

November/December 2013 report from Simon Darvill

Chair of Young Labour

This is my eighth monthly report as the Chair of Young Labour, due to the Christmas and New Year break I decided to put the November and December reports together!

Youth Conference 2014 – Bradford - 22nd & 23rd December

Young Labour is delighted to announce that next year's Youth Conference will take place in Bradford on 22-23rd February 2014. Youth Conference is the highlight of the Young Labour calendar. At the event members will get a chance to debate policy and campaign priorities for Young Labour, as well as hear from high profile speakers, access training, take part in socials and it will give you a chance to meet other young members and politicians from across the country. All young members are eligible to attend, and registration will operate on a first come first serve basis, so book early to avoid disappointment. For more information about Youth Conference, including how to register, [click here](#).

Young Labour sends condolences to the ANC Youth League following the death of Nelson Mandela

The Young Labour National Committee marked the passing of Nelson Mandela at its December National Committee meeting by watching a short video clip which can be found [here](#). We have also written to our comrades in the ANC Youth League sending the condolences of members of Young Labour. Nelson Mandela was a former chair of the ANC Youth League and it is right that as a sister party of the ANC we in Young Labour mark the passing of this giant of a statesman.

CWU Youth Education Weekend

It was a great pleasure to attend the CWU Youth national youth education event in Blackpool. I was invited by the CWU youth committee and although I couldn't attend the whole weekend (I had to get to YL BAME Conference) it was fantastic to be able to spend some time with CWU Youth members. The conference was attended by a large number of CWU young shop stewards and members of the CWU National Youth Committee as well as Regional Officers and Officials from the CWU. The event had a very relaxing atmosphere and it was great to be able to talk to members about Young Labour and the Labour Party. My personal highlight was listening to Sylvia Lancaster the mother of Sophie Lancaster, who was murdered in 2007 for dressing in gothic style clothes. Sylvia spoke so eloquently about her daughters tragic murder and about the campaign she ran to change the law to include attacks against people for alternative dress and lifestyles as a hate crime. She also spoke about the work that the Sophie Lancaster Foundation now do, going into schools and teaching children not to judge each other by the way they dress. You can find out more about the Sophie Lancaster Foundation by going to <http://www.sophielancasterfoundation.com/>



Listening to the Sophie Lancaster foundation at the CWU Youth Education Conference



Left - Chairing a session with Jenette Arnold AM, Cllr Florance Nosegbe and Cllr Pearleen Sangha

Right - Chairing a debate on mental health with Heidi Alexander MP and campaigning (and new LYL Disabled Members Officer) Victoria Desmond



Equalities Conferences I was really pleased to attend the Young Labour Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) conference in early November and the Young Labour Disabled Members Conference in late November. Young Labour has now hosted all 4 of its equalities conferences and I am pleased to say they have all been a great success. The Young Labour BAME event had over 50 young members attend, and it was fantastic to see more women in attendance than men. It was also good to attend the Disabled Members conference where members got the chance to speak to Shadow Disability Minister Kate Green MP and the Chair of the Work and Pensions Select Committee Dame Anne Begg MP. Well done to Simon Evans and Furgan Naeem who organised the two conferences and thanks to Dean Carlin for all his work preparing for them.

Ealing Borough Conference

I was invited to speak at the Ealing Borough Conference where members and council candidates were meeting to discuss ideas for their manifesto for London local elections in 2014. I spoke on a panel with three young council candidates about what should be done to help young people. We stressed the need to get more young members involved in the Labour Party at CLP level and that young people are not just for delivering leaflets but shaping policy. I also spoke about all issues being young people's issues not just the stereotypical topics. I will be meeting in January with the Local Government Authority and members of the Young Labour Councillors network to discuss supporting young Councillors and candidates more.



Speaking at the Ealing Borough Conference on issues facing young people, alongside 3 Young Labour local council candidates



Cross Party Bite the Ballot meeting

Alongside Sam Woodcock representing Labour Students I attended another meeting with [Bite the Ballot](#) and the representatives from the youth wings of the other major political parties.

Meeting with Shayne Misselbrook from the New Zealand

Young Labour It was a pleasure to meet up with Shayne Misselbrook former president from New Zealand Young Labour. We discussed the different youth wings and the move towards community organising which both the New Zealand Labour Party and UK Labour Party are doing more of.



It was good to welcome NEC Youth Rep Bex Bailey to my own CLP of Greenwich and Woolwich to speak about apathy amongst young people

London Young Labour Conference As a member in London I attended the London Young Labour Conference, which was a big success. Congratulations to Dan Young, the new chair and the rest of the committee who were elected, commiserations to Felicity Slater who ran a great campaign. The weekend also included policy debates and a range of speakers. My personal highlight was hearing Paris Lees the No1 on the *Independent's* Pink List talking about her experiences as a transgender woman. Well done to Hazel Nolan and Ben Butterworth who put on a good conference, and thanks to Hazel who has finished her year as LYL Chair.



Paris Lees Speaking at #LYL13

Young Labour National Committee Meeting - December

We had our last Young Labour National Committee meeting of the year on December 11th, which as usual started with an update of the work that committee members have been doing in their regions and sections. I thank liberation officers for their work this year on Equalities conferences and we will meet in the New Year to discuss how these conferences will work in 2014. The main part of the meeting was a discussion around how Young Labour will make policy at our Annual Conference in Bradford 2014. As a committee we received feedback from conferences held in 2012 and 2013 compiled by the National Youth Officer and then discussed a proposal submitted by me and seconded by Trade Union Representative Hazel Nolan, which you can find [here](#). I am pleased to say that the committee endorsed the proposal.

Contact

Please feel free to get in touch if you have any ideas, questions or would like to get involved.

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Happy Christmas!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. I'd also like to thank everyone for their support this year, both in electing me as Chair of Young Labour and since my election. Special thanks go to Dean Carlin the National Youth Officer for the support he gives to me and the Young Labour National Committee. From the 20th December I will be switching off my emails until Monday the 6th January to enjoy some time off. I hope other members take the Christmas period to relax and recharge their batteries for a busy year in 2014!