



A message from the constituency chair – May 2020

Dear Comrades,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. It seems so long ago that we last met at the community centre at Hellesdon and so much has happened in that time.

We have a new leadership team and a new shadow cabinet who have made a good start challenging the government and holding them to account. I was very impressed by shadow minister Rosena Allin-Khan, a doctor working on the front line in an NHS hospital, who questioned Matt Hancock about government failures contributing to a greater loss of life and asking for answers on its testing strategy. All he could do was to say he didn't like her attitude. The incompetence and complacency of the Government has led to us having the highest number of deaths from Covid 19 in Europe, shame on them.

Now I am off my soapbox, on to other matters!

2021 County Council Elections

The boundary commission has decided that next year's County Council elections will be using the same boundaries as it did 4 years ago. We need 12 motivated and committed candidates, please step forward and volunteer if you can, there will be support and training available. If you want to know what is involved we can organise a zoom meeting with existing councillors. You will soon receive communications from the Labour Party asking if you would be willing to stand for the County Council and setting out the selection procedure. We do not know how we will be campaigning, because it seems unlikely that social distancing will be removed before the campaign will start. Social media, local activists, targeted letters will all be our weapons of choice.

Comms & Social Media

Broadland CLP desperately needs someone to join the executive committee who has the ability and time to take over our press and social media work. This will be a crucial role in planning for next May. Please contact Philip our secretary (sec@BCLP.UK) if you want to know more. There is also much information on our website about the executive committee roles — <https://www.broadlandlabour.org.uk/category/the-executive-committee-team/>.

Parish Councils

Philip keeps us informed of vacancies on Parish Councils. These local councils are an essential part of our democracy, it allows us to help our communities and is a great way to gain experience and confidence in speaking for our communities. Please consider applying for a vacancy if one occurs in your area. You can sign up for notification of those vacancies and much else that is happening at the district council — <https://www.broadland.gov.uk/> at the very bottom of the page. *"Sign up to email alerts to receive updates on topics such as job vacancies, changes to bin day collections and forthcoming events. If you have already subscribed you can log in to change your preferences."*

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Meetings & Conference

Because we are unable to have meetings some decisions will have to be made by the executive committee. We are supposed to have an AGM to elect an executive committee for 2020-21 but with no meetings the only thing we can possibly do is continue with the existing members until we can hold an AGM. That said if anyone is interested in taking on any of the roles do get in touch with Philip or me. We also have to decide on a delegate to Party conference in September. If any member would like to know more or be considered please let Philip or me know.

The 100 club draw

Since we can't have public draws for the monthly 100 Club we will use the last two decimal digits of the FTSE index at the end of each month so that everyone can see it's a fair draw. At the end of April it was 5901.21 so number 21, Mr. Malcolm Kemp is April's winner of £73.50. There's still time to enter for May's draw – instructions on how to join are on our website —

<https://www.broadlandlabour.org.uk/about/100club/> — or just contact the treasurer — treasurer@BCLP.UK.

Acle Food Bank

I have been in touch with the newly established Acle food bank. The County Council Labour Group will be supplying them with food from 22nd March onwards. If people would like to take food donations in, they are collecting Thursday mornings between 10 and 11 am at the Methodist Church. People from surrounding villages will be able to access the food bank. They will need to be referred by the schools or from the County Council. The phone number for the food bank is: 07507 397227.

Thanks

I know many of you work in the caring professions and our thanks and admiration goes out to all of you. We also thank those front line workers who are keeping our lives safe, the refuse workers, delivery people, milk men and women, postal workers and many others. For those of us who are receiving such brilliant service please remember to say thank you, I know a note or a card is greatly appreciated. (Higher wages would be a better thank you, but that is for another day).

And finally...

Local shops, and restaurants are struggling to survive and many are offering restricted services. If you can support them please do.

If any of you are finding the lock down hard and need a chat or anything fetching, maybe help with dog walking or accessing the mysteries of the internet please give one of us a ring or drop us an email, we are your Labour Party, we are strong together.

We will be in touch with you again soon.

Brenda.