



London Ambulance Service UNISON Branch

# LABOUR LINK



11 December 2016

## LAS Labour link news

I hope you will all join me in remembering our Branch Secretary Eric Roberts.

He passed suddenly on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

He had many qualities including being passionate about Unison and the Union members. He was friendly and a friend towards all, he was a leader, a speaker and a coach, our thoughts are with his family and he will be greatly missed.



Jason Anderson Labour Link Branch Officer

# Information

# Care For The NHS

Under the Tories our NHS is underfunded and understaffed

Around 3.9 million people on waiting lists

1.8 million people wait four hours or more in A&E

One in four patients have to wait a week or more to see their GP

Social care is approaching a 'tipping point' according to the regulator



Add your voice at [labour.org.uk/nhs](https://labour.org.uk/nhs)

 Labour

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Log onto [www.labour.org.uk/content/care-for-the-nhs](https://www.labour.org.uk/content/care-for-the-nhs)

And sign the petition.



## **Labour boosts vote in council by-elections but fails to take any seats.**

Labour failed to make any gains in council elections last night (1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2016) although it did increase its share of the vote in several wards.

The party missed out in Tower Hamlets in east London, which had been seen as its strongest chance of taking a seat, but boosted its performance after a vigorous local campaign.

Overall independent candidates gained two seats, the Tories gained one from UKIP and held one, and the Lib Dems snatched one from the Tories while one result was still to be declared this morning.

Labour's vote share was down in Dorset and South Northamptonshire.

### **Whitechapel (Tower Hamlets)**

Independent gain from Tower Hamlets First

Independent 44.7 per cent (+44.7)

Labour 32.1 per cent (+6.5)

Conservative 8.5 (+0.8)

Lib Dems 6.7 per cent (+0.0)

Greens 6.6 per cent (-6.6)

UKIP 1.3 per cent (-2.4)

**Walbrook (City of London Corporation)**

Independent gain from independent

Grange Park (South Northamptonshire)

Conservative hold

Conservative 58.4 per cent (-13.0)

Labour 25.1 per cent (-3.5)

UKIP 11.7 per cent (+11.7)

Green 4.8 per cent (+4.8)

**Jeremy Corbyn will not attend Fidel Castro's funeral, Labour source confirms**



It is understood Labour will be represented by Shadow Foreign Secretary Emily Thornberry at the memorial to Cuba's revolutionary leader

Jeremy Corbyn will not attend Fidel Castro's funeral, a senior Labour source confirmed today (28/11/16).

Mr Corbyn follows Prime Minister Theresa May and Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson - neither of whom will attend the funeral.

Labour Part announced; An invitation has been received. It is likely that someone from the Labour Party will be attending but it will not be Jeremy.

The Foreign Office announced that the UK will be represented at the event in Cuban capital Havana by minister for the Americas Sir Alan Duncan.

## **Lib Dems oust Goldsmith in Richmond Park as Labour Lose Deposit**



The Liberal Democrats have pulled off a shock victory and overturned a majority of 23,015 to defeat Tory Brexiteer Zac Goldsmith in Richmond Park.

Sarah Olney claimed 20,510 votes to Goldsmith's 18,638. The swing to the Lib Dems was 21.7 per cent.

Labour saw their vote share slip to 1515 votes, losing their deposit, at just 3.7 per cent of the vote. Richmond Park has a Labour membership of over 1,600.

Former Tory Goldsmith, who called the by-election because of the government's decision to give a third runway at Heathrow the green light, has seen his substantial majority evaporate in the staunchly remain supporting Richmond Park.

This is the second election that Goldsmith has lost this year, after he was defeated by Sadiq Khan for the London mayoralty in May. That election's campaign from Goldsmith was described by Labour's candidate as containing "disgraceful slurs" against the man who became London's first Muslim mayor Khan.

Olney said in her victory speech that she will continue to fight Heathrow's expansion, and that the vote is a clear sign that residents do not want to be pulled out of the single market.

Labour's Christian Wolmar described Olney's victory as "stunning" but offered a "word of warning" that voters do not want "Tory-lite". He said that Labour supporters "lent" her their votes to get rid of Goldsmith and that the result is a "personal indictment" of the former Tory's mayoral campaign.

### Results

Olney, Lib Dems 49.7 per cent (+30.4)

Goldsmith, independent 45.2 per cent (-13.1)

Wolmar, Labour 3.7 per cent (-8.7)

## **Jeremy Corbyn calls on socialists to unite against far-right threat sweeping Europe**



Jeremy Corbyn is to call on socialists across Europe to unite and take on the growing threat from the far right.

In a speech in Prague, Czech Republic, tomorrow the Labour leader will say populist "siren voices" offer the wrong solutions to the problems facing working people.

Addressing the Party of European Socialists Council, Mr Corbyn will warn events like Brexit and Donald Trump 's election show "the populist right is gaining ground".

"In many cases the populist right do identify the right problems, but their solutions are the toxic dead ends of the past," he will say.

"They are political parasites feeding on people's concerns and worsening conditions, blaming the most vulnerable for society's ills instead of offering a way for taking back real control of our lives from the elites who serve their own interests.

"But unless progressive parties and movements break with a failed economic and political establishment, it is the siren voices of the populist far right that will fill the gap."



## **Corbyn: Labour will seek amendment to any Article 50 bill**

Labour will seek to amend any bill on the Article 50 process to withdraw from the EU, Jeremy Corbyn has reiterated.

The Labour leader told Sky News this was to ensure Britain maintained access to Europe's markets, workers' rights and environmental protection measures.

But his party would respect the EU referendum result, he said.

It comes as the government prepares to go to court on Monday to challenge the High Court ruling that it must consult MPs before triggering Article 50.

Mr Corbyn said: "When the Article 50 debate comes up we will put forward an amendment to it which will be on the issues I've just said on market access and protections.

"We want those to be part of the negotiation but we are respecting the result of the referendum. It might not be the one we wanted, it's the one we've got."

He said Labour's amendment would not delay the Brexit process and that it was necessary to stop "those in the Tory party" who wanted to "sever all connection with Europe, reduce corporate taxation, set up some kind of bargain basement trade agreement with the US".

This, he said, would lead to a drop in wages, public spending and living standards in the UK.

Article 50 is part of the Lisbon Treaty, which became EU law in 2009, and sets out the process for countries leaving the European Union.

Once it is activated, the UK will be cut out of EU decision-making at the highest level and there will be no way back unless by unanimous consent from the other member states.

It will then have to negotiate its exit with the EU's 27 other member states - a process which is supposed to be complete within two years.

Prime Minister Theresa May has promised to invoke Article 50 by the end of March

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