



# Officers' reports

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## Chair



Another eventful year for the Labour Party, and a continuing improvement in our local activism, political education and national debates. I hope you agree our meetings have become sociable, interesting and offer a real opportunity to hear a diverse set of views and plan how to take action. The executive team is strong and the campaign forum business-like, but we still need more support to really benefit from a membership of over 650 – bigger than all the other parties in Brentwood & Ongar combined!

This year we campaigned in the Brentwood Borough Council elections to return Gareth Barrett as Councillor in the Brentwood South Ward. We also ran more modest, but serious campaigns in Pilgrims Hatch, Warley and Brentwood North as well as leafleting in parts of South Weald, Brentwood West and Brizes & Doddinghurst. All this is possible thanks to the biggest team in my memory, with more than ever candidates who would be pleased to win and take their activism into the council chamber.

If you have been hanging back, now is the time to join in our activities and offer your help - it need not be as demanding as talking to strange folk on the doorstep, there are many other tasks and duties which would help us to make more impact and start challenging in more wards next May. We are a friendly bunch of people and your contribution can be just to turn up at events or give your face-to-face support for a few minutes. Please come to the AGM and find out what we are like!

Richard Millwood, Chair

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## Secretary

### 1. Meetings – All Members & Supporters

We held meetings during the year at five different sites: Merrymeade House, Pilgrims Hatch Parish Room, Shenfield Parish Hall, Kelvedon Hatch Village Hall and Fryerning Parish Hall.

The style of our meetings was to be kept informed through regular reporting from our elected Councillors and to have discussions/debates on set topics with the conclusions/resolutions forwarded to relevant interested parties, including the National Policy Forum.

These topics included:

- Manifesto for the Labour Group on the Brentwood Borough Council
- Campaign Feedback from General Election with congratulations to Gareth for coming second to Alex Burghart with the highest Labour vote since 1997
- Selection procedure for May 2018 Borough Elections
- Contemporary Motion for the Annual Conference
- Feedback from the Annual Conference from our delegates
- Feedback from the East of England Regional Conference
- Presentation and discussion on the issue of guards on trains with Steve Hedley, Senior Assistant Secretary of the RMT union
- Talk and discussion with Julia Moore of the UK Branch of Diem25
- Brexit
- Anti-semitism

## **2. Executive Committee**

At the 2017 AGM the following members were nominated and selected:

### **Voting**

- Richard Millwood, Chair
- Tim Barrett, Vice-chair (Campaigns & Political)
- Sue Kortlandt, Vice Chair (Membership)
- Jane Winter, Secretary
- Pat Woods, Treasurer
- June Simmons, Women's Officer
- Gareth Barrett, Ordinary Member
- Toby Blunsten, Ordinary Member
- John Pickard, Ordinary Member
- Liam Preston, Ordinary Member
- Ann Huish, Ordinary Member
- Éadaoin O'Brien, Ordinary Member
- Marian Jenkins, Ordinary Member

### **Non-voting members**

- Joanna Moncrieff, Auditor 1
- Ann & Stephen Howarth, Auditor 2
- James Taylor, Youth & Student Officer
- Toby Blunsten, Chair of Campaigns committee

### **Co-ordinators**

- Toby Blunsten, Youth & student
- Éadaoin O'Brien, Women's
- Tim Barrett, Trade Union Liaison
- Sue Kortlandt, Political Education
- Liam Preston, Press & Publicity

## **3. Conferences**

We sent delegates Susan Kortlandt and Toby Blunsten to the National Conference in Brighton, and Richard Millwood to the Regional Conference in Huntingdon.

#### **4. Fundraising and Social Events**

- Great Labour bash in July
- Christmas Quiz held at Ingatestone Community Centre in December
- Curry Night in March
- The Century Club draw at most meetings
- A Silent Auction
- Fundraising film preview 'Sink' with discussion

#### **5. Parish Councils**

There are nine PCs within the BBC area. Elections are held every four years. Casual vacancies can occur and these can be filled by a process of co-option if no election is called. We have 4 of our Members on the Ingatestone & Fryerning PC and one on the Kelvedon Hatch PC. There are some casual vacancies on some of the PCs and Members who might be interested in standing for co-option and election can be supported in their application.

Jane Winter, Secretary

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#### **Treasurer**

Pat Woods acted as treasurer and operated the accounts including submitted to the national party. This are audited and attached separately.

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#### **Auditors**

There were three auditors appointed in July 2017 - Joanna Moncrieff audited the accounts and Ann & Stephen Howarth audited our procedures:

#### **Finance**

Joanna met with Treasurer Pat Woods to inspect the books and audit the accounts on 20 May 2018.

#### **Internal management, administrative and organisational procedures**

During the 2017 - 2018 administrative year, Stephen and Ann observed Brentwood and Ongar CLP Executive Committee meetings, attended Members' and Supporters' meetings and scrutinised relevant agendas, minutes and supporting documentation.

They confirmed that the internal management, administrative and organisational procedures of the Brentwood and Ongar CLP conform to the appropriate requirements and guidance of the Labour Party.

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#### **Membership**

Membership stands at 661 members including union affiliates and 78 registered supporters in May 2018. We have 443 males and 292 female members and 96 are Young Labour - aged 27 or under.

There has been a decline of about 30 since the last AGM due to people lapsing in their membership moving away or indeed dying, but only six members have actually resigned through the year.

Ward champions - those who help us keep in touch with our membership in the wards - have played a valuable role for a complex task. We would welcome for more help with this task, particularly Brentwood North, Pilgrims Hatch, Hutton Central, Shenfield, Tipps Cross, but also some wards are large and another person would help!

Sue Kortlandt, Vice Chair (Membership), 28 May 2018

## **Political Education**

When we are on the doorstep or the High Street we need to make a good case for our policies and candidates. So we have continued to develop our knowledge and arguments through the Socialist Book Club, now in its third year, and also we have started a film night with a preview of the film 'Sink' and discussion with its director. Since last year we have discussed seven very different books: 'Break the Chains of Poverty Pay, Casual Labour and Exploitation' by Richie Venton, 'Active Hope: How to face the mess we're in without going crazy' by Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone, 'And the Weak Suffer What They Must' by Yanis Varoufakis, 'Citizen Clem: A Biography of Attlee' by John Bew, 'Prosperity Without Growth' by Timothy Jackson, 'No is Not enough' by Naomi Klein and 'Animal' by Sara Pascoe.

All members are warmly invited to come along to the Book Club and films. Our next book is 'Post Capitalism' by Paul Mason and we meet on Sunday 27th June at 7:30pm at Susan Kortlandt's Home, 130 Warley Hill, Brentwood, Essex, CM14 5HB.

Sue Kortlandt, Political Education coordinator, 28 May 2018