

# Kilburn Rose

NEWSLETTER OF KILBURN (BRENT) LABOUR PARTY [www.kilburnrose.com](http://www.kilburnrose.com) OCTOBER 2010

## Now the real battle starts

By **MICHAEL PAVEY**

RED ED? Hardly. Despite the best efforts of the Tory media, Ed Miliband just doesn't fit the stereotype of the crazed revolutionary.

£150,000 per year is a lot of money – it's hardly Soviet to ask people earning that to contribute 50% to the taxman.

Mutualising Northern Rock? You'd have to be pretty strange to argue that the PLC model was a success. And acknowledging that Iraq was a mistake is at least five years overdue.

In fact some of Ed's most encouragingly crimson policies are shrouded in the kind of spin perfected by his predecessor-but-one.

He supports a Living Wage as "the foundation of our economy in the future" – fantastic, but hopefully he means the very near future. Similarly he wants a high pay commission for the private sector – but what will he do when it tells us what we already know: that the gap between top bosses and the shopfloor has rocketed beyond any justification?

But let's not split hairs, I believe Ed will prove a very effective leader – offering an authentic Labour voice at a time of national hardship caused by capitalist excess.

As encouraging as his early policies are, I'm particularly hopeful about his communication skills.

The public debate on the deficit is delicately poised. According to the Guardian 43% of people feel that cuts to public services have now gone too far against 37% who think the balance is right.

That's encouraging – but not enough to stop an ideologically infatuated Government. We now need leadership.



Everyone in the Labour Party knows that this Government is using the deficit as an excuse to gleefully hack at our public services and to penalise our most disadvantaged communities.

But we need far more than 43% of the public to agree with us. We need someone who can articulate our message and outline a positive, yet plausible, alternative.

*I believe our new leader is the man for the job.*

There was a pleasing modesty to Ed's Conference speech. After the messianic preaching of Blair and the clunking fist of Brown, there was something endearing about Ed's lack of histrionics.

The enormous gulp that pre-aced his acceptance speech told of serious first-night nerves – could we actually have a normal human being as leader?

Let's hope so. We need to win the argument over the deficit – and we can only win the argument if people are listening to us. I think people will listen to Ed and

I think people will agree with him. *Now we need to back him up.*

As the Labour alternative takes shape we need to carry the message to our communities.

There is an important role for protest, but there is an even more important role for constructive engagement: talking to people, listening to their concerns and linking these concerns to deliberate – avoidable – decisions being taken by the Government.

The Labour leadership election was an interesting discussion at best, a boring soap-opera at worst. It's over now and it's time to rally behind the winner.

Right now there are people sitting at home wondering how to make ends meet as their housing benefits are cut. There are young people wondering when they'll next get a job following the closure of the Future Jobs Fund.

And there are vulnerable families wondering which of the essential services they depend upon will be axed in the coming months: the local youth club? Home help for the elderly? Sure Start? Local bus services? Neighbourhood policing?

We have a new leader with fresh ideas and an ability to communicate, we have a public growing sceptical of the Government and we have hundreds of new members in this constituency alone.

The most disadvantaged members of our society need us to throw this Government out of office. *This battle is simply too important to lose.*

Please join our campaign street stall outside WH Smiths on Kilburn High Road on October 23rd – the first Saturday after the Comprehensive Spending Review.

**Branch meeting Thurs Oct 14 + more news – see back page**

# Your party needs **YOU** to help fight the ConDem cuts

**1** To coincide with Chancellor George Osborne's destruction of the welfare state, sorry, Comprehensive Spending Review on October 20, Camden Trades Council is organising a rally and march, starting at Lincoln's Inn Fields from 4.30pm and marching to Whitehall. All welcome. More details on our website [www.kilburnrose.com](http://www.kilburnrose.com) or go to [camdentradescouncil.org.uk](http://camdentradescouncil.org.uk)

**2** In the wake of the Comprehensive Spending Review, the branch will be holding a street stall outside WH Smith's in Kilburn Square on Saturday October 23 from 11am to 2pm. All helpers welcome. No doubt our friends in Kilburn Camden branch and others will join us. For more details, contact Michael Pavey.

**3** There will no doubt be party leaflets to distribute door-to-door throughout the ward in the next few weeks in response to the ConDem cuts and to let voters know all that the Labour Council is doing for them. The number of branch members taking part in deliveries seems to have dropped off alarmingly since the May election. If you have not been involved since the election and can spare 20 minutes or more every now and then to leaflet a building or street near you, please email Nick Ingram.

## Labour delivers

SINCE being elected, your Labour councillors have already begun delivering on the Party's election promises.

### KILBURN HIGH ROAD

We have secured a dedicated Kilburn High Road police team, focusing on reducing High Road-related crime.

We are working with Kilburn Business Friends to support the Christmas event being held in early December – which will include late-night shopping, with businesses getting involved, and carol-singing, with schools and partners taking part. Our commitment to raising the quality of retail stores is kicking in – Peacocks has just opened, bringing 20 jobs to Kilburn. It looks smart and is likely to attract more modern retail stores.

### SOUTH KILBURN

We are working with the South Kilburn Partnership to secure jobs, training and apprenticeships associated with housing developments taking place – in construction and business/housing related work. We are also supporting the local ESOL initiative, providing language classes for Somalis and other local people needing a stepping stone to take up work.

And we are working with Brent Housing Partnership to tackle a major problem for young people – not having enough open spaces for football and other games and to find other ways to reduce anti-social behaviour.

MARY ARNOLD, TAYO OLADAPO AND BEN OGUNRO

## Now we are a dotcom!

Our branch blog ([kilburnrose.wordpress.com](http://kilburnrose.wordpress.com)) has been transformed into a proper website, so for all the latest news or to comment, go to:

**[www.kilburnrose.com](http://www.kilburnrose.com)**

Contact Nick Ingram for further details

### Branch meeting

**Thursday  
October 14  
at 7pm**

**Community Careers  
Albert Road, South Kilburn**

**This is a joint meeting with Queen's Park Branch to hear our delegates report back from the Party Conference and discuss the issues.**

**Other items include:  
Council News  
Constituency News  
Campaign News**

### BRANCH CONTACTS

#### Chair

**Michael Pavey**  
[mikeyim@talk21.com](mailto:mikeyim@talk21.com)

#### Secretary

**Diane Bakemhe**  
[dianebakemhe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dianebakemhe@yahoo.co.uk)

#### Newsletter/blog etc

**Nick Ingram**  
[nick\\_ingram@yahoo.com](mailto:nick_ingram@yahoo.com)

#### Councillors

**Mary Arnold**  
[maryarnold1@btinternet.com](mailto:maryarnold1@btinternet.com)

**Ben Ogunro**  
[benkaro@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:benkaro@hotmail.co.uk)

**Tayo Oladapo**  
[oladapotayo@yahoo.com](mailto:oladapotayo@yahoo.com)

#### MP

**Glenda Jackson**  
[jacksong@parliament.uk](mailto:jacksong@parliament.uk)

*Do we have an email address for you? If you have not yet let us know your email, please send it to Diane so we can keep you informed of the latest branch news and activities.*