

Central Devon Constituency Labour Party

Constituency Events

The next Constituency Labour Party Meeting will be the **Annual General Meeting** on Thursday 12th November 2015 at 7.30 – 9.30 pm at 26b Clifton Hill, Exeter.

The agenda and minutes of the AGM 2014 are being distributed to members.

We hope you will join us at the AGM. If you would like to stand for any position on the Executive, please contact Lisa on 01626 832926 or via springtideuk@gmail.com before to the meeting.

New Members

Central Devon Labour Party has amazingly increased to 667 members and we are thrilled to welcome all our new members. With such a large increase we are struggling to greet all new members personally. In the meantime, we would welcome new members to our meetings - or to join us with our campaigns and events.

Jeremy Corbyn wants to encourage more activity at a local level and it would be great to meet as many new members face to face as possible.

Our September meeting

At our last meeting we discussed and agreed a contemporary resolution for submission to conference. Unfortunately this was rejected by the Conference Arrangements Committee so was not discussed at Conference, but thanks to all members who came to the meeting and took part in our lively and interesting discussion.

Our resolution was:

Central Devon - Bearing the Brunt of Austerity

Central Devon residents are disproportionately affected by austerity. The Labour Party is the natural alternative in rural areas and we must encourage more residents to approach us:

Central Devon Concerns:

Housing - House prices are high and wages are low, so families are leaving their communities. The Government's Right to Buy further diminishes social housing stock and new homes-to-buy do not help low income families. This will have long-term negative effects for future generations.

Employment - Job cuts (cross sector) have reduced household incomes. The lack of housing limits access to employment. Cuts to bus services, (plus costly tickets and unreliability) severely affect the ability to work. The economic benefits of tourism are jeopardised by the effects of cuts to Rangers and infrastructure at Dartmoor National Park.

Broadband - Reliable broadband is rarely available across Central Devon. This means:

1. Businesses cannot compete
2. Educational attainment is lower
3. Correct healthcare is harder to access
4. Social groups are difficult to contact
5. Accessing essential services (eg banking) is limited.

Health – Health inequalities are compounded by local hospital closures, shrinking budgets, CCGs in debt, GP shortages.

Communities - All these issues prevent Central Devon's communities from fully contributing to economic growth, from forging strong networks and gaining access to essential services and opportunities.

The difficulties go beyond farming; Central Devon has escalating social, physical and economic isolation for all its residents. It's the Labour Party's determination to help by making our progressive practices and views available and relevant to all.

Summary of conference

Putting Central Devon on the Labour map was the aim of Lisa Robillard Webb and Jan Wills at the Labour Party Conference 2015. Many issues of relevance to our area were debated - transport, housing, and welfare reform. At fringe meetings Lisa and Jan met people who will help us support our efforts in the future to tackle child poverty, support disabled people and to represent those who are struggling to get the benefits to which they are entitled. They made sure the Chief Executive of Barnardo's, Javed Khan, heard about the children who live in our area, and Jan spoke to the new Shadow Housing Minister, John Healey, to explain the housing needs in Central Devon.

As well listening to Jeremy Corbyn's inspirational speech, Conference welcomed the thousands of new members that continue to join the party every day.

Residents of Central Devon will be pleased know that the new Minister for Rural Affairs, Kerry MacCarthy promised to "rural-proof" all of Labour's new policies.

Full details of the voting and issues discussed are available with the full conference report. Please contact Jo Jamieson if you would like more information on this.

Leadership & Deputy leadership election

As you are aware, Jeremy Corbyn was elected Leader of the Labour Party with Tom Watson as his Deputy Leader. We will be able to discuss the implications of this new leadership team for Central Devon at the AGM in November.

South West Regional Conference

At our last meeting we nominated Di Martin and Liam Hill to attend Regional Conference as our CLP delegates. Regional Conference gives members an opportunity to hear from politicians, meet other members, and engage in discussions.

This year's South West Regional Conference will be held on **Saturday 21st November 2015** and will be held at:

Gloucestershire Cricket Club
Bristol County Ground
Nevil Rd
Bristol
BS7 9EJ

The cost of attending as a visitor is £30. To book your place, fill in the application form recently circulated by Ellie Buck and return to 4 Emery Road, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 5PF. If you need another application form please email

Isobel_Laing@labour.org.uk

Exeter Labour Party

Exeter Labour Party are working to identify/recruit candidates for the all-out Exeter City Council elections in May 2016. As you may know, if you have worked in Exeter for 12 months and will have been a member of the Party for 12 months to May next year (unless there is a dispensation), you can stand for election in Exeter.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with Geraldine who is Secretary at Exeter Labour Party. Her email is

secretary@exeter-labour.org.uk

Devon Campaign Forum

The next Devon Campaign Forum meeting will be on Saturday, 7th November, 10.30-1.00 at Clifton Hill, Exeter. Ben Bradshaw will be the guest speaker and there will be updates on the Devon County Labour group's activities and what is going on in County Hall. All Central Devon CLP members are warmly invited to attend.

Social Events and Fundraising

Red Ramblers programme (contact Saxon Spence for more details)

Sunday 15th Nov at 10.30

Rose will lead a walk from Killerton. Meet at the NT car park in front of Ellerhayes Bridge. Off the Cullompton Rd turn left towards Killerton but drive straight on towards Silverton until you come to a left turn into the car park by the river and before you drive over the bridge. If that car park is full drive over the bridge and first right and then immediately left is space for further cars. Lunch later at the Killerton cafe or bring your own packed lunch. I suggest we do not go into the cafe en masse but individually as we drive our own cars back there after the walk."

Sunday 6th December

John Mellor will lead the Christmas walk with lunch at the Dolphin Hotel, Bovey Tracey – last year's venue. Details of meeting place later.

Please contact Saxon if you can offer a lift or need one, and it is also helpful to the organiser if they know whether you expect to come or not. If the weather is poor please check the walk is on before you leave home.

Saxon Spence Tel: 01392 271789 e-mail: smspence@phonecoop.coop

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.labourcentraldevon.org for notices & updates, and who to contact!

Or find us on **Facebook – ‘Labour Central Devon’**

Or contact Jo (CLP Secretary) on 01647 24115 Published and promoted by Jo Jamieson,
The Linhay, Pitton Barton, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6HH on behalf of Central Devon
Constituency Labour Party

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