

**\* July 2016: "Government for *all* the People..."**

(T. May, upon becoming P.M.)

**\* April 2017: "Let them eat passports!"**

**On 5th April, the cruellest cuts to our welfare system (so far) came into effect.**

It's utterly extraordinary that the government chose this moment to announce that it even contemplates spending £500 million on designing and issuing a new, blue passport. Extraordinary? Whether this national vanity project comes to anything or not, I believe *this announcement at this time* might almost go down in history, alongside Marie Antoinette's alleged remark, for its quite surreal insensitivity.

But then, the nature of Theresa May's relentless assaults on the most vulnerable in our society will not be news to you: they are monstrous.

What is not, yet, so evident to most non-Labour voters in North East Hampshire (who may not identify themselves as vulnerable) is how much they too are being damaged.

- Deep cuts in school budgets and
- Deep cuts in NHS and care budgets

have very little do with catching a few benefit scroungers.

However; for the next four weeks we have a window:

**Thursday 4th May is Election Day.**

*Easily Red* asserts that Labour must challenge this right wing government (as it moves steadily ever further to the right) in **this** election, not waiting for the next, even though it's 'only' a local election.

Without exaggeration: it's probably the most significant local election of this generation. We'll be choosing our Councillors for Hampshire County - there's a Labour candidate for each of the six divisions in N. E. Hampshire. In this edition of *Easily Red*, we'll be looking why this election is so important, at what a Vote for Labour on 4th May can achieve, at some of the issues we'll be campaigning on, and at thoughts and hopes of your candidates as they canvass in your area.



<http://www.nehantslabour.co.uk/>

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(Helen Jeffery of B'stoke is standing in Candovers.)

9. **Help Desk:**  **What is a QR code?**



Deadline for submissions for the June/July edition: 21st May 2017.

## Over the next four weeks...

You may see members and volunteers handing out our leaflets all over N. E. Hampshire. This is the front page of our official CLP leaflet, which we shall also try to make sure is posted through your front door. If you see us canvassing, please come and say hello. The people hereabouts usually give us a good hearing, but a few moments with our fellow members, friends and supporters are what keep us going!

**North East Hampshire Labour Party**  
Meeting the challenges facing North East Hampshire

- Education
- Social Care
- Transport
- Local Business

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Hampshire's County Councillors make decisions on essential services provided to residents throughout Hampshire. Decisions that affect everyone; decisions that affect you and your families.

The prevailing Conservative agenda has systematically stripped our communities of public assets, hit the poorest in society with welfare cuts, and assaults the autonomy of local authorities by starving them of funds.

The period of austerity is set to continue and that means even more cuts to the services on which our people, neighbourhoods, and businesses depend. Hampshire County Council has offered little resistance to that agenda.

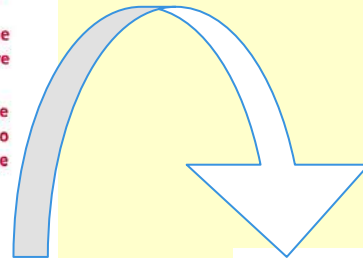
But there is an alternative. We in the Labour Party do not accept that agenda as the best way forward, especially with the growth planned for this area. Labour wants to see investment in our communities for a better, more inclusive future for everyone and will strive to meet the challenges facing us by:

- protecting the environment in which we live
- maintaining the services and amenities we have
- improving those that need it
- helping our town adapt to change and growth

It's time for a change.

**Hampshire County Council Elections**  
**Thursday 4th May 2017**

**Vote Labour**



If you have five or ten minutes spare to help us hand out a few leaflets, that will be very welcome as well.

Or please volunteer an hour or two of your time: contact any of the links in this newsletter, or [SamInFleet@gmail.com](mailto:SamInFleet@gmail.com)

## **Joyce Still: Our Candidate for Hartley Wintney, Eversley and Yateley West.**



**Joyce is Secretary of the N. E. Hants Constituency Labour Party.**



Joyce has lived in Yateley since 1985 and was a member of Yateley Town Council for many years. Her three children all attended Yateley School where she was a school governor. She has worked as a nurse, midwife, district nurse and is now a health visitor. Joyce is seeing on a personal level the negative effect of the Government's costly NHS reorganisation and how it is affecting her patients. She is also seeing the effects of the austerity cuts every day and is deeply concerned that many of the people she comes into contact with on a day to day basis are becoming more and more reliant on food banks – and is very aware of the impact of the dreaded bedroom tax. Joyce is active in her union, Unite.

### **On the NHS and Social Care, Joyce writes:**

More and more of existing funding provides profits for private sector suppliers. According to the regulator, social care is approaching a 'tipping point'. If nothing is done, in the next five years Frimley Health will see a funding gap of £236m, and Hampshire a gap of £577m in health and £192m in social care. Labour is committed to investing in our "secure, publicly-provided NHS" and social care by challenging privatisation and ensuring corporations pay their fair share of tax. Hampshire Council's current response to this crisis is to propose to cut £55.7 million more from adult health and care in further "efficiency savings".

## CLP Forum: Migration.

As a supplement at the end of this issue of *Easily Red*, Mike Mellor of Fleet reports on this Forum which we held during April. It was lively, sociable and, in the editor's opinion, well worth while. Please let us know what you think: email [SamInFleet@gmail.com](mailto:SamInFleet@gmail.com) or contact the CLP.



## CLP Film Night: Made in Dagenham.

Our Chair, and Honorary Acting Mark Kermode, John Gawthorpe, discussing tonight's film '**Made In Dagenham**' before members, friends, and family. In order to understand his wayward trains of thought, an in-person attendance at one of our Film Nights is mandatory. Join The Labour Party and get involved in our local social events as well as campaigns and fundraisers at [www.nehantslabour.co.uk](http://www.nehantslabour.co.uk)



Despite many other commitments, **Ruth McCorry** shares our workload: canvassing, publicity, writing to newspapers, etc. In this short item for Facebook, she touches on two elements that bind us all as friends and, indeed, comrades in our local party: the dedication which she shares with all of us for preserving our great social and socialist inheritance, with the NHS at its core; and her happiness at our togetherness.

## My Day at the #ourNHS Protest

On 4th March 2017 I attended a march to Save the NHS in London, along with another 250,000 like-minded people. The trains were mucked up, so we drove to Tooting and then got a bus to Clapham Junction and then the train. It was worth the effort even though transport made things difficult. As I work as a Care and Support Worker, I have seen due to funding cuts services are on their knees.

I went with some members of the North East Hampshire Labour Party, Spencer, his family, and Mike. A number of families participated in the march to ensure that the NHS is protected for future generations and everyone gets the excellent service we deserve. I participated in a choir with Mike. I felt a sense of togetherness as I marched to hear a speech by Jeremy Corbyn. This brought back the reasons why I joined the Labour Party in 2015 to get Jeremy Corbyn in as leader.

The NHS is a right we all deserve to have. As Aneurin Bevan said when the NHS was founded:

**“***Illness is neither an indulgence for which people have to pay, nor an offence for which they should be penalised, but a misfortune, the cost of which should be shared by the community.***”**

Let's ensure future generations will have a brilliant NHS service.

*~ Ruth McCorry, Yateley West*



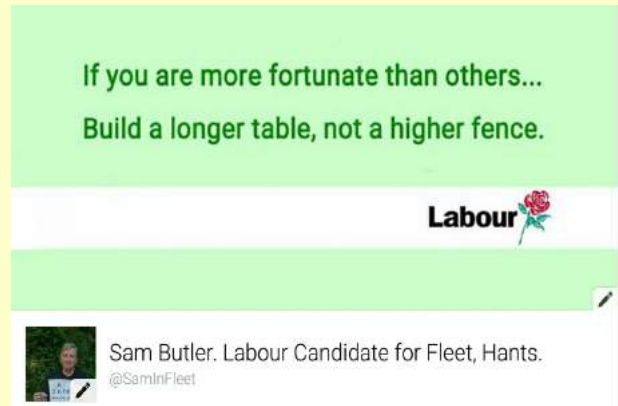
In case what I write all sounds a bit earnest... Ruth is also one of up to 20 or so regulars (and more occasionals, who come when they can) who meet socially at café, pub, film nights, monthly quiz nights, what have you, in which we (sometimes) don't talk politics at all! More and more members are joining us at these, and you'd be welcome too.

## **Sam Butler; Candidate for Fleet and Elvetham Heath.**

I've started a dedicated facebook page for my campaign in this election:

[facebook.com/SamInFleet](https://facebook.com/SamInFleet)

It's nothing deep - it's simply to give anyone who's interested an idea of where I'm going. However, as I populated it with the first few posts, I began to feel there was something missing. Standing for Council, as opposed to Parliament, isn't really the place for *passion*. But I realised that, in keeping my posts on an even keel, I was missing out the most important ingredient of my campaign after Party and Policy... Myself!



So I posted the following... with trepidation. With equal trepidation, I take the liberty of reposting it here. (I can do that because I'm the editor!)

### A Personal Statement by Sam Butler.

I've thought long and hard about what I'm going to write here. I'm by nature a very private man, and putting details about myself in the public domain is acutely discomfiting. Yet, I believe that THIS ELECTION is of such crucial importance...

Not a lot of details then, but (without compromising my privacy too far) a few bald facts about myself which I hope will hint at wider experiences - which you may feel have a bearing on my suitability to represent YOUR interests on Hampshire Council.

I had a chaotic childhood, and my parents died young - I only found out years later that they were probably casualties of Hitler's war. I was 'bed and breakfast homeless' three times as a child and, when I was around 10, I stole food from the supermarket because neither my mother nor I had eaten (fortunately only a couple of times). On the other hand, I had a public school education and made it to university and post-grad.

What I tell you calls neither for sympathy nor for envy; however, you may feel it suggests a breadth of young experience to strengthen my case for election. And it may explain why I'm in the Labour Party (but have no problem with folk who vote Conservative).

As a young adult, by the time I left school, I was on my own. I was never going to make it into 'The Establishment', let alone the 'Sneering Metropolitan Elite(!)'; but along the way

I've been awarded the Freedom of the City of London and an Honorary Colonelcy of Militia in the State of Georgia (USA).

(This time, I admit, I'm boasting. But I suggest that these awards demonstrate my ability to adapt to all sorts of circumstances.)

Just for the fun of it; I'll mention that, in travels abroad, I taught in middle and upper schools in Palestine (Ramallah, West Bank), I was arrested by Idi Amin's troops (Uganda), and I've been shot at three times (in various parts of the world!).

### My formal Personal Statement (as it appears on leaflets distributed in Fleet and Elvetham Heath).

I'm a teacher of History and Economics. I've worked in both public and private sectors, including at Rugby School and in Inner London, as well as for short spells abroad.

Education is my passion.

I want the best education and support for ALL our children and young adults, from nursery to college & university. I'll be fighting to defend Sure Start, mental health services for youngsters, and public libraries; these are crucial to the ideal of education for all, and all of them are under threat.



I've also worked on the shop floor in transport, in the City of London as an accountant, and advising young adults as they developed their business plans for start-up enterprises. I am very aware of the economic climate facing our entrepreneurs.

Businesses are already under pressure - empty premises in the town centre show how real this is for the retail sector, for example. The environment for small and independent concerns is even harder. With the uncertainties of Brexit ahead, businesses of every type will need a hefty dose of realism on the Council - which I intend to promote with all my ability.

facebook.com/SamInFleet  
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**Sam Butler  
for Fleet**



## Do you know what a QR code is, and how to read one?

On our leaflets, you may see a white square with black markings inside. They are called QR codes, and are now widely used; you can also see them (for example) on the labels on goods or clothes, or next to advertisements in magazines.

They can be read by machines, just like a barcode, which means you can read them using an app on your mobile phone.



Barcodes, such as the one on the left, will only give you numbers which are meaningless unless you contact a database - usually online. However, a QR code can often give you all sorts of information, all by itself, without going online; the QR code above has a message hidden in it, which you can read with your phone. Many QR codes, like the one on our leaflets, contain a link: naturally you *will* need to go online if you want to follow the link.

If you want to try reading the message above, download a suitable (free) app such as 'QR Code' for iPhone or 'Barcode Scanner' (ZXing Team) for Android (which reads both QR and barcodes). I use the Android one: when you open the app, the screen view will light up as if you were about to take a photo: on the screen, you'll see a red line. Look at the QR code with your phone (but don't try to take a picture!); if you hold the phone so the red line crosses the QR code, your phone should ping and then tell you on your screen what the code says.

Black on white is the most common colour scheme, but other colours are to be found in the wild. What to watch out for is the three characteristic square blocks (top left and right plus bottom left).

These codes can contain many types of information, such as links, short programs, stock details. Some, such as those used in factories, may not give any meaningful message at all to outsiders.

**The QR codes on our leaflet contain a link to the CLP website, which your phone can find automatically.**

You can create your own QR codes online, if you wish, in your browser. Google 'Free QR code generator' and have fun!

[Please do contact me if you need assistance: [SamInFleet@gmail.com](mailto:SamInFleet@gmail.com)]

## **Editorial: Why THIS election is so important!**

**This is about a 7 minute read. It's followed by a check list which we hope you may find helpful if you're talking to family, friends or indeed anyone about voting Labour.**

The Labour Party puts forward candidates at election with the conviction of what it can and will do for the people of this country. Our message is always positive - a message of optimism and determination. We challenge the policies of our opponents, of course; that's part of what democracy is about. But, when we win, we do so because our policies are affirming and good, more than because their policies are bad (even though too often they are very bad indeed!)

In 2017, as in any election, we're standing on a positive, progressive platform; and this is what our electorate will see. But we in the party know all too well: these are dark times...

I doubt there's much, if anything, I can say that you don't already know about Theresa May's government: for those of us on the left, it's a nightmare. Here goes anyway!

### **1. Opposing a well-orchestrated Right-Wing power-grab.**

This is certainly the most authoritarian administration since the exigencies of the 1940s. May is riding roughshod over the checks and balances, such as they are, that enable our Parliamentary democracy to function. Her characterisation and treatment of judges last year, for instance (quite apart from showing her lack of grasp of what an independent judiciary is all about), reminded some quite serious people of the beginnings of the totalitarianism 90 years ago: her instructions to businesses that they must follow the government's political agenda if they hope for contracts are in *exactly* that tradition.

Her outrageous bullying of civil servants who cannot answer back speaks volumes about her own nature; while embarrassing efforts to do the same to the leaders of great nations have backfired spectacularly, to our nation's damage. Her stalinist attempt to cower the House of Lords was positively creepy... and so on and so forth.

Both History and everyday psychology tell us that this sort of control-freakery does not abate: it feeds on itself and grows. And so it's proved with Theresa May over the nine months since she became Prime Minister.

A County Councillor isn't in a position to change government policies, so local elections tend not to become very lively about challenging the national agenda. However, in the light of this power-grab and in the absence of any immediate general election, **we in the Labour Party must register every vote we can** in this election - with an urgency that simply doesn't usually apply in local elections.

Even in a Tory constituency such as ours, every vote for Labour **will be** noticed - by our

opponents and by outsiders; every vote will be a reminder to the Tories that Britain is not their little empire. And, in our constituency, it will remind both Lib Dems and Tories that other people live here too, and that those 'others' expect to be heard.

## **2. The Right-Wing Agenda.**

The Right has a clear agenda, which is not much interested in ordinary people. On the contrary, the words 'monstrous' and 'cruel' can hardly be used too often. From her opening promise as P.M. to govern for "all the people" and her repeated assurances to the "just about managing", to her ringing declaration of support for the mentally ill, Theresa May has said many of the right words. Some Hampshire voters believe that she can be trusted, that her words are 'bankable', that they can be taken at face value. However, her **actions** have told a story of helping the wealthy while squeezing the lower 50% and crucifying the most vulnerable. By comparison, Margaret Thatcher was a pussy cat.

We on the Left are bound by our beliefs and principles to oppose such injustice and unfairness whenever we see it, of course. And we do. So why is this election any more important than any other in **this** respect? Simply, because some people are seeing poverty **now** at a level that I, for one, had hoped to see confined to the history books - at least in Britain. [I can scarcely bear to mention Priti Patel (international development, ha ha) and Liam Fox (trade) as they do all they can to export poverty to other countries.]. And the ratchet effect is such that in three years these changes and many others will have become entrenched. One vote now is worth three votes later.

I've said that I don't believe a council election is the place to fight an entrenched government. But, on the cuts at least, I can have a great deal to say as I canvass; since implementing the cuts is very much a council matter... Which leads me to:

## **3. Speaking for those who have no voice.**

This goes far wider than fighting government cuts. Those who have known hard times know how invisible one can become, shouting into the wind with no one listening. The Labour Party has always been the one party committed to listening, articulating, advocating and legislating on their behalf throughout the country.

Being poor in a wealthy area is ten times harder. Who speaks for the food poor, the fuel poor and the functionally disadvantaged and disabled with a **loud** voice in **our** area? The general opinion among our voters, in my experience, is that there aren't any such people in our neck of the woods. But there are, of course...

They **can't** wait for four more years, or eight, or twelve. In an increasingly **cruel** social environment, that **can't** be an option. (Please see STOP PRESS, page 22.)

#### **4. Economic Turmoil and Uncharted Waters!**

This may be the most pressing reason for Labour to make every effort **now**... As Brexit takes effect, none of us knows what is to come, nor who will be winners or losers. As things stand, Hampshire (and thus North East Hampshire) is going to be in the hands of a Tory Government **and** a Tory County Council during the first critical years of this. The next election in which we can make our Labour voice heard may well be too late: so we must do everything we can to be heard **this year, in 2017**. Which leads me to this:

#### **5. A Cozy Club.**

Never mind the sheer urgency of this year's election... Broadly, in Hampshire, the Tories are in a cosy duopoly with Lib Dems. At a time when they believe that the Labour party is on its back foot, they think they can ignore that we even exist. They **MUST** be disabused of this nonsense, and fast.

**This year, every vote really, really, really does count! This year, EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US must be canvassing for Labour in whatever way we can.**

**This month, can you convert 2, or 5, or 20, or 100 to our support? This is about Hampshire and Home! Be bold; be boring even, but don't be embarrassed!**

**Who will **you** be canvassing? Your neighbours, your work, your carer, your family, your school or college, your church, your cafe, club, gym or pub? And online perhaps - let your opinion be **known!****

**We may win a seat for Labour or we may not: the point is to be **heard!****

CHECK LIST: Why every vote **really does matter** this time...

1. The Tory hard right are grabbing power, openly saying they'll keep it for a generation.
2. The Tory agenda no longer serves **the ordinary people** of our country. If ever it did!
3. Cuts are hitting **ordinary people** hard. Especially in Schools and the NHS.
4. The **most** vulnerable, the mentally and physically disabled and elderly, are **hammered**.
5. The economic turmoil ahead **mustn't** be left in the hands of the Tories at every turn.
6. Labour is the one party that tries to speak for **everyone** - even for the 'invisible'.
7. The Gentleman's Club of Lib Dems and Tories in Hampshire is in **nobody's** interest,.

Don't be distracted by any difficulties that our party may be going through, nor by issues arising from Brexit. They are not relevant in this local election, which is only about protecting and supporting N. E. Hampshire.

## **Amy Cullen is our Candidate for Yateley East, Blackwater and Ancells.**

Originally from Birmingham, Amy has made Blackwater her home.

Amy attended Swansea University where she was an active member of the student community, including serving as the student representative on a number of committees and running events for the Amnesty International Society.




She now runs public policy conferences focusing on the higher education sector.

Amy is enthusiastic about social justice and protecting public services.

She will work to improve the lives of everyone in our community; campaigning against cuts to vital local services, improving support for our most vulnerable residents, and working to ensure that all children in our community are given the best possible start in life. Particularly, she will:

- \* Prioritise care so that the elderly, the vulnerable and the children growing up here **all** have the services they need.
- \* Promote the integration of health and care so that the NHS and community services work together.
- \* Support every school and college to excel for pupils, parents and the community.
- \* Have roads and pavements maintained to make them safe for **all** road users.
- \* Improve evening and weekend bus services to town centres.
- \* Cooperate with neighbouring communities and counties to ensure that the people of the area enjoy the highest possible quality of services and amenities.

[blackwaterandhawley@politician.com](mailto:blackwaterandhawley@politician.com)

Find us on  Amy Cullen for Blackwater and Hawley

**Vote  Labour on Thursday 4 May**

## Education.

The County Council and the DfE share responsibility for education, subject to government policy.

It's no wonder, then, with our schools under extraordinary stress, that the forthcoming election has brought current education policy to the front of our thoughts.

This cogitation comes from John Gawthorpe, our CLP chair, himself a retired head teacher who is still actively involved in education.



## **Education, eddication, educashun**

'...people have had enough of experts...' is Michael Gove's contribution to political debate in Britain.

Outrageous as the assertion was, it did not entirely come as a surprise. Back in the day, when, lamentably, he was left in charge of education, he started brightly by involving experts from the world of education: people who had experience, research and professionalism to bring to the noble task of improving the curriculum and thus educational outcomes for young people.

It did not go well.

'Ignorant, arrogant and driven by a narrow ideology' was the assessment of Gove and his team by one well respected professor after discovering that his views had been labelled 'Not Wanted on Voyage'.

Gove had form. Whilst in opposition 'Gove and his teenagers' were roundly condemned by the then Tory Education Executive Member in Hampshire. A refusal to engage with people who might have a pretty good idea what they were talking about already characterised Gove's world view.

(Young Michael's must have been a difficult birth, the infant emerging with fingers so tightly stuffed in his ears.)

Run the clock forward to Tory plans for forced 'academisation'. Foremost of their critics was the current Hampshire lead member, *Tory* Cllr Peter Edgar. And so, now, to top off a dismal record, the May government is seeking to re-introduce Secondary Moderns. Not that this is how they will sell the idea: 'more Grammar schools' is a much more seductive way of dressing up the reality. There is no evidence that the introduction of selection improves educational outcomes, but the idea appeals to those seeking to feel at home in the re-imagining of the dimly remembered 1950's lifestyle to which the Tories are recklessly heading.

Across the range of state education teachers, heads and an increasing number of parents are trying to persuade the government that children are 'more than a score'. After years of 'weighing, not feeding the pig', there is welcome evidence that a groundswell of opinion is growing that a diet of revise-test-repeat is not educating our young people.

There is a hysteria about the country's perceived decline in 'PISA' tests\* but no willingness to examine the test data with even a modicum of scepticism. One point alone should give cause for concern: the UK education system is based on a three term 'academic year'. Our comparator nations operate on a calendar year. In the UK, once exams are over in late June / July there is an understandable relaxation in focus. Can we be surprised that testing our youngsters in July reveals that they tend to do less well than those who are focused on exams still some weeks away? Abroad, a PISA test can be a useful teaching / assessment tool. Here they are a thinly disguised nuisance.

And finally...to cap a miserable record, the Tories have seized upon an acknowledged scandal: the huge disparity in the funding of education across England. So far so good.

But instead of producing a scheme that would deserve at least two cheers, the Tories have so mismanaged it that even those areas which might have expected to fare better under a revised formula find themselves with insuperable financial challenges.

Hampshire County Council has responsibility for education in the county. In the face of the above horrors, a vote for a Labour candidate can be part of halting the tide which threatens to sweep away a vital national asset.



\* The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students. (Run under the aegis of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.)

### In the next issue:

"I don't believe that the Conservative Party has the best interests of small businesses at heart any more." (Hart retailer, March 2017.)

*Easily Red* is still a very young magazine, serving a small but growing band of Labour supporters in a Tory heartland. The editor intends that we shall increasingly address issues which, until now, Tories might have regarded as their own province.

For the June/July issue, we will welcome articles, letters or short observations on how our **local labour party** can work to help **small businesses, independent entrepreneurs** and **the self-employed** in the N. E Hants area.

...especially from anyone who has personal experience of being self-employed.



**Amanda Affleck-Cruise is our Candidate for Odiham and Hook.**

I am married, a former actress who was brought up and educated locally. I travelled and worked away before returning home, to Hook, to bring up my children. I retrained in law, working as a legal executive, and then as a Drama and English teacher.



I feel passionately about Hampshire, our area and its community. My sons attend local schools and I also teach in Hampshire. Every child deserves a broad and enriching education at a good school. I joined the Labour Party because I believe in opportunities for all, with resources distributed fairly and school places funded to support each child. Every child matters.

As with education, health and social care should be for all who need it and, for me, support for the most vulnerable in our community reflects a philosophy that prioritises people and looks to the future. We need to face the challenges in health and social care funding today to preserve a health service which can meet our needs tomorrow.

Local transport links also need to reflect a growing population in Hampshire and should not be disappearing. Public transport could be supporting the growth of local business, helping build opportunities and linking our communities.

We are privileged to live in such a beautiful county, and the heart of Hampshire is its people. With Labour, fairness and opportunity will be the priority for every one of our people.



**Amanda Affleck-Cruise**  
**for Odiham and Hook**



### **The Editor's conversation with a Local School Governor.**

I just had a long chat with a Governor of one of our N. E. Hampshire primary schools, whom I'd not met before. I hope he already knows that I'm very grateful for the time he gave me. (He's not been a Labour voter in the past: he says he may well be, this year!)

He and the school have their sleeves rolled up, trying to square an impossible circle...

His school's budget will fall between 6% and 12% this year. On the other hand, The young pupils MUST continue to receive schooling fit for the twenty-first century...

His school isn't even kept fully and properly informed about exactly what cuts will happen when...

And so he's a very worried and angry man.

### **The Reality of Cuts is that:**

- teacher numbers are cut and classes are bigger;
- children receive less attention (and maybe less protection, e.g. from bullying);
- what is taught is pruned back, and there are less resources
  - - which may mean something as simple as no crayons or paper today;
- maintenance is skimped - which means a small but not zero reduction in safety;
- support staff are laid off - so perhaps there are no dinner ladies or asst teachers
  - - or perhaps they're just paid (even) less.

### **A Small Everyday Horror Story.**

One saving that schools have been forced to make (elsewhere) when faced with cuts has been in keeping the toilets clean: perhaps checked once a day instead of once an hour. The next step is that children run home, or use a bush, rather than face the school toilet. (Teachers try to help, of course, but they can't keep leaving their classes to clean toilets!)

## Would you like to volunteer?

In this election, we need all the help we can get.

We've run this past you already, here in *Easily Red*. But it's so vital that we pull out as many stops as possible - that we make no apology for beating this drum one more time!

We're running our leafleting campaign in several local areas in April and May 2017: we would really love your help. All it involves is a bit of walking in your spare time along your own streets, as much or as little as you can manage; and the more people we get, the easier it will be.

These are areas we're covering:



- Church Crookham and Ewshot;
- Fleet;
- Hartley Wintney, Eversley, and Yateley West;
- Odiham;
- Yateley East, Blackwater and Ancells (in association with Aldershot CLP).

Within these areas, we can choose which streets most suit you.

Our volunteers and helpers are every age, **from 18 to over 80**. But our young adults have their exams very soon, so if you have free time, you'll be doubly welcome.

If you want to try the water, or if you don't have much time to spare, join one of us for 30 minutes. You'd be supervised how useful that will be to us.

Please email me on [SamInFleet@gmail.com](mailto:SamInFleet@gmail.com) with your name (and phone number if you wish) if you can help us with this, or if you have any other time, skill or resource that you feel you could lend to our cause. I'll make that sure you're put in touch with the most suitable person. (I won't share your email address unless you tell me I can.)

Voters won't vote for our party if they don't know we're standing. So, whether its by

leafleting or by talking to people, please help us to let people know that Labour's here - and that Labour plans to stay!



## What can a volunteer do in this vital election?

- Comment on Twitter
- Contribute to Labour's Facebook page
- Actively use other social media
- Write letters to the press
- Join the team planning and running the campaign
- Write and / or deliver campaign material
- Man a street stall alongside other members
- Like your editor, wear a campaign T-shirt (Email for details)
- **Talk to anyone and everyone you can:**
  - That means friends and family...
  - At school or college, work, club, café or pub, church....
- And yes, even knock on some doors!

You'll see that you can work as part of a team, or on your own initiative (or both), whichever suits you best. If you want to join us, contact the CLP, or the editor on [SamInFleet@gmail.com](mailto:SamInFleet@gmail.com)

"I was born at the same time as the NHS and the Welfare State. I've **seen** how they've changed people's lives." (Sam Butler, Candidate for Fleet and Elvetham Heath.)

## **Clive Astin is our Candidate for Church Crookham and Ewshot.**



I came to work in North East Hampshire in 1989 and have lived in Church Crookham since 1999. I have a commercial and legal background in both public and private sectors. I am married and my wife is a nurse in our local NHS.



With the support and backing of the Labour Party, I aim to represent the interests of this community on Hampshire County Council by promoting investment and improvement in our public services so that they can deliver benefit to the whole of our community.

### **If elected as your councillor, my priorities will be:**

- excellent and affordable public education for all
- better integration of health and social care services
- provision of affordable local public transport
- infrastructure, amenities and housing that reflect our social needs
- well maintained roads and walkways



**Clive Astin**  
**for Church Crookham and Ewshot**

## **The Candovers.**

Labour is being represented in The Candovers in this election by a candidate from Basingstoke CLP, Helen Jeffery. Her papers to be a candidate have been submitted to the Council election offices but, at the time of going to press, have not yet been formally approved.

### **Forthcoming Events.**

**10th May 2017** (date to be confirmed): **Traditional post-election dinner** at the **Gurkha Square Restaurant** in Fleet All those who have campaigned, canvassed, leafleted, or helped in any way in the election (no matter how small or large) are invited to gather to celebrate or commiserate. For details, please contact your candidate or [SamInFleet@gmail.com](mailto:SamInFleet@gmail.com) (The food's to die for!)

**15th May 2017: All Members' CLP Meeting** at **The Tythings, Yateley**, 7.30pm.  
The 2017 AGM and Election of Officers will be held in **june 2017**.

**Links:** (Cut and paste only on some devices - apologies for the inconvenience.)

An eye on our MP in Westminster: [theyworkforyou.com](http://theyworkforyou.com)

An eye on our MP here in Hart: [tellranil.com](http://tellranil.com) (Facebook)  
[@tellranil](https://twitter.com/tellranil) (Twitter)

[Our MP is Ranil Jayawardena (Tory). He is to the right of his party.]

NE Hants CLP public Facebook page (that's us!):

CLP webpage <https://m.facebook.com/NEHantsLabour/>  
<http://www.nehantslabour.co.uk/>

*Easily Red* :

[nehclp16@gmail.com](mailto:nehclp16@gmail.com) or  
[saminfleet@gmail.com](mailto:saminfleet@gmail.com)

(editor's campaign email)

*Easily Red is published every second month.  
Editor Sam Butler: Circulation: Emma Archer.*

**STOP PRESS.** (From the Editor.)

**This evening, I received a reply to a Freedom of Information Request to Hants CC.**

I asked for any details that Hants CC might have about indicators of poverty in Hart District and Fleet Town (GU51 5xx). I suggested these might include fuel poverty, food poverty and free school meals (FSMs), none of which offer easily found statistics.

They were only able to give me statistics for FSMs, which had to be collated for me. My immediate response is as follows:

### **On Relative Poverty in a Wealthy Area.**

The figures below show the comparatively small numbers of students in Hart's state-run schools who are registered for free school meals. (Where I worked in London, 50% or more wasn't unusual.)

One way of looking at these figures is to see them as evidence that poverty in our area is negligible - as has been claimed all too often.

Another is to understand that even relative poverty can be especially, and utterly, debilitating / devastating... in a wealthy community which has no infrastructure its poorer folk.

Not only is there no council welfare officer in Hart - as I can report from recent, personal experience - but at all levels there is apparently no awareness that such an animal could even exist. (Many if not most districts in the UK will have a welfare **team!**)

For 96% of Fleet, each of the candidates from the different parties can campaign on our relative merits and policies. The electorate will vote accordingly.

But Labour has a unique commitment to the last 4%, the unluckiest and most vulnerable, which we have stuck with through thick and thin for over a hundred years. No other party has this commitment at its core.

Perhaps those 4%, in Fleet, deserve a bit of TLC in 2017...

[Don't you find it fairly dire that our County Council keep no accessible data on poverty in the county? I will press for such records to be created and where possible made public on the day I'm elected.]

Statistics for (a) Hart District and (b) Fleet Division (GU 51 postcode), both in Hampshire.

1. Number of pupils entitled\* to receive free school meals, in absolute numbers and as a percentage, at each level of education.

Hart District

National Curriculum Year Group	Number of pupils eligible for FSMs	Total Number of Pupils - Hart District Postcodes	Percentage of pupils eligible for FSMs
R	45	1159	3.9%
1	55	1136	4.8%
2	41	1166	3.5%
3	56	1056	5.3%
4	50	1093	4.6%
5	41	1034	4.0%
6	55	1006	5.5%
7	47	1014	4.6%
8	38	973	3.9%
9	46	951	4.8%
10	37	900	4.1%
11	35	921	3.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>12409</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

This **Special Supplement** is presented by Mike Mellor of Fleet.

## Immigration

### Summary.

The following paper was discussed at a special meeting of the CLP on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The consensus was that:

We need to be careful to distinguish between migrants and refugees.

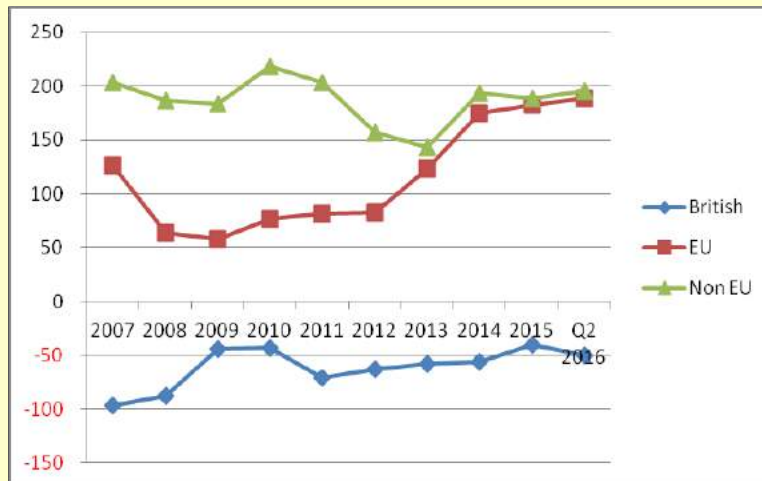
Migrants make a positive contribution to our economy and society.

However, an open door policy could not be sustained and would be politically unacceptable.

We need an effective Migration Impact Fund and a managed immigration policy

### Historical Highpoint

Net migration has been about a third of a million people per year for the last two years. This compares with a UK population of 65M – half of 1% pa. It is the difference between large numbers of immigrants and emigrants and it isn't just about Schengen migration. We have migration with British citizens and non-EU countries, including Commonwealth countries. The following graph shows the data from the last ten years.



Net Inward migration, UK: 2007-2016 (x1,000)

The scaremongers pre 23<sup>rd</sup> June based their projections on a continuation of the high level of net inward migration from the last two years (as well as the prospect of 80 million Turks deciding to empty their country and relocate to the UK!).

## **Refugees**

Refugees should be welcomed but the numbers cannot be unlimited. However, the 20,000 suggested by Cameron and Osborne over a five year Parliament represents only 5,000 p.a. Compare this with gross immigration of 650,000 and net immigration of 335,000 over the last two years. We should be willing to dramatically increase the number of refugees welcomed into the UK.

## **Net Cost to the Exchequer**

Migrants tend to be young and energetic. Their contribution overall via taxes to our public services is greater than their demand on the NHS or education. The problem is there is a natural tendency for newcomers to want to live with others from the same ethnic groups. This puts pressure on local facilities and it can take years before new GP surgeries, hospitals and schools are built and staffed.

## **Deflationary Effect on Wages**

The most high profile effect on local wages is experienced in agricultural seasonal work. Farmers and employers at processing plants claim that migrants are willing to undertake work unacceptable to local residents. Part of the issue is a failure of government to enforce minimum wage legislation and to ensure that employers do not reduce their costs by overcharging for substandard accommodation.

## **Recruitment of Skilled Workers**

However, the strength of the UK economy is an attraction for workers across the skill spectrum. The UK economy has relied upon training provided by other countries to equip the skilled workers that employers are now warning are in short supply. We have the shameful practice of the NHS sending recruiting missions to other countries for medical staff because previous governments have cut training programs.

## **Culture & Diversity**

The introduction of significant numbers of immigrants will change the areas in which we live. There are people with varying skin colours, other languages and different clothes, frequenting shops and religious centres that are also different. In our major multicultural cities such as London, such diversity is frequently viewed with pride. However it is seen as threatening in some communities, ironically, especially those communities which are predominantly white Anglo-Saxon and which have little personal experience of diversity. Clearly the case needs to be made about the benefits of diversity but, in a democracy, we have to address the concerns of a significant proportion of our fellow citizens.



## **Migration Impact Fund**

Gordon Brown introduced a Migration Impacts Fund in 2009. Local authorities, primary care trusts and voluntary bodies could apply for contributions from an annual fund of £35m pa. In practice, it only operated during 2009/10 and 2010/11 before the coalition government scrapped it in August 2011 – only £29m was distributed in 2009/10 including Rushmoor £115,000 and £75,000 the following year. It was partly funded by a £50 levy on non-EU visa applications.

By contrast, the Tories introduced an Immigration Health Surcharge of £200 on visa applications by all non-EU nationals coming to live in the UK for over six months. However, there isn't a mechanism to distribute the funds to the areas in need!

The fund needs to be large enough to make an impact on the local infrastructure in areas of relatively high migration. Some can be funded through visa surcharges but the bulk should reflect the net economic contribution made by migrants via their taxes.

## **Managed Migration**

Clearly British citizens ought to be allowed to return to the UK, remembering that this contributes to net immigration.

The migration figures are based on people intending to move for over a year. This therefore includes students. We need to ensure that fraudulent educational establishments are closed down. However, educating international students is good for the UK financially and creates powerful links with other countries. Once finishing their studies, international students should have the right to apply for residency.

There already exists a structure for managing non-EU migration. Post Brexit, it will logically have to expand to cover EU citizens who will then be part of non-British migration. The challenge for Brexiteers is that non-EU migration has been running at net immigration of about 200,000pa over the last ten years, in contrast to the aspiration of total immigration in tens of thousands. In particular, some of the skilled and seasonal workers that our economy currently depends upon will come from Europe, adding to those numbers.

\* 'Easily Red' is produced on behalf of the North East Hampshire Constituency Labour Party. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of either the CLP or the National Party; however, we endeavour to conform to the values and to the social media policies of both.

