

2016

HAVING FABIAN

September 2016

In this edition;

Reports on the recent meetings

Matthew Hopkins and Kathryn H

Jemima Olchawski

The next installment of our series to mark 50 years of
Haverling in 2015 - the Haverling Council Elections 1998

Brexit – what next?

Fay Hough –

Helen Anderson – memories of 1997

- **Future meetings**

October- Jon Cruddas

November – Maurice Glasman



HAVERING FABIAN

VOLUME 2 EDITION 28 September 2016

Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of the Havering Fabian Newsletter. We reflect on the referendum, recent meetings and there is a welcome contribution from Fay Hough, who is the Youth officer for Dagenham and Rainham Labour Party.

Our presence on social media is bringing us closer to a number of new organisations, with 864 followers on twitter.

We continue the series on the Council elections in Havering since 1964, bringing you the results, the personalities and the movement in the politics of the borough. This edition covers 1998, which is more interesting in retrospect that it appears from the numbers. For the political anoraks out there, I intend to collate the whole series when we finish and publish the complete edition, updated with the information gathered as we go.

Keep up to date at our twitter site **@haveringfabians** for the latest news. We are affiliated to the four local Labour Parties, and will do all we can to support their campaigns.

Both Romford and the Hornchurch and Upminster Labour parties have upgraded their websites and are active on Twitter – no doubt both will be used to keep you up to date as the campaigns take shape.

Havering Young Labour are on twitter **@ylabourhavering** and hope they reflect a growing interest in Labour politics in Havering.

As opinions are the lifeblood of politics, we welcome a reply to any of the articles. The Fabian Society exists to promote political debate, both within and outside the Labour Party. Progressive politics extends beyond the

Labour Party and contributions from the Labour Movement as a whole are welcome.

Attendances at recent meetings have remained good and the quality of speakers remains exceptional. Given the relative youth of recent speakers, this is really encouraging for the future of the labour movement. We are glad to see a number of new people attending the meetings, and have an ever increasing number of followers on Face book and Twitter.



Our website address is <http://haveringfabians.org.uk>

We have an open and a closed Face book site, the closed site deal more with local administration while the open site is used to publish interesting articles; please contact David Marshall to be added to the site or e-mail

Haveringfabians@outlook.com

BREXIT

The result on 23rd June was unexpected, which in itself shows the distance between the voting public and the political movements. The fall out has seen a new Prime Minister, all sorts of issues for the Labour Party and economic uncertainty.

People voted for Brexit for a range of reasons – and that poses lots of problems for the Government. While at one level “Brexit means Brexit” confirms the government’s intention to leave, there are all sorts of conflicts that follow. Remaining in the single market almost certainly requires free movement of labour which is incompatible with the complete control of

immigration. Many people voted Brexit expecting immigration to be controlled – it's going to be much more complicated than that.

Labour needs to engage and shape the process – the Tories are split on this and clearly have no idea what comes next. Once the Leadership election is settled, there is a need to refocus on what Labour needs from Brexit – protection of employment conditions, trading standards and trade agreements that are fit for purpose – so no TTIP by the back door. If Labour keep the focus internal, the future will be shaped by others – and not in the interest of the workers. The detail really does matter here.

There will no doubt be more on this as the position becomes clearer. For updates, follow @davidallengreen / @jackofkent (the same person) on twitter. He is a Financial Times journalist with a legal background and provides regular updates on Brexit. He is sceptical that Article 50 will ever be triggered. If it is not, an element of the 52% who voted for Brexit will lose faith in the political process and what follows could be very unpleasant if this triggers a move to the extra parliamentary right.

Matthew Hopkins and Kathryn Halford

Matthew and Kathryn were the speakers at The July meeting.



Kathryn Halford, Keith Darvill and Matthew Hopkins get ready for the meeting

Matthew is Chief Executive of Barking Redbridge and Havering Hospital Trust, and Kathryn the Chief Nurse. Matthew has used social media effectively since his appointment, and has given the Trust a higher public profile as he seeks to lead the Trust out of special measures. Kathryn is a comparatively recent addition to the staff.

Matthew introduced himself – he began his career as a student nurse and was now in his 31st year in the NHS. Prior to starting his current job in 2014, he had been Chief Executive of Epsom and St Helier Trust since 2011. He had responsibility for two hospitals, Queens and St Georges in Goodmayes, with other outpatient facilities. He has responsibility for 6,300 staff and volunteers and a budget of £515 million per year. The Trust is a large one with 1,100 beds, and 8,306 babies were born in the maternity unit, the largest number in the NHS.

The trust was one of the first to be inspected by the Care Quality Commission, and in December 2013 was placed into special measures, judging the trust as inadequate. This brought extra support but considerable reporting obligations, which impacts on the capacity of staff to resolve the issues. The CQC returned in March 2015, and judged the Trust as requires improvement. The Trust remained in special measures and needs to imbed improvements.

The CQC was due to return in six months but at the time of the meeting had not returned – (they arrived in early September). This leave the Trust struggling with capacity as they continue to deal with the reporting requirements – with special measures removed, management would have the time to focus on running the business. While the trust has made significant improvements, there is more to do. Matthew values listening to patients and staff (social media is important for this)

The Trust has four challenges;

Demand

- 1 Growing demand – for both the hospital and primary care, and increasing population brings issues – there will be a growth of between 250,000 and 300,000 people in North East London in the next few years. Brexit may impact – many staff are from outside of the UK and Europe
- 2 Living Longer – there are many individuals living up to 20 years longer than they would have, who have survived illness that would have previously killed them.

- 3 In many London boroughs one in ten children start school obese and by the end of school the figure has risen to one in five – this is a health “time bomb”, with both physical and mental issues as a result. In addition smoking is higher in Havering than elsewhere, and support for stop smoking initiatives has been reduced by the Borough.

Funding

1. Flat growth in funding is not helping – funding that is flash on cash terms is nowhere near enough to meet growing demand. 81% of Foundation trusts are in financial difficulty. Two years ago the percentage was in single figures.

Supply Problems

The cost of living in London impacts on recruitment and retention – there are particular issues in some groups of the workforce – for example, Accident and Emergency Doctors and Critical Care Nurses – and the Trust has had to look to Europe and abroad to avoid providing poor quality services.

Improving the care experience

There is a need to address the long standing reputation of the trust. A difficult case from 2007 had just been through the courts, an example of how a bad reputation (deserved or otherwise) can take a long time to resolve. The priority is quality improvements, reducing waiting times which have been a long standing issue. In particular Accident and Emergency waiting times have been an issue with a 4 hour waiting time,

and there is a need to improve. There is a need to ensure ward based staff need to be patient focused.

Hospitals are part of the community.

It is important that the Hospitals are seen as part of the community, to listen, and involve people on how to bring about improvement, by listening and seeking contributions. Ian James (who many of you will know from his role in Romford Labour Party) has a key role in the Patient Partner group to help achieve this. Mystery shopping has a key role in this.

Patient complaints and compliments are taken seriously, and the Trust seeks real time feedback

Kathryn joined the discussion; the Trust management knew they were not perfect but were pleased that complaints were down by 14%, having been 17% lower the previous year. This was a good indication things were moving in the right direction. The Trust had met its financial targets for the past two years having missed them for 5 years previously.

The staff vacancy rate was down from 13.5% in April 2015 to 10% now, a significant improvement.

Staff Surveys had shown that local staff are in the top 20% within the NHS for the most motivated. To help staff be the best they can be a key focus for the next 12 months.

Matthew wants the CQC to return and to see the Trust move out of special measures; the organisation is ready to move on.

There then several questions from the audience.

Asked to expand on the impact of Brexit, Matthew and Kathryn noted

- Lots of staff were not from the UK, with significant numbers from the Phillipines, Africa, Australia and India.
- There were not enough nurses in England, although there were significant numbers of trained staff not working at present.
- It is critical to ensure the correct skill set.
- The hospital (and NHS) could not run without non UK staff. There will be a serious threat to be able to deliver if a message is sent out that they are not welcome.
- There is a new Italian cohort of nurses being welcomed to the Hospital at present.



Boris Johnson in front of a Leave poster. Keep for future reference.

Simon Stephens (NHS chief executive) expects the Brexit element of the Government to deliver the £350 million a week promised although this has to be judged against the £105 billion annual budget – so while welcome it won't go that far

It will be two to three years before the Accident and Emergency unit closes at St Georges, although ambulances are already being directed to Queens. 50 to 60% Of cases can be treated at an urgent care centre and around 30% of cases should not be at A and E anyway.

We were joined towards the end of the session by Andy Walker, who is very active in the campaign to save St Georges and it was a pleasure to welcome him to the meeting.

Matthew commented that there is a funding crisis in the NHS and new sources of funding were needed if society wanted care at current or

enhanced levels. Missed appointments were a heavy drain on resources that wasted resources and were particularly frustrating with others waiting for appointments. Charging for some services is going to need to be considered at some point.

A different and uplifting meeting – I learned a lot about the local NHS, and both Matthew and Kathryn inspired confidence that improvement is happening and will be sustained. We wish them well in achieving this and look forward to their next visit.

Fay Hough - How I found my voice...

When the news arrives that you are going to be a parent, especially for the first time, all these amazing thoughts start flowing through your head.

Moments such as your child's first word, your child's first steps, parent's evenings, sports days, Nativity plays and everything else that comes with being a mum start to warm your heart. My little boy 'Bowie' entered the world on Saturday 20th August 2011 with beautiful caramel skin and big brown eyes, all healthy and brand new.

As the months went on it became clear that something wasn't quite right. Bowie wasn't hitting milestones other children were hitting, as he grew there was no speech, eye contact was limited, he never slept, never played with toys he just lined them up, and meltdowns were a part of normal life. At the age of 3 years and 2 months Bowie was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder where he fell within the severe end of the spectrum.

Shortly after Bowie's diagnosis I started campaigning alongside The National Autistic Society for more awareness. Although I held a drivers

license I didn't have a car so public transport was the norm for me and Bowie, and this is where he faced the majority of his discrimination on a daily basis. I would receive comments such as 'he just needs a good slap!' or 'someone tell that child to be quiet!'. It was hard, very distressing and made me constantly angry and very protective of my boy. I'd simply had enough and I wanted to make a change.

The National Autistic Society had launched a new campaign called The 'I'm One' campaign for the 2015 general election in which we wanted to create as much awareness for MPs as possible and ask them to jump on board in supporting The NAS. This was the first time I properly spoke to Jon Cruddas, my local MP. I was able to set up a meeting with Jon and discuss exactly what The NAS was doing and how he can support them. The meeting was very successful, Jon jumped on board straight away and even included 'more autism awareness training for teachers' in the 2015 Labour Manifesto.

This campaign led to me speaking at The 2015 Labour Conference in Brighton at a fringe meeting for The National Autistic Society where I interviewed, and was also interviewed by Labour MP Neil Coyle. This was a pivotal moment for me, I gained a lot of support and it was at this moment that I knew I wanted to be involved politically with autism, bringing autism to light in Parliament.

In 2016 I gained my title as a 'political activist' as I led a local peaceful protest/march from Havering Town Hall to MP Andrew Rosindell's constituency office in protest of the ESA cuts to disabled people and local cuts to disabled funding. I had a turn-out of 60 people who marched with

me, we made front page, ruffled some feathers but made a stand and stood proud.

What have I learned since my son's diagnosis? I have learned never to judge a book by its cover, I have also learned that not everybody has a heart, but the main thing I have learned is the fact that as long as you have a voice you have freedom of speech. Always exercise your right to stand up and fight for what you believe in. My son is my inspiration and he forever will be as I continue this political journey.

Fay Hough – Youth Officer for Dagenham & Rainham Labour Party

This article was first published on Dagenham and Rainham Labour Party blog.

Jemima Olchawski

Head of policy and insight at the Fawcett Society.

This is an extract from Jemima's talk to the Society –It is far too good to edit and is probably the best article we have had since we started

–until you submit yours



Jemima and Sam Gould before the meeting

Like the Fabians Fawcett is a membership organisation with a proud intellectual history. We're the UK's leading gender equality and women's rights charity. We trace our roots back to 1866 when the 19 year old Millicent Fawcett took her petition to parliament for women's votes where it was laid before parliament by John Stuart Mill. That was the start of a mass campaign for women's suffrage. One that Millicent waited 60 years to win. Like the Fabians, Millicent advocated change through politics and

whilst she worked alongside the more radical Suffragettes was an advocate of gradualism and working with political insiders rather than against them. For Millicent and the suffragists she campaigned with the vote was always a means to an end, to women's wider equality and emancipation and I think that's another value our organisation's share: the commitment to a more equal society. So over the last 150 years our work has evolved

Today we focus on three key areas

- The money gap (pay, pensions, differential impact of welfare reform and the labour market)
- The power gap (political representation – local government commission), public life: the media, academia, judiciary, business)
- A new area for us Gender Norms and Stereotypes – the ways that pressures to conform to particular ideas about being a man or woman can cause. In particular, the ways in which we create gender stereotypes for young children that shape the toys they play with, the jobs they think women and men can do and start to create different roles later. Also different perceptions of women and men in the workplace.

This evening I thought I'd talk in a bit more detail about the gender pay gap – it's an issue that's received a great deal of interest recently and one with some real political momentum. David Cameron committed to closing the gap in a generation it looks at is Teresa May is sticking to that and we've got new legislation coming into force (hopefully from October) which will require larger employers to publish pay gap figures.

I think it's worth reflecting on the size and persistence of the gender pay gap.

- It's 2016 – we have more women in work than ever before.
- 40 years since the Equal Pay act.
- Nearly 100 years since women were first given the vote.
- Yet we still have a gender pay gap of nearly 20%.
- For every pound a man earns in the UK – women earn 81p.

That figure varies across groups. It's much smaller for younger women and opens right out to a quarter for women in their forties and fifties, and it's significantly higher for women from black Asian and minority ethnic groups

Often in discussion at the pay gap you get a sense that this is just a matter of time and of old injustices working their way through the system. Maybe this is just the relics of a time when it was legal to pay women less than men, of when women were less educated, over time women will work their way up and we'll solve it.

But actually if we carry on at the rate of recent progress, it will take over 50 years to close the gap. Plus the way the gap has closed suggests that progress could slow down – it's the salaries of women in the middle which have been catching up with men those at the top and importantly at the very bottom have not been catching up. For women who earn the least the gap isn't going away. The declines in the gap we've seen in recent years are also the result of men's pay dropping more quickly than women's. What will happen as pay increases again?

It isn't just a matter of time, if it was then we'd be seeing the impact of women with higher levels of education, of changing social attitudes

beginning to come through and change the salaries of older women – they aren't.

Plus, the impacts of the inequality that women experience now have lasting effects – it matters that it is happening now. Because of the women trying to raise their families in poverty because they are underpaid, or can't get a quality part time job and for those who can't save enough to look forward to a decent retirement. It adds up. It means women are earning around 250,000 less over their lifetime than men, on average women's pension incomes are 25% smaller. The UK has a pension gap larger than the EU average.

So we have to speed up the pace of change. To do that we have to look at the causes of the gender pay gap and come up with ways to deal with them. There's still a lot of misunderstanding about what the gender pay gap is and whether it's about choice or discrimination. The gender pay gap measures more than just whether employers are paying women and men different amounts for the same work – its an indicator of a much wider set of inequalities in our society and labour market – some of which are perfectly legal.

I'm going to do a whistle stop tour of four of the biggest causes then suggest couple of Fawcett's recommendations on how to respond. It would be good to get your thoughts on those, in particular on the politics of responding to them and keeping this issue on the agenda.

The causes

1. Old fashioned discrimination

Having said it's not all about illegal unequal pay – we've got to acknowledge that it still happens. Women continue to get paid less for the same work, to find themselves demoted after having children, or ignored when bonuses are handed out.

There's good reason to believe it's more common than many would like to suggest

A couple of years ago Fawcett did some research with women on low incomes

In our sample, 1 in 10 of the low paid women who had returned from maternity leave recently (in the last 5 years) had been given a more junior role

Backed up by recent research from the Equality and Human rights commission – 54,000 women a year have to leave their job early as the result of poor treatment, redundancy after having a baby

2. Men and women still do different jobs

We still have a very segregated labour market

- women make up 82% of employees in caring and leisure. ¹

¹ http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_328352.pdf, p. 11.

- In secretarial and administrative positions, women made up 77% of employees².
- Women are only a third of senior managers and officials and only 10% of those working in the skilled trades

Feminised sectors tend to be less valued and less well paid - women make up 60% of those earning less than the living wage

This isn't a relic of the past

- For example, 2013 nearly 13000 men completed engineering apprenticeships, and only 400 women.
- In that year 10 men completed apprenticeships in Beauty Therapy but 1,500 women did the same³.

² http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_328352.pdf, p. 11.

³ <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmbis/342/342.pdf>, p. 17.

3. Cost of caring

Women still do the majority of care and domestic work

Women with children under 16 are 4 times as likely to be economically inactive as men with children under 16

Women still do more than 2 hours more domestic work than men every day

So that means that women are more likely to need to work flexibly and part time (42% W vs less than 15%). Yet we have a real lack of good quality part time work and the pay gap is at its largest for part time work.

So we're underusing the skills of women who need to balance work with care and they are under earning.

Recent IFS research suggests this is a really important part of what's driving the gap with women with children earning a third less 12 years after having a baby. When women return to work they usually don't cut their pay but overtime they don't progress. Once you've got flexibility it can mean it's hard to move roles because you don't know if you'll be able to replicate the arrangement elsewhere.

4. The last big cause I'm going to talk about is the boys at the top

The majority of senior and best roles continue to be dominated by men even in sectors where the intake is mixed.

There are only 5 female CEOs in the FTSE 100

The Chartered Management institute have found that 69% of Junior Executive are women but only 15% of directorships in the FTSE 1000 are occupied by women.

So where are the women going – well we know that women are less likely to be paid a bonus than their male colleagues – people are promoting in their own image.

This is a bit of a vicious circle – because until we get more women and more diverse women into those senior roles with power, it's hard to change the structures that work for people who are at the top right now but are damaging to women right across the income spectrum and make it harder for them to get to the top

So what to do?

There's lots of steps forward we can take – I'm glad the government are following some of Fawcett's recommendations on getting firms to publish their pay gap. Fawcett was at the forefront of that campaign and it's a positive step> I want them to go further and require firms to conduct a gender audit reflecting who gets paid what, who gets promoted, who works flexibly, I want the government to scrap the tribunal fees that mean individual women can't afford to challenge injustice.

1 Quotas

More controversially I think its time to seriously consider quotas. We've got to break that vicious circle and challenge the stranglehold of those in power. I'd like to see quotas for positions in public life, in business and also for publically foundered training and education – apprenticeships are

paid for with public money and that means responsibilities to make sure girls access them as well as boys.

International evidence shows that this can work – but only when it's backed with legislation and penalties for non-compliance. In 2002 just 6% of board positions in Norway were filled by women. They introduced a quota of 40% but they only saw them reach 24% by 2005. So legal penalties were introduced and the target was hit three years later.

Quotas force those at the top to think about the pipeline, to cultivate and promote female talent and they mean we can reach a critical mass of women in positions of power to change things. But this needs to be much wider than those at the top – it's about access to a range of careers and progression across the board.

2. A revolution in care

This one is a bit broader – we need a revolution in care. We have to break down the old ideas about women as carers and men as breadwinner – which are still very powerful. I want to see properly paid leave for dads and second carers; use it or loses it, so that men are as likely to take time out to care as women.

I want to see care work properly rewarded and valued so that the women who do it aren't living in poverty and those that receive it get the quality of care they need

I want us to change the ways we socialise and educate our children so that in his thirties a man is thinking just as much about how he will balance fatherhood with work as a women is.

If an employer saw men and women as equally likely to take time out to care I think we'd see greater opportunities for women but also a shift to better quality and flexible work that would be good for us all.

So those are some of the issues that we're working and campaigning on right now – it would be great to hear your perspectives on this issue.

Jemima then answered a range of questions, and it was good to see some new faces in the audience taking part.

East End Women's Museum.

The project started with planning permission being granted to a museum that was intended to mark the contribution of women. The museum instead became a monument instead featuring Jack the Ripper - a notorious murderer of East End women. In response following a petition and campaign a group of local feminists created an alternative, leading to an alternative aim at promoting the positive contribution women have made to the East End.

Six of us went to the recent exhibition in Shadwell. The exhibition marked starter what is intended to be a much larger project covering arranger contributions made by women to the development of East End.

They were photos from the match girls strike, covering nice thing contributions to the suffragette and suffragist movement..

The contributions of early Fabian reformers such as Beatrice Webb was mentioned, presented as a well intended maternalistic intervention, radical enough in the era concerned but respectful of the existing social order.

The exhibition inevitably reflected the records available at the time, which were predominantly from the well educated middle class social reformers rather than the working class women of the area.

The main impression of the exhibition provided a flavour of what a permanent venue could be. There is scope to develop the social history of women across the East End, from those in the docks area to those in the factories, with large families, immigrant communities and the campaign for votes for women.

We will continue to provide updates on the Museum as it develops and will arrange further visits to future events.

1998 Havering Council Elections – more interesting that it first appears!

After the 1994 Council elections ended with a near miss (Labour one seat short of an overall majority), there was no respite for the Major Government. Defections, by-election defeats and cash for questions, added to a general air of panic and loss of purpose would have been bad enough, but Major was confronted by a resurgent Labour with a young and vibrant Leader with a coherent set of policies. Defeat in 1997 was never in doubt,

although the majority was, and in the aftermath of 1992, Labour took nothing for granted.

There was no need to worry, the election was the landslide predicted, helped by the referendum party taking votes off the Tories, tactical voting at a level never seen before and an electorate that turned against the Tories in huge numbers – a majority of 179 followed, which included all three Havering seats. We will do an in depth analysis next year to mark the 20th Anniversary. Interesting to note that despite everything Labour polled 43% and was only 7% ahead despite the “perfect storm” of events,

So the Council elections in 1998 were a year in to a new Government; usually a time when the opposition recovers a little, or sometimes a lot. Given 1994 appeared to be a high point locally, a reduced majority was to be expected. There had been major issues within the Labour group which saw Arthur Latham replaced initially with Wilf Mills then Ray Harris, and loss of control during mid-term. So a reduced majority was to be expected. This duly occurred, with a net loss of 3 seats.

The Rosindell effect saw a large conservative vote in Chase Cross, and the Conservatives winning Collier Row from Labour. Pat Ridley was only 8 votes short – Pat had been beaten by handful of votes in 1964 when victory would have given Labour outright control. Indecently, Pat is one of the old soldiers in the picture in Saffron House –David Martin is one of the others and if you know who the third is we would be pleased to know.

The unexpected gain of a seat in St Andrews ward was reversed (Graham Carr being elected instead for Hylands) This was expected – what was not

was loss of Oldchurch with Tony Gordon and Tony Rew beaten by Lib Dems including Nigel Mayer.

Even more unexpected was gaining three seats not won in 1994, Brian Eagling and Caroline Wood winning two seats from the lib Dems in Harold Wood and in a very close contest then Fabian Treasurer Tom Binding became the first Labour Councillor for South Hornchurch since the 1974 election. This was more important than it seemed at the time, as will become apparent when the series reaches 2006.

The results elsewhere reflected a 7% reduction in the Labour vote from 1994, with only a 2% rise in the Conservative vote.

The Labour majority in Elm Park was down to 400, and was reduced elsewhere. Jan Davis replaced Howard Moss. In Airfield, Barry Norwin was elected for the first time as Labour retained all three seats, although the majority fell to 265.

Ray Harris remained Labour Leader of the Council, as the party took minority control. Labour at this point had control of the Council, three MPs and the MEP. Short of outright control, it is hard to imagine how the Party could have a stronger position.

Turnout fell alarmingly to 34.7% having been 46.1% in 1994 and 48.2% in 1990. In neighbouring Barking and Dagenham, the turnout was 25%.

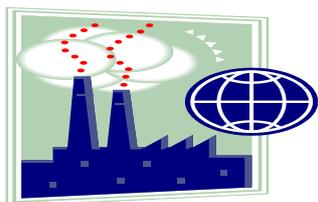
Boundary changes were due for 2002, a list system was to be introduced for the 1999 European elections, and elections were likely if there was a positive vote to restore London wide Government.

So plenty of interesting events for the next in the series.

1998 Result

Party	Councillors	% vote
Labour		
Conservative		
Resident /other		
Liberal/SDP		
Total Turnout 45.9%	63	100.0

Next in the series - 1998. Things can only get better...



Future Meetings

Friday 21st October 7.30 pm we welcome back Jon Cruddas MP for Dagenham and Rainham. Jon will be speaking on “Labour Together” and probably the impact of the leadership election.

In November (date to be confirmed) we are due to welcome Blue Labour guru Maurice Glasman. This will be his first visit to the Society, and is greatly anticipated by a number of regulars.

In January (date to be confirmed) we welcome another new visitor, Councillor Jas Athwal, Labour Leader of Redbridge Council. When

Labour took control of Redbridge Council in 2014, Councillor Athwal became the first sikh to lead a Council in Britain. With the Council elections now 20 months away, this is an ideal opportunity to hear how Redbridge Labour took control and what's happened since.



If you go to the Bekash in Romford mention you are a Havering Fabian and get 10% discount off your food bill.



We value your input!

The Society invites speakers on a range of subjects; if you would like us to invite speakers on a particular subject let us know and we will try to oblige. The Society has a policy of rotating meetings around the Borough; if you need or can offer a lift or if you know of any suitable venues we could use, contact David Marshall.

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Ed Glasson

Sanchia Alasia

Mike Flynn

Ian Carnochan

Future Editions

Contributions to the newsletter are always welcome. The Fabian Society exists to promote progressive ideas from within and outside of the Labour movement. As such we are happy to publish articles in keeping with this broad ethos, but reserve the right not to include all or part of any material which falls outside of this parameter.

May 2017 marks 20 years since the election of the Blair government and we will be featuring articles from those who have memories of the day – feel free to contribute!

Links

The following links should be useful in keeping up with the debate in the Labour movement

National Fabian Society www.fabian-society.org.uk

The Labour Party www.labour.org.uk

Jon Cruddas MP for Dagenham www.joncruddas.org.uk

Twitter @joncruddas_1

Barking Labour Party www.barkinglabour.org.uk/

Twitter @barkinglabour

Romford Labour Party www.romford-labour-party.org.uk/

Twitter @romfordlabour

Hornchurch and Upminster Labour Party

Website <http://hornchurchandupminsterlabour.org.uk/>

Facebook Hornchurch-Upminster-Constituency-Labour-Party

Twitter @HULabour

Havering Fabian Society is affiliated to

- National Fabian Society
- Dagenham and Rainham Labour Party
- Romford Labour Party
- Upminster and Hornchurch Labour Party
- Barking Labour Party



Havering Fabian Membership

To join Havering Fabian Society, please complete the following and send to David Marshall. You can also join the Society nationally, David has more details. You do not have to be a member of the Labour Party to join Havering Fabians, but you will need to be a Labour Party member to take part in Labour Party selections and elections.



This is the 27th edition of the newsletter. Previous editions are available, please get on touch if you want a copy; all are available via e-mail.

Havering Fabian Society

Founded in 1974, the Society promotes progressive political thought in Havering and beyond. Membership of the Society is not necessary to attend meetings, and neither is membership of the Labour Party.

However, to participate in nominations to the Local Labour Parties or in selection conferences, membership of both is required. The Society meets regularly throughout the year, apart from the summer and during election campaigns. Local Membership is currently £10 waged, £5 unwaged.

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I\ we wish to join Havering Fabians

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....postcode.....

E-mail.....

Phone number

Waged (£10) unwaged £5