



From The Vice-Chair

Wishing all members and supporters a Happy and Healthy New Year. As we start preparing for the May elections we hope that it will also be a successful one for those who are standing for election and for the Labour Party nationally .

We said goodbye to 2022 with two very successful events

The Christmas Foodbank Cuppa and Cake event for Caring Hands at The Brew Bear was a happy afternoon where members and supporters donated very generously. Angela McCann used her design skills to create an impressive display of the donations and those present commented on both the quantity and quality of the items donated . Thank you everyone, these contributions will have made a real difference to the recipients.



The Christmas Social at Cornmill Yard provided a festive opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the branch during 2022. Thank you to Nina and her staff who provided a lovely buffet and bar. Mary Tasker organised a Christmas raffle for a hamper and bottle of mead and along with taking “voluntary subs” we were able to add to our coffers to fight the upcoming elections. Our dynamic fundraiser also took the opportunity to sell tickets for the “Get Political” gig at The Valkyrie in January, having set herself a target of selling 100 tickets.

Fundraising



January kicked off with the hugely successful “Get Political” gig on January 7th. Although the line up had to change (for genuine reasons) Mary assembled and reassembled a fantastic line up of fun-loving musicians who provided excellent entertainment throughout the evening, including dancing. Helen Russell introduced the bands with a rallying call to Vote Labour and commented that she had never seen so many radical people in one place in Evesham!

The target for ticket sales was exceeded and along with the raffle for a House of Commons bottle of whisky and a selection of the bands’ CDs we raised over £1200. Huge thanks must go to Mary who worked tirelessly to arrange the venue, bands, raffle and ticket sales and also hosted some of those who had travelled to play. Thanks are extended also to The Valkyrie who provided the venue and security for the event and of course to the musicians who played for us for free . We hope that another event may be repeated in the future.





January Branch Meeting

The January branch meeting on 24th provided an opportunity for the executive to share their plans for the year. The short-term priority is to prepare for the May elections but alongside this we want to increase our visibility and engagement in the wider community.

All but one of those standing for election have been confirmed pending two approval meetings. To prepare for the election a campaign group has been established and the election candidates are meeting regularly and working together to create a common policy. At the February branch meeting we will hold a "Meet the Candidates" event where they will introduce themselves to the membership.

The second part of the meeting focussed on working in small groups to think about how we might grow the membership and increase our visibility in the community. Working in small groups members reviewed 5 focussed questions to consider this. Thank you to every one who participated in the discussions, we have had some really good ideas; some of these can be actioned quite quickly and others will require some advance planning but your ideas will support us to provide a more varied programme of activities for members to enjoy and contribute to.

To kick start this, a quiz team (4 people) has been booked into the Cornmill Yard Quiz on Saturday 25th February (time to be confirmed but early evening). If you would like to participate please email sue.wood-griffiths@eveshamlabour.org. If more than four approach me, we will see if we can book more places. Also if you know where pubs are hosting a quiz let me know and we can get quizzing.

Membership

Since the summer of 2022 we have seen steady increase in membership, probably helped by the madness of the Tory party with bizarre leadership appointments and no shortage of scandal and sleaze - probably enough to make any sane person start to think seriously that the time has come for new leadership. We continue to use the Gazebo to raise the visibility of the Labour Party in Evesham and all the evidence says this has been very successful. Importantly we see that that being visible out on the street is a great way to meet and engage with young people. In the last few months we have been joined by 4 new members who are under 20!

Look out for our Gazebo around Evesham over the next few months, come and say hi to us and talk about how to get involved.

Upcoming Meetings

Going forward we are moving the regular branch meeting to be on a Wednesday evening from 7pm to 9pm. This will now be held at Evesham Rowing Club. Dates for next two meetings are as follows:

February 15th: Come along and meet the Labour candidates for the 2023 May local elections
March 8th : Join us for the launch of our local election campaign

Our branch meetings are a great opportunity to meet other members, have input into the direction of the branch, and to find out what we are doing in our local area. It is a friendly social environment and also includes a regular chance to exchange books from our Labour Library.

Note: From March onwards all branch meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month



Other Important Dates

Our Labour Gazebo is one of the main methods we have for raising the visibility and profile of the Labour Party in Evesham. We are regularly out and about with this.

January 28th: Droitwich Town Centre 10:30

January 29th: Evesham Town Centre 11:00 -13:00 (High Street – outside Iceland)

Please join us if you can help out. It is a great chance to meet local residents and hear about what matters to them.

In early March Helen Russell will be organising a Women's Paddling Day as part of International Women's Day. This will be aimed at encouraging women who don't normally paddle to "have a go"

1st April we plan a public launch of our local election campaign with Jess Phillips as guest speaker

21st April Extinction Rebellion will be holding their "Big One" London protest

Keep an eye out for more information on these events

Getting Involved

Register To Vote:

[gov.uk/register-to-vote](https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)



Donate To Our Fighting Fund:

Acct Name: **Evesham Branch Labour Party**

Sort Code: **20-98-61**

Acct Number: **30686492**

Help us raise funds to fight the local elections in May 2023.

All donations will be used to support our campaign.

JustGiving



Contact Us:

Email us: welcome@eveshamlabour.org

Call us: **01386 293035**

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