The trade union link is fundamental to Labour

In recent weeks, various media stories have sought to portray a big chasm between individual members of the Labour Party and trade unions.

However the debates and votes on two key issues discussed this week – Brexit and the Green New Deal – showed that this is not the case. The majority of affiliate and CLP delegates shared similar positions on these matters, and also backed the party leadership.

In 2015 it was an alliance between constituency members and trade union affiliates that secured Jeremy Corbyn’s election as Leader. And since then Labour’s enemies have sought to weaken – and ultimately split – this alliance.

Trade union involvement in Labour is crucial to all aspects of the Party, from policy making through to election campaigning. The stronger that trade union link, the stronger is the Party.

Immigration: Support Composite 20

The Tories’ “hostile environment” was originally called “really hostile environment” when Theresa May was Home Secretary. Our Party will introduce a fair immigration system.

Labour’s Green New Deal

There was an electrifying atmosphere on Conference floor yesterday as leaders of the Youth Climate Strike took to the stage to kick off a vital debate on what Labour should do to stop the climate emergency. Rebecca Long-Bailey unveiled Labour’s radical green policies in her conference speech.

As the FBU’s Matt Wrack put it "capitalism is destroying the world" and bold action is needed to save humanity.

A speaker from ASLEF said that "for this challenge, we can only face it if we are united."

Next step in delivering a radical, socialist Green New Deal? Electing the country’s greenest ever PM - let’s get Corbyn into Number 10.
Thanet’s Summer Kitchen

Many politicians have woken up to the fact that huge numbers of children go hungry during the school holidays – often thanks to the twin evils of Universal Credit and poverty pay. Activists in Kent decided that’s unacceptable – as is making the “needy” queue up for charity. We developed a caring alternative: our “Summer Kitchen”.

Schools do not have to be locked up and empty over the summer. Two schools gave us their buildings for free, though we covered fuel cost.

Why does so much fruit & veg go to waste just because they don’t meet supermarket standards? We found gleaners who, with volunteers, picked cherries that provided puddings, two tonnes of spuds and veg the children used to make piccalilli.

We found volunteer musicians, conjurers, singers, games leaders and others to provide fun. We found others who generously provided goods and services – including a barber and advice/support services worker.

The homeless who dropped in were made welcome and ate well. Collection boxes were scattered around for voluntary donations. “To each according to their need – from each according to their ability” (Jeremy Corbyn speaking at Islington North Christmas Party*).

Sharon Goodyer
Our Kitchen (CIC) [Ramsgate]
Councillor Barry Lewis [Margate]

*PS: for the stupid media, that is a joke.

Lest we forget...

● Schools and colleges in England have suffered the worst fall in spending since at least the 1970s – Institute for Fiscal Studies
● The top 20% of earners in the UK earn 12 times as much as the poorest 20% - Guardian, 9th September
● In local government, cuts shrank spending by 21% between 2009-10 and 2019-20 – Institute for Fiscal Studies

CLPD – not just for Conference!

Puppies are not just for Christmas, and CLPD is not just for Conference. Join CLPD and receive regular bulletins and newsletters explaining the mysteries of Labour Party procedures and advance news of what’s going on. You can’t afford to remain on the sidelines!

CLP contributions to Monday’s Brexit debate

The debate was, of course, reported inaccurately in the hostile press. Conference was at its best; articulating the strong arguments for Jeremy’s insistence that we should not totally ignore the views of half of this country’s population.

Alan Gibbons (Liverpool Walton) moved composite 14 pointing out that whether you voted leave or remain, you need a Labour government to rebuild public services. Sion Rickard (Aberconwy) seconded, highlighting respect for different Brexit positions. Cllr Sophie Wilson (Sheffield Hallam) warned against a hard Brexit. We need to bring the country together against poverty and greed, and the leadership’s policy is straightforward and sensible.

Jean Roberts (Brent Central) said we need to bring as many leave voters as possible to supporting our transformational policies. Chelley Ryan (East Worthing and Shoreham) felt the Leadership’s position can hold disparate Brexit positions together. Zoe Goodman (Bristol South) said Bristol was split down middle in referendum, and we shouldn’t push a definite line on the doorstep.

Noah Tucker (Tottenham) said we cannot credibly negotiate a sensible Brexit deal if we are committed to opposing it. Joe Tweg (Chipping Barnet) went on the big Remain march, but also stated that charlatans have divided the country into two warring tribes. He supported Composite 14. Samuel East from Liverpool urged support for Composite 14, insisting we must respect the voices of everyone, no matter how they voted.

CLPD – not just for Conference!