

### LABOUR YOUTH SECTION

In the last issue it was announced that a Labour Party Youth Section would be starting up in Woking. Our first meeting was held on Tuesday March 27th, and we will continue to meet each Tuesday from 7.30 to 10pm. The activities include, Darts, Chess, Table Tennis, Billiards, etc., later on if there is enough interest we will organise hikes, rambles, and cycle rides, and possibly even week-end camps. If you are interested, and between the ages of 16 and 25, would you please write to:

R.A. Davey, "Clarendon", Bullbeggars Lane, Horsell, Woking.  
Phone: Woking 3395.

### THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

It would be easier to make ends meet if circumstances did not keep moving the ends.

Some people, instead of trying to drown their troubles, take them out and give them swimming lessons.

### FOR YOUR DIARY:

MARCH 31st Waste Paper Collection.  
APRIL 6th Social Evening with Olde Tyme Dancing-7.45-Labour Hall, Woking.  
APRIL 14th Family Social and Dance-7.30-11 COMMUNITY CENTRE-Adults 1/6 Children 5d.  
SHEERWATER

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## WOKING LABOUR PART .



# LIBERTY

ORGAN

of  
WOODHAM & SHEERWATER  
WARD

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### THE "GOOD OLD DAYS" OR "BAD OLD DAYS"???

How much we agree with the "Woking Opinion" when it delivered an editorial chastisement to Sir Lionel Heald, Tory MP for Chertsey, who, when addressing a Local Tory Association, said, "We should compare the present with what it was like in the 'bad old days,' or the 'good old days,' as some people are inclined to call them once more."

The "W.O." told him he should not be tempted into these dangerous asides (dangerous to who? - Editor) Sir Lionel, they say belongs to the new Conservatism, which professes to recognise the "good old days" for what they really were; when security was a luxury, when good health was a happy accident of fate, and when the unemployed marched to Westminster just to convince someone that their families were starving. They go on to say that this country has been brought to standards undreamed of fifty years ago.

Only the other day a Tory said that all the benefits of today, note this, were "Just the natural evolution of mankind"! Remember it was only when the Labour Party (with a working majority for the first time) were in power that things began to evolve.

There were no "political magic wands" left over in the war surplus, but there were the men with the determination of getting the country on its feet as soon as possible. avoided full employment, and create the envy of the whole world, the Welfare State.

At the last election the Conservatives promised to double the standard of living of the nation in 25 years. Messrs Butler and Macmillan have now proved that they meant double the cost of living in 25 months.

### A PUBLIC MEETING

will be held on  
FRIDAY, 27th APRIL, 1956

at ST. MICHAEL'S HALL  
Devonshire Avenue, Sheerwater

Speaker: COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVEY

(Labour Candidate for Woodham & Sheerwater)

All supporters are invited to come along to this important Election Meeting and meet their Candidate

### THE LAST WARD MEETING Friday, 17th February

The Chairman, Mr. A. Roberts welcomed those present, commented on the bitterly cold weather being contributory towards a drop in attendance. The change to Friday night was another factor which may have to be discussed.

THE U.D.C. SECTION - MAY 15th - Mr. J. Childwick, Membership Secretary, was elected Sub-Agent for Woodham and Sheerwater to organize the election campaign. Mr. & Mrs. Elliott have kindly offered their home for Committee Room.

Social Committee Secretary reported the various activities being arranged, which included the Littlehampton outing on June 3rd. Grand National and Derby Draws were being organised.

### IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

### BEHIND A WORD

WHY NOT USE THE "LIBERTY" to dispose of that piano, gram, or what have you, maybe you want an exchange? - Remember this is being read by nearly ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE - Write to the Secretary, 271 Albert Drive, Sheerwater.  
(Box Numbers 24. extra)



FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear Neighbour,

We live such hurried lives these days that there seem to be only a few occasions on which neighbours can really get together.

Certainly, we are always sharing among each other the things we need for jobs and repairs in the house and garden. We stop and chat at the street corner, or over the garden fence. We help each other willingly when the need arises, and what is more, we all share the same kind of problems. It seems to me to be a pity that we do not develop this spirit of goodwill and make it serve a wider purpose.

The reason I am writing this is that I know there are a number of our neighbours who have joined together in a "help-your-neighbour" spirit, and are meeting regularly to talk over and even take action on all kinds of problems that affect our everyday lives. I wonder if you would like to join in too? There are many readers who are not members of the Labour Party, but have kindly purchased the "Liberty" because they support the Socialist viewpoint and for enlightenment on what the Labour Party is doing on Sheerwater and in Woking. You can be assured of a warm welcome, in addition, of many new interests.

The Labour Party believes in a fair and just system of society, in which the true wealth of the nation is owned and produced by the people for the people.

I would like to tell you more about the Labour Party, but it is not possible in this short space. I do hope we shall soon have the pleasure of welcoming you to our circle of "good neighbours".

Why not come along to the Public Meeting on Friday, 27th April. There must be a question you would like to ask.

Yours sincerely, A.R. Wenden,

WHAT THE TORIES COST WOKING

IN the absence of the Finance Chairman, owing to illness, Councillor Beldham presented the rate estimates to the Council on March 20th and

asked the Council to fix a rate of 15/6d. for the coming year. To me, the outstanding comment he made was that the rise in interest rates which have been imposed by the Tory Chancellor during the past few months will cost Woking ratepayers no less than SEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS which is the equivalent of a 2 1/2d. rate. This means that the Woking Council require a rate of 13/3 1/2d. in order to provide the services for which it, and the County Council is responsible and a further 3 1/2d. rate to meet the cost of Tory policy.

Sheerwater Does'nt Escape

THAT, however, is not the most important effect Government policy is having in Woking, because, as a result, we have had to delay many things which most of us regard as being of vital importance to the welfare of Woking people.

For instance, the next part of the Sheerwater recreation ground will have to wait until the Minister has a change of heart. Many other projects including the proposed improvement at Dunford Bridge, the long delayed sewerage scheme for the Mayford area, the paddling pool in the park for the kiddies, have met with similar fate. But we still have the money to spend on the provision of a fence for a Bowling Green at West Byfleet. It was left to the small Labour group on the Council to voice its dissatisfaction; the rest appeared to give unqualified support to a policy which is reminiscent of the 1930's.

Opposition From Tories

It is now being taken for granted that the larger part of the time at any Council meeting shall be occupied with housing matters, and the

meeting last week lived up to expectations.

Apart from concern being expressed at the proposal to use a housing site, a site which has been set aside for a school, there was an attempt by two Byfleet members to reject a proposal to purchase a site in High-road, Byfleet.

The reason given, that part of the land was in the Green Belt, that it is in line of an aircraft runway, and other similar reasons, were overshadowed by, what I believe to be the real reason, although it was glossed over, was far more important, that the building of Council houses would lower the tone of the district.

These suggestions were described by a Labour member as "utter nonsense," and it is to the credit of the Council that it was decided to proceed with the purchase of the site.

Those who want more Council houses were not, however, so fortunate when it came to the question of a site at St. John's which the Housing Committee for some reason which is not readily apparent, have decided is unsuitable.

One is tempted to ask, in fact the question was asked, if it is because if Council houses were built on the site, it would lower the tone of this district too.

Some time or other Woking Council will have to make up its mind that if we are to build houses, we must have the land to build them on.

COUNCILLOR PAUL DAVEY.

\* \* \* \*

ANY QUESTIONS FOR SHEERWATER?

BEING confident that Mr. Hudson, Tory candidate for this Ward, shares the same view that it is a responsibility of local

government candidates to encourage interest in elections and make themselves available to be questioned by electors, an "Any questions" luncheon both candidates has been suggested by Councillor Paul Davey.

ROAD SAFETY???

Over 14 requests have been dealt with by the Highways Committee during the eleven months I have been attending council, most of these were for alterations to ensure greater safety for all. Only two have survived the eliminating rounds of the Highways Committee, the Police, and the Ministry of Transport. CAN IT BE THAT THE COUNCILLORS ARE NOT CAPABLE OF ASSESSING DANGERS? Even though people have been killed at some of the spots. Are you wondering how many people have to die before something is done? 14 have died as a result of accidents at the BX Green Road, yet once again it will have to wait owing to the Government's clamp on capital spending.

When are we going to get some road safety publicity? Woking is well behind the times. Have you ever seen a road safety poster in your area? Do you think enough is being done in the schools to educate children in road safety? I am positive the answer is NO.

Some points to remember...RAF Comoros cost enough to pay for all the Highway improvements in England...Why is the Fuel Fund Tax still not used for road improvements?...Why do the AA and the RAC crush all attempts to extend 30 mph limits?

Everyone has some idea of the effects of the H-Bomb, NET THE DEATHS ON THE A6 CONTINUE TO INCREASE.

IF as much money was spent on road safety as on the H-Bomb, we could rid this evil monster, which not only kills but fills the hospitals with mangled bodies, some only just living...have you ever lost someone to the Road Monster? I have...

Councillor G. Knowler

HERITAGE COLLECTION DOCUMENT

1929

By  
For Edwards, M.P.

**THE TORIES ARE DEFEATED**

In 1929 a Tory Government introduced the De-rating Act, an Act which relieved industry and agriculturists of their major responsibilities to local government. This Act reduced the rates paid by manufacturing concerns by 75% and has represented a free gift to the manufacturers of hundreds of millions of pounds since that date. British industry to-day pays only 6% of the rate of the country which is out of all proportion to the benefits they receive from the facilities provided by rates paid by other ratepayers. When we consider that this free gift to industry amounts to £68,000,000 a year, the injustice of this situation to householders and small shopkeepers, is abundantly clear, especially at a time when industrial profits have reached the highest peak in British history.

Despite vague promises by the present Tory Government that they proposed, in the distant future, to rectify this injustice, they have persistently opposed every attempt by Labour to annul this De-rating Act.

On Friday, March 16th history was made, however, when the Government were ignominiously defeated on a private member's Bill in the House of Commons, aimed at re-rating manufacturing concerns and introduced by Mr. Spinks (Labour M.P. for Acton). This Bill would put manufacturing industry on a par with all other local ratepayers.

It is well for the electors to realise, particularly so near the Municipal elections in May, that the Conservatives, including the Prime Minister, went into the lobby and voted against this important proposal which would have the effect of reducing the rates payable by householders.

On receiving their majority, in the House of Commons so

few Tory members were present that they were defeated, but it is certain that they will oppose this bill in its later stages through the House. This opposition is characteristic of a Government which sees no shame in making gifts of public money to big business concerns, but, after all, the big business concerns are the main providers of Tory party funds at election times.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**GRAND NATIONAL DRAW** - We are pleased to report that this draw was a financial success and £10 has been donated to the Woking Local Labour Party for the Local Elections. We sincerely congratulate the winners. To the others we say, better luck next time, i.e. The Derby Draw.

We would like to thank all those people who sold tickets - Thank you!

**FAMILY OUTING TO LITTLEHAMPTON - JUNE 3rd**  
Arrangements are going ahead for this outing, the price will be 8/6 Adults - 5/6 Children (under 14). We are endeavouring to cover the estate by means of collectors. If you are interested and a collector has not called on you, will you please call at 8 Albert Drive and the name and address of your nearest collector will be given.

**FAMILY SOCIALS AND DANCES** - Our Family nights are still proving to be a success and we invite you to come along to the COMMUNITY CENTRE on Saturday APRIL 14th and join in the fun. Refreshments and Spot Prizes. 7.30-11. 1/6 Children 9d.

Watch the "Liberty" for news of further Social events. A.Roberts, Chairman.

HERITAGE WALKS ARCHIVE DOCUMENT