

Rachel Reeves MP Monthly Report

News from Rachel Reeves, Labour MP for Leeds West

January 2014

CONCERN OVER CRICKET CLUB BREAK-INS



Rachel is pictured with members of Kirkstall Educational Cricket Club

A spate of burglaries is threatening the future of Kirkstall Educational Cricket Club.

The club has recently suffered its 10th break-in since last April and the losses and damages incurred may mean the club is forced to close.

The club, one of the oldest in Leeds, is completely volunteer-

led and does not have the finances available to cope with the repeated break-ins.

The club and Rachel are appealing for the public to assist in catching the people responsible and we would urge anyone with information to contact the Police, which can be done confidentially using the free-phone 101 service.

Rachel, who is a patron of the club said:

"I was extremely disappointed to learn Kirkstall Educational Cricket Club had been broken into for the 10th time. I have been involved with the club since these break-ins started in the early summer last year and I have worked closely with Club members and the West Yorkshire Police to ensure that everything

is being doing to apprehend these criminals.

"The police have implemented a number of new security measures and have been patrolling the area but we need the public to be extra vigilant.

"KECC provides a vital service in my constituency giving people of all ages the opportunity to learn basic skills and play cricket in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

"Like many sports clubs and other Community organisations the club is dependent on its enthusiastic volunteers in order to operate, the pressure of having to deal with these constant break-ins is intolerable for those involved with running the club."

FOOD BANK USE HIGHLIGHTED IN PARLIAMENT

Shocking statistics from the Trussell Trust show food bank use has RISEN by 170% in the last 12 months.

Rachel has been working to highlight this in Parliament. Labour MPs generously donated to a food trolley that was sent to a food bank before Christmas. On Wednesday 18th December, Rachel held a lobby in Parliament, which was attended by numerous

charities and campaigners such as Jack Monroe.

This was followed by a debate on food bank use secured by Labour, and Rachel used this debate to highlight how sanctions, benefit delays and the bedroom tax are, under this Coalition, leading to ordinary people having to turn to charity to feed themselves and their children.



IN BRIEF:



Rachel, Cllr John Hardy, Cllr Neil Walshaw and party activists out campaigning in Farnley & Wortley this month.



Local candidate Kevin Ritchie out on the doorstep with party activists this month.

See dates for your diary below to get involved with campaigning in the run up to the 2014 local elections.

MESOTHELIOMA BILL DEBATE



unable to report a claim for the compensation they deserve, for the suffering Mesothelioma would have put them and their families through.

This Bill came from years of Labour Party campaigning alongside the victims of this terrible disease.

Rachel commented,

"Although we should celebrate this near legislative victory, we should still campaign to take the Bill further, for it now only allows successful applicants to receive 75% of the average compensation.

For now I am happy to see that these victims can finally soon start the process of receiving the compensation they are owed but I will continue to campaign for the people of Leeds West who have seen theirs and their loved ones lives so dreadfully impacted by this industrial disease."

The Mesothelioma Bill was debated in the House of Commons, with the report stage and third reading of the Bill both taking place on Tuesday 7 January 2014, all in the hope of creating a compensation scheme for the victims of this cancer who for one reason or another cannot trace their employer (or employer's insurer) from where they were exposed to asbestos fibres.

Those who couldn't trace their employer had previously been

CAMPAIGNING & EVENT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 16th January from 7:30pm—Leeds West Labour Party General Meeting with special guest speaker John Spellar MP. Milford Sports Club, Beecroft Street, Kirkstall, LS5 3AS.

Kirkstall SUPER SATURDAY—18th January—Join us for campaigning sessions at 11am and 2pm. Meet at 12 De Lacy Mount, LS5 3JF. Lunch provided!

Bramley Campaigning—Thursday 23rd January & Thursday 6th February at 2:30pm—Meet for both sessions at Bramley Baths car park, Broad Lane,

Bramley, LS13 3DF

Armley Campaigning—Wednesday 29th January—Meet 3pm at Rachel's office, Unit 10 Armley Park Court, Stanningley Road, LS12 2AE.

Farnley & Wortley Campaigning—Saturday 1st February Meet at 10:30am outside the Co-op on Low Moor Side.

Hope to see you there! If you have any questions regarding getting involved in campaigning email reevesmp@gmail.com

Burglaries threaten club that's 160 not out

SAM CASEY

CRIME REPORTER

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ONE OF Leeds's oldest cricket clubs is facing financial ruin after suffering 10 break-ins during its 160th anniversary year.

Kirkstall Educational Cricket Club could be forced to close after racking up losses and damages amounting to about £10,000.

Chairman Nick Davis said: "We're not a cash-rich club and are always looking for money to keep our heads above water, but this has bled us dry."

"Realistically, it could spell the end of one of the oldest clubs in Leeds and all because of a bit of mindless theft by someone who might not realise the problems they are causing."

"We're completely volunteer-

led and it's absolutely soul-destroying."

Formed in 1853, the club is 10 years older than Yorkshire County Cricket Club and has more than 200 members, with three senior teams and seven junior teams.

The clubhouse, off Queenswood Drive, was first broken into last April, when thieves smashed a window and stole a television and spirits from the bar.

In November about £700 raised at a memorial bash for 21-year-old Tom Hardman – the former Leeds Metropolitan University cricket captain who died in 2012 – was taken.

Apart from those thefts there have been numerous break-ins, the most recent of which was on Christmas Eve.



CLUB TARGET: Club chairman Nick Davis, left, and David Hodgson, president and groundsman.

"Now there's very little left to take," Mr Davis said.

"We've had very few problems in the past."

"We're completely volunteer-led and it's absolutely soul-destroying"

"Because we are very much a community club and a lot of our membership comes from the area we thought we were self-policing."

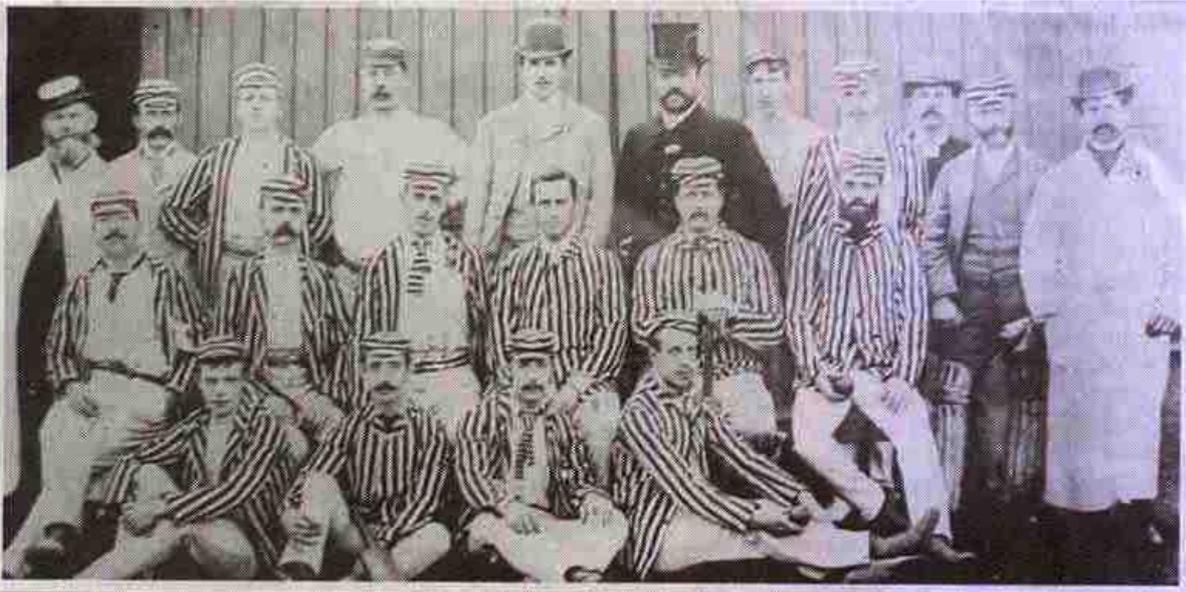
"We think we are being targeted by one or maybe two individuals. It's got to the point where whoever is doing it sees it as a challenge."

The club is appealing for the public's help in catching the perpetrators and has asked for assistance in beefing up security.

Leeds West MP Rachel Reeves, who is a patron of the club, urged anyone with information to contact the police.

She added: "Like many sports clubs and other community organisations, the club is dependent on its enthusiastic volunteers in order to operate."

"The pressure of having to deal with these constant break-ins is completely intolerable for those involved with running the club."



ON THE ROPES: Top, Kirkstall Educational Cricket Club chairman Nick Davis, left, and president David Hodgson. Above, a team photograph from circa 1863, 10 years after the club was formed. MAIN PICTURE: MATT BICKERDIKE

Burglaries put historic cricket club on brink of financial ruin

Sam Casey

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cricket captain who died in 2012 – was stolen.

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"We think we are being targeted by one or maybe two individuals. It's got to the point where whoever is doing it sees it as a challenge," Mr Davis said.

Leeds West MP Rachel Reeves, who is a patron of the club, urged anyone with information to contact the police.

She added: "The pressure of having to deal with these constant break-ins is completely intolerable for those involved with running the club."

60,000 households with carers are being hit by the Bedroom Tax

January 1, 2014 8:29 am

Author: Rachel Reeves

Today's reports of an astonishing 60,000 households with carers being hit by the Bedroom Tax are another damaging blow for David Cameron and Iain Duncan Smith.

In June David Cameron said, "They (carers) do an amazing job. If they stopped caring, the cost to the taxpayer would be phenomenal, so we should do what we can to support our carers". And a month later the Prime Minister told the House of Commons, "When it comes to the spare room subsidy, anyone who needs to have a carer sleeping in another bedroom is exempt from it."

Yet today we see the Department for Work and Pensions confirming that, 'around 60,000 households affected by the removal of the spare room subsidy policy are in receipt of carer's allowance or have an underlying entitlement to carer's allowance.'



What a shambles.

Throughout 2013 we've seen mounting evidence of the damage which the Bedroom Tax is doing;

- 660,000 families including 400,000 disabled people. Some of Britain's hardest-pressed low-income households are being forced to find, on average, an extra £720 a year – or face losing their home
- Surveys have suggested that as many as half of those affected by the Bedroom Tax are behind with their rent, hitting the finances of affordable housing providers at a time when housebuilding is already at its lowest level since the 1920s and risking an explosion of evictions and homelessness
- Thousands of hard-pressed families hit by the Bedroom Tax [are being forced to rely on food banks](#) just to make ends meet.
- And now we know that 60,000 households with carers are being hit by the Bedroom Tax.

Little wonder that Iain Duncan Smith [disappeared off to Paris in November](#) rather than face questions about his Bedroom Tax in Parliament.

Warm words from David Cameron about his admiration for carers mean nothing when we see how his government is making their lives harder.

Carers are a lifeline for disabled people. The work they do is invaluable, it can't be costed, and is often done whilst holding down a job. The stress of having to move is the last thing they need when they are working round the clock to enable those they care for to live dignified lives.

Carers need the support of a government that understands their vital, and often unsung role, in our communities. Yet David Cameron and Iain Duncan Smith have shown they are only prepared to stand up for a privileged few, with tax cuts for millionaires, while hitting the poorest and most vulnerable with their hated Bedroom Tax.

The government should scrap the Bedroom Tax. If they don't, Labour will. Any costs would be covered by reversing tax measures such as the shares for rights scheme that benefit only the wealthiest and cracking down on false self employment in the construction industry.

That shows the difference that Labour values and priorities would mean and how a Labour government could change things for the better. If you want to see Bedroom Tax scrapped, then [join our campaign](#), and say you're with us.