

Rachel Reeves MP Monthly Report

News from Rachel Reeves, Labour MP for Leeds West

May 2012

LABOUR WIN 8 LOCAL COUNCIL SEATS ACROSS LEEDS FRIENDS SET TO TAKE OVER BRAMLEY BATHS

Local elections this month saw Labour increase their majority on the Council by 8, taking seats including Headingley, Rothwell, Hyde Park and Woodhouse and Burmantofts and Richmond Hill.

This trend was repeated nationally with Labour making gains in places like Harlow, Plymouth and Birmingham; areas we must win if we want to emerge on top in a general election.

In Leeds West, Alison Lowe was returned as the Councillor for Armley with 2,686 votes, Caroline

Gruen was elected for the first time as Councillor for Bramley with 2,343 votes, and Lucinda Yeadon was returned as Kirkstall's Councillor with 3,006 votes. Unfortunately, in Farnley & Wortley the Greens retained their seat but David Dresser fought a strong campaign and reduced their majority.

Labour leader Ed Miliband told voters Labour are "back throughout the country on your side" but remained humble about the gains, noting that turn-out was extremely low and pledging appeal to those beyond the Party.

On 16th May Leeds City Council announced its decision to hand control of the historic Bramley Baths to the Friends of Bramley Baths community group under the Council's asset transfer policy. Rachel who, alongside former MP John Battle, spearheaded the campaign to save the Baths said,

I am delighted that Leeds City Council have made the decision to transfer ownership of Bramley Baths to the Friends of Bramley Baths.

This time last year myself



and local councillors were fighting and campaigning hard just to keep the Baths open, with amazing backing and support from the people of Bramley. To see this group form out of a public meeting that I organised in Bramley Community Centre in June 2011 and witness the strength of feeling from the local community has been amazing and really shows the talent and commitment of the people of Bramley.

BRAMLEY POST OFFICE RE-OPENS



On Tuesday 24th April Bramley Shopping Centre Post Office was suddenly closed, without any notice

or a replacement service put in place. Rachel and Bramley Labour councillors sprang into action as soon as the news broke, with Rachel calling emergency meetings with both the Shopping Centre and the Post Office and Cllr Ted Hanley arranging for a Bramley Elderly Action bus service to transport customers to alternative branches.

On the Saturday Rachel and Ted

were out at Bramley Shopping Centre, alongside Cllr Caroline Gruen, Cllr Neil Taggart and local Party members to collect petition signatures from local residents, calling for the Post Office to be re-opened. By Tuesday 1st May, just one week later, the Post Office was re-opened with an interim owner taking charge until a permanent sub-postmaster is in place. A great success!

MORE NEWS VIA Web: www.rachelreeves.net Twitter: [@rachelreevesmp](https://twitter.com/rachelreevesmp)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/rachelreeves10



In Brief:



Rachel's 3rd charity film night at the Armley Mills Industrial Museum raised over £800 for Shelter. Guests were treated to a screening of 1943 film adaptation of Jane Eyre and a Q&A with writer and broadcaster Tony Earnshaw.



On Friday April 27th Rachel, pictured here with Y&H Regional TUC Secretary, Bill Adams, spoke at a Workers Memorial Day event at Armey Mills. Rachel spoke about the legacy of asbestos and mills in West Leeds, and the importance of protecting rights at work both here and abroad.



Rachel is currently involved with the campaign, led by Cllr Rebecca Charlwood, to reduce the number of lap dancing venues in Leeds City Centre and move existing venues out of prominent City Centre locations. Rachel is pictured with Cllr Judith Cummins, Cllr Kamila Maqsood, Cllr Rebecca Charlwood, Cllr Alison Lowe & Fabian Hamilton MP.



Over £500 was raised for Leeds West Labour at Viva Cuba this month. Thanks to everybody who attended this post-election party.

GOVERNMENT CLIMBDOWN ON LEGAL AID VOTE

The Government introduced a last minute amendment to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill in late April, after intense pressure from Lords, campaigners and politicians across the divide.

The Government had previously lumped victims of workplace illnesses like Mesothelioma into their reforms tackling the so-called "compensation culture".

Rachel commented, "I'm pleased that the government have finally mounted an eleventh hour climb down after pressure from Labour, peers and campaigners on these unfair plans. But it has taken too

long for the government to listen to the overwhelming opposition to this part of the Bill. To have lumped victims of workplace illnesses like Mesothelioma into a so-called 'compensation culture' was an insult. The legacy of Asbestos in Armley and cases brought by sufferers of mesothelioma show beyond doubt that they are nothing of the sort. For the victims of the JW Roberts factory in Armley and for asbestosis sufferers across the country, we need to make sure this review is done properly and I will continue to ask questions and fight for the victims of asbestos related illness."

KIRKSTALL PALE ALE IN PARLIAMENT

After several months of lobbying by Rachel, the good news came through last month that the House of Commons are to stock and sell Kirkstall Pale Ale as their "guest beer" for a week in the autumn. Rachel was delighted to hear the news and share it with brewery staff when she visited last month.

The Brewery is situated by the Leeds, Liverpool canal and is in the shadow of the original Kirkstall Brewery.

Kirkstall has a brewing heritage stretching back to the 12th century.

Launched last summer by Steve Holt, who has a wealth of experience in the beer industry, the new Kirkstall Brewery revives the long tradition of brewing in the area.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

On the third Thursday of each month the Leeds West Labour Party meet at the Milford Sports Club, Beecroft Street, Kirkstall, LS5 3AS at 7:30pm. The next meetings will take place on Thursday 17th May 2012 and Thursday 21st June 2012. All members are welcome to attend.

Public meeting: On Monday 28th May 2012 from 5:30pm Rachel is hosting a public meeting at Leeds West Academy in Bramley regarding bus services, representatives from First Bus will be attending.