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LOCAL ELECTION SPECIAL 2019

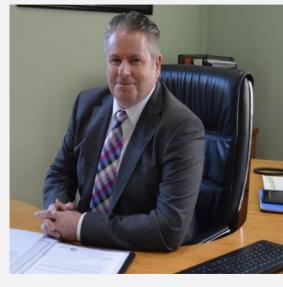


A WORD FROM NEIL DERRICK...

"These Local Council elections are taking place amidst the most chaotic and turbulent period of politics that anyone can remember. The Brexit Fiasco has turned many ordinary working people off politics all together and frankly we share many of their frustrations. Brexit has pushed so many other important matters off the front pages and dominated politics for so long now that there is a real danger people just do not bother to vote on May 2nd. That would be a tragedy because GMB members and their families lives are affected just as directly by decisions taken in town halls right across the region as they are in Westminster.

These Council elections are about keeping public services in house and preventing more privatisation; stopping cuts to services; bringing an end to Austerity and putting a block on any more cuts to jobs or to the terms and conditions of GMB members. This is our chance to decide who runs Local government in Yorkshire and North Derbyshire and I believe only LABOUR is fit to do so in a way which upholds our unions public service standards and principles.

**GMB IS URGING EVERY UNION MEMBER TO VOTE ON
MAY 2ND AND TO VOTE LABOUR**



Pictured from left to right are: Melanie Jones (Labour Candidate) and Cllr Darren Byford from South Ossett & Horbury Ward with Cllr Lynn Masterman and Duncan Smith (Labour Candidate) from Ossett Ward

WORKING IN THE WAKEFIELD DISTRICT

Last year these two Wards ended up with Tory Councillors being elected on a platform of spin, rhetoric and negative campaigning. This whilst blissfully unconcerned for growing demand at one of the busiest foodbanks in the district which borders our two ward boundaries.

GMB have committed to prioritise support in these two neighbouring wards in what is a vital time to get Labour Councillors elected and get our anti-austerity message across.

Please look out for opportunities to get involved in our campaigning activities. If you can help, please contact Neil Cole at GMB Wakefield Office on 0345 337 7777 or email: neil.cole@gmb.org.uk.



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INTRODUCING PAUL WRAY - GMB MEMBER AND CANDIDATE IN HUNSLET & RIVERSIDE WARD



I've been honoured to represent Hunslet and Riverside Ward on Leeds City Council for the last year. The ward covers the metropolitan areas of the South of Leeds City Centre, the former industrial powerhouse of Hunslet and the culturally diverse Beeston Hill. The latter two contain some of the poorest communities in the whole of the United Kingdom. These communities have been my home for thirteen years, and I'm proud to represent them.

I set myself two main goals for my 1st term of office. Firstly, to start to rebuild the faith these communities had in their local representation by working with them to champion their priorities, and secondly, to lobby on their behalf to redirect investment to the poorest neighbourhoods to make sure they benefit from the prosperity of the centre of Leeds. Whether this has been gaining investment to renew parks, purchasing litter bins to tackle rubbish, investing in new community centres, building community groups, launching new community forums and more, I've given it my all since I was elected.

By the strength of our common endeavour, we achieve more than we achieve alone. I've believed in this since I was a teenager. It is why I joined our union and the Labour Party, and it is what keeps me working for the people who elected me, day after day.

There is so much more to do, and I would be honoured to continue the work I've started, helping to build a fair future for everyone in the ward. If you have the time to help with my campaign please get in touch on the email below. Even if it just an hour, you would be made very welcome.

Email: paulwray@hunsletandriversidelabour.org.uk

Facebook: [@paulwrayuk](https://www.facebook.com/paulwrayuk)

Twitter: [@paulwrayuk](https://twitter.com/paulwrayuk)

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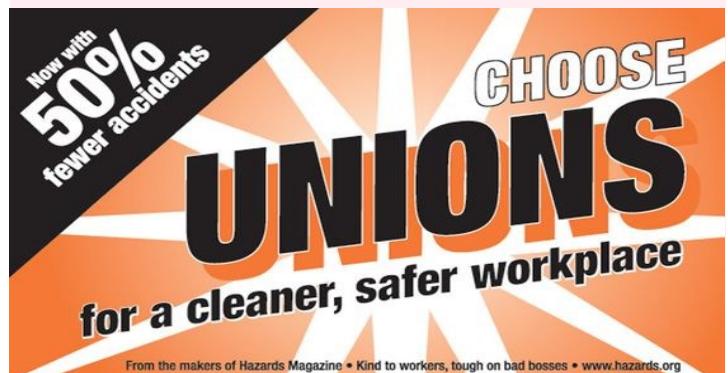
Andrew Scopes (back centre) out campaigning with Labour Party volunteers and Hilary Benn MP

INTRODUCING ANDREW SCOPES - GMB MEMBER AND CANDIDATE IN BEESTON & HOLBECK

Leeds City Council have been funding lots of great initiatives throughout the city. We are committed to paying the Real Living Wage and will continue to work with trade unions and others to ensure everyone in the city gets payed at least that much. This is despite continuing cuts from the Government (£1.5 BILLION taken from the Leeds budget since 2010 in addition to massive cuts to policing) the Labour-led council in Leeds has passed resources to our area so a difference can be made locally (like new playgrounds!) We have also topped up neighbourhood policing team budgets to make our streets safer.

As a city we continue to thrive; we have won a bid to host Channel 4's new headquarters, meaning new jobs will be created in Leeds and our children's services been given an 'Outstanding' rating by Ofsted, meaning our young people are given the best possible start in life. I want to continue working hard for the people in Beeston & Holbeck and would appreciate any help you can give to my campaign.

Contact me on: andrewscopesleeds@gmail.com



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A WORD FROM PAUL NICHOLSON REGIONAL DIRECTOR YORKSHIRE & HUMBER LABOUR PARTY

On Thursday 2 May voters will go to the polls in many parts of the region in this year's local elections. The seats up this year were last contested in 2015 and a great deal has happened in politics both nationally and regionally since.

Labour Party and trade union activists have already been out campaigning delivering leaflets, door knocking and talking to voters.

There is also a real push on efforts in our target wards and authorities, such as Calderdale and York where we have a real opportunity to take full control of the council and Kirklees where Labour is looking to build on the slim council majority that they secured last year.

In addition to the fighting against the devastating Tory programme of austerity led council cuts, local parties are campaigning on other issues that matter to local residents including school cuts, police cuts, road safety and better provision of local public transport, especially around buses.

Thank you for all the campaign work that I know so many GMB members have already done and best of luck for those standing for election on 2 May.

Given the possibility of an early general election this May is a very important stepping stone on the journey to a Labour government and if you haven't already joined the campaign you can find out more about what's going on by visiting: <https://events.labour.org.uk>



Local Batley & Spen council candidates, Cath Pinder, Aafaq Butt and Jude McKaig

LOCAL CANDIDATES SUPPORT NHS DEMO

Privatisation is demoralising the NHS workforce and undermining standards of care. It's time for Ministers to listen to NHS workers and managers and end the outsourcing and privatisation of our NHS, says GMB Union as it gears up to join one of the biggest NHS demos.

Hundreds of members from GMB, the trade union for health service workers, came together with other unions and community groups to hold a rally and march in Leeds on Saturday (30 March) alongside Yorkshire Health Campaigns Together, to demand a better deal for NHS workers and the services they provide.

GMB has long campaigned to repeal the controversial Section 75 of the Health and Social Care Act, which has led to a £10.5 billion explosion in private health contracts, and has now launched the Go Public campaign to reverse privatisation and outsourcing.



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BATLEY & SPEN LOCAL ELECTION 2019

Mark Burns-Williamson, Police and Crime Commissioner and GMB Regional President & Candidate, Cath Pinder, joined Tracy Brabin MP and local council candidates in Batley & Spen for our Labour Launch 2019, before setting off for a day's campaigning.



GMB REGIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VISIT TO PARLIAMENT

A Lengthy and friendly debate with some our Yorkshire and North Derbyshire GMB supported MP's took place with subjects ranging from Brexit to local government followed by further political discussion on the famous riverside terrace at the houses of parliament.

The visit was facilitated by Paula Sherriff MP the member for Dewsbury and strong GMB supporter.



Regional Secretary Neil Derrick and the Conference launching the GMB GO PUBLIC campaign

GMB AND LABOUR IN ACTION

GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Councillor and Local Government activists' conference was held on Saturday 8th March. It was a very well attended meeting, opened by GMB Regional Secretary Neil Derrick

Jon Trickett MP speaking at the GMB Yorkshire and North Derbyshire Councillor and reps conference about the importance of trade unions, highlighting the sad facts about child poverty and food banks in our region.

Also Speaking Rehana Azam, GMB Public Services National Secretary.

L to R: Rehana Azam, Jon Trickett MP and Steve Jennings Political Officer



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Candidate Graham Isherwood and GMB P45 Branch Secretary Katrina Law working together in Featherston Ward 6

GMB COUNCILLORS & ACTIVISTS - WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE WAKEFIELD AREA

Graham Isherwood with P45 branch secretary Katrina Law on the campaign trail and picking up foodstuffs donated by GMB members. Katrina says "I hope everyone can get behind Graham in the local elections on May 2nd. He really is a hard working dedicated caring person and will certainly be getting my vote." Graham can be contacted on (m) 07715 445547 or gisherwood1947@aol.co.uk



Margaret Isherwood

CANDIDATE MARGARET ISHERWOOD

Margaret Isherwood, standing in Wakefield North Ward, handing out free, donated food at a local primary school. "It is appalling that in one of the richest countries in the world, in the 21st century, so many families are living in poverty; many of them in work but still having to rely on foodbanks. This is why the

GMB Trade Union is so vital, to protect the rights of their members and ensure they can support their families.



Diane Hurst Richmond Ward

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT IN RICHMOND

I became a candidate for Richmond, Sheffield in the all out elections in 2016. My fellow candidates and I promised to work together both with the community and all the community groups who wanted to work with us. Looking at the life and strength in the area and the achievements we have brought about together, I think that we can say that we have kept our promises which include:

- Developed a new multi-use games area, play and planting improvements in Richmond park
- Helped with new entrance planting and noticeboards in Hollinsend park
- Secured a grant from the Environment Agency to help restore and restock the Fishpond on Richmond Road
- Enabled the Woodthorpe TARA to run youth project work, continue with senior citizens luncheon clubs and refurbish the pocket park
- Given grants to the Link and Stradbroke TACA to help continue their project work
- Started to work with the Handsworth Christian Life Centre and Food bank
- Opened the new Intake Play school building
- Supported many community groups with small grants to help them with projects and ideas.

I have worked in housing management, partnership development and served for many years as a shop steward. I have acquired keys skills that I use in my work as a councillor through this experience. It is crucial that we work together as a Labour movement to oppose a government who knows little about the life of ordinary men and women and cares even less. We are faced with continued underinvestment in the NHS and continuing austerity measures that have seen SCC lose £460 millions from its budget and have resulted in cuts to services as we have tried desperately to protect the most vulnerable in society. We have a social care crisis, fewer Police on the streets and working families who are struggling to feed their families as well as savage cuts imposed on our schools under the guise of the Tories "Fairer Funding" strategy.

I would welcome help from any colleagues living in the Richmond ward.

If you have any time to help out in leaflet deliveries or street stalls and surgeries, please get in touch (m) 07471025107

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James Flinders speaking at Clifford's Tower in York

IN DEPTH WITH CANDIDATE JAMES FLINDERS GUILDHALL WARD YORK

I've had the honour of representing Guildhall ward residents as their city councillor since May 2015. This is a really exciting ward, covering York's historic city centre, and the strong and vibrant communities which surround it. Guildhall ward is my local community and the place that I'm proud to call home.

Living in our ward, the decisions taken by our city councillors affect me directly and they matter to me personally. Over the past four years, I've championed the interests of local residents and local businesses throughout Guildhall ward, and have worked hard to improve public services across the City of York.

English Heritage announced it was to install a raised walkway and wooden roof within Clifford's Tower and to construct a new visitors' centre within the castle motte. I campaigned on behalf of local residents, who were concerned that the design of the new visitors' centre would not fit in with the historic buildings which surround it.

I lobbied English Heritage requesting they consult with Guildhall residents and local businesses. Following our campaign, English Heritage announced it will be proposing a different location for the centre.

When the City Council announced plans to sell the former Willow House older people's home, including the green space next to Walmgate Bar, I campaigned on behalf of local residents, who opposed the sale. I organised a demonstration to allow local residents to make their opposition to the loss of this green space heard.

Over 25 people attended the demonstration, which received widespread media coverage. I also created a petition against building on this green space.

As a result of the strong campaign I led against the loss of this green space, the highest bidder for the sale of the land pulled out of the deal. A new bidder emerged which plans to preserve the green space next to Walmgate Bar.



My priorities for improving Guildhall ward are:

- Supporting the pedestrianisation of our city centre
- Improving air quality by supporting the clean air zone in our city centre
- Reducing the impact of traffic in the Groves area

My priorities for improving the City of York are:

- Spending £1 million more each year fixing our roads and potholes
- Spending more each year to keep our streets clean
- Working to increase the amount of waste we recycle

In addition to my role as city councillor for Guildhall ward, I work as a project manager, specialising in railway infrastructure construction projects. I will continue to use my professional experience to challenge the City Council to deliver better services for Guildhall ward residents.

When I'm not out campaigning, listening to local residents, and attending City Council meetings, you'll usually find me at the gym.

James Flinders | Guildhall ward | Labour
m: 075 9296 5131 | t: @James_Flinders



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A MESSAGE FROM MARK BURNS WILLIAMSON LABOUR POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WEST YORKSHIRE

Tory and Lib Dem cuts since 2010 mean we have lost over 2000 police officers and staff here in West Yorkshire alone. This has had a real impact on helping keep our communities safe and feeling safe with less frontline policing, which in part has led to the rises in serious and violent crime we are now seeing.

As your Labour Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) I have started to rebuild police numbers and protect Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs), including recruiting over 500 extra police officers with funding raised through the local Police precept.

A future Labour government would deliver a further 10,000 police officers nationally which is why we need to win across our region in May's local elections on the journey towards the next general election.

As your PCC and a GMB member I also know that we need not just a policing response but also a strong partnership response across our communities to help reduce crime. I have been working closely with local government, criminal justice agencies, NHS, trade unions and other key partners such as the voluntary and business sectors, to tackle important issues such as knife crime, serious violence and reducing reoffending for example.

It is only by working together through a targeted whole-system approach that we will effectively combat these serious community safety issues, preventing crime from happening in the first place to make West Yorkshire a safer place for people to live and to work.

Policing and community safety is set to be a major issue in the local elections and I want to help get our Labour/GMB Candidates elected so they can help support our communities and me in delivering a safer future for our areas in West Yorkshire. If you think I can help your campaign please contact me at Markbw2002@yahoo.co.uk.



L Mirelle Midgley out campaigning in the Kippax /Methley Ward

CAMPAINING IN KIPPAX & METHLEY

As Labour's candidate for Kippax and Methley, an area to the south east of Leeds with a rich working-class history built on the coal mining industry, I am proud to be standing up and representing both my union and my class. Once a Labour heartland, the demise of the coal industry shattered communities and saw a shift in the local political landscape with the growth of reactionary politics in the form of UKIP, independents (who are little better than Conservatives) and a welfare-slashing Conservative MP. It is communities like mine, feeling the full force of the Conservative government's austerity agenda, where it is felt the hardest.

It's clear to me that Labour cannot afford to be complacent about our core voters. We must fight to keep every council seat Labour to continue to properly represent the needs of our communities, support and protect the most vulnerable, and to keep decent, unionised jobs. We need a Labour government and to give us the best chance of doing so we need a strong Party locally and Labour controlled councils.

I've been a Labour member for many years, but it's only been in the last couple of years that I've become politically active. As a full-time working, single parent I didn't think people like me got involved in politics. That changed when I witnessed friends, family and people around me struggling to survive and their lives becoming increasingly insecure under the Conservative-led government.

As trade unionists, we have to fight and do all we can to change this and get Labour in power. This is why I'm asking for your support with my campaign. Can you help get our Labour message out on the doorstep?

If you can help in anyway, please contact me on 07796158228 or Mirelle.midgley@gmail.com.

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

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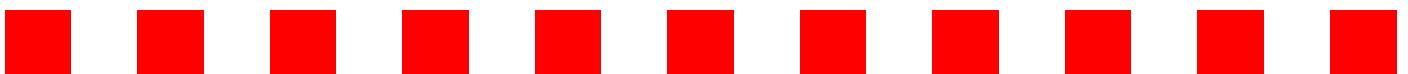
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CHRIS PEACE - GMB MEMBER & PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE FOR NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE: AN INSIGHT ON THE WORK OF OUR LABOUR COUNCILLORS

North East Derbyshire District Council has been working hard to make the district a healthier and more active place to live and work.

The District Council has been at the forefront of tackling key issues such as childhood obesity through the delivery of a child focused health intervention programme.

The Council has also invested heavily in local leisure centres and sports facilities, leading to an increase in participation in sports and leisure activities.

A recent survey found the overall satisfaction rate of leisure centre users in Eckington and Dronfield was rated at 83.6%, significantly higher than the national average.

Whilst councils across the country are raising town centre parking charges to extortionate rates, the Labour controlled District Council has renewed its pledge to keep parking free across the district, despite financial pressures.

This is just one part of a comprehensive strategy that Labour has in place to support residents and the local economy, including

an excellent track record on street cleaning and implementing the lowest council tax rises in the entire county.

We will continue to provide good employment sites and support local businesses to create local jobs for local people.

Chris Peace, GMB member and Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for North East Derbyshire says;

"I am extremely proud of our District Council. Our Labour Cllrs are still delivering a socialist agenda whilst being hit by Tory austerity both nationally and from the Tory Led County Council."

"Voting Labour here in the May elections will mean your council can continue to improve the existing council house stock and build new affordable homes. We need to own, manage and further invest in our leisure centres and swimming pools to keep them affordable for local residents; work with others to enhance our town centres and keep car parking free to encourage people to visit our green, clean and beautiful area."



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