

2015

HAVING FABIAN

December 2015

In this edition;

Reports on the recent meetings

Martin Edobor

Matthew Godwin

Naushabah Khan

Havering Young Labour meet John McDonnell

The next installment of our series to mark 50 years of Havering in 2015 -the Havering Council Elections 1986

GLA Campaign update

- **Future meetings**

January – date to be confirmed - Ivana Bartoletti

5th February Wes Streeting

March Professor Matthew Goodwin (not our visitor in September)



HAVERING FABIAN

VOLUME 2 EDITION 25 December 2015

Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of the Havering Fabian Newsletter. We reflect on recent meetings with excellent speakers Matthew Godwin, Martin Edobor and Naushabah Khan.

Our presence on social media is bringing us closer to a number of new organisations, and we welcome their involvement. This edition includes an article on the Havering Young Labour meeting with John McDonnell.

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. We are short on details for the earlier years (although we do have all the results) so if you can help we would be glad to hear from you. 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

and we will add you to the growing list of followers. We now have a public facebook site as well, so follow us on whichever media suits.

Update

The recent events in Paris have added to the political uncertainty across Europe, and will dominate political thinking over the next few months. There is every prospect that Britain will be bombing Syria by the time you read this, possibly with the UN mandate that did not exist for the war in Iraq. The issue is what comes next and there are no easy answers.

The defence debate within the Labour Party will be a robust one. Opposition to Trident extends to some elements of the Military establishment who favour a more “conventional” defence structure. It is not yet clear whether the electorate hold the same view – however Labour cannot be seen to be weak on defence, so if Trident is to be decommissioned under a future Labour government the Party needs to campaign on this issue.

The John McDonnell visit to Havering Young Labour was a major event for the Borough, and showed that there is support for Labour in Havering and we can be part of the change in national politics. There is a long way

to go and we will do all we can to inform the debate. This is particularly true of the European referendum, when we will be arranging key speakers in 2016.

September Meeting - Matthew Godwin "Solid Ground and Shifting Sands: Israel and the Middle East".

Once we had resolved an IT problem with the Library projector, (by ignoring it and proceeding without it) Martin began by recognising that Israel is a subject that stirs emotions – the lively and friendly discussion that followed proved this to be a correct analysis. We have invited a speaker from Labour for Palestine to visit in 2016, so another lively discussion ahead.

Matthew introduced himself – he is a Non-Jewish, Canadian PhD student at UCL studying politics. He has been working with the Jewish community, mostly in Canada, since a 2005 visit to the sites of the Holocaust in Poland on a mission called the March of the Living and a subsequent visit to Israel.

He was here representing the Friends of Israel Education Programme to provide background on Israel and the Middle East.

Goals of Presentation: To provide background and stimulate interest. Not necessarily here to provide answers. He doubted there's a definitive authority on Israel and its history in the Middle East anywhere, which makes exploring these questions even more interesting. Clearly, the answers are elusive

- Since the First World War the Middle East has been an incredibly tumultuous place with extremely complicated politics.
- One of the most contentious issues has been Israel's relationship with the Arab World and the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.
- There are ongoing conflicts and unstable situations in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, but the goal of this presentation is to unpack the story of Israel and the Middle East.
- This question is important because:

- Historically, the UK played an important role in the history of the region as a major colonial power following WWI. Given that this year is the centenary of the beginning of the First World War, what we're talking about today is a poignant reminder of the legacy of the Great War. Very briefly, the centuries-old Ottoman Empire collapsed at the end of WWI and during peace negotiations following the war; Britain was given control over Palestine, which it retained until 1947.

Politically, the UK remains an important factor in the region as a permanent representative of the UN Security Council.

Mark Regev has been officially appointed as Israel's Ambassador to the United Kingdom. He is a major Israeli figure, reflecting the importance of the relationship – this is all the more important as US Israeli relations are currently strained.

The UK has close and varied economic, cultural and educational ties with Israel and other countries in the region. Britain's trade with Israel is £4 billion per year, which excluding Saudi Arabia and the Emirates, is greater than all other Middle East countries combined.

We also share many values: Israel is a liberal pluralist democracy, the only stable democracy in the region. Its system admits a plethora of views and interests.

There are just over 8 million residents of Israel – fewer people than live in London. It's been a democracy since its establishment and has enshrined in law rights for all citizens, and even municipal voting rights for non-citizens.

It's one of the most tolerant places in the world for LGBTQ communities, with the Tel Aviv Pride parade being one of the largest in the world.
What about the status of Arabs in Israel?

There are about 1,658,000 Arab citizens in Israel, roughly 20% of the population. Arab Israelis also live in large numbers in East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, but many have refused citizenship. However, they retain the right to vote in municipal elections as permanent residents.

In Israel's parliament, the Knesset, The Joint Arab List currently represents 17 Israeli MKs. Arab parties have participated in coalitions in the past, particularly with Israel's left-wing parties: Labour and Meretz.

Arabic is one of Israel's official languages, Arab Israelis have sat on the Supreme Court and have held diplomatic posts abroad.

These are undoubtedly signs of openness and tolerance, but it has been argued that Arabs in Israel do face non-systemic discrimination, including alleged delays in issuing building permits, social exclusion based on a lack of participation in the military and imbalances in education funding.

Roots of the conflict

- 1948 UN partition
- 1967 6 Day War
- 1973 Yom Kippur War
- Oslo Accords and Two-State solution
- 2005 Gaza Pull-out

Roadblocks:

- Settlements
- recognition of Israel's right to exist (Arab rejectionism)
- Jerusalem
- right of return
- Security
- borders

UN GA Resolution 273 was adopted on May 11, 1949 to admit the State of Israel to membership in the United Nations (37/12/9).

Ambassador Ron Prosor became Israel's 16th Permanent Representative to the United Nations in June 2011. Represents Israel and "the Jewish people" at the United Nations.

Recently, UNHRC released last week its report on the operation in Gaza – condemns both sides. Widely seen as balanced, but Israel has serious concerns with the credibility of the UNHRC.

Ban Ki Moon has admitted a consistent and pernicious bias against Israel:

- Five or six anti-Israel resolutions are introduced every year targeting Israel at the UN's highest body for human rights, at the expense of other important humanitarian issues.
- Every UNHRC meeting Israel is raised as a separate issue.
- Since 2006, the HRC has released a total of 103 resolutions, 56 of which have levelled criticism against Israel.

- Despite numerous devastating human rights crises, of 21 special sessions, fully 1/3 have focused on Israel.

What is the relationship between Israel and Zionism? They are different, and criticism of Israeli policy does not make anyone anti-semantic.

Can anyone gain access to the old City?

What are Israelis and Palestinians doing to end the conflict together? (OneVoice) – This is a long process; the eventual solution will almost certainly be based on a two state solution, but will take a long time to achieve.

The discussion after the presentation was broad and very interesting – Wilf Mills had been to Israel many times, and was there when Rabin was murdered – there was real fear that had an Arab been the murderer, rioting would have followed. Denis O’Flynn had spent part of his national service in 1953 dug in on the Golan Heights – that British troops were in the region at this time was new to most in the room, so well worth further research.

Matthew was pleased to have been invited and mentioned that he was occasionally confused with Professor Matthew Godwin, respected academic from Kent University. After one of our members tweeted the Professor, we approached him and he will be the guest speaker IN March – more details below.

October Meeting - Martin Edobor “Democratic Socialism, Social Democracy ~ where now for the left?”

Martin kindly forwarded the following article on which his presentation to the joint meeting with Havering Young Labour was based. This was first published in the Huffington Post.

Across Europe ever since the financial crash we have seen electorates turn to the extremes, with the rise of both the far right and far left. As populism gains acceptance it often comes at the expense of the old Social Democratic and centre left parties, who are having to struggle to maintain

the support of their traditional working and lower-middle class support bases.

In Britain, Labour was crushed in Scotland by a nationalist party draped in left-wing rhetoric, whilst in the North and Midlands the rise of UKIP saw them come second in many seats assumed to be Labour safe havens. This was coupled with a failure to advance in the historically unfavourable South of England has left us many in Labour mourning the decline and fall of the British left.

This is not an isolated incident. Across Europe only 10 of the 28 EU governments are from the left. Even in historical bastions such as Denmark and Finland, the left is in retreat. Indeed in the traditional stronghold of Scandinavia only Sweden has a left-wing government, and that in a minority government hamstrung by the December Agreement imposed on them by the centre and far right parties last year. What has been the trigger for this decline?

First society has, in general, become more individualistic, people have personalised their lives in a way never before seen. This individualism, partly birthed by the Thatcherite and Reaganite Neo-Liberal movements of the 1980s, has undermined the sense of a common solidarity amongst the working classes which, coupled with a decline in wages and stagnant economy, has opened up cracks now being leveraged by the extremes and centre-right with rhetoric on immigrants and "benefit scroungers". Without the fertile soil of solidarity and common endeavour Social Democracy withers on the vine.

The centre-left has also failed to address this widening disconnect between its base and their erstwhile political representatives. The left has still not come up with either a narrative or coherent policies that adapt to the realities of the 21st century workplace, which have been changed beyond recognition by the processes of globalization and the free movement of capital, goods and labour. Additionally trade union membership has plummeted, removing a previously vigorous source of support for Social Democracy. The trade unions and centre-left parties have a symbiotic partnership - when one is weakened so is the other.

Further the accusation that left-wing parties have taken their traditional support for granted is not always an unfair one. Focusing scant resources on a minority of middle class swing voters was politically expedient but alienated the core vote, which has started looking for and found somewhere else to go - drifting to the extremes in search of someone they

feel represents them. We have reached a tipping point where this drift away from the core has starting having huge electoral consequences - strikingly so in Scotland.

The left has also focused overly on abstract concepts rather than anchoring their rhetoric and actions in the real everyday lives of the people they represent. The result is that the left has been slow to react, and in some cases is still moribund, to the rise in identity politics. This is the second reason why people no longer identify strongly with the centre-left. What does it actually mean to be a centre-left European in the 21st Century?

The right has been able to appeal to a sense of identity by identifying and vilifying "the other" with divisive rhetoric, playing on anti-EU and anti-immigration sentiments. This has led in all too many cases to those on the left assuming that all concerns around immigration are motivated by xenophobia and to express concern is tantamount to dog-whistle politics. Thus genuine concerns of the lower-middle and working class, motivated by concerns of resources rather than racism, are ignored or downright derided by the left, who often respond with a condescending lecture. This does nothing to address voter's frustrations and concerns over perceived increased competition for scarce jobs and watering down of pay and conditions and in fact positively repels them.

If we do not come up with some credible and convincing answers to these key questions we will not be able to reconnect with our traditional support base. Having thus identified the problems, the task for the centre-left is to use with the challenges of the new century.

My own view is that elections are won from the centre ground, with a set of policies broad in appeal and designed to benefit the majority of society. In order to build our broad church however we must first shore up the foundations. We must do the spade work in Doncaster before construction can begin in Nuneaton.

This is the first challenge for Jeremy Corbin's new politics. He must reconnect to a base preoccupied with concerns of nationhood, immigration and the economy, before broadening out to speak to the concerns of the middle classes if his political project is to make a difference. Our sister parties across Europe must do the same, though just because the problems are universal, the solutions may not be.

Naushabah Khan

For our last meeting of an eventful year we welcomed the excellent Naushabah Khan. She had unexpectedly become the candidate in a high profile by-election in 2014 when Mark Reckless resigned the Rochester and Stroud seat as a Conservative to fight the seat again as a UKIP candidate.



Naushabah with Sam Gould and Chair Keith Darvill

Naushabah recounted that she had been at a friend's wedding when Reckless resigned, and her phone started ringing non-stop. While she had been selected for the seat in 2013, she had anticipated fighting the election in 2015. Suddenly there was a high profile by election in a seat which had not been a Labour target, but would receive a lot of media coverage – and she had not had the media training a candidate in a target seat could expect, and was from outside the “Westminster bubble”, so had limited personal experience to draw on.

UKIP were on the up, having just won the Clacton by-election. At this point, UKIP were viewed by many in the Labour Party as more of a threat to the Conservatives.

Rochester and Stroud is a diverse community with both poverty and affluence, and has a University – so was different to Clacton, and despite not being a target seat, the initial reaction from the Medway parties was “we can win”. Labour had held all three seats in the Medway towns from 1997 to 2010, so despite not being a target seat, there was a significant residual Labour vote.

As the campaign progressed, the involvement of Labour head office increased as it became important Labour put up a robust showing. Naushabah's employers were helpful in giving time off.

The high profile nature of the campaign led to a media frenzy, and Naushabah was regularly giving four interviews a day, so a baptism of fire. This put pressure on the national Party to become more and more involved, as the impact of a bad result would resonate in the period before the General Election.

UKIP, not unexpectedly raised immigration as the focus point, which was very personal for Naushabah, the daughter of immigrants herself. She was able to use her background to positive effect during a difficult campaign.

Ed Miliband and Yvette Cooper chose the by-election campaign to launch Labour's immigration policy, advocating tighter controls – the effect was to give credibility to the harsher UKIP policy by default.

UKIP had become a force by this point; they were bringing out a combination of the worst and aggressive in some people, in a “masculine” campaigning style, which alienates many electors and switches some people off the election process.

Britain First planned a march during the by election – they were not welcome and were turned away- but were intimidating and unpleasant; UKIP sadly act as an attraction to this sort of approach.

Race and immigration are difficult issues to talk about, and need a receptive audience. UKIP were able to play on insecurities, although policies changed on an almost daily basis – for example UKIP gather support campaigning on Medway Hospital while having a very different policy on the NHS generally. UKIP can pose as an anti- establishment party, which matches the anti politics mood of an electorate – this plays strongly with an electorate offered politicians from the main parties who are strictly on message at all times.

Mark Reckless was uncomfortable with much of this – as an anti Europe libertarian, this approach was not aligned with his more traditionally conservative background.

The main incident on polling day proved an unexpected test of Ed Miliband's leadership after Emily Thornberry tweeted an unfortunate comment on a photo, leading to her removal from the Shadow Cabinet.

UKIP won the seat with Labour a distant third; Naushabah was too modest to mention her positive coverage in the national press, where she received much praise.

The General Election campaign a year later was very different. There was little media coverage, and no central office staff. UKIP did impact on the Labour vote more than the Conservatives, even though the Labour vote increased from 6,000 at the by election to 10,000 at the General Election. In the two horse race for first place, UKIP lost the seat to the resurgent Conservatives.

Naushabah felt there are several lessons from the campaigns, generally and for future candidates;

- Do not underestimate UKIP – they are here to stay.
- Have a strong message - the campaign is not about tactics.
- Do not aim for a coalition, aim for a win – you cannot predict that people will react as they have in the past – the Labour result Scotland is an example of this
- There are no no go areas during a campaign and therefore you need to manage the (often limited) resources available.
- Get known and be seen – areas which Labour had neglected (often linked to resources on the ground) had seen the UKIP vote increase, so never assume a seat is safe. Hayward and Middleton (a subsequent by election) had been very close, being a previously safe seat not worked hard – Scotland again was an example of this.
- Expect a drain on financial resources.

Naushabah then dealt with a range of questions from the audience. She had been elected to Medway Council on the day of the General Election in May 2015, and we wish her well with what could well be a bright political future.

John McDonnell meeting with Havering Young Labour

Chair of Havering Young Labour Megan O'Shaughnessy had met John McDonnell at Labour party conference and encouraged him to come to Havering. The meeting was held at Havering Sixth Form College, and widely publicised. As a result, a healthy attendance greeted the Shadow Chancellor, who was joined by Ivana.

This was the day after the autumn statement and the “red book” incident. John was self depreciating about this, stressing the need for the Shadow Chancellor to make an impact, having seen only a heavily redacted version of the Chancellor’s speech shortly before it is presented. He had made a serious point about foreign ownership of British assets, although this had been lost in the press coverage.

He explained the initial mistake in backing the Chancellor’s proposals on the deficit, and how he changed his mind after the visit to Redcar as the steel works closed.

He then gave a summary of how Jeremy Corbyn came to power; MPs on the left had sought a candidate, but were unable to find one – Jeremy agreed to stand to ensure the left had a candidate and only made the necessary 35 nominations with seconds to go. Andrew Smith and Gordon Marsden were mentioned as giving their support late on to ensure this happened. Meetings were arranged and were soon packed, so larger and larger venues were arranged. A highly organised social media campaign built further support and going into the announcement of the vote, the campaign expected 60% of the vote – Jeremy received 59.9%.

Having been elected, there was a significant amount of work to do, and the campaign meant that this had to be carried out after the result.

However, John stressed that he believed the Party should always be ready to assume power the following day and be prepared. Subsequently it has been reported he has worked on alternative budgets for years even though there was little prospect of ever being introduced.

The press coverage since the election had been intrusive, with attempts made to drag up incidents from the past. Many of these are well documented. One that had not been was quite revealing about how much depth the press would go to find a story. John had lived briefly in Norfolk while a child and reporters were seeking out interesting stories – they

managed to find someone he was at primary school with and the worst story that they could find was that John has whispered in her ear the answer to some maths questions.

John stressed that there is no call from Jeremy for des-election of MPs that disagreed with him; the Party has a range of views and the new politics was about debate. He gave a strong hint that a free vote of MPs on the Syria vote was likely (as happened) and respected views different to his.

Megan, who chaired the meeting excellently, then invited questions from a number of the audience, which John answered effectively. A very different audience from the usual Labour Party meeting, with a lot of younger people. So a very positive meeting, with new faces and some hope that the future of politics in Havering may be brighter than the recent election results would expect.

1986 Election – the fightback begins....

The 1982 Council elections in Havering had seen Labour tread water with 12 seats although a significant reduction in votes. This was a gloomy period for Labour in Havering. The General Election in 1983 saw a bad position get worse. The SDP Liberal alliance had gathered momentum and moved into second place in Romford and Upminster, with Labour just remaining in second place in Hornchurch. Alan Williams and Jack Hoeplemen stood for Labour in Hornchurch and Romford, as they had done in the GLC election in 1981. A Hughes stood for Labour in Upminster.

The 1983 Hornchurch campaign was hard fought, as the Conservative majority in 1979 was 739, in theory well within range. Hornchurch had a majority that made the seat one Labour had a chance of winning, and heavyweight Dennis Healey spoke to a packed meeting at Abbs Cross School, boosting hopes of swing against the national opinion polls. Older heads soon realised that this was a remote possibility and the aim was to stay in contention for the next time. The result was a majority for Robin Squire of 9,182, with Labour in second place (12,209 votes 26.85%), with a gap of 958 to the SDP in third.

In Romford Labour were third with 7,494 votes (19.27%). In Upminster the position was marginally better (9,829 votes, 20.53%)

The mood was depressed but defiant, and the local parties remained active. This almost led to an unexpected gain in a Council by election in October 1983 when Labour candidate Tony Hunt was 11 votes short in Hylands ward, behind the Conservative candidate.

The Thatcher government was returned with an overall majority of 144, with Labour losing 59 seats. This enabled the Thatcher administration the space and continued an assault on the post war consensus that had been kept in check. Striking ambulance personnel collecting on the street was a prelude to the Miners strike. This was the defining moment of the Conservative assault on the unions, and years of preparation and the full force of the state were brought to bear to defeat the NUM. There are many books and articles on this era, and many defining moments. There were regular collections (50 pence a week was the expected contribution, gladly given by thousands) visits to the coalfields, (Hornchurch were linked to Durham Main colliery – I have a tie somewhere).

This was a dispute that mattered and it was critical the union won – however, this didn't happen and the mining communities were often shattered as the pits closed – the industry is now a shadow of its former self.

The local parties remained energised by the campaigns, and received a boost when Carole Tongue was elected as the MEP for London East in June 1984, overturning a 13,030 majority to win by 12,159. She won the nomination ahead of Mike Gapes, who was to become the MP for Ilford South in the 1992 General Election.

The GLC election of 1985 was cancelled as the Thatcher Government decided to scrap the GLC – a series of by elections were held to garner public support for the campaign to retain the GLC, including one in Romford where Bernard Brooke Partridge (who despite being a Conservative was part of the campaign to retain the GLC) comfortably held the seat with Labour candidate Gill Hannah Rogers a distant second. During this campaign I had the rare experience of a canvassing session where no one was voting Labour, although they were very polite about it...

An unexpected by product was Alan Williams remaining in office for a year, and by the time his term ended on 31st March 1986, there was a month until the Council elections.

The campaign for the 1986 Council elections provided a chance for Labour to build on the work over the previous few years. The SDP Liberal alliance was still present but less important. Labour had begun to issue regular newsletters in several wards, and this was beginning to pay dividends.

The sitting Labour Councillors for Harold Hill and Airfield were not under threat, the polls being significantly better than 1982. Del Smith replaced Reg Whiting as candidate in an otherwise unchanged line up. All were returned with comfortable majorities, although in Hilldene the Conservative vote was over a 1,000, and early warning of what was to come.

The campaign saw Labour gain 8 seats, and narrowly miss out on several others. Alan Williams, at this point already the Labour Candidate for Hornchurch for the 1987 general election, was one of three Labour Councillors elected in Elm Park, the others being former Councillor George Saunders and newly elected Mike Lucas.

In Hylands, Dennis Daflon was elected with two Conservatives, Howard Moss, son of Harry Moss (see previous newsletters) failing to be elected. He was to get elected in 1990 for Elm Park.

Arthur Latham returned in Brooklands, elected in second place behind with Conservative Alby Tebbut, Dianne Tomlinson missing out by 170 votes in 4th place. In Oldchurch, Tony Rew was elected, with colleague and future Councillor Sean Willis missing out by 2 votes. Labour gained two seats in Mawney, Mike Davis and Bill Gilley being elected, Barry Nottage missing out in 5th place.

Elsewhere Eileen and Tony Gordon were around 300 votes short in Collier Row, while Keith Darvill was a defeated candidate for Harold Wood, some 800 votes behind. Both Eileen and Keith would be elected to Parliament 11 years later, an unlikely outcome at this point! Tony was to be elected for Oldchurch in 1990.

Labour were well behind in Rainham, but had begun a long campaign of regular newsletters that was to pay dividends later. In South Hornchurch, Labour trailed the residents, although the defeated candidates, Harry Webb, Tony Hunt and Mick Wood were to become Councillors in subsequent elections.

Elsewhere, future Conservative Council leader Michael White was defeated in South Hornchurch. The Liberals retained Rainham with a huge vote, and also held Chase Cross. Successful candidates stood as Liberal Focus team rather than Liberal\SDP as elsewhere in the Borough.

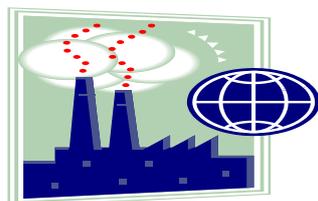
Across the Parliamentary seats, Labour was ahead in Hornchurch (31.2% against 27.2% for the Conservative) and behind in Romford (15%) and Upminster (9%). While the resident vote (16%) prevented a straightforward projection of the national position in the run up to 1987, all was not gloom. The turnout at 43.3% was 1.1% down on 1982, with the highest turnouts in Cranham West (52%) Upminster (52.3%) and Elm Park (51%) the lowest Hildene (39.9%) Gidea Park (39.8%) Heaton (37.2%) and Oldchurch (33%).

The results meant Havering moved to no overall control; Arthur Latham became Labour Leader, and Labour was relevant and influential. The 1987 General Election proved a chance to build on this, and to recover lost ground. The Government was loathed by many and politics was polarised. However the opinion polls suggested that there was still a lot to do before Labour would return to government. Opinion polling in this era had a lot to answer for...some things do not change.

1986 Result

Party	Councillors	% vote
Labour	20	31.0
Conservative	28	35.0
Resident /other	10	13.1
Liberal/SDP	5	20.9
Total Turnout 43.3%	63	100.0

Next in the series - 1990. Goodbye to the Poll Tax...



Future Meetings

Labour Mayoral Candidate Sadiq Khan has agreed to speak alongside Ivana Bartoletti at a meeting arranged by Havering Fabians – date to be confirmed watch social media for details

5th February 2016, 7:30pm Fairkytes Studio Billet Lane Hornchurch

AGM followed by guest speaker **Wes Streeting MP** Ilford North. Wes is former president of the National Union of Students and the former deputy leader of Redbridge Council. Wes was elected with a swing large enough to have put Labour in majority if replicated elsewhere – and Ilford North Labour Party had the highest level of voter contact in the Country.

Professor Matthew Goodwin has agreed to speak to the Society on the forthcoming European Referendum

Matthew J. Goodwin is an academic, writer and public speaker known for his work on Britain and Europe, radicalism, immigration and Euro scepticism. He is Professor of Politics at Rutherford College, University of Kent, and Senior Visiting Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House. He lives in London.

Matthew is a political scientist by training. He received his PhD from the University of Bath in 2007, after which he worked for a self-funded research institute at the University of Manchester. He was then awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Economic and Social Research Council. In 2010, he was appointed Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Nottingham, where he managed several large research projects for the Leverhulme Trust, Nuffield Foundation, and British Academy and as a Hermes Fellow. He was also recipient of an ESRC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship and spent twelve months on a full-time secondment in a central government department, working alongside policy makers on extremism and integration issues. In 2015 he was appointed Professor of Politics at the University of Kent. In the same year he was awarded an ESRC Senior Fellowship on the UK in a Changing Europe programme. He is currently working with the ESRC and the Royal Institute of International Affairs on Euro scepticism and Britain's EU referendum.



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.

Local Fabian Society Contacts

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Committee Members		
Cecile Duerinckx	Ed Glasson	Sanchia Alasia
Sam Gould	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.

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 @joncrudasmp

Barking Labour Party www.barkinglabour.org.uk/

Twitter @barkinglabour

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

Twitter @romforlabour

Hornchurch and Upminster Labour Party

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

Facebook Hornchurch-Upminster-Constituency-Labour-Party

Twitter @HULabour

Tribune www.tribunemagazine.org

Twitter @Tribunemagazine

Hope not Hate www.hopenothate.org.uk

Twitter @hopenothate

Thames Chase Community Forest

Twitter @Thames_Chase

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/recreation.nsf/LUWebDocsByKey/EnglandEssexNoForestsThamesChaseCommunityForestTheThamesChaseForestCentre>

John Biggs GLA Member for City and East London

john.biggs@london.gov.uk or join his mailing list

biggsnews@london.gov.uk

His website is www.johnbiggs.org.uk

Twitter @JohnBiggsAM

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 25th 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

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.....postcode.....

E-mail.....

Phone number

Waged (£10) unwaged £5