

Young Labour report 2013: November- April

After a busy previous six months, the EMYL committee and I prepared for a busy 2014 with events such as our annual christmas meal, our very first training day, and Derbyshire Young Labour's AGM.

I'm also proud to say we have 3 more Young Labour groups in the region with Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Young Labour being formed in the past few months, with all three of those groups also having organised successful first events

Firstly it would be rude to not mention the amazing EMYLers at annual conference this year: Elsie Powers, Cllr Heather Worman, Nadia Whittome, Peter and others. We attended the well organised Young Labour fringe with Dan Hodges, Owen Jones and others, and our members took note from Kirsty McNeill's speech writing workshop, and although Elsie wrote an inspiring speech on education, unfortunately she wasn't called up to speak. Though I got kicked out for only having a Sunday pass, the rest of the EMYL gang enjoyed the remaining days of the conference, with one of the highlights being the Gibraltar fringe!



Following on from annual conference we had campaign days in Loughborough with our candidate Matthew O'Callaghan for the energy price freeze, in Erewash with Pizza kindly provided by Erewash CLP, and in Broxtowe with former MP Nick Palmer. We also joined with students from Leicester and Nottingham to campaign in Sherwood for Leonie Mathers, and were pretty impressed by their youth officer Joe's amazing homemade cake!

Then I was proud to support and help organise one of our older Young Labour groups Derbyshire Young Labour in their annual AGM, we had a speech from Chris Williamson and a brand new exec headed by Dom Anderson as our brilliant new chair. Dom has already organised a trade union conference with Unite and GMB, which we're all looking forward to attending.

We had our annual Christmas Meal at Roosters "restaurant", in which I essentially took everyone to a bad version of Nandos, but I hope it was enjoyed by all who attended. It was especially good to see U18s who wouldn't otherwise come to a social with drinks, attending the meal and those older members who wanted to go out in Nottingham, coming after for drinks.

I was really impressed with the Nottinghamshire rep (on the EMYL Committee) Christian's first event: a Q&A with Shadow Secretary of state for Defence Vernon Coaker, held in conjunction with Nottingham Trent Labour. There were loads of interesting questions asked from aircraft carriers to trident and with over 40 people in the room, it was one of our largest turnouts of the year.



Another one of our EMYL committee, Elsie, organised one of her first events in a joint Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire campaign day, which helped to bridge the hurt of Nottingham Forest's destruction at the hands of the mighty Derby County, and also gain lots of contacts for Broxtowe and Erewash. I'd like to thank both CLPs for providing Lunch and drinks, and Nottingham Labour Students for coming and supporting us.

Special Conference was also an event which had EMYL representation at, and we were all really proud of Elsie again who made a fantastic speech in support of the reforms, and even made the local news with another fab member Natalie Fleet!

EMYL had a good attendance at the National Youth conference in Bradford, with Dom, Elsie, Christian and others coming from the region. We were really happy our motion on manufacturing and industrial policy was second in the Policy priority ballot, and will hopefully go into the Labour manifesto to make sure what happened at Bombardier in Derby, never happens in the UK again. Our Best event award is now hanging pride of place in the Regional office entrance.



As a thank you for the campaigning in the Euros, our favourite MEP Glenis Wilmott invited the group to visit the European Parliament in Brussels. As well as having a great time making friends with some Italian socialists on the first night in Brussels main square, we also enjoyed visiting the parliament building itself and meeting Denmark & the S&D group's youngest MEP: Emilie Turunen.

After the last EMYL conference, it was said on several of the feedback sheets that a training day, where young members could get to understand the party, how the wider Labour movement worked, and get more involved in community campaigns would be a good idea. I then set about securing a venue and making sure that Lunch was provided (a special thanks must go to Unison Labour Link for kindly providing both of these) and getting speakers for topics such as: Trade Union relations, Media Training, Community Organising, How to get selected, Young Labour and Polling day. Thanks to everyone who came (again a turnout of over 20!) and to Richard Oliver, Emma Foody, Nathan Oswin, Jon Davies, Sean Kelly Walsh and Simon Darvill for providing training.



This Summer we'll be having campaign days across the region, including one in Corby in a couple of weeks, a community campaign day in Derby and our annual EMYL conference where we'll be discussing policy, electing our new committee and having a social afterwards!

We've had a busy past six months, and if you have any other suggestions for events which sound fun then get and touch. Also if you want to join EMYL or get more involved either join the facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3093010289/>) or email me below to get in touch!

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