

**HAVERING FABIAN** 

Volume 2 Edition 53 June 2023

Havering
Fabian Society
Meetings with
Margaret
Mullane, Dominic
Twomey and
Unmesh Desai
and dates for
meetings with
Carolyn Simpson,
Hannah McHugh,
and Sir Stephen
Timms MP

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# **HAVERING FABIAN**

#### VOLUME 2 EDITION 53 June 2023

#### Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of the Havering Fabian Newsletter. The Labour lead in the opinion polls is now over 20 per cent, and a Labour Government is now likely. The period up to the election will be an important one, with the GLA elections in May 2024 which could well precede the General Election, which must take place by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at the latest. Hopefully we will not be campaigning over the Christmas period!

We now have 1,380 followers on twitter. Keep up to date at our twitter site @haveringfabians for the latest news. We have a blog now as well as our website <a href="https://haveringfabians.org/posts/">https://haveringfabians.org/posts/</a> You will need to follow us to get updates.

We are affiliated to the four local Labour Parties and will do all we can to support their campaigns. Havering and Dagenham Young Labour are on twitter @HavAndDagYL 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 are welcome.



Our website address is <a href="http://haveringfabians.org">http://haveringfabians.org</a> As you are no doubt aware GDPR means we need to keep our mailing list up to date. If you are

not on our mailing list (we use Mailchimp – please check your spam folders!) contact us via the website or email and we will add you in.

#### **RIP**

Since out last edition Havering Labour Parties have lost their eldest member<sup>1</sup>. Frances Eldred died in May aged 103. Councillor Keith Darvill gave one of the speeches at her funeral. Frances had been an active member of the Labour Party for many years and was well known among the local members.

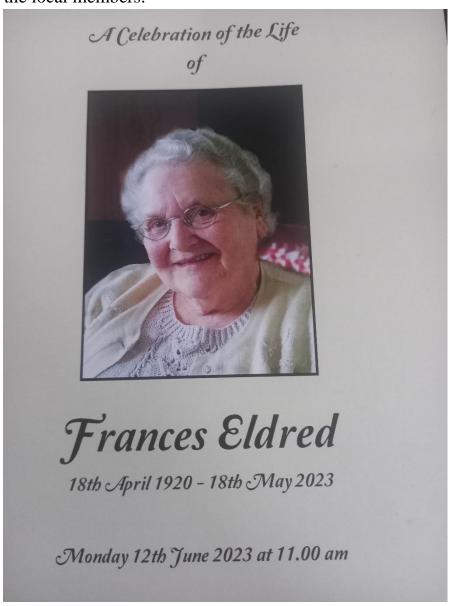


Figure 1Frances Eldred RIP

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Unless you know differently?

Then, on 22nd June, former Labour Councillor Denis Breading passed away after a long illness. Denis was Councillor for South Hornchurch from 2010- 2014. He stood unsuccessfully as a Green Party candidate for Dagenham and Rainham at the 2017 parliamentary election.

Below a link to the obituary in the Romford Recorder

<u>Tributes to former south Hornchurch councillor Denis Breading</u> | Romford Recorder

The funeral will be on **Wednesday 12th July at 3.30pm** South Essex Crematorium, Ockendon Road, Corbets Tey, Upminster. RM14 2UY. 01708-434433

The chosen charity for those wishing to mark the passing of Denis in this way is "Guide Dogs for the Blind".

Our thoughts are with family and friends of Frances and Denis at this sad time.

## **Fabian Events in July**

#### Save the dates for three important Fabian events coming up in July:

#### The Commission on Poverty and Regional Inequality - report launch:

- Wednesday 12 July, 11am 12.15pm
- Central Hall Westminster and Online
- with Lisa Nandy MP

#### Giles Radice: His Legacy - a joint event with the Labour Lords

- Wednesday 12 July, 6pm 7.30pm
- Houses of Parliament
- with Baroness Hayter and Lords Robertson, Liddle, and Kennedy
- BOOK HERE

#### The self-employment manifesto - report launch:

- Tuesday 18 July, 6pm 7.15pm
- Central London and Online
- with Angela Rayner MP

More information and registration details coming soon

# Margaret Mullane "Unaffordable" Affordable Housing

The following is the speech Margaret gave to the Society at our April meeting,



Figure 2Margaret Mullane

I can't claim to have invented the above headline. That is a saying from my ward colleague, Phil, from Village Ward Dagenham. The language used around housing by the government and media can be confusing and often misleading. We need to reclaim and redefine the terms we use so it is clear what people need, versus what is really being offered.

I attended the Labour Party Conference this year in Liverpool. Andy Burnham, who I am a huge fan of, was discussing the "Levelling up Agenda". Once again, within that conversation, the topic of "affordable rents" was raised. As I stated to the New Statesman at the time, if we are truly serious about levelling up, we need to take the term "affordable housing" off of the table. Having been a Councillor for thirteen years, and Jon Cruddas MP's office manager for longer, I have watched this term

used to justify locking out working people on lower wages from ever owning their own house.

Affordable housing is defined as housing at least 20% below local market value. It sounds good in theory, but since 2013 we have gone from it costing 6.1x the average salary to buy the average house to 8.5x the average salary in 2023 – and many earn well below that £33,000 median wage. It is almost impossible to save up for a sufficient deposit and equally difficult to secure a mortgage for that amount, and these are national averages – the issue is obviously even worse in London. It means that working class people have been completely priced out of the system. The current situation is massively in favour of developers and landowners, and people in their communities are looking over their fences to new properties that they or their family members will never be able to own. I strongly believe that it doesn't have to be like this.

Let's take Beam Park, which boasts "affordable "shared ownership properties - something that really isn't affordable, as you are purchasing a part of the property and paying a monthly rent too. I had a look at the website last week: a one bedroom from £290,000 - £305,000, and a three bedroom from £510,000 - £525,000. Who can afford properties like this?! We are in a cost-of-living crisis; patterns of work are changing, and job security is increasingly difficult to find for many people. I know that many in the community are working two jobs to make ends meet. I am a great believer that you should work to live and not live to work, but people are having this choice taken away from them. I passionately feel that people's wages should be sufficient to ensure a decent standard of

living.



Figure 3Margaret in full flow-Keith Darvill looks on.

A big part of the puzzle to solve this housing crisis and the "unaffordable affordable housing" issue is through council housing. The people that don't want council homes built rally against them on ideological grounds and will point to issues with the right to buy scheme. I believe that a change to the legislation around council housing that prohibits right to buy purchases for a twenty-year period would be sufficient to ensure we can provide a steady stream of affordable council housing, while ultimately allowing people to live in the houses that have become their homes for their whole lives if they choose.

I also feel that, in the spirit of truly levelling up, you devolve powers on right to buy as they have in Scotland and Wales to the local authority, who can work to provide what is needed in their local community. All sales from council housing should have 100% of the sale going back to the council with a commitment that the money is spent to build new council homes. Finally, I believe that the right to buy discount should be maximised to 50% and capped at a maximum of £100,000, which would ensure that more council homes remain in public ownership.

The planning system in the country needs changing, and the Labour Party have said that if they win the next General Election, they intend to help first-time buyers onto the housing ladder and build more homes by reforming planning rules. What should this reform look like?

I have sat on a planning committee and have seen developers put forward their plans containing very little truly affordable housing. It's very difficult under the current planning laws to question or reject plans to create more large and luxury homes when there is a serious deficit of rent controlled available council housing.

I watched a political programme a few weeks back and a journalist that represents young people made an alarming but not inaccurate claim. He said that the current political system provides nothing for young people in terms of housing that they can access. His take on the matter was that older voters vote in greater numbers, so the political class doesn't worry about the offer for young people.

The rental sector also needs our attention. The high rent rates, the low quality of rental properties and rogue landlords who fail to carry out essential maintenance are all in urgent need of solutions. I believe that all people, whether renting privately, living in council housing, or buying a property have a right to a decent home. We as a country have gone through austerity initiated by the Tories and the Liberal Democrats, then we all went through Covid which deeply impacted communities around the country. Now we face wage stagnation as inflation continues to outstrip wage rises, which has led to a cost-of-living crisis that has pushed many families into poverty. The trade union movement is finally starting to gain some traction and secure reasonable pay for some workers, but many still struggle and their pleas for a fair wage fall on deaf ears.

In my years as a Councillor and office manager for Jon, I have had many in-depth discussions with council officers regarding the need for more council housing. I believe that one group turning against another is counterproductive to the housing revolution that is needed for this country at this time. I feel that class politics offers a better prism through which to view the need for council housing. The task of moving forward on housing falls to unelected individuals in various government agencies, often without the necessary attachment to any given area to really fight for its best interests. The "social housing offer" is supplied with a box ticked

that it has been offered, but the waiting times are enormous and only reform will bring us closer to my goal of social housing available to all who need it.

As the prospective Parliamentary candidate for Dagenham and Rainham, I will be placing council housing at the centre place of my agenda, if successful going forward. The current housing conditions that some people are forced to live in within Dagenham and Rainham are plainly not acceptable. I feel we have taken many steps backwards in how the people of our country are housed. We need Labour politicians to make the case loudly and strongly for council housing. If the Becontree Estate was possible after World War II, think of what should be possible now. The cases I deal with would break people's hearts to hear, but it doesn't have to be like this.



Figure 4Margaret makes a key point.

Not everyone suffers directly from poor housing, but I've heard from friends, parents, grandparents, and children all concerned about the costs and conditions their loved ones are dealing with. I do believe that the electorate understands this and will support us in saying goodbye to "unaffordable affordable housing" and building more social housing for the many in our community, and our country, who are in desperate need.

Margaret Mullane is Village Ward Barking and Dagenham Councillor and Labour Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Dagenham and Rainham

# **Dominic Twomey - The challenges of Local Government including regeneration.**

The speaker at our May meeting was Councillor Dominic Twomey, the Deputy Leader of Barking and Dagenham Council<sup>2</sup> and Lead member for Finance. This was Dominic's first visit to Havering Fabians.

He began by setting out the challenges facing Local Government. These were financial, demand for services, maintain and improving services, recruitment, and retention in the sector, and of course, climate change.



Figure 5Keith Darvill and Dominic Twomey discuss common issues.

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 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Barking and Dagenham Council has two deputy leaders – the other is Councillor Saima Ashraf, who spoke at our meeting in February 2023

#### **Financial issues**

There are some challenging financial issues.

Councils are facing a collective funding gap of around £7.3 to 9 billion by 2025-26, in effect the lifetime of the Barking and Dagenham Council medium term financial strategy.

The Local Government Association had recently surveyed councils and in response.

- 91 % of councils increased council tax to the maximum, with a number stating this was not enough. Barking and Dagenham had had a freeze on Council tax for 8 years to protect residents.
   However, this meant a loss of £30 million extra revenue had been forgone meaning less services and jobs. These were and are very difficult decisions with consequences whatever decision is taken,
- 50% of councils stated they would be cutting spending on services in current and future years.
- 8% of councils say financial constraints could bankrupt them, leading to Statutory Section 114 notices<sup>3</sup> – including Thurrock, Croydon, Nottingham, Northampton, and Woking. These are Councils with a range of political control.

There is concern that there could be more. Financial mismanagement was a common issue, as was poor governance and borrowing to fund speculative commercial investments.

Barking and Dagenham Council had managed its finances through austerity, Brexit, covid and was still addressing the cost-of-living crisis.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Section 114 A Section 114 notice is a notice issued by the chief finance officer of a council when the council's expenditure is likely to exceed its resources. <u>It means that no new expenditure is permitted, except for statutory services, and the council is in financial distress<sup>1</sup>.</u>

Councils are required by law to have balanced budgets. If a council cannot find a way to finance their budget, then a Section 114 (S114) must be issued. The issuing of a S114 notice bans all new spending with the exception of protecting vulnerable people and statutory services and pre-existing commitments<sup>2</sup>.

The ability to survive the next "shock" is limited and it is not always clear where this might come from. As an example, an unexpected adverse Ofsted report could cost a council £10 million in remedial action. The Council faced a budget gap of £20 million over the next 4 years, while Havering faces a gap of around £40 million over the same period,

#### **Demand issues**

- 25% of councils state housing and homelessness top the immediate pressures, followed by Childrens Service's and Education (17%) and adult social care (15%).
- Adult social care was identified as the top long-term pressure for council finances (40%) followed by environment and waste (16%) and Children's Services (12.5%)
- 20% of councils state residents can no longer access the same level of services as previously.
- To address these immediate and long-term pressures 24% of councils plan to increase their level of borrowing. Over 67% of councils plan to use their reserves with most of these councils (80%) also having used reserves in the previous year, in addition, 97% of councils with social care responsibilities intend to make use of the social care precept in 2023/24.
- Looking at alternative models of local government funding, nearly three quarters (73%) of councils felt 100% business rate retention was their preferred mechanism. Other alternatives with support included removing the requirement for a referendum (28%), a local share of income tax (26%) and devolving funding for other public services (21%).
- Half of Councils responding would be looking to increase their commercial activity, a concern given the failure mentioned above.

Barking and Dagenham had a large housebuilding programme via
its housing company Be First, supplemented by asset sales, the film
studios at Dagenham East and the transfer of markets from the City
of London.

Councils continue to display extraordinary dedication, innovation, and resilience in serving their communities but are let down by a funding system not fit for purpose. The Fair Funding review<sup>4</sup> has been kicked into the long grass<sup>5</sup> and levelling up has not materialised. This matters as Barking and Dagenham are one of the few London Boroughs<sup>6</sup> in the top tier of the programme which should mean more funding.

Despite repeated promises from central government, we have seen no reform of local government finance and no return to multiyear funding. There has been a disjointed series of one-year settlements predicated on local authorities raising council tax to the highest amount permitted.

Even with these tax rises councils are having to cut services, borrow more money and access reserves year after year. Residents across the Country are failed in three ways; their bills rise, their services are cut and the councils they rely on edge ever closer to financial ruin.

There is no single solution to this problem, Instead, local government is crying out for a toolbox of fiscal devolution measures. It is time to give power to councils and let them succeed where central government has comprehensively failed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Reviewing and reforming local government finance - House of Commons Library (parliament.uk)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Government delays fair funding review | Local Government Chronicle (LGC) (lgcplus.com)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Others include Newham and Brent

#### **Improving and maintaining services**

Environment and waste services faced new rules as part of climate change requirements, meaning more responsibilities but no extra funding.

Welfare reform meant less resources within the community.

#### **Recruitment and Retention**

This has become an issue with some areas such as social work heavily reliant on agency staff. Social workers are attracted by higher salaries available in inner London. Subsequent staff faced increased caseloads, and use of interims does not ensure continuity. The Council had responded by offering sabbaticals and enhanced training, as a result, now 85% of social workers are full time employees.

#### Regeneration

The council collaborates with several partners including Homes England and has several joint ventures. This assists in the longer-term solution of building more housing. The housing has different tenures – for sale, shared ownership, and social housing for rent at the equivalent of council housing, with Reside rather than the Council as landlord. Reside has 78% of homes at submarket rent. This cannot be sustained with recent increased interest rates and construction costs. There are now properties selling for £500/600/700,000 in the Borough, beyond the reach of most local residents.

New homes require social and physical infrastructure. Barking and Dagenham once had four hospitals, now there is just Upney. So, regeneration is not straightforward, as infrastructure requirements are substantial, and expensive.

#### **Solutions**

- Labour policy nationally is to allow Councils to buy land at a lower cost to enable building at scale, and to retain more right to buy capital receipts.
- The delivery of the Fair Funding review which acknowledges and prioritises deprivation and vulnerability of residents.
- Better use of technology and data to enable early intervention in residents' lives, leading to prevention of crisis later in life.
- Better collaboration with partners, the voluntary sector, the NHS (Care integration) and the Police to attract more funding.
- More investment in the Borough to stimulate growth and improve local outcomes.
- Innovation and transformation to provide services more efficiently.

## **Unmesh Desai – the Baroness Casey report**

Unmesh has been a regular speaker at the Society and wanted to focus on the Metropolitan Police and in particular the Casey Report<sup>7</sup>.



Figure 6 Unmesh, Keith Darvill and David Marshall pre meeting

Policing in London is now in crisis. Strategy for the Metropolitan Police is the responsibility of the Police and Crime Commissioner – the Mayor Sadiq Khan.<sup>8</sup> With London having greater responsibilities than other cities, the Home Office and the Home Secretary also have a role relating to discharging diplomatic and anti- terrorist issues. This dual role can lead to conflict with dual responsibility and enables each party to blame the other when issues arise. Government grant is a key element of the Met funding enabling the Home Office to dictate resourcing levels.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The Baroness Casey Review | Metropolitan Police

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In London the PCC role is vested in the mayor's responsibilities. Elsewhere PCCs are directly elected albeit often on low turnouts.

Unmesh favours a Royal Commission on Policing in London to address these issues and he is due to author an article in the next Fabian Review setting out the detailed argument in support of this.

The London Mayor discharges responsibility via MOPAC (the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime). MOPAC has a budget of £3 billion per year. The London Assembly meets to discuss Police and Crime issues twice a month. One of the issues has been ensuring that key staff attend and are accountable for their actions.

The monthly meetings alternate between a question-and-answer session to the Police Commissioner, (currently Mark Rowley) or their Deputy, and a more in-depth strategic review into issues. These include Domestic Violence, Hate Crime etc and can occasionally cover casework.

The murder of Sarah Everard, and subsequent Inquiry<sup>9</sup>, had identified misogyny within the force and the murder and aftermath of Stuart Port's<sup>10</sup> murder, homophobia. The review of the Daniel Morgan<sup>11</sup> case from the 1980's showed the Police Commissioners had obstructed the Inquiry and had not dealt with institutional corruption.

There were earlier adverse Reports highlighting racism within the force - the Macpherson report in 1992 and Lord Scarman in 1981.

The Police Inspector's report issued a week prior to the meeting had shown public confidence in the Metropolitan Police at the lowest point since the Robert Mark era in the 1970's. The relationship with the public was strained. The Home Secretary had welcomed the report "Common

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Sarah Everard case: Police failings in full | Evening Standard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Met chief 'deeply sorry' for serial killer Stephen Port failings | Evening Standard

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Daniel Morgan Independent Panel report - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Sense Policing" 12 which is broadly about getting back to basics and adds further pressure.

So, the Met faces problems. Recent reports had identified issues.

The 2022 report State of Policing<sup>13</sup> identified historically low levels of public trust and confidence – less than 50% of the population had confidence in the Met.

The Police were not focused on the basics. There are issues with governance, leadership, and the workforce.

There are basic managerial failings, administrative errors, procedures are weak – for example evidence was stored alongside lunches. Evidence was stored in a room with the password visible and taped outside.

The Casey Report had been accepted by Mark Rowley who had said no stone would be left unturned. So, a series of bad services will follow as issues are dealt with.

Mark Rowley had got as close as he could be expected to admit institutional issues, although had not agreed the Met was institutionally racist.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Suella Braverman at the APCC and NPCC Partnership Summit -GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> State of Policing 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Cressida Dick had been too defensive and initial self-denial had led to subsequent U turns. This approach has not changed from the Stephen Lawrence days and can be seen in aspects of the Susan Everard enquiry.



Figure 7Unmesh Desai discusses the Casey Review

The Baroness Casey Report is damming. There are systematic and fundamental issues.

The Met lacks integrity, and officers cover up for each other. There is a need to tackle a deep-seated culture.

The front-line service has been deprioritised. Moving from a 32-borough based approach (the City of London has its own police force) to 12 units has been unwelcome. Locally the combining of police in Havering Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge was not viewed as a success.

There has been a loss of analysts and support staff which does not help.

Neighbourhood policing will be the cornerstone of recovery.

There is a need to plan better e.g., the removal of local police for redeployment a regular event such as the FA cup final.

The Met often keeps MOPAC at arm's length. Accountability cannot function when this is the case.

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There are cases of discrimination and bullying across groups with protected characteristics.

Policing by consent as a concept is broken. If parts of the population do not trust the Police to act fairly, then community engagement and trust will be difficult.

The misconduct process is not fit for purpose, and the Commissioner is to be given powers to dismiss staff who fail to meet basic standards.

Rape convictions are at 1.5% of cases, down from 3% pre Covid. Is the issue treated seriously enough?

The Mayor will create a Policing Board for London, similar in status to Transport for London. The intention is to enhance governance and accountability. This will be the body that oversees the implementation of the Casey Review recommendations.

The Met faces an on-going funding crisis with £1 billion of cuts over the last decade, and loss of experienced officers. The Mayor of London has put business rate income towards recruitment 1,300 more police officers and 500 PCSOs <sup>14</sup>.

A turnabout plan is in place with Borough Superintendents returning. All burglaries will now be investigated and there will be greater checks on those entering the police service.

There is a new anti-corruption unit, which has been inundated with calls some of which are liable to be malicious. So, there may or may not be an issue to deal with.

There is a need to recruit and retain staff and ensure adequate training. Loss of experienced staff does not help efficiency or effectiveness.

There is a need for a structured dialogue to engage with the police – the current neighbourhood approach does not do this. Police Consultative groups were a recommendation of the Scarman report in 1981 and there was once a structure. Barking and Dagenham are pioneering the new approach and the Three Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Stuart Bell is supportive.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> PCSO – Police and Community Support Officers

The last Royal Commission on Policing was in 1963. There are some fundamental issues a new Commission could look at.

- Should the National Crime Agency take on the additional functions currently delivered by the Met? (Diplomatic work, anti-terrorism etc)
- Nationally there are 43 police forces is this too many?
- The City of London has virtually no burglaries or anti-social behaviour yet has 800 officers why?

The Met has responsibility for all policing in London bar the City of London. What it does well it does very well. Morale has declined, and there are rising mental health issues with staff.

During questions further points were made.

Online crime is on the increase although the online safety bill is being watered down. This may explain the City of London numbers.

Civil Liberty issues have a high profile – for example Section 60 dispersal orders were used during the coronation when they are intended to deal with violent crime.

Getting "back to basics" has included the Met withdrawing from non-life and limb support for Mental Health cases with effect from September. Much time is spent supporting and often acting as social workers in such cases. The Police are often not trained for this and spend lots of time performing functions better undertaken by others.

#### Links

Blog <a href="http://haveringfabians.wordpress.com/">http://haveringfabians.wordpress.com/</a>

Website <a href="https://haveringfabians.org/">https://haveringfabians.org/</a>

Twitter <a href="https://twitter.com/HaveringFabians">https://twitter.com/HaveringFabians</a>

Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/havering.fabians">https://www.facebook.com/havering.fabians</a>

LinkedIn <a href="https://uk.linkedin.com/in/havering-fabians">https://uk.linkedin.com/in/havering-fabians</a>

## **Online payment**

There was a positive response to paying annual subscriptions online with 70 % of those responding willing to pay online. Details are included in the regular (ish) Havering Fabians email. Contact us for further details if you are not on the current mailing list.

## **Future Meetings**

6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Carolyn Simpson - The Struggle for Female Equality 7.30pm in Fairkytes Arts Centre main room. Billet lane RM11 1AX Carolyn is a former UNITE officer who has an impressive CV including.

- . Full-time Trade Union Officer since 1988 involved in many industries and sectors.
- . Former Regional Organiser of Unite the Union.
- . Former National Pensioners' Officer for Unite the Union
- . Co-organiser of 2014 "Women Against Austerity" Conference
- . Regional Women's and Equalities Officer in the London & Eastern Region
- . Honorary Treasurer of the National Assembly of Women
- . National Assembly of Women representative on the Russian Centenary Committee
- . Co-Chair of the South-eastern Region of the TUC Women's Rights Committee
- . Long term advocate of proportional representation in Trade Union elections



Carolyn will speak on the struggle for female equality. Below is a link Unite produced several years ago for new Croatian members which features Carolyn four times.

### 14th September -details to be finalised.

Islington Councillor and Chair of the Fabian Law and Constitutional Policy Group Hannah McHugh has agreed to be the speaker. Details of the topic, time and venue are being finalised. Hannah spoke at the launch of the Fabian paper "Reclaiming Freedom – The case for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Bill of powers and duties" alongside Liam Byrne MP, Steve Reed MP, Jon Cruddas MP, and Dame Helena Kennedy. The subject will be based on related topical issues, of which there are several!

October
19th October Sir Stephen Timms MP Roope Hall Trinity Church
Upminster RM14 2UD start time to be finalised as the hall is in use until
7pm



Stephen has spoken to us on several occasions, and we look forward to his visit. He has held several Ministerial roles and has been the MP for East Ham and the predecessor seat since winning the by election in 1994.

## **Politics in Havering**

You may already be aware of the excellent Politics in Havering Blog, which we repost via our twitter feed. This gives a regular update on politics within the borough – a link is below, please follow them (and our blog!) for regular updates!

https://havering.blog/

## 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**

**Chair** Councillor Keith

Darvill

**Secretary** David Marshall

Contact

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**Membership Secretary** 

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Vice Chair Sanchia Alasia

**Treasurer** Dave Baldock



Chair Keith Darvill reports ...

#### **Future Editions**

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. Our next edition will be in September 2023 – contributions welcome.

# 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 and Dagenham Young Labour

## **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.



## **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.

I\ we wish to join Havering Fabians

Name

Address

Description:

Waged (£10) unwaged £5 .....