

# RED POST

## Labour in Totnes and South Devon

### Close race for new Leader and Deputy

Our 1000+ members will help determine the future of the party when they vote in the leadership ballot between 24 February and 2 April. It's one member, one vote, so everyone can make a difference. The result will be announced at a special conference on 4 April.

### Help elect a Labour Police and Crime Commissioner

Labour members have chosen Gareth Derrick to stand for Devon and Cornwall PCC. He told Red Post *"We have a real chance to win this role for Labour and start delivering policing with effect and integrity across the two counties. I look forward to working with Totnes members again to make this happen!"*

### New pop-up cafe for Brixham

Brixham members are planning a regular pop-up cafe to build on the town's Labour presence in the election campaign. Meet like-minded people, bring the kids, and check out the bookshelf!



## Storms show impact of climate change

This month, storms Ciara and Dennis battered our coastline, roads were closed, and rivers broke their banks. (The Dart at Totnes is pictured above). Luke Pollard, local Plymouth MP and Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, spoke up for all the communities affected.

*"The reality of the climate crisis is that more extreme weather will happen more often and with devastating consequences",* he said. He compared Labour's comprehensive plan for a Green New Deal with the Government's proposals that *"do not come close to the urgent and decisive action the UK needs."*

David Matthews, a Labour member of Totnes Town Council, agreed that: *"we await genuine, concerted action on climate change."* Colin Luker, another Labour Town Councillor, called on residents to take action locally: *"Everyone can get involved in the Climate Emergency Working Group - we have real proposals for action here".* And Louise Webberley, Labour Parliamentary candidate in 2019, said Labour members should *"swamp Anthony Mangnall with letters and emails"* and hold him to account for his hollow promises during the election campaign. We are also building a new climate action group locally - please email if you want to be involved.

## Mangnall watch

What has our new Conservative MP Anthony Mangnall done for the people of Totnes and South Devon since he was elected?

On 29th January he voted **against an amendment to tackle homelessness**. The number of people sleeping rough in England has more than doubled since 2010, and 21 people died sleeping rough in Devon last year. Labour's amendment would have made 8,000 homes available at once, restored funding for the local housing allowance, and invested £100m a year in emergency accommodation.

In February Anthony Mangnall voted **against taking action to address the climate emergency**. Labour's early day motion would have committed the Government to cutting almost all vehicle emissions by 2030. The plan would decarbonise buses, cut fares, improve facilities for cyclists and walkers, and fund an electric car charging network. Instead, Conservative MPs called for more roads and runways. All eight Devon Tory MPs voted against.

Later the same week he also voted against the Local Government Finance bill, put forward by Labour to protect **funding for adult and children's social care**. Since 2011, Devon CC has lost out on £265 million funding, despite the rising costs of social care. Tory Councillors say they are not to blame, but their friends in Westminster keep voting for the axe to fall.

## Dawn Butler drops in to Torbay

Dawn Butler, Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, and Candidate for Labour Deputy Leader, visited Torbay earlier this month. She met with several women from our Constituency Labour Party (CLP) and thanked us all for our support.



## Leader and Deputy Leader nominations

You can find out more about Dawn and the other Leader and Deputy Leader candidates by logging on to My Labour and navigating to the leadership hub: <https://labour.org.uk/people/leadership-elections-hub-2020/>.

## Welcome to our 200+ new members!

We're delighted that so many of you have joined or rejoined in recent months, boosting our numbers to over 1000. Come and meet other members - and share your hopes and ideas for the CLP - at our March new members event (details next issue).

## How can you get more involved?

We're looking for someone to coordinate our non-election campaigns, from local hospital services to Universal Credit. Our media group also needs new members to help produce this newsletter, videos and social media. Email us to find out more.

## Dates for your diary

5 March 7pm: Regular CLP meeting with discussion, business. All members welcome. St Johns Church, Bridgetown, TQ9 5AD

25 April, time TBC: Pop-Up Cafe with play area, bookstall, food and chat. Function Room, Town Hall, New Rd, Brixham TQ5 8TA

**Tell us what you think of the newsletter! What should be in it? Who should it be aimed at? Next issue: saving our local bus services.**