



*******IMPORTANT*******

The June 9th OGM has been deferred until July. Three officers are unable to attend to present their reports. This exceptional decision has been taken by your officers. An additional OGM will be held in August.
Peter Mitchell

Dear Newsletter Reader,

What Members think about the future of the Party

Richard Howitt, our regional MEP, organised a Conference Call to discover what members thought were the issues in the General Election. He wanted to present party workers' views to our National Executive on their contacts with voters during the election campaign.

A major issue raised was immigration, particularly in rural constituencies. Some contributors believed that the right wing press had played up the issue. I expressed the view that immigration 'fears' are shorthand for deeper more obviously Labour issues including the shortage of social housing and labour market injustices, especially low pay. The Labour Party needed to have more robust policies for these areas in future. Other contributors believed a new leader must be able to impress on television.

Richard informed us that since the General Election Labour had gained a substantial number of new members. He also told us that a Regional Conference would take place in the autumn providing an opportunity for further consultations with the membership.

The Conference Call was an effective method of sharing experiences and contacting other members across our region. If you are not on Richard's email listings his address is: richard@richardhowittmep.com. I can email/post you the full minutes of the meeting if you contact me.

Peter Mitchell, Secretary

What a difference a month makes!!!

So we now have a coalition government. Last week we had the announcement of the cuts which will be imposed on the UK economy and, to use a Victorian expression, to distinguish between 'the deserving and undeserving poor'. The Queen's Speech has laid out a programme of legislation which is expected to cover at least the next eighteen months.

We were led to believe by the 'Ant and Dec' of UK politics that we were now in a new era with the scandal of the expenses row behind us. This weekend brought us the resignation of one of the stars of the LibDem firmament. The headline in The Observer this Sunday read "Coalition in turmoil as David Laws quits over home expenses scandal". A union official in the same paper was also quoted as saying "It was £40,000 - double what most of our members earn. It's disgraceful. This is the man in charge of cutting wages."

This government was formed only weeks ago with, as the paper reports, "the mighty chant of "new politics" still echoing around Whitehall". Clegg used the leadership debates to claim that his party was the cleanest of all with none of his party having flipped one property to the next or from personally profiting from the sale of property.

Cracks are starting to show in this new relationship. It will be interesting to see if it lasts the full five years. To read what the six contenders for the leadership of the Labour Party believe go to:

guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/
for "Labour leadership hustings"



BISHOP'S STORTFORD CARNIVAL & FUN DAY, Saturday 19 June, 12 – 5pm

This year we have decided not to run a stall for the Carnival Fun Day because insufficient members have come forward to offer their support for the day. We have decided therefore to consider having a stall(s) in the town centre nearer to the local elections where we can put forward the policies of a 'refreshed' Labour Party with a new leader. We can staff the stall with our members who are standing as candidates which will give them the opportunity to talk to the voters. An agenda item for the September OGM will be the setting up of a Carnival and Events Committee.

Do you wish to stand as a candidate? Are there any local issues that you feel we should focus on? Please let us know so that we can plan discussions for our local meetings after the summer break.

[Linda Mitchell, Campaign Co-ordinator](#)

Dates for the Diary

The next Branch Meeting will be held at Pearse House, Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday July 14th at 8.00 pm.

The next CLP Meeting will be held at the Drill Hall in Ware on 15th June
All welcome.

Your Newsletter, Your Say

Not getting your views heard? Ring a Branch officer or email the Secretary on mitpeter1@ntlworld.com. The deadline for items for the next newsletter is: **June 28th**

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

100 Club

Winners for April

83 Don Clare
212 Linda Adams
57 Jane Page

Winners for May

80 Andrew Reed
192 Tony Bodley
126 Paul Sawyer

All winners are from the Hertford Branch

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.

