



Christine Shawcroft

A voice for you on the NEC

I have been a constituency member of the National Executive Committee, supported by the Centre Left Grassroots Alliance, for 17 years this year. I've been a Party member for 40 years – although I'm thinking of demanding a recount! I have been a councillor, a Parliamentary candidate, a CLP secretary and am currently secretary of my branch in Nottingham South. I am a founder member of a workers' co-operative day nursery, and a member of the NUT.

True Labour values

As a proud supporter of Jeremy Corbyn, I have campaigned for many years for the true Labour values of public ownership, workers' rights, job creation, affordable housing, decent pensions, and an end to international conflict and weapons of mass destruction. I have raised these issues many times on the NEC and the National Policy Forum.

On many occasions, myself and other CLGA delegates, as well as delegates in other sections of the NEC, told Ed Miliband that he needed to take on the Tories over the myth that Labour in Government wrecked the economy. Unfortunately he didn't listen.

Democracy and transparency

I have also tried to raise other issues of concern to constituency members, especially their rights to put resolutions to Annual Conference, and their right to take an active part in their Conference. We have managed to cut out a lot of the videos and sofa discussions which turned our Conference into a stage managed rally, and increased the opportunities for rank and file delegates to take part.

I have campaigned against the parachuting in of candidates for parliamentary and council elections, and in favour of members' right to choose their own representatives and hold them to account. I am now trying to get to the bottom of various membership rejections, suspensions and branch closures around the country. This is not the way to build a mass Party.

On the doorstep

As well as campaigning during the last general election in my own constituency and target seats in the East Midlands, I helped out in South Thanet to defeat the odious Nigel Farage. Having also got frozen to the bone and soaked to the skin canvassing for Jim McMahon in Oldham, I am committed to getting our message out on the doorstep!

There is a real hunger in the country for straight talking and honest politics. We saw that with Jeremy's overwhelming victory in the Leadership election. People need to know that the Labour Party stands up for equality and social justice.

We also have to reframe the debate and counter the right wing media. All of us get some kind of benefits at some time of our lives, that doesn't make us scroungers and skivers. Nor does a refusal to get into bed with multi-national corporations, or demand they pay their fair share of tax, make us anti-business. I co-own and run a small business myself. Many people have done this as other job prospects have dried up. We need a Labour Government run by Jeremy Corbyn as much as anybody!

A lot done, a lot still to do!

We would like to thank all members for the support which has made the CLGA delegates so effective on the NEC. Now we have to mobilise the Party in support of Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. Please nominate and vote for myself, Ann Black, Ken Livingstone, Claudia Webbe, Darren Williams and Pete Willsman. There are six constituency seats on the NEC; with CLGA delegates in all of them we can make sure that the voice of the constituency party members is never ignored again.

Thank you!