot boxes from Fifa 18 but have released Fifa 19 with, arguable, even more egregious loot boxes than its predecessor. That is up until 8 days after the deadline for submitting this article when EA announced they were removing the ability to spend real money on their Fifa games in Belgium

and complying with the government's "interpretation of the law". Now the question is whether the EU will take up this issue and follow Belgium's lead. Additionally, I am glad to say the UK Gambling Commission has also started to show signs of moving against loot boxes; in the Young People and Gambling report released in November of last year the Commission raised concerns that almost a million young people had been exposed to gambling through loot boxes. Note that this is the same report that concluded that the number of children classified as having a gambling problem had quadrupled in the last two years. While there are certainly other factors involved the fact the Commission is finally saying that these practices are essentially gambling is certainly good, though they still claim it is outside of their ability to act on.

You may be wondering where this all fits in to the grand scheme of the article, well its simple. When we ask what are the right policies for gaming we need to consider not just the companies involved but the consumers as well. As a Party we have always been a strong advocate for consumer rights and have a record to be proud of, if we want to create policies to benefit gaming why are we not looking to improve and champion the rights of consumers as well as hard working developers?



If you read my posts on Facebook you will know that despite EU law on the matter video games have lagged behind on consumer rights for years. Prior to legal action against Valve in Australia and the EU it was impossible to get a refund on Steam, the largest platform for buying games digitally, its refund policy was finally created in 2015. Even so other companies frequently refuse what most would consider legitimate refund requests, Sony is known for being a difficult but possible company to get refunds from, if you are trying to get a refund from Nintendo though then be prepared for a long and almost certainly futile battle. Loot boxes and

other glorified gambling systems were, up until last year when the full scale of Star Wars Battlefront 2's failure became known, becoming more and more common place. In most cases, outside of the mobile market, it is not the games developers, AKA the creative minds behind the games, who make the decision to exploit their player base but the publisher; the people who help fund and advertise the game but take most of the proceeds.

Over the years the publishers influence over games has grown and with it the growth in micro transactions. Game developers are often shown to be overworked underpaid and very poorly treated by publishing companies who seem to have increasingly unrealistic expectations for the games they make, seemingly wanting each release to be the next Call of Duty or the next Fortnite to be classified as a success. In order to make release day deadlines there have been examples of developers working 100 hour weeks or more, supposedly this is voluntary but most agree there is some degree of pressure here, and when a publishing company takes the vast majority of the proceeds it only adds insult to injury.

As a Party it is long overdue time that we take gaming and gamers seriously, look at the issues involved and draft policies to address them. As a gamer myself this is something I passionately follow and I can provide some insight but only into some sections of the gaming community, we can't wait for gamers to come to us we need to reach out to them.

Some will say that gamers do not want politicians involved, that we don't trust them. Well they are not all that wrong, when politicians have involved themselves in gaming in the past it has almost always been to the gamers detriment, but with our record of consumer protection and worker's protection I am confident that the Labour Party is the one that can win over gamers and games developers. We have taken the first step now we need to start talking to them and asking what they need most.

## WILL OF THE PEOPLE?

Harry Ellis

As a child, all I ever wanted was for things to be fair. I loved competitive games and saw that they were no fun unless everyone followed the rules. During the London Blitz, I soon became aware that we all live in a great big world that we have to share with many thousands of millions of other people. I learnt that failure to agree on rules that are fair to everyone has appalling consequences and that is how I became a passionate democrat.

Throughout history there have been rulers – people who have by one means or another acquired unto themselves the power to make rules that others are forced to follow. In 1215 the Barons of England had substantial power of their own but were subservient to a sovereign King until they joined together to constrain his power – thus began a process through which power in the United Kingdom has been increasingly shared.

The essence of democracy is that people should not be subject to rules without their consent – like those who choose to play football. But we all need somewhere to live. In the modern world every square metre of land is spoken for and every person is subject to the rules in force where they live. So what is the fairest way for those rules to be set?

In the United Kingdom we have representative democracy in which the people living in a particular area choose one person to represent their interests in parliament which itself holds the power to set the rules. This works well enough provided the mix of representatives reflects the mix of conflicting interests across the country.

What should happen when both the representatives and the population are deeply split between irreconcilable courses of action? What should happen when the Government finds itself unable or unwilling to present a course of action that a majority of the representatives are prepared to support. One

mechanism is for the Government to cop out and ask Parliament for permission to by-pass them and ask the people directly through a referendum and take that majority as their mandate. I question whether this is a good idea.

The problem facing us all at this time is that the issue at stake is of massive importance. If the United Kingdom leaves the European Union on 29th March there will be changes in the way this country is governed and this will affect the lives of all its citizens in different ways depending on their circumstances.

Our current Prime Minister seems to have forgotten that the considerable power she wields is awarded by our Head of State to the person most likely to obtain ongoing support of a majority of members of our sovereign Parliament and is contingent on that support.

Although she came to be this person only through procedures within the Conservative Party, she has discharged her duties with the arrogance of a President with a direct mandate from the people. It was her job to negotiate terms for departure from the EU that would command support from a majority of MPs. While this was always going to be a very difficult task, she has failed in the most spectacular way.

On Tuesday evening 15th January her conduct of these negotiations was rejected by a margin of over 2:1 with a third of her own members joining the Opposition. This is failure greater than that of Neville Chamberlain early in the Second World War.

Having attempted and failed to strengthen her position with a snap General Election, she created this dangerous impasse by wilful neglect of her constitutional duty to reach out to members from other parties for their support. It is unsurprising that the situation she has created has led to demands for a second referendum – the so-called “Peoples Vote”. My purpose here is to look carefully at this idea.

Historically, referendums have not been regarded as a source of political mandate in this country because they are seen to violate the principle of parliamentary sovereignty. In 1945, Winston Churchill wanted to use the device to extend the life of his wartime Government but his Labour deputy refused saying:

“I could not consent to the introduction into our national life of a device so alien to our traditions as the referendum which has only too often been the instrument of Nazism and Fascism.”

Thirty years later Margaret Thatcher made the same point, saying that referendums are “a device of dictators and demagogues” as Napoleon, Mussolini and Hitler had exploited their use in the past.

These people I quote were serious politicians and I treat their warnings with respect. The 2016 referendum was an unnecessary political gamble that backfired with damaging consequences for the health of democracy in this country. It has set young against old and fired the anger of those at the wrong end of a programme of ruthless austerity that has damaged the lives of many while boosting the profits of a few people who don't even live here.

For any leader faced with a situation like this within a business or family situation, the enormity of implications coupled with the intensity of strongly held opinions would leave only one responsible course of action. The whole issue would be postponed for now and set aside to be revisited something like five years hence.

I know this would produce howls of anger claiming denial of the peoples' will. But any student of history will know that the people are fickle. Just imagine how these same people, who have been screwed by austerity and the trashing of public services, will feel when this country gets crushed as we fall between the cracks of the three great economic powers of the modern world.

As people react to the current impasse, I fear that they will blame Parliament itself rather than the reckless band of political cowboys who see the whole thing as an ideological contest or our politically inept but stubborn Prime Minister who was given the job for want of anyone more credible.

I am deeply concerned with the notion that a second referendum might be the way to break the deadlock rather than the very hard political work and realism that is required. I understand fully why this option was only included in the Labour Party's policy as a last resort if all else failed.

My fear, one that I feel sure is shared by the Labour leadership, is that, instead of settling the question or healing divisions, a second referendum would only make matters worse through the damage it would inflict on the parliamentary democracy that has served this country so well over the past three centuries – a time in which other countries with less mature systems of governance have suffered so much self-inflicted harm.

To change the situation with any legitimacy, a second referendum would have to overturn the previous result by a margin significantly greater than the one that defines the extant "will of the people".

Since that margin was nearly 4%, it should be clear to anyone that any change would require a swing of at least 8%. However passionate their feelings, people desperate to remain should take care what they wish for. Any result short of that 8% in favour of some form of inclusion within at least the customs union and single market would only confirm the deep divisions within our society – and solve nothing.

Might I suggest that, far from handing power to the people, holding another referendum would hand power in this country to whoever can stir the strongest emotions in the greatest number of people. All around us we see pseudo dictators subverting democratic mechanisms to serve their personal ambition with complete disregard for either the

wellbeing of their citizens or the future of the planet.

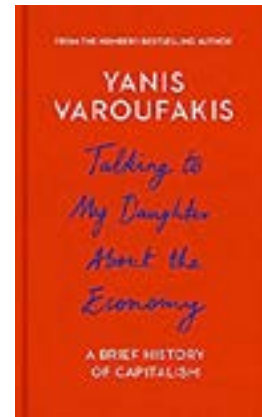
The very concept of a referendum as an instrument of democracy is deeply flawed for the simple reason that it appears to give power to the voter and comes with no responsibility – only the consequences that are always someone else's fault.

Governments are rightly held accountable for consequences of their actions as are individuals in their private lives. It is this and only this that serves as a brake on recklessness. When the choice between alternative courses of action is handed over to the people to decide, who is accountable for the outcome – not the individual voter who remains free to blame others for subsequent consequences.

Please everyone, let us hang on to the pragmatic democratic institutions that were pieced together at such cost over so many years by so many heroic people – and have served us so well. If there is a problem with Parliament let's fix it, let's remove the unfairness with elections by alternative vote, not let it be rendered impotent by demagogues.



## WHAT WE'RE READING:



This is a non-patronising yet really accessible book on economics and how it can have the power to change our lives.

Written in response to his daughter's question "Why so much inequality, Dad? Is humanity that stupid?" this book goes through the history of Capitalism and discusses markets and economies.

Yanis Varoufakis uses some cultural references (The Matrix, Steinbeck, Faust, Blade Runner...) and stories from mythology as well as his own experiences that break things down and make them easier to understand, or puts subjects in context.

It's a relatively easy read and will certainly develop your understanding of economics if you're (like me) not an expert!

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

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

editor@northdevonlabour.co.uk



## LEFT OUT IN THE COLD, A CONSTITUENCY OF NO CONSEQUENCE?

OK this note is written at the last minute (for the Newsletter deadline). I want to bewail or maybe simply complain about the fact that NDCLP does not have an identified prospective Parliamentary candidate. Effectively, this means that Labour does not have a personal focus to the campaigns, such as the Rail Fares campaign. A personal presence is important; LabourList (<https://labourlist.org/category/seats-selections/>) shows that many constituencies have identified their candidates and are thus politicising and personalising their campaign. A named candidate gives a focus to what may otherwise sometimes look and sound like hot air.

In North Devon the Tory MP regularly asserts his presence through the local papers and through mail-shots; I was recently asked to sign his petition in connection with saving the military base at Chivenor. This is a serious issue and affects both local economics and local populations. The MP was seen and heard to be doing something about an issue that will seriously affect our local area. The person and the party are to the forefront of the local issue.

This morning, as part of a constituency mail-out I received 'North Devon News' 'Your FREE campaigning newspaper from the North Devon Liberal Democrats'. On the front page is a photograph of Kirsten Johnson, the LibDem prospective Parliamentary candidate. She too is showing that she cares about local issues – she focuses on the 'pay rise' that Tory, Labour and Independent Councillors have awarded themselves. There is little clarity as to which Council is being referred to and forgive my ignorance – I always thought that Councillors were unpaid. But it makes local impact. Ms Johnson features in print and in photographs on every page of this four-page leaflet. Of particular note is a photograph of her standing (with three unnamed men) in front of the Royal Marine Barracks at Chivenor.

Again, her interest and commitment to local issues is strongly in evidence.

Without a prospective Parliamentary candidate who can be seen and heard championing local causes we do not have a powerful presence in the constituency. Whilst I have held left-wing views all of my life and, at different times have played various roles in Trade Unions, I am not a seasoned Labour party member who understands the subtleties of candidate selection. So, to my uninformed eye, the failure to identify a Prospective parliamentary candidate, looks like the Party does not give any priority to this Constituency. North Devon has never had a Labour MP, and statistically it would take a miracle for a Labour candidate to be elected in the near future.

So, if my assessment has any truth in it, what are the implications for me (and perhaps others) as a Socialist who is a member of a Party that has dismissed the constituency in which I live? In concluding this piece, I note two areas of discomfort:

1. As a Socialist, I want the Tory government to be decimated at the next General Election and made unelectable for generations to come. As a starter, I do not want a Tory MP for North Devon. This might not seem to be an area of discomfort, but it is, because it takes me back to the long-rehearsed debate about tactical voting. The position that I have held since living in this Constituency is that I will not vote 'tactically'. I adopted this position, initially, for pragmatic reasons – Sir Nick Harvey's voting record as an MP was (to my eyes) indistinguishable from any Tory MP. My pragmatism shifted, when Jeremy Corbyn was elected and re-elected Leader of the Party. Here was something positively to vote for – 'for the many not the few'. However, the failure to identify a prospective parliamentary candidate for North Devon has started me wondering whether North Devon comes within the definition of 'the many'; at the moment it does not seem that we are.

2. The other discomfort that I feel is around my own (in)activity within the CLP: I attend some monthly meetings, I sometimes speak at the meetings, I post material on the Facebook group, I have attended the occasional Labour street-stall, and I have written two contributions to this Newsletter, but that is about it. I have chosen not to engage in leafletting, partly because I am not a natural salesperson and also because I am not sufficiently familiar with the chapter and verse of Labour Party policy and procedures. Thus, I acknowledge (some of) my own shortcomings.

I want the party to have a strong vibrant presence in North Devon, local Activists are already doing a lot to develop this, but these efforts would be greatly enhanced if we had an identified Parliamentary candidate to embody the policies and the hope that Labour can bring to the 'many' of North Devon, not just the 'few'.

*Malcolm Cowburn*



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

My father was a drunk and a gambler – If he didn't walk through the front door at a particular time my mother would start to shake and go visibly grey – A weekly occurrence that shaped what we ate what we did, but most of all – how to keep silent.

One of my earliest memories is screaming behind my mothers skirts as he hurled a chair through the kitchen window– He took a knife to my brother – The chaos the noise, the fear as he raged - I use to sit on the stairs at night waiting to hear if she would fall from a blow and vowed to run for a policeman, not knowing then, they wouldn't have come. Not knowing then, that violence doesn't always leave bruises.

I was kicked out by him at 17 because I dared to confront him. I didn't see him again for thirty odd years - In the meantime when I was nineteen – My mother weakened by TB, poverty and heart disease died a broken woman. He lived till 89 a revered Chelsea Pensioner living out his last years in Chelsea hospital, on subsidised alcohol and good food.

And on it goes, two women a week dying and thousands more women and children suffering at the hands of men. In our manifesto we give a small paragraph to this issue so I would like our delegate to push for the Labour Party to urgently look at ways where we can more fully protect women but also look at ways of stopping it happen, through stiffer sentencing alongside compulsory re-education and anger management programmes.

Also violence between child and parent has increased – mainly boys to mothers – issues cited are mental health – drug taking and of course, growing up around domestic violence – we need to show these kids other role models - We need good men working with kids on this issue at school level.

*Pam Ebert*



*If you need support get in touch with North Devon Against Domestic Abuse (NDADA)*

## WRITE TO US!

*If you want to make your views about an issue heard, write to us. Any topic!*

*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 enraged 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*

## MEMBERS! WE NEED YOU!

We have TWO VACANCIES on the Executive Committee to fill!

Communications Officer and Fundraising Officer.

These are great active roles and we'd love to hear from you if you would like to offer your skills to fill either of these.

If you need more info on what they might entail, get in touch with Val Cann.



## TRANSPORT!

We'd like to be able to support with transport to allow more people to attend meetings.

We are looking to arrange lifts for members who might need transport to CLP meetings and social events.

If you're able to offer a spare seat in your car to help members who might have transport difficulties, please get in touch!

Likewise, don't be afraid to send us an email if you need a hand getting to meetings - we're here to help!



## NOTES FROM THE WOMEN'S ROOM

*By Women's Officer (& White Ribbon UK Champion) Rosie Godfrey*

Congratulations to writer, Gina Martin for her successful 18 month campaign to criminalise the act of upskirting after being targeted at a music event in Hyde Park. A private members bill was first brought to Parliament in March 2018, blocked by a single Conservative MP, Sir Christopher Chope in June 2018 (who also blocked a one-line amendment to a bill to protect children from FGM crimes!!) and finally passed in January 2019. The new legislation will make it a criminal offence with a possible prison sentence of up to two years.



A n d . . .

After many years of campaigning by individuals and the likes of organisations such as Women's Aid, the new Domestic Abuse Bill introduces the first ever statutory definition of domestic abuse to include economic abuse and controlling and manipulative behaviour that is not physical. And finally, survivors of domestic abuse will no longer be able to be further abused by being cross-examined by their abuser in court!

There is of course, still much campaigning to be done... Women's Aid, whilst welcoming the new legislation, have stated that it fails to deliver enough money to address the cuts that have seen services decimated in recent years. And Amnesty International UK alongside many other charities and organisations are warning that the

legislation fails to offer migrant women the protections they need... According to a recent Home Office report, the economic and social costs of domestic abuse was £66bn in 2016/17. To say nothing of the women and children's lives harmed and lost...



NDCLP members have always supported the work of NDADA, our local Women's Aid organisation. And I am delighted to announce that NDCLP is now looking at how we can also work alongside White Ribbon UK [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk) to get as many men within our party and locally, on board. As we all know, for anything significant to change, we need men to step up, for young men and boys to be brought into the conversation and for all of us generally to acknowledge that violence against women and girls has to stop! Please take the White Ribbon pledge (Never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women) if you have not already done so. Men, you have an experienced and expert Ambassador in Roy Tomlinson – please contact him if you are interested in finding out how you can help [roy.e.tomlinson@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.e.tomlinson@btinternet.com) And WATCH THIS SPACE!



And for our women members – we still have a crucial role to play in supporting the men to get it right. I'm pleased to say that White Ribbon work from the premise that men ASK(women) LISTEN, then ACT! As a White Ribbon UK Champion I will

be calling on you to help us, help them to make change happen.

On the theme of change happening... The first stand-alone Labour Party Women's Conference in Telford, Shropshire, February 23rd - 24th - enabling our women members greater participation in policy-making and the opportunity to share ideas with delegates from across the UK, will be attended by our delegates – Siobhan Strode and Annie McVey.

A n d , f i n a l l y . . .



### International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2019.  
A global day in celebration of the achievements of women.  
And a call to action!

Friday March 8th  
(Time and venue TBC)

YOUR TURN!

Do you have a song to sing, a story to tell, a poem to share, a passion to pass-on, a skill to demonstrate, a rant that needs airing...? Or a willingness to bear witness to those that do?

The HeART of a Woman will be an informal gathering... an opportunity for us to celebrate and inspire each other from the heart... time for our voices to be heard by each other!

Please email me [rosiewordsmith@gmail.com](mailto:rosiewordsmith@gmail.com) and let me know what you would like to offer and/or your interest (and availability) in attending.

*"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way.  
On a quiet day I can hear her breathing."  
Arundhati Roy –  
Author and Activist*



## ACTIVITIES

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

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Skittles and curry at The Black Horse was organised splendidly again by Tamsin Higgs back in December. We had a fantastic raffle again and some comradely games of skittles for our fundraiser!



Mark and Tamsin getting competitive!



Scores on the Doors!



## WINDOW WONDERS

Iffracombe members were inspired to put together a window display initiative to encourage people to register to vote. Thanks to Richard Paine for the photo, and to Wendy Smith for putting it together.

What a brilliant idea!



## CAMPAIGNING TO MAKE OUR TOWNS BETTER FOR EVERYONE



Well done to South Molton members - Dee Owen, Anya, James Craigie & Steve Hinchcliffe - who were out on the high street in their town, campaigning for another ATM.

If we want to regenerate and encourage spending, people need to be able to withdraw cash. With banks closing all over North Devon, we need to make a stand.





## SHOWING OF GROUNDSWELL FILM

North Devon Labour Party organised a showing of the groundbreaking film, GROUNDSWELL, in November last year.

GROUNDSWELL is about the grassroots battle for the NHS. It is a moving, inspiring David and Goliath documentary about ordinary Britons challenging the free marketeers' annexation of the NHS and their 40-year dominance of our society.

It is a unique, wide-ranging, revelatory personal journey by filmmaker John Furse and was filmed over 3 1/2 years on a threadbare budget, using domestic cameras.

Both a gripping documentary and a call to action, GROUNDSWELL is a must-see film with its finger on the pulse of our times.

We were lucky to secure this film which has been critically acclaimed as the comments below show.

"An urgent, compelling film that deserves to be seen widely." (The Independent, July 6th 2018)

"A highly individual, remarkably sophisticated piece of filmmaking. It is rare to see a film that explores complex issues and attitudes with such clarity." (Archie Tait, ex-Director ICA Cinema)

John Furse stayed behind after the showing to lead a discussion on the issues raised. It was a lively discussion and many people were shocked at some of the points raised in the film. The Labour Party is committed to reversing the privatisation of our NHS and halting and reviewing the 'Sustainability and Transformation Plans' where the focus will be on patient needs rather than available finances.

We need a Labour Government if we have any hope of our NHS returning to the principles it was originally set up by – providing universal healthcare for all on the basis of need, free at the point of use.

*Val Cann*

## RAIL CAMPAIGN 2019

North Devon Labour Party members braved the freezing temperatures, and were out greeting and talking to travellers at Barnstaple Station on 2nd January, when the latest 3.1% increase in Rail fares took effect.

Our Chair, Mark Cann said, "Once again the New Year begins with a squeeze on passengers as fares are up yet again. Since the Tories came to power, Rail fares are up across Britain by 36% yet we see more delays, cancellations and overcrowding.

Passengers are right to be angry that train companies are being let off the hook by the Tories.

That's why Labour would bring our railways into public ownership, which will mean capped fares, better, more reliable services and investment in our railways. For lines like ours in North Devon it will mean the improvements to rolling stock and the better services that local passengers have been crying out for."



## ARE YOU IN THE FACEBOOK MEMBERS' GROUP?

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

## 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](mailto:admin@northdevonlabour.org)

# EVENTS

What's coming up in North Devon?

## RED RAMBLERS

Join us for our next walk. Good exercise, good company, good debate and a good lunch if you wish.

Sunday 17th Feb, 11.00  
Meet at Lee Bay - where the Grampus pub is. Walk back towards Ilfracombe then inland to Lincombe via Windcutter Hill back to Lee.

If you are interested in joining the walk please email [martin@robathan.org.uk](mailto:martin@robathan.org.uk) so we know who to expect.



## THE WAY FORWARD: DECARBONISING ENERGY BY 2030 IN NORTHERN DEVON

Saturday, 23 March 2019  
10:00-14:00  
Pollyfield Community Centre

This event will look at the options available to North Devon and Torridge to reach a decarbonised energy system by 2030. Keynote speaker Dr Alan Whitehead MP, who introduced a private members bill to establish a legal requirement for the UK to decarbonise its energy.

# DON'T FORGET!

Our next CLP meeting is on Thursday 7th February at the Castle Centre, Barnstaple at 7pm.

As well as talking about District Council election strategy, we'll also be selecting delegates to National Conference in Brighton - September 21st - 25th.

Our main delegate has to be a woman this year. We are also entitled to send an additional Woman Delegate and a Youth Delegate.

We are selecting these now so that delegates can get their accommodation arranged in good time.

Please attend the meeting or send Val an email ASAP if you wish to be a delegate.



Not The Few is our very own brand to fundraise for campaigns and elections. All artwork is totally unique and specially designed for NDCLP by Andy Mold!

We still have some t-shirts available in limited sizes, and if you can't make it to CLP meetings to pick one up, head to our website:  
[www.notthefew.co.uk](http://www.notthefew.co.uk)



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](mailto:editor@northdevonlabour.co.uk)

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