

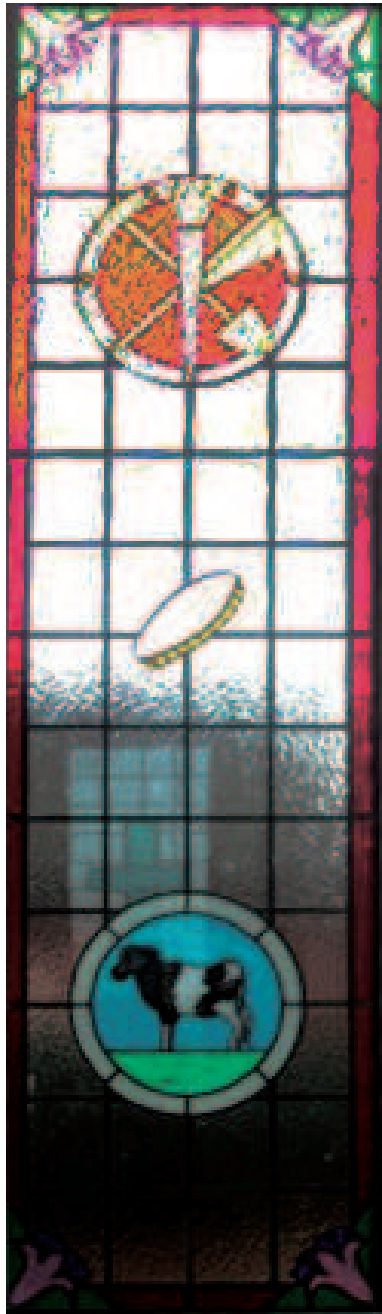


NORTH NORFOLK

LABOUR PARTY
UNITY

**THE BANNER
BRIGHT**

Celebrating the history of
North Norfolk Labour Party
1919 - 2019



The Labour Party –
best when we are
boldest, best when
we are united,
best when we are
Labour.

Gordon Brown's speech to the Labour Party Conference 29 September 2003.

*The memorial window in Trunch Methodist Chapel
dedicated to Arthur Amis and his wife Gladys.*



*Norfolk c. 1911
The local band and villagers met to set up the
Agricultural Workers' Movement in the area.
The speaker was George Edwards*

The Banner Bright

A short history of the North Norfolk Constituency Labour Party

Awaiting copy from John McDonnell. Et res eles asim reptat lame pliquam ipsa et re nusdam fugia conse commis modit, consequet et ex eum lab isquam, cus volo volor mo qui cumet quis ea aut laute

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The Rt. Hon. John McDonnell MP
Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer



Author: David Russell

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Cover illustration: Tim Bartlett

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This book is dedicated to all the men and women who have given their lives to Labour in North Norfolk over the past 100 years.

Few of them obtained office or reward. But they gave all they had.

The North Norfolk Constituency

The area covered at the time is part of what is now Central Norfolk but not Fakenham and Wells. There have been various boundary changes since then, and by 1970 the constituency covered an area of 400 square miles from Wells and Fakenham to Stalham. The electorate had increased from 30,000 in 1918-19 to around 90,000 by 1970, currently at 81,953. At the 2017 General Election it amounted to 69,263, with Labour getting 5,180 votes 9.9% of of the 75.3% cast.

Also within the constituency was the local government structure, consisting of County, Rural, Urban, District and Parish Councils. The County Council was formed in 1888 and consisted of 58 Councillors and 19 Alderman, the Alderman being co-opted. They were usually former councillors because of their special expertise. It is understood that if they had served more than six years as Alderman they would not represent particular Divisions. Aldermen were abolished in 1974.

The Rural and District Councils were set up in 1894 and were abolished in 1974. A two-tier structure was established with the Norfolk County Council and 7 Districts: Breckland, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and West Norfolk, North Norfolk, Norwich City and South Norfolk. The Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Norwich Councils with Borough status and local Parish / Town Councils remained and Labour Party members played an active role. Currently there are no Labour North Norfolk County or North Norfolk District Councillors.

The elections for the new North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) of 1973 produced four Labour Councillors for the 1974 Administration, but its greatest success came in May 1995 with 19 Labour members under the leadership of Mike Cullingham. A Labour presence was to remain until 2003 when all Labour membership of the Council was lost.

In 1989 there were four North Norfolk Labour County Councillors but sadly there are none at this time.

CLP membership in 1979-80 stood at around 585 members and 11 affiliated trades unions Today there are 554 members and 6 affiliated TU/ Branches.



Here follows a brief 100 year history of the NNCLP.



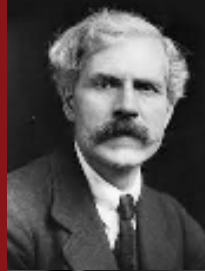
The Beginning and Beyond

The Foundation Meeting of the North Norfolk Constituency Labour Party (NNCLP) took place at Melton Constable in September 1919 at around the time of the National Rail Strike and some ten years after the setting up of the national Labour Party by the Trades Unions. Its Officers and Executive being elected by post.

Sadly no formal records exist of this event or of the early days of the CLP. However, according to the informal notes produced by the late Dorothy Galton, Librarian, the first Officers and Executive were elected by postal ballot with a Mr Evans being its first Secretary until 1925.

Labour Prime Ministers

James Ramsay McDonald
1929-1935



Clement Attlee
1945-1951



Harold Wilson
1964-1970 and 1974-1976



James Callaghan
1976-1979



Tony Blair
1997-2007



Gordon Brown
2007-2010



MPs 1922-1970

Noel Buxton 1922-1930

Noel Buxton Member of Parliament for North Norfolk 1922- 1930 became Cabinet Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries 1924 and 1929 to 1930 in Ramsay MacDonald's Government.

He received a Peerage of the United Kingdom in 1930 as Baron Noel Buxton.



Lady Lucy Buxton- Baroness Buxton
1930-1931

Lady Lucy Noel Buxton elected Member of Parliament for North Norfolk 9 July 1930 lost her seat to Thomas Cook Conservative 26 October 1931 by nearly 7000 votes.

She stood again in 1935 and again, was defeated but halved the Tory majority. Lady Noel Buxton returned to the House of Commons in the Labour landslide victory led by Clement Attlee in the General Election of 1945 when she was elected to one of the two seat Norwich Constituency.

She did not contest the 1950 General Election.





Edwin Gooch JP 1945- 1964
Chairman of Annual LP Conference 1955-56

Edwin George Gooch was born in Wymondham, Norfolk and in his early days worked in his father's Blacksmiths shop.

He was also a local Primitive Methodist Preacher and was appointed Alderman for Norfolk County Council.

Later in 1935 when Rural District Councils were created Edwin became the first Chairman of the newly formed Wymondham Urban District Council and held office for most of the period up to 1946.

He was also a Journalist with the Norwich Mercury in 1911 and became its sub editor. He founded the National Union of Journalists.



Bert Hazell CBE JP 1964-1970

Berti (Bertie) Hazell was born in Attleborough, Norfolk in 1907, the son of a farmworker horseman. He left school at 14 and became a farmworker.

He was later to become a District Organiser and President of the National Union of Agricultural Workers. He was also a York Magistrate.

During a wide-ranging political and professional career which also brought recognition from the State in the form of an MBE in 1946 and a CBE in 1962. Nye Bevan, Founder of the NHS appointed Bert to the Leeds Hospital Board in 1947 and he was later to become Chairman of York Health Authority and was awarded an honorary degree by the University of York on 13 July 1984 for his contribution to the NHS in the York area and beyond.

His wife Ethel was also a Norfolk County Council Alderman and first woman Wymondham RDC in 1935 and its first Lady Chairman in 1951 and a JP.

Edwin was elected President of the National Union of Agricultural Workers Union in 1928, later to become the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, the position he held until his death in 1964.

At the 1931 General Election he was an unsuccessful candidate in the Tory seat of the South Norfolk Constituency. Edwin did not contest the 1935 General Election.

In 1945 he was elected Member for North Norfolk, defeating the Tory MP Thomas Cook. He held the seat until his death shortly before the 1964 General Election aged 75.

The picture marking the occasion and the citation can be found at the Norfolk Record Office and the North Norfolk CLP archive.

Bert was elected as a Member for North Norfolk and remained its MP until 1970 when he was defeated by the Tory Ralph Howell. There has been no North Norfolk Labour MP since then.

On the 23rd February 2010 over a year after his death all Bert's personal, political, trades union papers and 11 hours of his voice recorded memoirs were deposited by his daughter Pat Piercy on behalf of the family to the Norfolk Record Office (NRO).

Finally in February 2015 the NRO produced and released the recordings in digitalised form to Pat Piercy and the North Norfolk CLP.

Pat describe her Dad as a devoted public servant and a loving family man; forever the optimist, who always viewed the glass as half full rather than half empty.

Past Candidates

February 1974 and
October 1974
Rev David M Mason

1979
Robert M Dimmick

1983
Edward Barber

1987
Anthony Earle

1992 and 1997
Michael Cullingham

2001
Michael Gates

2005 and 2010
Phil Harris

2015
Denise Burke

2017
Stephen Burke

North Norfolk County Councillors

Alderman George Edwards *Fakenham 1918 originally elected as a Liberal in 1906*

Dennis Parsons *Fakenham 1981-1996*

Martyn Warnes *Erpingham and Melton Constable 1989-1995*

Martin Booth *North Walsham 1989 - 2001*

Aubrey Poberefsky *Erpingham and Melton Constable 1996-2001*

David Callerby *Fakenham 1996. He was later to join the Lib Dems and then the Tories*

Sheila Cullingham *1989- 2005 The last North Norfolk Labour Councillor to serve on NCC*

Alfred Richard Riseborough *Melton Constable 1955-1965*



Jack Clifford Laws *South Repps 1946- 1959, Alderman 1959-1967*

Ernest William Bartram *Walsingham 1946 - 1953, Alderman 1953 until 1974, the year the office was abolished*

Emma Elizabeth Bartram Reepham *1946-1948 , for Walsingham 1953-1971; Alderman 1971-1974 and wife of Ernest Bartram*



North Norfolk District Councillors

Arthur Amis *Paston Acres 1973-1976*

Keith Bacon *Catfield 1995-2003*

N Bacon *Hindringham 1973-1976*

N P Barrett *(Lancaster) Fakenham 1987-1991*

Donald Batts *(Lancaster) Fakenham 1995-1999*

Andrew Benstead *Wells 1995-1999*

Paul Buck *North Walsham West 1995-1999 Succeeded Michael Cullingham as Leader of Labour Group*

Brenda Coldrick *(Lancaster) Fakenham 1995-2003*

Liz Cornwall *North Walsham East 1995-2003*

Mike Cullingham *Scottow - Stalham and Brumstead 1990-2003. First Leader of the Labour Group*

Andrew Davies *Roughton 1995 -1999*

Noel Edwards *(Lancaster) Fakenham 1973-1983, Adopted son of Sir George Edwards JP*

Michael French *Stalham 1995-1999*

Michael Gates *Wells 1991-2003 Vice Chairman 1998-1999 and 1999-2000. Chairman 2000-2001*

Mrs E J Gray *North Walsham West 1991-1995*

Roy Haynes *North Walsham East 1995-2003*

Jeanne Heal *North Walsham West 1983-1991*

Len Howlett *North Walsham West 1979-1983*

Desmond Hewitt *(Lancaster) Fakenham 1995-2003*

19 Labour councillors were elected to the District Council in 1995



David Jones *Stalham and Brumstead 1987-1991*

Philip Kemp *The Raynhams 1999- 2003*

Aubrey Poberefsky *Corpusty 1995-2003*

Trevor Potter *Wensum Valley 1995-1999*

G. Richardson *Scottow 1973-1976*

David Russell *Hickling 1995-1999. Vice Chairman 1996-1997- Chairman 1997-1998. Both a first time for Labour.*

Terry Vincent *North Walsham East 1995-1999*

The best result for Labour was 4 May 1995 when 19 Councillors were elected under the leadership of Mike Cullingham.

From that time on NNDC was run by a Labour /Liberal Democrat administration until 1999.

North Norfolk Urban and Rural District Councillors

Cromer Urban District
W C Fulcher Chairman
1951-1955, 1963, 1964,
1966 and 1967

North Walsham Urban District
Neville Stanley J P
Len Howlett



Current Officers and Executive Committee Members 2018/2019

Executive Party Officers

Ray Mooney *Chair and Equality & Diversity Officer*

Mandy McKenna *Vice Chair, Campaigns Social and Fund Raiser*

Martin Langsdon *Vice Chair Membership*

Sue Brisbane *Secretary*

Jeanne Heal *Treasurer*

Phil Harris *Co-op Party Representative*

David Russell *Trades Union Liaison Officer (Under new national Labour Party rules)*

Functional Officers

Jasper Haywood *Youth Officer, Press Officer, IT and Social Media Officer*

David Russell *Trade Union Liaison Officer*

David Russell *Archivist*

Nick Fokias *LGBT+ Officer*

Jeanne Thirtle *Disability Officer*

Edmund Wright *Business Liaison Officer*

Mike Gates *Agent*

Christine Collins / Noel Gant *Auditors*

Martin Langsdon and Mandy Mc Kenna *Local Campaigns Forum*

Property Committee

Richard Kelham, Phil Harris, Martin Langsdon, Tim Bartlett and Jeanne Heal

Branch Coordinators

Phil Harris / Tim Bartlett *Cromer,*

Nick Fokias *North Walsham*

Mike Gates / Richard Kelham

Wells and Holt areas

Mary Rosen *Sheringham*

Pic of Present E/C

photograph Peter Everard Smith



Archive and Artefacts

On the 11 May 2007, at an official presentation, NNCLP records were formally deposited with the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) by the then Chairman David Spencer accompanied by Party members.

They were received on behalf of the NRO by the Labour Norfolk County Council Chairman Cllr. Patrick Hacon in the presence of Dr John Alban, County Archivist. They have been catalogued SO 255 North Norfolk Constituency Labour Party 1934-2007.

Further deposits were made on:-

4 September 2008 - North Walsham Local Labour Party minute books 1934-1955 together with photographs of candidates during their campaigns for the North Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County council elections, 1987-1995,

23 February 2009 - by Mrs Vi Bensley of Ludham, a Labour supporter,

23 February 2009 - Records of Fakenham Local Labour Party 1945-1996

12 March 2010 - additional NNCLP records

20 July 2011 - additional Party records of NNCLP minutes

2003-2011 - Cromer and Sheringham Branch minutes and other papers with updated records from NRO 19 June 2012.

Peter Bartram - *President of Norwich Amicus Branch,*

Peter Medhurst - *former FTO TGWU*

David Spencer - *Chair NNCLP*

Mike Gates - *Treasurer NNCLP*

Phil Harris - *Secretary NNCLP*

Patrick Hacon - *Chairman Norfolk County Council*

Mike Ward - *TGWG Trunch Branch Secretary*

Pam Cowburn - *NNCLP events Organiser*

David Russell - *NNCLP Archivist*

Dr John Alban - *County Archivist, Norfolk Record Office*

Hannah Verge - *Norfolk Record Office*

The presentation of records and Artefacts

On the closure of the CLP Office at Mount Street Cromer in around 1999 quite a number of artefacts such as the present banner along with shields and trophies and commemorative opening plate 1989 (now in the Cromer Museum) were rescued and stored by Party members.

The Banner was believed to have been made by the women's section of the North Walsham Branch. Fouded in 1919 was added to it by Sheila Cullingham early in 2000. It features in its centre the old Party emblem with the word "Liberty".

Over the years it has been paraded with pride by Party activists and members at demonstrations, marches, events and displayed at most of the All Members meetings.

There are many pictures of it being paraded, one of particular interest is with Jeremy Corbyn, Party Leader, at one of the Burston marches. It is good to see it being used for its original purpose and and it still remains a living tribute to the members who made it many years ago.

Our greatest treasure is THE BANNER BRIGHT. Finally in June 2014 The Fakenham Party banner and Branch box, the North Norfolk Labour Party Captain Sears enrolment shield and the North Norfolk CLP Ellen Steward memorial trophy were donated to the Peoples' History Museum, Manchester.

The banner was formally handed over by Denise Burke, prospective candidate in September 2014. It was restored to its former glory and put on public display in January 2015 for a year.

Picture: Jono Read



PPC Denise Burke formally hands over the Fakenham banner, September 2014

The banner at the 2015 Burston March - carried by Tom Walker and David Spencer and accompanied by Jeremy Corbyn



Picture supplied by David Spencer.
Burston, Sunday 6th September 2015.
Tom Walker and David Spencer are carrying the banner.

Memories of Members, past Party Workers and Candidates



This chapter records the words of some who have served the CLP as employees, Councillors and Parliamentary candidates.

JEANNE HEAL has been active in the North Norfolk Labour Party for much of the time since she moved to North Walsham in 1978. She recalls the Party as being embedded in the community and the Office in North Walsham buzzing with activity.

“We ran a Tote and knocked on doors every week and had Agents for it in every village. There were suppers and fetes, trips to Parliament and there was a Young Socialists Group. The social side was key to being part of the community with weekly Bingo and Jumble sales. The early 1980s saw lots of anti-Thatcher government rallies and marches, with fundraising to support campaigning activities. There was a team of canvassers who toured North Norfolk and helped get Labour District Councillors elected.

We saved the local Maternity Unit working closely with the trades unions. David Blunkett also visited North Norfolk to advise Labour Councillors on keeping services in house. Labour Councillors worked fairly for people that needed housing or benefits.”

Looking to the future Jeanne is adamant that the main purpose of the Party remains the same as when it was founded, to get Labour Party members elected. She believes that a paid Party Agent should be employed and that we should be a sociable socialist party.

With the election of Labour Councillors in North Walsham the tide is turning. Jeanne has been the North Norfolk Labour Party Treasurer since 2016 and has overseen many improvements in Party finances and organisation.



DAVID RUSSELL has been a trades union and activist for over sixty years. As someone who has always fought for better wages and conditions for workers, he says it was a natural progression to join the Labour Party, engage with the local community and put socialist principles into action.

The turning point for David was being elected as North Norfolk District Councillor for Hickling Ward on 4 May 1995. He says :
“Working with the community on their concerns I was able to to reinstate long neglected public footpaths, stop a local butchers

business from being closed by the Council and support the setting up of an animal rescue charity, FAITH, which was bitterly opposed by local land owners.

Both these are still operating today. My first late wife Diana and I supported local charities and attended and contributed to various village events which were both enjoyable and rewarding”.

David became the first ever Labour Councillor to be vice-Chairman and Chairman of North Norfolk District Council. As Chairman of its Personnel Committee he is particularly proud of creating job opportunities including the employment by the Council of its first ethnic minority member of staff.



PAUL BUCK has been active in trade union and political circles in North Norfolk for several decades. He works as a relief signalman for Network Rail and has been a union official first with the NUR and now with the RMT where he proudly represents 90% of the workforce.

After years in the Communist Party, Paul joined the Labour Party in 1990 and became active in Aylsham before moving to North Walsham. In 1995 he became a Labour Councillor on North Norfolk District Council for the North Walsham West Ward.

“Labour was the largest Party on the Council and also had the leading lights on North Walsham Town Council improving the town through North Walsham in Bloom and new allotments. We were well organised and had funds through running a tote to pay for a Party worker.”

Paul recalls the interesting cross-Party arrangements on North Norfolk District Council 1995 to 1999, mirroring the more recent national coalition between the Lib Dems and the Tories and paving the way for Lib Dems to win local and parliamentary seats.

Paul and other Labour Councillors put together a coalition that won funding and support for a new swimming pool in North Walsham.

Paul chaired North Norfolk Labour Party for a couple of years before leaving in 2004 but stays in touch with many local comrades. He remains a fervent supporter of Brexit.

SALLY SHANAHAN (nee Taylor) On leaving school, Sally worked in the North Norfolk Labour Party Office between 1972-1984.

In 1972 Sally remembers Doug Howe Party Agent, Lennie Howlett and Bill Groom, both field workers. The constituency boundaries were different from today which then included the very active Hellesdon and Sprowston areas. There was a large womens' section that organised social events for members, including monthly on leaving school mystery tours. There were also dances at the Tower ballroom in Great Yarmouth.

On 14 February 1974, during the General Election campaign, Labour Party Leader Harold Wilson was due to speak in Norwich. The North Walsham office produced boxes of

leaflets for distribution. When Doug Howe was taking them to the meeting his car left the road at Scottow and he was killed Sally said *“It was very sad and difficult time for his family and the Party and its election campaign. The applicant for Doug Howe,s job was Andrew Phillips, a Lawyer.”*

Income to fund the staff and Party activities was raised through a weekly Tote *“There were about 40 Tote Agents who collected from between 10 and 40 tote members each – with over a total of a 1000 people belonging to it. The constituency boundary changes in the early 1980s took Hellesdon and Sprowston out of the North Norfolk Constituency and a significant number of Tote members were lost.”*

David Ennals, then MP for Norwich North, was a frequent visitor to the North Norfolk CLP and also attended the dances at the Tower Ballroom.

MOLLIE WHITWORTH is well known by generations of North Norfolk families.

A former Head of Paston College and one of its predecessors, North Walsham Girls High School, as well as her extensive involvement with the local voluntary sector.

But Mollie is also one of the longest serving members of the North Norfolk Labour Party and was a Labour town Councillor in North Walsham for 27 years and once its Mayor. She joined the Party in January 1963 and remembers the halcyon days of having a local Labour MP – Bert Hazell who represented North Norfolk 1964-1970 during the Labour governments administration.

“It was totally different situation from today. We had an influential MP, supported by a local agent, Arthur Amis (also a Methodist lay preacher) and an office at Market Street, North Walsham. We had Saturday afternoon meetings and speakers included Government ministers like Lord Melchett who farmed organically in Norfolk and campaigned actively against GM crops.

Boundary changes, together with the shifting demographics, then made North Norfolk a safe Tory seat. The demographics have changed so much, Although Labour is currently enthusing a younger generation here in North Norfolk things are skewed towards an older population with the lack of employment opportunities for young people.”

IAN REILLY MBE former Secretary and Agent of the CLP 1977- 1982 who lived in North Walsham recalls that at the time, *“every Norfolk CLP- and indeed every Suffolk CLP - had full time organisers. This was of course very expensive to finance and could have not been done without the regular fundraising schemes that the CLPs ran – principally The Tote, but also Bingo tickets and finally the Norfolk Labour Labour Lottery. In North Norfolk (and other CLPs) a team of selfless volunteers would go out every week and collect their Tote Rounds.*

Small subscriptions were collected from thousands of people – and indeed it added up to a large sum of money. This financed the Labour Party locally, and in much of the Eastern Region.

In those days Labour was fortunate to have an excellent party office in North Walsham, Edwin House, (named after the former Labour MP Edwin Gooch) with two excellent staff working there. My time working in North Walsham, Stalham, Cromer, Sheringham, Holt, Aylsham, Wroxham, Sprowston, Hellesdon, Spixworth etc., stood me in good stead for the roles I subsequently took on.

I often have to explain to party members in big cities like Birmingham that whilst it often takes courage and commitment to become a Labour party activist, it takes more to become one in a rural area where every vote has to be fought for in every election in places like North Norfolk.

I join in saluting the women and men who have given their lives to Labour in North Norfolk over the past 100 years. Few of them obtained office, or reward. But they gave all they had.”



RAY MOONEY became a member of the Labour Party back in 1979 at the start of Thatcherism. He was a firefighter in London before coming an official of the Fire Brigades Union, leading the FBU’s work across the capital and with the Mayor of London.

Having left the Party during the fire fighters’ strike, Ray rejoined in 2010 when Ed Milliband became party leader, shortly after Ray and his partner Fiona Hall moved to Edingthorpe in North Norfolk. Since then, Ray became more actively involved in the local Labour Party and was elected to North Walsham town council in 2017.

In 2018 Ray was elected chair of the North Norfolk Labour Party.

Ray said *“My priorities are getting Labour councillors elected in key target seats and promoting the next Labour Parliamentary candidate for North Norfolk.*

The Tories are wrecking Norfolk. The closure of most of our children’s centres, cuts in funding for vulnerable 18-24 year olds, no investment in coastal defences, a terrible mental health service ,one of the highest rates of school exclusions – all while Tory councillors give themselves large pay rises.

Our job is clear. We have more members than the Tories and Lib Dems combined in North Norfolk. We need to get out there to get those members actively involved and campaigning against the Tory cuts and for a better and brighter Labour future.”



ANN AND AUBREY POBEREFSKY 1995 was a big year for the North Norfolk Labour Party with nineteen Labour councillors elected to North Norfolk District Council.

Ann Poberefsky was Labour Agent, doing the paperwork and financial returns for all the candidates and helping them get elected. Amongst the new councillors was her husband Aubrey.

Aubrey had been active an active Labour Party member for years in Glasgow and then in inner London before they moved to Saxthorpe. He was angry about so-called independent councillors who were really Tories in disguise and stood after a knock on the door one cold February evening, before winning in the tidal surge of 1995. Aubrey wanted to help people and is proud of their achievements, such as a link road and new village hall for Saxthorpe.

Aubrey later became a County Councillor and chaired both the museums and farms committees, ensuring they were not sold off and attracting huge investment in museums like Norwich castle. Meanwhile Ann continued to be the Party's Agent during the 1990s, working for Mike Cullingham, Labour's Parliamentary candidate, as well as working full time.

Since then Aubrey was chair of the Saxthorpe and Corpusty parish council, helping develop the local plan, and then became a Sheringham town councillor after he and Ann moved there in 2016. He believes that Labour members should get involved at local level and efforts should be targeted on key seats to get some Labour councillors elected.

Ann and Aubrey left the Labour Party in 2017 because of Europe and the Labour leadership "sitting on the fence" and "we lent our vote to Norman Lamb for the first time to help keep UKIP and the Conservatives out."



MIKE GATES is well known in Wells, where he is currently Mayor and involved in many community activities, from the Maltings art centre and Fairtrade to Victory housing trust, as a resident and now as a board member. Since he joined the Labour Party almost 40 years ago he has also held most party posts, including chair and secretary.

He is currently Agent and is proud of getting Labour candidates in everyone of 48 District Council seats in 2011 and 2015, the first time the Party ever managed to field a full slate.

Mike is less happy about his time as treasurer and the financial difficulties the local Party faced when the Tote dried up and the Party lost its staff and offices.

Mike represented Wells for 12 years on the district council, including chair of housing and leader of the Labour Group, as well as vice-chair and chair of the council. "We changed the emphasis of the council from tourism and leisure much more towards economic development, reflecting Labour values".

Today, Mike says Labour needs to get town and parish councillors elected. He is still a town councillor for Wells and the local district council candidate. "We need to build support and influence from the bottom up. The increase in Labour membership has not rejuvenated the Party the way you would expect. Getting more Labour people elected on to town and parish councils will help get Labour councillors at district and county councils."



DENISE AND STEPHEN BURKE

are another husband and wife team who have played a big role in North Norfolk Labour Party over the last decade since they moved to Happisburgh from London.

After the relative ease of winning elections for Labour in Hammersmith and Fulham over some thirty years, they have experienced multiple defeats in North

Norfolk, including Parliamentary elections in 2015 (Denise) and Stephen (2017) and in numerous district county and district by-elections. Despite their high media/social media profile, many natural Labour voters have continued to vote for Norman Lamb to keep the Tories out.

Denise said "Although Labour has more members than the other parties combined, we have failed to get them involved in the local communities with the exception of a few town and parish councillors. Winning the Parliamentary seat will become easier once Norman Lamb is defeated or stands down and it reverts to two party politics. This may happen sooner than we think."

Stephen said "It's relatively recent history that North Norfolk had a Labour MP. The demographic changes since 1970 mean that the Labour Party nationally and locally has to appeal much more to older voters. That's not pandering to their self-interest, but it does mean mixing radical policies with economic and social security for the many and recognising older people's roles and responsibilities in families."



JANE - ELIZABETH TOOKE Her earliest memories of growing up in Hoveton, where she still lives, are leafleting for the Labour Party. That's because her mother Kathleen Tooke founded the Hoveton Labour Party Branch in the 1960s (at least one branch book is deposited in the NRO), following a knock on the door by Labour field workers.

Kathleen took up the challenge and with her husband Rory recruited local friends to get involved in Labour Party activities and a weekly Bingo fund raising session in Hoveton. Like now, there

were lots of new members, and for some ten years the Party flourished, before internal divisions led Kathleen to resign and the local Party folded.

Kathleen and Rory helped with elections and paperwork for Bert Hazell, MP for North Norfolk, until 1970. With Labour Governments elected in 1974, Jane-Elizabeth remembers going to a dinner in St Andrew's Hall in Norwich addressed by Mary Wilson, the Prime Minister's wife, before she went round the hall to speak with people on every table.

Jane-Elizabeth continues to support the Labour Party. She works in the NHS and for the Royal College of Nursing and is very worried about the future of the health service.



SHEILA AND MICHAEL CULLINGHAM Between them Sheila and Michael Cullingham have some thirty years service as Labour councillors for Stalham, Sheila on the county council and Mike on the district council.

They joined the Labour Party in the mid -1980s after campaigning against cruise missiles with CND with a peace group in Stalham. Sheila was one of four Labour candidates in North Norfolk elected in 1989 for the North Smallburgh Division and served four terms to 2005 when she was the only Labour County

Councillor left in North Norfolk. She was also on the police authority for ten years and won several local campaigns. Her biggest majority came in 1993 when the Labour Party was resurgent nationally.

Mike was elected at a by-election in 1990 for the Scottow ward as the only Labour Councillor on the North Norfolk District Council and was Labour's Parliamentary candidate 1992 and 1997. When Labour won 19 district council seats in 1995 Mike became Leader of the Labour group and drove through big changes in the way the council was run, reflecting Labour priorities for economic development, housing and the environment. North Norfolk was one of the first councils to introduce recycling, building a recycling centre outside Aylsham. He also led on the development of the gas terminal at Bacton.

Mike finds it hard to believe how he balanced several jobs at once as councillor; Leader, teacher at a school in Norwich, parenting three children and travelling miles around Norfolk.

"In the 1980s and 1990s there was a very positive feeling towards Labour on the doorstep across the villages and estates, We had a full time-agent, other staff and an office, paid for by the Tote lottery, all of which meant a lot was happening. Now people get their information much more from social media."

More recently Sheila has been a Stalham town councillor. With politics so volatile she thinks Labour's time will come again in North Norfolk: *"Anything could happen, particularly if Labour handles Brexit well. The County Council is making £70 million cuts and public services are really threatened. It's a difficult time to be a councillor but everything's up for grabs,"*



DES HEWITT was one of three Labour councillors representing Fakenham on North Norfolk district council in the 1990s and is the only one still alive. Des has always been a Labour member and wishes he could still be active. Now in his late 80s he looks back with fondness on his eight years as district councillor and when he was chief whip *"sorting out troubles"*.

Fakenham was a strong Labour town and Des was a Labour town councillor for many years. Although Fakenham remains within North Norfolk district council's boundaries, losing the town from the

Parliamentary constituency was a big blow for Labour. The Town, says Des, has suffered changes made in recent decades and lack of investment by the council.



Courtesy of Archant

JASPER HAYWOOD joined the Labour Party at 17 prior to the 2015 General Election. *"The first meeting I attended after the election, was when we looked over the result and celebrated the hard work that had gone into the campaign."*

The mood was sombre, Ed Milliband, despite positive polling, had failed to secure a Labour majority. At this meeting I was invited to speak about where we wanted Labour to go in the future. I had not really thought much about what I wanted, nevertheless I spoke about the importance of offering young people a better future.

Out of the three young comrades that attended that evening, I am the only one who still attends in North Norfolk. After receiving a place at the University of East Anglia, I was also going to join the UEA Labour Society, but decided to remain in North Norfolk making the monthly one hour journey to Cromer. I initially regretted this decision, though upon reflection I felt that my decision was a sound one. Indeed, after spending the last three years as an active member, I know what I hope the Party can achieve, and this is based on my unique experiences with Labour in Norfolk.

Primarily, although the constituency is currently firmly Liberal Democrat, I have learnt how that does not necessarily rule out a Labour influence on the streets, Indeed, I have come to recognise the importance of community level interaction with voters, whether that is through street stalls, or comedy evenings. I hope North Norfolk Labour continue to embed itself and its members within our coastal and rural community.

Secondly, I had not really appreciated the difference Labour can make in rural areas. Through working on the Centenary Booklet, I have read through Council Member Books over the last century that show Labour members on a array of agricultural and rural committees, who were as now, determined to improve the quality of life for the dispossessed and powerless. I hope we continue to make the case that Labour is the natural party of government, in all areas of our country.

Finally, being active in North Norfolk has demonstrated that the issue I raised at the first meeting, although contextually unique, are not necessarily new, Rural isolation, lack of transport, and a rising cost of living, are all issues shared by the youngest and oldest in our community, and I want to see Labour in North Norfolk pursue a politics that reflects this, and reconciles social division.”



PHIL HARRIS Phil Harris joined the Labour Party after leaving University in 1979. Phil was a Labour councillor on Norwich City Council from 1988 to 1996, and was chair of Environmental Services Committee, chair of Norwich Airport and Norwich ITEC. Phil also campaigned against shops illegally opening on Sundays and exploiting shop workers.

Phil moved to Cromer after he was selected as the Labour Parliamentary candidate for North Norfolk in 2005 and stood again in 2010. He said: *“The Labour vote declined due to many*

Labour voters tactically voting Lib-Dem to keep the Tories out, but it was important to get the Labour message out.”

Following the General Election in 2005, Phil was co-opted onto Cromer Town Council and joined fellow Labour Party members Colin Vanlint and Irene Bowman. Phil was elected mayor of Cromer in 2007-8, and may have been the first Labour mayor in Cromer. He said: *“I spent time encouraging other Labour members to join me on Cromer Town Council. I helped put in place measures to ensure that the council properly sets and monitors its budget.”*

Amongst other roles, Phil has chaired Cromer Poor Lands Trust and has worked to ensure that the donations from the trust reach the most needy people in Cromer, helping them tackle poverty.

Phil has also been a member of the Co-operative Party since 1994 and stood as a Labour and Co-operative party candidate in North Norfolk District Council elections. He encouraged other party members including David Russell and David Spencer to stand on this joint ticket. Phil has promoted Co-operative policies including the establishment of credit unions, Fairtrade towns, co-operative ownership and supporters trusts.



**ROY HAYNES -
BY HIS THREE CHILDREN**

“First and foremost dad was a loving husband to our mum Audrey and a caring and supportive father to us three children, Beverley, Allan and Gordon. He also had nine grandchildren, whom he adored.

He was a passionate man, who loved to be involved in various organisations, groups and activities in and around the local area. The Labour party was a great passion of his and as children we remember the meetings which would be held at our family home.

Dad was very proud, as we are, that he'd been given the opportunity of being Mayor of North Walsham, not just once but twice. He was inspired by both Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill, coming from the North and being involved with the mines and British steel he never forgot his roots when he moved into Norfolk.

He found politics more of a challenge in Norfolk as it was predominantly based around conservative ideals. But this did not stop him - he enjoyed the challenge and the battle.

Dad spent most of his time in Mundesley injecting community spirit into the locals, MADRA etc. He later moved to North Walsham and was able to further his ideals to a larger audience.

Dad was all about giving back to the community and never taking, something not many politicians adopt.”

Fund Raising

The first full time paid agent was employed in April 1945. In 1950 Jock Watson started a Tote and free Bingo which was run by the CLP Agents of Norwich, South West Norfolk, Kings Lynn, Central Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and North Norfolk. Most of the monies collected from this went to the running of the CLP offices.

The Tote finally ceased when the National Lottery started. New ways of raising funds for the CLP activities was carried out by volunteers, with events such as jumble sales, summer fetes, winter socials, dinners and entertainments. National Party Speakers and guests including Tony Benn, Michael Foot, Shirley Williams, Ed Balls, John Garrett, MP

for Norwich South and Euro MPs Richard Howitt and Alex Mayer.

The December 2018 STAND UP FOR LABOUR event organised by Events officer Mandy McKenna proved to be a great success, being a good money spinner and social occasion. *“That’s the way to do it!”*

Christmas Dinner fundraising events were popular, with guests speakers such as Margaret Hodge, Charles Clarke, Baroness Patricia Hollis and Rachel Reeves among others



Jumble and cake sales like this “Jumbilee” event in 2012 helped to raise funds



Courtesy of Philip Williams



The European Union and North Norfolk



In the 5 June 1975 Referendum the UK voted to become part of the European Community. North Norfolk greatly benefited from European investments in many projects.

THE EUROPEAN OBJECTIVE 5B PROGRAMME 1994-2000



Fakenham Town Centre Environmental Improvements

Improvements to the market place and town centre buildings project co-ordinated and delivered by North Norfolk District Council

Fakenham Learning Centre

Project delivered by the College of West Anglia

Fakenham Factory Units

Project delivered by NNDC,

Fakenham Employment Land

Project delivered by NNDC,

Farm Rural Buildings Conversion Programme

Project delivered through a regional partnership but promoted to a local farm business by NNDC.

THE EUROPEAN OBJECTIVE 2 PROGRAMME 2000 - 2007

Available in eight coastal wards between Wells-next-the-Sea and Cromer



Cromer Town Centre Enhancement Programme

Improvements to traffic management, widening of pavements and environmental improvements to the streets in Cromer Town Centre - project co-ordinated and delivered by NNDC.

Cromer Seafront Enhancement Programme

Improvements to main promenade area and pier forecourt, investment in Cromer Pier, additional seating and new bar area in the Pavilion Theatre, Tides restaurant, new booking office, shop and public toilets, the development of the Rocket House museum, restaurant, public toilets and cliff lift project co-ordinated by NNDC.

Picture by www.TourNorfolk.co.uk

Cromer Learning for Everyone programme

Co-ordination of local training delivery, development of Bond Street project office, development and delivery of Merchants Place facilities - project co-ordinated and delivered by NNDC.

Tourism development grant programme

Project delivered through a regional partnership and promoted to local tourism business by NNDC.

European Fisheries Programme

- North Norfolk Fisheries Local Area Group

- Development of shellfish handling facilities

- Wells Harbour, plus improvement to slipways at Sheringham, East Runton, Bacton and Walcott.

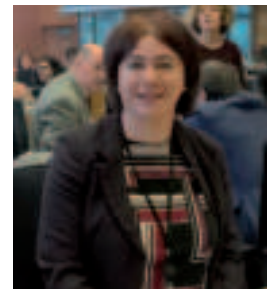
Picture by www.TourNorfolk.co.uk



Alex Mayer MEP

Clive Needle MEP

Richard Howitt MEP



Pensthorpe



Picture by www.TourNorfolk.co.uk

Past projects

Norfolk Wildlife Trusts setting up of a Bittern habitat at Hickling Broad and a new visitors centre at Cley, improvements to the North Norfolk Railway at Sheringham, The Victory swimming pool at North Walsham, Pensthorpe Wild Life Park and Fakenham Racecourse amongst others.

All these projects were ably supported by past Euro MPs Clive Needle and Richard Howitt and continued by the present MEP Alex Mayer.

The history of the CLP offices

*Opening of the North Walsham office
by party leader Hugh Gaitskell*



At a meeting at Melton Constable in April 1945 it was agreed to employ a full time paid Party Agent. On the 25 of February 1961 the new Party Constituency office, Edwin House, was opened in Market Street North Walsham by the Party Leader Hugh Gaitskell.

The office moved to Mount Street, Cromer on 3 March 1989 and was opened by Roy Hattersley MP (later Baron Hattersley), a Common Market supporter.

It finally closed sometime in 1995. The building still stays in the ownership of the CLP, being converted into rented accommodation and remains so at the time of writing.

Notable National dates over the last 100 years

1 December 1919

American-born Lady Nancy Astor was the first woman to take her seat in Parliament

23 December 1919

Exclusion of Women from many jobs made illegal

1920

Women at Oxford University are allowed to receive degrees

July 1921

unemployment reaches a post war high of 2.5 million

3-12 May 1926

The General Strike of was perceived by the Trades Unions to be a brilliant failure

1928

all women over the age of 21 were given the vote on the same terms as men

May 1929

Labour wins the General Election with Ramsay Mac Donald as Prime Minister.

The government lasted for two years.

5 October 1936

Jarrow men march to London to highlight local poverty and unemployment

3 September 1939

Britain declares war on Germany

Women get the vote 1928



Jarrow March 1936



Battle of Britain 1940



Free Secondary Education 1944

10 May 1940

brought a coalition government led by Winston Churchill with many Labour members holding important government posts inside and outside the War Cabinet.

July- October 1940

Battle of Britain

May 1944

free secondary education to 15. With three types of schools grammar, secondary modern and technical.

8 May 1945

Britain celebrates the end of the war in Victory in Europe Day

26 July 1945

After the second world war a Labour government led by Clement Atlee was elected with a majority of 393.

5 July 1948

the NHS was founded by Nye Bevan. Free at the point of delivery for all

12 July 1965

Comprehensive education begins

8 November 1965

death penalty abolished except for treason and piracy with violence this abolished in 1998.

1967

Decriminalisation of homosexual acts between in private between 2 men when they have attained the age of 21 for England and Wales. Followed by Scotland in in1980 and Northern Ireland in 1982

15 February 1971

decimalised currency replaces pounds shillings and pence

1 October 1974

Health and Safety at Work Act introduced by Michael Foot came into force. Later applicable to the NHS

2 April 1982

Argentina invades the British territories of the Falkland Islands

6 March 1984

12 months miners strike against pit closures began

2 August 1990

The first Gulf war

May 1997

A Labour government led by Tony Blair elected with a 253 seat majority

1999

The foundation of the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament.

2003

Second Gulf war

13 March 2014

same sex marriages became lawful for England and Wales- 16 December 2014 for Scotland

23 June 2016

the UK voted by referendum to leave the European Union



Our currency went decimal 1971

Out of the EU 2016



Notable dates for North Norfolk over the last 100 years

1919 The founding of the North Norfolk Constituency Labour Party September 1919 at Melton Constable

1945 In April 1945 a full time constituency paid agent was employed.

1949 On May Day 1949 Prime Minister Clement Attlee attended and spoke at the grave of Sir George Edwards at Fakenham Cemetery

1969 On 15 October 1969 the 50th year of the North Norfolk Constituency Labour Party celebrated.

1974 In 1974 the new North Norfolk District Council was formed with the first three Labour Councillors being Noel Edwards, Arthur Amis and N Bacon

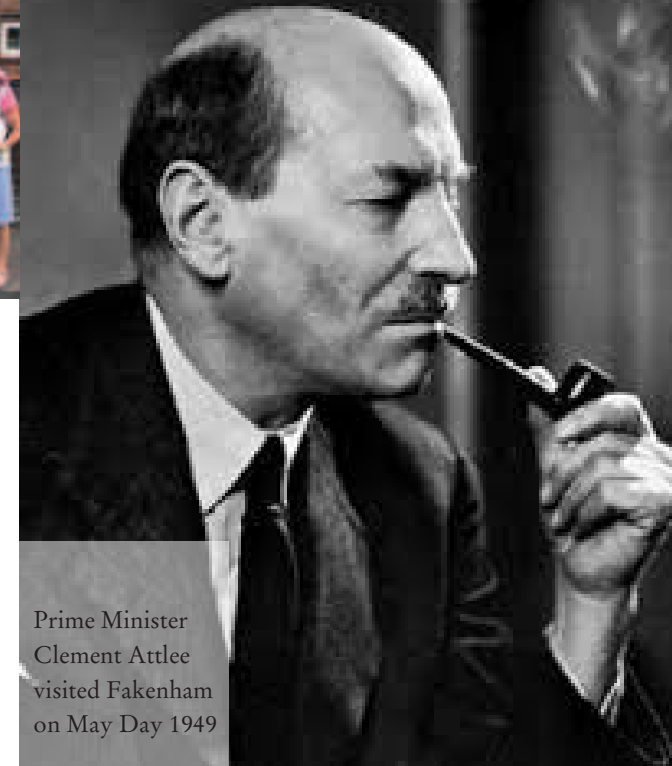
1995 On Thursday 4 May 1995 nineteen Labour Councillors were elected to North Norfolk District Council

1996 In the NNDC years 1996-1997 David Russell became its first Labour vice Chairman and the following years 1997-1998 its first Labour Chairman.

Top right; John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor, visits North Walsham 22nd August 2017



2018 On 5 July 2018 the 70th anniversary of the founding of the NHS was celebrated by Labour Party members, NHS employees, Trades Unions, Councillors at Cromer, North Walsham and Sheringham. Labour Party 70th birthday cards were presented to Cromer and North Walsham hospitals.



Prime Minister Clement Attlee visited Fakenham on May Day 1949

A Visual Legacy

Throughout North Norfolk many roads display the name of Party activists and MPs

FAKENHAM

George Edwards Road - Sir George Edwards MP (South Norfolk) JP, Norfolk County Councillor and Alderman, Author, Methodist Preacher, founder of the Eastern Counties Agricultural Labourers' and Smallholders' Union July 1906. (also George Edwards Close at Marsham)

CROMER

Fulcher Avenue - W C Fulcher, past Chairman of Cromer UDC and active member of the NNCLP Executive Committee

TRUNCH

Amis Close - Arthur Amis, former Party Agent, North Norfolk District Councillor, Author, Methodist and Agricultural Workers member

NORTH WALSHAM

Gooch Close - Edwin Gooch, former MP

Hazell Road - Bert Hazell, former MP

Howlett Close - Len Howlett, Trades Unionist, former member of North Walsham Urban District Council, North Norfolk District Council, North Walsham Town Council Mayor

Stanley Road - Neville Stanley, Farmer, member of North Walsham Urban District Council



Thanks and Acknowledgements

My thanks go to following people and organisations for the kind assistance in providing information and photographs for The Banner Bright publication.

To Mrs Pat Piercy, daughter of the late Bert Hazell, for inviting me into her home to talk about her Dad and to the family for depositing all Bert's private, political, Agricultural Workers Union, York Health Authority papers and 11 hours of his voice recording memoirs into the Norfolk Record Office.

To York University for providing the presentation address by Professor A. K Maynard on the occasion of the conferment of the honorary degree of Master of the University of York on the 13 July 1984 for Bert's contribution to the NHS in the Yorkshire area.

To Cecil (Peter) Amis and his wife Penny for coming to see me and talk about his father, the late Arthur, and providing further unknown and information about this remarkable man. After this I paid a visit to Trunch Methodist Chapel with my long suffering wife Mary and took photographs of the memorial window dedicated to Arthur and his wife Gladys.

A most humbling experience.

To Ian Reilly MBE former CLP Agent 1977-1982 for giving me an insight into the work of an Agent at the time and for interesting historical details. Really helpful, most informative and much appreciated.

To Norfolk Record Office and Frank Meeres, Archivist for their patience and helpful attention in the matter of researching Norfolk County Councillors and Alderman.

To North Norfolk District Council for access to year books, minutes (not lost) for the purposes of research and identifying Labour Councillors and their roles within the Council and to Steve Blatch, for information on EU funding for North Norfolk.

To Cromer Town Council for assisting me in identifying W.C. Fulcher, a Labour Urban District Councillor and its Chairman on three separate occasions.

To Jeanne Heal for sharing her extensive memories of North Walsham Town, its Labour Councillors, Party employees and residents.

To Janet Munroe of Mundesley for her kind assistance and invaluable help with photograph identities and the role her mother and father played in the NNCLP over the years.

To the Archant Newspaper library for making available their collection to me for research

Finally my thanks to **the Centenary Working Group** Comrades Tim and Ruth Bartlett, Stephen Burke and Jasper Haywood for their kind assistance and support for without that this publication would have not been possible.

In conclusion I dedicate this book to all the women and men who have given their lives to Labour in North Norfolk over the past 100 years. Few of them obtained office or reward but believed that the Labour Party would make a difference to their lives and others and worked hard to achieve this - you are the Labour Party, nothing is bigger or greater than you.

Roughton Norfolk 2019



About the Author

David Russell was born in Norwich and has lived at Hellesdon, Sea Palling and Roughton.

David trained as an Apprentice Electrician in Norwich 1955-1961 becoming a Journeyman Electrician thereafter. He joined the Electrical Trades Union in 1957 and has been a member of its successive unions to the present Unite The Union.

He entered the NHS as an electrician at Hellesdon Hospital in late 1970, becoming

a Shop Steward and Safety Representative during the mid-1970s, eventually he became Senior Shop Steward, representing all NHS maintenance workers in Norwich and most of Norfolk. Leading, without risk to patients, successful industrial action over bonus payments 23 February-18 March 1981.

A member of the Electrical Electronic Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU) NHS National Industrial Committee August 1980 until February 1992.

He was elected as a Labour Councillor for Hickling Ward to North Norfolk District Council in May 1995, becoming its first Labour Vice Chairman in 1996-1997 and its Chairman 1997-1998, also Chairman of its Personnel Committee in 1996.

Author of the Norwich ETU centenary booklet *A Light in the Darkness* September 1996. Currently a member of the North Norfolk Labour Party's Executive Committee, Trade Union Liaison Officer (TULO) and Archivist, Cromer Town Councillor and past Chairman of Sea Palling Parish Council.



*The Labour Party's Anthem
Sung in Parliament by the Labour
Administration in 1945*

THE RED FLAG

The worker's flag is deepest red
It shrouded oft our martyred dead
And ere their limbs grew stiff and cold
Their heart's blood dyed its every fold

Then raise the scarlet standard high
within its shade we'll live and die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer
We'll keep the red flag flying here

Look 'round the Frenchman loves its blaze
The sturdy German chants its praise
In Moscow's vaults its hymns are sung
Chicago swells the surging throng

Then raise the scarlet standard high
within its shade we'll live and die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer
We'll keep the red flag flying here

It waved above or infant might
When all ahead seemed dark as night
It witnessed many a deed and vow
We must not change its colour now

Then raise the scarlet standard high
within its shade we'll live and die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer
We'll keep the red flag flying here

It suits today the meek and base
Whose minds are fixed on self and place
To cringe beneath the rich man's frown
And haul the sacred emblem down

Then raise the scarlet standard high
within its shade we'll live and die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer
We'll keep the red flag flying here

It well recalls the triumphs past
It gives the hope of peace at last
The banner bright, the symbol plain
Of human right and human gain

Then raise the scarlet standard high
within its shade we'll live and die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer
We'll keep the red flag flying here

With heads uncovered swear we all
To bear it onward till we fall
Come dungeons dark or gallows grim
This song shall be our parting hymn

Then raise the scarlet standard high
within its shade we'll live and die
Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer
We'll keep the red flag flying here

*Jim Connell 1889
Tune- O Tannenbaum*