

Seahaven Labour Newsletter

The Voice of Seaford and Newhaven Labour Party

September 2024

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Seahaven branch meeting

Seahaven Labour Branch September Meeting – Saturday September 7th @10.30 am

In person at **St James Lower Hall, Blatchington Rd, Seaford**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89578092993?pwd=yLUy0Ki6gfSDY2pNB7zVMrxoVkHMa6.1&from=addon>

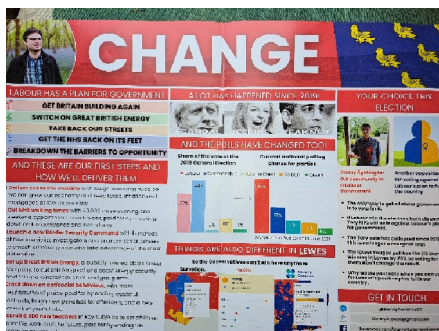
Meeting ID: 895 7809 2993 Passcode: 182011

Discussions on the new Labour Government's initiatives on housing with a focus on private tenants and also the climate crisis with a focus on the role of agriculture.

Join us and meet new friends and hear interesting discussions and news.

Our October 5th branch meeting will have an extended discussion on all aspects of immigration.

Hybrid meetings- during COVID many people experienced online meetings for the first time. As we slowly emerged from lockdowns there were many people still shielding. We hold most meetings as both in person and online – a hybrid meeting. The numbers taking the online option is dwindling – we wonder if that option is still needed. Tell us what you think.



Public Service – could you help?

Almost universally, whatever Labour Party members hold as their ideological beliefs these include the benefits of cooperation, the desire for fairness and a belief that, used properly, the state can be a major help to people.

All that can be brought together in the idea of voluntary service and, in particular, voluntary public service.

If potholes, schools, housing, parks or many other local essential services interest you, then local public service may be right up your street. Of course, not all public service is as much fun or easy or interesting as all roles have some



boring bits. Some roles involve tricky decisions and not always getting your own way. But helping local people can and often is very personally rewarding.

What does it take? Is there a qualification? Do you need some specific expertise or experience? Do you need to be a born manager? The answer is no. Some of these skills can help but they are not the crucial component. You must want to help others not just yourself.

But first you must be a candidate and then a successful one.

The most common explanation candidates give for standing for office is 'public service'.

Next year we have County Council elections for East Sussex and the labour party will be looking for candidates. In this constituency we will need up to 11 candidates – could you be one?

Of course, you may not win but it will give you great experience as to what it is like being a candidate and that could help you when the District council elections come round where we might even win a couple of seats (we came close in some last time).

For the County Council elections - on 14th August 2024

Labour South East Region sent an email to all members asking for applications.

The key information was:

To apply, please fill out the application form (attached) and the declaration form (attached) and state which division/s you would like to stand in and email the forms and division to southeastselections@labour.org.uk by: 5pm 31st August 2024

Requirements:

On top of legal requirements, in order to qualify to stand in the upcoming County Elections you will need to meet the following criteria:

- *Be a resident in the area of the relevant local authority, and*
- *Hold your party membership in the area of the relevant local authority*
- *Have been a member of the party for at least 12 months.*
- *Be a member of a trade union*

Please see the qualification and disqualification document attached.

For attachments mentioned go to original email please.

McCleary and Lib Dem watch

For years these newsletters and Labour member's reports have been full of news and comment about Maria Caufield MP. That can now end as we have a new MP. This element of the Newsletter will focus on our new MP - how and what he

does. It will keep an eye on the wider LibDem activity locally and in Parliament. I would be happy to receive your news and views on these matters.

The Kings Speech - the opening of a new Parliament – is where the now Labour Government outlines its programme and many of the key bills it is seeking to introduce. Some 'organic intellectuals' in the Labour Party had suggested the Liberal Democrats, and our new MP in particular, might well vote in support of Labour's Kings Speech. No, they didn't. McCleary & the Lib Dems voted for a wide-ranging amendment to wreck it. They even abstained on the Tory amendment to wreck it.

But hey, I hear some day they would vote for the progressive bills themselves – for example, on the railways. Now (for all the controversies about what should and should not be nationalised) it got almost universally recognised that, not only does it make sense to integrate the railways nationally - the Thatcherite privatisation was a disaster - but also the separate rail companies are all failing. Labour said it would renationalise them. The Kings Speech confirmed this. The Railways Bill got its second reading, but McCleary and all the LibDems abstained!

Councillor's Report

Don't forget to visit the open houses in Seaford and Newhaven this September. The Artwave festival runs from 7th to 22nd September. On Saturday 21st come and browse a carefully curated selection of stalls showcasing beautiful, handcrafted goods by Sussex artists, designers and makers in the Atrium at the Marine Workshops. A perfect opportunity to combine it with a visit to the new café, Mamoosh Riverside, also in the Marine Workshops.

NTC Meetings:

Tuesday 17th September Full Council 7.15pm.

Tuesday 24th September Planning Meeting 7.15pm followed by the Environment and Amenities Meeting.

Jan Woodling

Lewes Women's Branch

On Saturday, 10th August, we enjoyed a delightful garden party thanks to the kindness of Kate Chappell and family. Everyone brought food to share and we ran a very successful raffle, collecting £100 for United Voices of the World, the union that supports cleaners and people who work predominantly in low-paid, precarious and outsourced jobs. The Union has members of 108 nationalities and has had noted successes in their fight for dignity, respect and equality at work.

The sun shone, music played quietly in the background and many conversations were had. This was the first event at which our new Chair, Val Sng, officiated, ably assisted by the Deputy Chair, Denise Savage.

Earlier, Sherry Russell and Linda Drabble ran a very successful book stall in North Street and raised £251.50. There are still quite a few books and so another sale will be held in the future.

The next meeting of the Women's Branch will take place at 3 North Street and on zoom on Wednesday 4th September. We are hoping to have contributions from our successful comrades in Worthing. Details will be sent in good time.

Teresa O'Brien Women's Officer, Seahaven Branch.

Trades Council Film Show

Title: NAE PASARAN

Date: 20th October

Time: 14.00

Venue: Hillcrest Community Centre Newhaven

Admission: Free Event

The film documents the defiance of Scottish engineers who refused to repair military jet engines for the Chilean dictator, General Pinochet. Plus a Chilean guest speaker.

Newhaven Community Supermarket

Newhaven Community Supermarket is open to all local residents – there is no joining fee, people just leave a record of name and address. They can then use the supermarket each week to shop, it's on a Monday 11.00 – 1.30 at Denton Island Community Centre. There's fresh produce, cupboard staples, and pre-cooked meals, also toiletries, sanitary and cleaning products and pet food, and occasional luxuries! The supermarket operates a 'Pay as You Feel' policy, - members can make a contribution as and when they can

afford, that may well be nothing on many weeks, although currently there is a small charge for fresh eggs and milk. Some of the members are also volunteers, and new members/volunteers are always made to feel very welcome.

Seahaven Storehouse

Each year, Seahaven Storehouse needs to raise between £40,000 - £50,000 to support over 100 households. Every week, they provide 2,000 kg of food in over 100 food parcels, helping about 300 individuals.

Although the food bank does receive donations of food from private individuals, schools and other organisations, and supermarket boxes, etc, most of the food it distributes is specifically bought in from Aldi and Morrisons. Non-food items such as nappies and other sanitary products are also bought in.

For that reason, the best way to help the foodbank is through monetary donations, since they allow for stock planning and targeting resources where they are most needed.

Donations can be made by bank transfer to "Seaford Community Church", sort code 60-18-37, account no. 57915415, giving "Storehouse" as a reference.

Any amount, however small, is very much appreciated.

Note from Our Treasurer - Donations are always welcome

If you feel you cannot give a lot of time to the Branch, you might like to help by giving a donation or set up a standing order to help build up campaign funds.

Please make donations online to Seaford Labour Party, Unity Trust Bank, sort code 60-83-01, account number 20441500.

Note: The Bank charges us 30p to process cheques so please can members use BACS.

If members cannot use BACS they can send cheques made payable Seaford Labour Party and send them c/o Lindsay Thomas, 59 Cricketfield Road, Seaford, BN25 1BU.

CONTACT US

Secretary - Lindsay.thomas@hotmail.co.uk or **07958316158**

Chair - bradford.pete@gmail.com

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