Seaham Labour Newsletter

The Voice of Seaford and Newhaven Labour Party

May 2024

Secretary's Introduction

We have, at last, a Labour parliamentary candidate for Lewes!

First, front and centre, don't forget to **vote on Thursday May 2nd for Paul Richards**. As this is a West & East Sussex and Brighton & Hove election it is Labour who is challenging the Tories. Can you help us perhaps gain an unexpected victory? Start the year off with a shock to the Tories.
Secondly, Danny Sweeney has already sent out an email to all members introducing himself. As chair of the Lewes Area branch, former District & County Council candidate and Unison trade union official he is very well qualified and enthusiastic.
As he himself said he realises that many members would have liked to have the drama of a selection meeting but he has lost no time in booking in meetings with all the branches (including here in Seahaven) to come along and both make his pitch and answer questions in a more focussed but less formal atmosphere. Our May meeting focusses on this.
The coming General Election is not just about candidates but also policies too. Do you know what BONES is? Heard of the five missions but not sure what they mean? Over the next few meetings we will be briefing members on these policies. Come along and learn and comment on these key ideas. Do you perhaps have some great local examples for us to use in the campaign?
Mounting elections here, as well as helping other constituencies, depends on public spirited members helping to organise things whether it is simply a lift, a bit of admin or helping set up an enjoyable social. Without this public service nothing much would happen. We desperately need help whether at our coming Seahaven AGM in June or anytime of the year on an ad hoc basis. Just get in touch.
Lindsay Thomas, Seahaven Branch Secretary
Lindsay.thomas@hotmail.co.uk 07958316158

Get Election-Ready

Sign up in two ways. Update your volunteer profile and tick whichever box suits you - polling day, admin leafletting or door knocking - and we will contact you as soon as the election is announced. You need your Labour Hub record. Labour Hub lets you check your Labour membership record and get access to campaign materials and information for activists.
You can find it at https://hub.labour.org.uk/
If you have not used it before you will need to go through the simple process of setting up an account. Once you have done that, you can log straight in whenever you want. The home page will show your basic membership details, including your membership number and a handy map to remind you of the boundaries of the branch and the constituency. Scroll down to find the links to other information.



And you can use this link in Whats App Keep in touch on our Seahaven Campaign Group Whats App and join in as when you can. Follow this

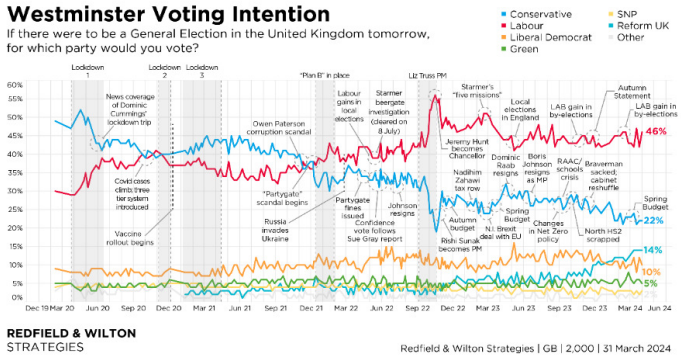
link to join the WhatsApp group:
https://chat.whatsapp.com/BmKRoUqHn0VAsTl0cz143J
Phone **Alun Tlusty Sheen** on 07954 101 993 for an invite.

Labour Party Annual Conference in Liverpool

Even in an election year the Annual Conference goes ahead (not if the actual election is over that exact period of course). The conference itself will be full of anticipation and an excellent launching pad for the imminent general election or may, if we have an earlier election be likely to be quite a celebratory party! We will be taking nominations for those one or two Lewes conference delegates at our May branch meeting.

Poll Watch

The polls go up and down and with 'house effects' they show slightly different results but over time they do provide a set of useful snap shots. We know it is very likely that the polls will narrow as we get through to the real campaign. Indeed 'events' might just change things more significantly – what Rishi Sunak is praying for!
In this piece I want to focus on something else: The Lib Dems.
In days gone by when the Tories started to go wrong the first recipients would not be Labour but the Lib Dems. But you can see from the diagram below that for the last two



years (as the Tories have declined from 50% to 22%) the Lib Dems have pretty much stuck at 10%. There are several reasons for this no doubt but a primary one is that they have no relevant policies which suggest they should be an alternative Government to the Tories. Locally the Lib Dems have been throwing leaflets at the Lewes electorate featuring their candidate for quite some time and when the election eventually comes it will turn into a blizzard no doubt. Their result may well be stronger than the polls suggest here.

But what does not mean for any involvement in Government?

Seahaven Branch AGM – Saturday June 1st 2024

We are on the cusp of an interesting, eventful and potentially dramatic good year in the Labour Party. Why not join in and lend a helping hand.
In June we are electing a new executive for Seahaven and delegates for the wider Lewes Constituency Labour Party. We have approximately 230 members in the Seahaven branch. Why not find out what this might entail by contacting Lindsay (the Secretary).
There will be two meetings called at the same time:
First the more formal AGM with annual accounts and elections which has to be held in person – people joining by Zoom will not be able to vote.
The second ordinary branch meeting can be joined by everyone both in person and via Zoom.

What does BONES mean? Which are the 5 Missions Keir has adopted? When will the full manifesto be launched?

These are some of the mysteries that **Alun Tlusty Sheen** (our CLP Policy Officer) has prepared a briefing on. The briefing will be discussed at branch meetings in the run up to the General Election. We will need your voice to help us add local examples that better reflect the specific interests of local people. It will help us in the preparation of leaflets, social media posts and discussions on the doorstep.

CLP

Supporting our candidates

It's excellent news that we now have a prospective parliamentary candidate, and I'm looking forward to campaigning with Danny. It's great to have someone local, who really knows the constituency.

And I celebrate the candidacy of the fantastic women who are standing in other Sussex seats – **Beccy Cooper** in Worthing West and Helena Dollimore in Hastings and Rye. They are running positive, inclusive campaigns. They radiate optimism. I'm happy that they are selected in target seats and that we can look forward to seeing them taking up their places on the green benches later this year.

Supporting equal representation

In future, it would be good to see more women putting themselves forward. Labour has a programme of support for women who are thinking about running for public office. There is no doubt that social media has amplified and perhaps intensified the misogyny that women in public roles encounter. Mutual support – and support from men in the

party, too – is vital to help us challenge and defeat it. Please encourage women you know to think about standing for office, whether locally or nationally.

Meanwhile, please support Helena's campaign in our twinned constituency, as well as supporting Danny here in Lewes.

Not just polls – policy, too
I'm a delegate to GC from our Women's branch – it has been good to see a resurgence of interest in branch meetings, under the leadership of our wonderful chair, Denise Savage. She has brought many interesting speakers to the branch, making meetings really worthwhile.

I'm hoping to bring a similar approach to future GC meetings, with plans for policy discussions on essential topics such as housing. There is so much to cover – from Labour's plan for new towns to the impact of the planned Phoenix development in Lewes and reforming the rental market. What do we want to see happening locally?

Coming up at GC
Our next General Committee is on 22 May. We'll be talking to Danny about his campaign; choosing our delegates to annual conference; discussing a motion from our BAME branch; getting an update from the North Street committee about progress on repairs. Share your views with your GC delegates – and make sure they report back.
Frances Hasler, Chair, Lewes CLP

Councillor's Report

Supergraphics Festival
There is a flurry of activity in Newhaven at the moment in preparation for the Supergraphics Festival which opens on 1st June. There will be a month of events, workshops, walks and community gatherings programmed to accompany 12 specially commissioned artworks that will be installed across the town. Some of the biggest names in graphic art, illustration and street art will be creating murals. Some of the events will be held in the Marine Workshops. www.lookagainnewhaven.co.uk

Newhaven Town Council Meetings

Annual Meeting Tuesday 14th May 7.15pm

Planning and Development Meeting Tuesday 28th May 7.15pm

Lewes Women's Branch – new lock in North Street!

Our April meeting will long be remembered by those who were there or who were trying to follow on zoom. Just as Denise was about to begin the meeting, a few members who were arriving found they were unable to get in. Members who were inside could not open the door, the lock was completely jammed. This was going to be a well-attended meeting because we had important voting to do. Eventually, a locksmith was found and called. This was all happening as **Denise** valiantly chaired the meeting – those of us attending on zoom could hear the phone calls being made, the quotes being given, the credit card being offered. All ended well, the locksmith attended and a new lock was fitted. Meanwhile the members waiting outside decided to go to one member's nearby home to follow on zoom.

In spite of the kerfuffle, the three members proposed at the last meeting to be our GC delegates – **Geraldine Pass**, **Valerie Sng** and **Jan Woodling** – were, after a vote, accepted unanimously. The meeting was quorate.

We also agreed to make a donation, probably through a collection at our Summer Party, to United Voices of the World, the Union whose leaders had so enlivened our International Women's Day meeting.



The report back from GC on North Street informed us that the tenancy on the flat will be extended for 3 years with a small increase in rent deferred for 12 months. A subcommittee had been formed to investigate creative ways of utilising the ground floor – Mark Perryman, John Edson and Steve Floor. Jan King and Gill Short from the Women's Branch also agreed to be on the subcommittee.

The need to attract more members was discussed and this was all the more acute because sadly Denise had decided that she needed to step down from her role as Chair.

We are looking for a new Chair for the very lively Women's Branch. Please let Denise Savage know if you are interested.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 1st May at North Street. The speaker will be Anna Scott, a local foodbank organiser.
Teresa O'Brien - Seahaven Women's Officer

Doreen Elizabeth Massey, Baroness Massey of Darwen

(5 September 1938-20 April 2024)

We are sad to report the death of one of our members, **Doreen Massey**.



Doreen was educated at the University of Birmingham (BA, DipEd, vice-president Student Union, Hockey and Cricket blues), and the University of London (MA). A former teacher and education advisor, she was the director of the Family Planning Association from 1989 to 1994 and was made a life peer by the Labour government on 26 July 1999. She served as a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Integrated and Complementary Healthcare and was an honorary associate of the National Secular Society , patron of Humanists UK, and vice chair of the All Party Parliamentary Humanist Group. She was also very active in the Council of Europe until her illness intervened.

She lived in Lewes for many years and was a loyal supporter of the local Party. I got to know her when she offered a tour around the House of Lords as a prize in a Labour raffle (she also introduced me to my Pilates teacher!). She will be remembered as a long-term Labour supporter and activist, a good friend and a very stylish dresser!

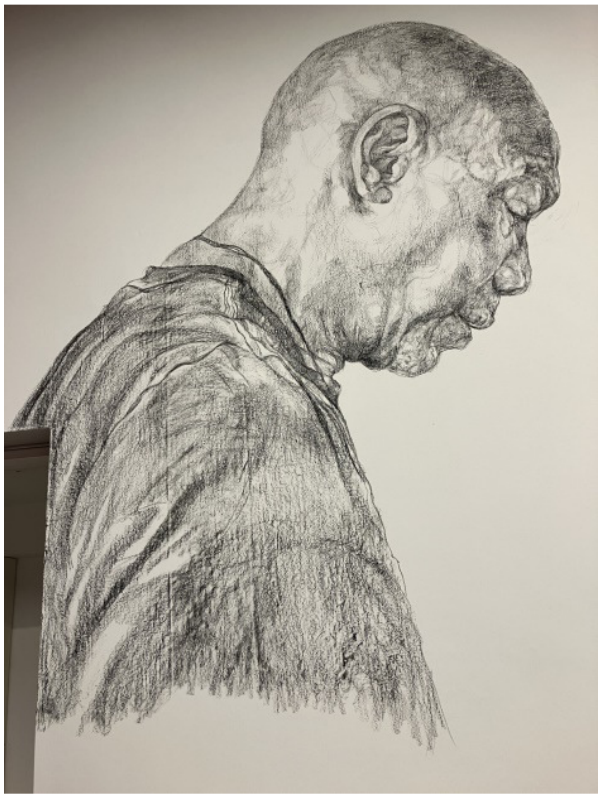
Gaby Weiner, 22 April 2024

BAME Branch visit to see Barbara Walker in conversation

On Saturday 6th April, members of the Lewes BAME branch - **Joe Moughrabi** , **Pat Williams** and **Denise Savage** - visited the Birley Centre, Eastbourne to hear **Barbara Walker** (the Turner Prize nominated artist) in conversation with **Craig Ashley.**



Barbara's work "**Burden of Proof**" is a series of wall paintings that are vast charcoal drawings of the Windrush generation.
Statuesque and magnificent, these portraits needed scaffolding for the artist to draw them from photographs. Part of the creative process includes the artist's understanding that they will be erased after the exhibition. This gives them a special poignancy and like many from the Windrush generation in our recent "hostile environment ", a feeling of impermanence.





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Barbara Walker revealed many personal details about her approach to her work during the conversation. It felt intimate and we were truly honoured to be there.

Newhaven Community Supermarket

Newhaven Community Supermarket is open to all local residents – there is no joining fee, people just leave a record of name and address. They can then use the supermarket each week to shop, it's on a Monday 11.00 – 1.30 at Denton Island Community Centre. There's fresh .produce, cupboard staples, and pre-cooked meals, also toiletries, sanitary and cleaning products and pet food, and occasional luxuries!
The supermarket operates a 'Pay as You Feel' policy, - members can make a contribution as and when then can afford, that may well be nothing on many weeks, although currently there is a small charge for fresh eggs and milk. Some of the members are also volunteers, and new members/volunteers are always made to feel very welcome.

Seahaven Storehouse

Each year, Seahaven Storehouse needs to raise between £40,000 - £50,000 to support over 100 households. Every week, they provide 2,000 kg of food in over 100 food parcels, helping about 300 individuals.

Although the food bank does receive donations of food from private individuals, schools and other organisations, and supermarket boxes, etc, most of the food it distributes is specifically bought in from Aldi and Morrisons. Non-food items such as nappies and other sanitary products are also bought in.

For that reason, the best way to help the foodbank is though monetary donations, since they allow for stock planning and targeting resources where they are most needed.

Donations can be made by bank transfer to "Seaford Community Church", sort code 60-18-37, account no. 57915415, giving "Storehouse" as a reference.

Any amount, however small, is very much appreciated.

Note from Our Treasurer

- Donations are always welcome

If you feel you cannot give a lot of time to the Branch, you might like to help by giving a donation or set up a standing order to help build up campaign funds.

Please make donations online to Seaford Labour Party, Unity Trust Bank, sort code 60-83-01, account number 20441500.

Note: The Bank charges us 30p to process cheques so please can members use BACS.

If members cannot use BACS they can send cheques made payable Seaford Labour Party and send them c/o Lindsay Thomas, 59 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, BN25 1BU.

Promoted by John Warmington on behalf of Paul Richards both of 119 Lyndhurst Rd Worthing BN11 2DE

CONTACT US

Secretary - **Lindsay.thomas@hotmail.co.uk or 07958316158**

Chair - bradford.pete@gmail.com

Membership – Ed Griffiths ed4griff@gmail.com

Write c/o Lewes CLP, 3 North Street, Lewes, BN7 2PA

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Newsletter edited by Martin Almond

Design and layout Jon Griffin