

WIGHT RED

ISLE OF WIGHT
LABOUR PARTY

MEMBERS'
NEWSLETTER

JULY 2011

Our Campaigning Party

Many thanks are due to all comrades in the constituency who helped Mick Lyons achieve a vote of 66 (5.7%) in the Binstead & Fishbourne county council by-election at the end of June. This was not as good a result as we had hoped, but the campaign experience will stand us in good stead for fighting 20+ county council seats 23 months from now. And the search for candidates for those seats starts now, as must regular, local campaign spadework. We all have responsibility for work in our localities, with the constituency party doing all it can to develop campaigning across the Island.

Recent months have seen well-attended All Members Meetings at the Riverside Centre in Newport. We have examined Peter Hain's paper, *Refounding Labour* and sent in a discussion contribution; considered the politics of immigration; and held several discussions on the cuts, our attitude to them, and how to combat them. After the 28 July AMM the others this year will be on 27 October and 24 November. Come along and join in.

This rabidly Tory council sees severe cuts as a badge of honour, destroying gains that working class and democratic organisations fought hard to achieve. Our job is to be even more energetic in rousing the majority of Islanders to fight them.

We are not 'all in it together', as the working class majority knows. We had no part in creating the economic crisis, a cyclical 'benefit' of capitalism. As cuts bite, we have no choice but to oppose them and refuse to accept any of the burdens our rulers think they can impose.

Please email iowclp@gmail.com if you would like to be kept up to date about constituency campaigning activities and meetings.

Jim Moody, Secretary, Isle of Wight Constituency Labour Party



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Aim for 150 to 200 words to avoid the necessity for excessive cutting. Pictures, jpg files preferably, also very welcome.

Isle of Wight Labour website at www.iowlabour.org.uk

And now for a word from Mick Lyons, candidate in the recent by-election:-

A Labour candidate's view of the Binstead and Fishbourne by-election.

In June this year I stood as a candidate in the by-election held in Binstead and Fishbourne. This seemed like a good thing to do because no Labour candidate had stood here for at least 13 years and at that time the boundary was different so there seemed to be some possibility of a good Labour vote here.

There were 5 candidates, Tory, Independent (Ivor Warlow), LibDem, UKIP and Labour which made for a difficult campaign but I had some fantastic support with leafleting, canvassing and on polling day from Labour Party members, who came from all over the Island to help.

At the end of the day it was incredibly difficult to campaign against the Independent candidate who had the slogan "people NOT politics", no apparent policies or opinions but a lot of personal support based on the idea that he would support local (i.e. Binstead) issues at County Hall.

At the count the Independent, Ivor Warlow, won by four votes after a recount. The Tory was second. The Labour vote was 66 - last and beaten by UKIP - very disappointing. However, there were some positive factors. Firstly, the Tories lost the seat so now have a smaller majority on the Council. Also, I believe there was a very strong vote against the cuts being made by the Tories at County Hall. The Tory vote was down by 18%, Independent down by 17% and LibDem down by a massive 26%.

Unfortunately, many of these votes went to UKIP, who ran an anti-cuts campaign similar to mine.

NHS - SAVED?

Robert Jones

Well, that's what the LibDems would have us believe. Thanks to the pressure they have put on the government, the worst excesses of Lansley's Health and Social Care Bill have been removed or tamed. Clegg feels that his conscience now allows him to vote for it. Leathery old thing, the Clegg Conscience. And yet strangely elastic. For in truth, the Lansley Bill is as rotten now as it was before. True, explicit references to competition have been removed - but the concept behind the word hasn't. It's still there. And the most obvious privatization, that of handing the NHS over to GP commissioners (who don't work for the NHS: each GP practice is a private business, so what's that if not privatization?) is still right there, in the middle of the Bill. In my opinion, the GP's were fools to sign up to these consortia in the first place (those that did; many want nothing to do with them). And now they're beginning to realize it - because the whole basis of the consortia, which are to replace Primary Care Trusts in the commission-

ing of services, has changed. Oh, they're still going ahead. But now will have to include other healthcare professionals, eg hospital doctors, and nurses. The GP's have no idea at all how this is going to work out for them - as one of them said to me last week, "well, at least it'll be my last NHS reorganization"; but that's only because he's on the eve of retirement. The biggest problem, administratively anyway, for the NHS is to be found in the Department of Health itself: its Secretary of State and, it has to be said, his senior civil servants. That's where changes should be made. As it is, we're forced to rely on Baroness Shirley Williams, who has seen through the Clegg claims, and the House of Lords, to derail this Bill and send it back to the Commons. Maybe the Liberals will unite with Labour to defeat it: but if they do, it'll cost Clegg his last shred of credibility. At least Lansley believes in his reforms, if only because he's just not very bright. Does Clegg believe in *anything*?

A MESSAGE FROM STEVE MILFORD
CLP TREASURER, 41 ALBERT STREET, VENTNOR IW P038 1EU

IW Labour Party "100" Club

As you may know, the Isle of Wight Labour Party has had set up for many years now a "100" Club, which is funded by Party members and supporters contributing by monthly standing orders and paying out 3 prizes each month, to those whose numbers are drawn out. Members can subscribe to any number of shares, (though in practice no single member owns more than 10 shares). These shares are in multiples of £1. The actual membership in the Club varies between 100 and 200. The prize money is calculated to be at least half of the contributions, the remainder being used to fight local and national elections. Currently the monthly prizes being paid out are 3 x £25.

If you are not currently a member of the "100" Club, I would urge you to join as this is a valuable source of income to the local party and members have a regular chance of winning cash prizes! You may have been a member in the past, but lapsed, possibly through something as simple as changing your bank account! You may be an existing member, but wishing to increase your number of shares!

Whatever your position, I would urge you to think about taking up membership, or increasing your current shares with the IW Labour Party "100" Club. I enclose below an application form and look forward to your support!

STEVE MILFORD

STANDING ORDER FORM

Please pay to the 'Isle of Wight CLP 100 Club' (Account No. 58089248 : Sorting Code 08-90-81) at the Co-operative Bank plc, 46/48 Arundel Street, Portsmouth, PO1 1TD the sum of £ _____ on the first day of each month until further notice; the first payment to be made on the first day of _____2011

FULL NAME

ADDRESS

.....Post Code

Name and Address of Bank

.....

Account No. Sort Code

Signature Date

All correspondence should be addressed to the Promoter - Mr. S. Milford, CLP Treasurer, 41 Albert Street, Ventnor, IW. P038 1EU. Tel : 0779 5632099

CANDIDATES WANTED!

The next round of County Council elections will be held in May 2013. We need to stand candidates in at least the majority of seats, if not all of them.

It's not a commitment to be taken on lightly - you'll need to fight in your Ward; to commit time; to be available to local electors; and of course, it will help if you're well-known there, have plenty of contacts, and have been active in the area, in a PTA, for instance, as a parish or town councillor, or school governor.

The Labour Party will support you in every way it can, in return for a real effort from you. With more Labour councillors, we could assert real influence at County Hall, carrying forward the work that has been done in recent years by the likes of Deborah Gardiner, and Geoff Lumley.

Expressing an interest now will not commit you to anything: but this is a great opportunity for those interested in improving their communities to actually achieve something - always a lot better than just talking about it.

If you would be interested, or just want to find out more and to meet with Party officers to discuss it further, please complete the slip below, and send it to:-

The Secretary
Isle of Wight CLP
6 Star Street
RYDE, Isle of Wight
PO33 2HX
Tel: 01983 563542

Or email the Secretary at : iowclp@gmail.com

We're looking for candidates of all ages and backgrounds, but especially hope to field at least an equal number of men and women, and a good representation of young people.

(NB: Space constraints! If you wish to fill in the 100 Club Form overleaf AND this one, you can either send back the whole page, photocopy the pages, ask us for another form—or send an email or even, you sweet old-fashioned things, a letter.)

Name.....

Address.....

Telephone.....

Email.....

I'm interested in standing for Labour at the County Council elections 2013.