



## The Local Election Campaign has begun

Those of you who hoped electioneering is over for this year will be disappointed!

The opening skirmishes for next year's local elections are occurring while I write. The growing frustration with our current Tory led high handed, arrogant Town and District Council has resulted in consistent and constant attacks in the 'Observer' in the letters column by residents. The tone of some of the articles is also critical of the present regime. The Tories are sufficiently worried about the criticism they are receiving to try to publish letters in the Observer every week attempting to rebut voter disgust. To put our case I wrote a piece for the paper reflecting on what a newcomer of sixteen months thought of life in Stortford. Amazingly it was published under the banner headline 'Welcome to Stortford – land of passing the buck'. For those not able to read my letter the main argument is that the structure of local government here allows councillors to deny responsibility for policies. To paraphrase John Smith, former Labour Party Leader, they are a 'no gov Gov.' Our campaign in next year's election must present a coherent and integrated vision for both the District and Town elections to improve the wellbeing for all local people. The local Tories seem to be either paralysed to act decisively, after proper consultation, or only interested in a wealthy minority.

I am interested to see if the Tory Cllr. Woodward in particular, will launch an attack on us in the Observer. This is just what we need!

**Peter Mitchell, Secretary**

## The East Herts District Party prepares for the elections

A meeting was held in Hertford on July 22nd to elect officers and to begin to discuss a draft policy document which will continue to be worked on at Branch meetings so that all members have the chance to be involved.

John Page is Secretary of the District Party. Peter Mitchell will take the Chair and David Wille is Treasurer. Work must begin in earnest in the autumn to choose candidates for these vital elections. Labour was pushed into third place at the General Election so there will be some ground to make up. Any members who wish to stand as candidates must be committed to attending council meetings, writing to the local press, and generally talking to the electorate to identify their concerns. Ideally our members should share their experiences if they are school governors, members of a PTA, sports club, surgery, shoppers, drivers or public transport users, in fact residents of Stortford and Sawbridgeworth to understand how we can be better served by our councillors.

### STOP PRESS

#### David Milliband House Meeting

Jim Fitzpatrick M. P., a member of David Milliband's campaign team will address Branch members at 69 Cannon Close, August 12 commencing 7.30 pm. A small number of places are still available for this event. Please contact Linda or Peter Mitchell if you want to come along.

**Linda Mitchell**

**LATEST OPINION POLL:** published on August 1<sup>st</sup> shows Cons 42%, Lab 38%, Libs 12%, others 8%. On a uniform national swing (unlikely) this would mean a parliament of Cons 313, Lab 299, Libs 12, Others, 8. What will happen when Labour elects a new leader? What will happen when the promised cuts start to bite? Current opinion polling and local government bye election results indicate Labour could do very well at the local elections next May. **Get involved for the good of our community to ensure this happens.**



## Events and Dates for the Diary

### 100 Club Draw

#### Winners for June

177 Edward Jones (Stortford)

206 Richard McKay

137 Phil & Sheila Tripp (Stortford)

#### Winners for July

6 Sheila Smith

156 C. Clarke

127 Paul Sawyer

The 100 Club raises funds for fighting elections. At the next meeting we will have letters explaining the scheme and bankers forms available if you wish to join.

Alternatively you can contact Peter Wood on 01992 584398

### Dates for the Diary

The next Branch Meeting will be held at Pearse House, Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 8.00 pm.

The next CLP Meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Drill Hall in Ware. All welcome.

## Local Labour Party 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*

## GRAND SUMMER DRAW.....UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who sold tickets for the draw. The main prize was won by a Hertford and Ware branch member but bottles of wine were won by Elsie Wilson and John Battersby – Congratulations!

## Your Newsletter, Your Say

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

**August 31<sup>st</sup> 2010**

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