



## \*\*\*\*\* ELECTION SPECIAL \*\*\*\*\*

Dear Newsletter Reader,

### Has the Tide Turned for the Tories in Stortford?

This week's **Bishop's Stortford Observer** launched a remarkable attack on the Tory dominated East Herts Council, in particular their sale of our town centre facilities at the Causeway for a price below market value. In addition they threaten to dismiss Council employees unless they agree to inferior terms and conditions of employment while maintaining reward levels for senior managers. The Tories also propose to make us pay to park in Stortford on Sundays. The Observer comments on breaches of the Freedom of Information Act concerning talks between planners and developers on the sale of car parks. Much more detail can be found in the Observer.

In themselves these cuts and attacks on workers pay and conditions are not unusual events in these internationally economic difficult times, especially from the political right. What is interesting is the ferocity of the Observer's attack which is normally a politically neutered publication.

What happens in Stortford today regarding public service cuts and price rises is what will happen tomorrow if we have a Conservative Government We need to be sure voters are aware of the 'Cost of Cameron' both nationally and locally before they vote. Spread the message.

**Peter Mitchell, Secretary**

### The Final Countdown

Following the recent budget, the way is now clear for the election campaign to begin in earnest. Whilst many of us could be forgiven for thinking we have had nothing but electioneering for the past few months, it is in these next few, crucial weeks that all the political parties will have to spell out their policies.

In doing this the Labour Government can start from a position of strength with solid achievements over the past 13 years in Health, Education and Family support. Over this period hospital waiting lists have been drastically reduced, whilst the introduction of Family Credits have provided support for millions of families. However, it is in the field of Education that some of the most important changes have been made and here I can speak from personal experience. In 1997 I moved into the area to take up a teaching post in a deprived inner city school. At the time, following years of under-investment by the previous Tory government there were not even enough text books for students in GCSE classes to have a book each. Not surprisingly in my school the pass rate for 5 A\*- C's at GCSE level was 8%

Now after 13 years of increased investment, that same school has interactive whiteboards in every classroom, computer access for all pupils and in 2009 achieved a pass rate of 100% for 5 A\*- C's at GCSE.

So when people ask me for a reason to vote Labour, I tell them there are millions of reasons, that is the millions invested in public services that benefit all sections of the community.

**John Battersby, Treasurer**

**WISE WORDS.....**Edna Forrest has continued her attack on the Tories from her home in SW. In a letter to her local paper she wrote..."I will be voting for the Labour Party because, as a very senior citizen, I have just had the whole of my house insulated. No charge. I have a free TV licence, free bus pass, and free swimming, heating allowance, free prescriptions, free eye tests and our wonderful NHS created under which party? The Labour Party of course."



## Opinion Polls, Share of the Vote and Labour Policy.

The opinion poll published in **The Guardian** on April 6th gave the following share of the vote: **Conservative 37%, Labour 33%, Lib.Dems 21%, others 9%.**

The significant figure is for Lib Dems. and others which total 30%. Compare this with the vote **for all other parties** including the Liberals in the 1959 and 1964 General Elections: **1959: 6.8% 1964: 12.5%.**

This trend has accelerated over the last fifty years. Can a 'first past the post' election system now be justified which the Conservatives want to keep? I think not. Can Labour's proposal for a referendum inviting voters to change the voting system at General Elections be justified? Yes!

**Peter Mitchell**

## Local Labour Party Officers /Contacts

*Les Tillbrook* 01279 655628  
Vice Chair

*Peter Mitchell* 01279 654190  
Secretary

*Madge Tillbrook* 01279 655628  
Membership Secretary

*John Battersby* 01279 305256  
Treasurer

*Linda Mitchell* 01279 654190  
Campaign Co-ordinator

### Constituency Delegates:

*J Battersby, D Mitchell, L Mitchell, L. Tillbrook, S Tripp, P Tripp*

## Dates for the Diary

An informal Branch Meeting will be held at Pearse House, Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 8.00 pm. Formal meetings are suspended until after the General Election. All welcome.

## Your Newsletter, Your Say

Not getting your views heard? Ring a Branch officer or email the Secretary on [mitpeter1@ntlworld.com](mailto:mitpeter1@ntlworld.com). The deadline for items for the next newsletter is:

**May 10 2010**

## CALLING YOUNG VOTERS!

**What issues are you interested in? Get involved and come to a meeting. We need your ideas.**

## 100 Club Draw Winners

216 L Adams  
218 L Adams  
62 L Wheeler

The 100 Club raises funds for fighting elections. If you would like to join the 100 Club, please call: Peter Wood on 01992 584398 for a form.

