

CANDIDATES TO GATHER FOR TRUCE IN MEMORY OF JO COX

20 May 2017

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Edinburgh General Election candidates will cease campaigning for an hour tomorrow (Sunday, 21 May 2017) in memory of the murdered Labour MP Jo Cox.

Prospective MPs from across the different parties will join Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale in a spirit of solidarity and to remember the legacy of the Yorkshire MP.

Ms Cox was murdered by Thomas Mair after attending a constituency surgery during the EU referendum.

Her widow, Brendan Cox, has urged politicians to focus on what unites people, not what divides them.

Last week, Mr Cox met with Scottish political leaders to emphasise his hope that they would embrace Ms Cox's legacy of togetherness.

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale said:

"Jo Cox was an inspiration and one of the UK's brightest political lights.

"She was someone who devoted her life to helping others, believing there is more that unites than divides us.

"As we gather we will think of a mother and a wife who inspired us to remember that we have more in common than that which divides us.

"Candidates from the different political parties will gather in Edinburgh to reflect on that legacy of peace and compassion that unites us all.

"By putting aside our differences, we can instead focus on what unites us – our commitment to make Scotland and the UK a better, more progressive place."

Jeremy Corbyn speech at the International Convention Centre in

Birmingham

*****Check
against delivery*****

Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party,
speaking at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, said:

Over the last week the dividing lines in
this election have got much clearer and sharper.

The two parties have published their
manifestos. Set out their visions.

And in the case of Labour – but only
Labour – published our sums too.

We don't just have a vision, we have
costed it too.

By contrast, the Tories are offering
blank cheques made out to misery.

But the contrast is more substantial
than that. I believe that the difference is this:

Where the Tories look to divide, Labour
seeks to bring people together.

The Tory manifesto must be the most
divisive for many elections past.

They are now pitching young against
old.

Their manifesto is a typical nasty party
attempt to set generations against each other.

For pensioners they offer a triple
whammy of misery:

Ending the 'triple lock' which protects
pensioner incomes, means-testing the Winter Fuel Allowance and slapping a
'compassion tax' on those who need social care by making them pay for it
using
their homes.

Some claim that cutting support for the
elderly is necessary to give more help to the young. But young people are
being offered no hope by the Tories either – loaded up with tuition fee
debts,

with next to no chance of a home of their own or a stable, secure job.

Labour stands for unity across all ages and regions in our country. It is simply wrong to claim that young people can only be given a fair deal at the expense of the old, or vice versa. We all depend on each other.

That is why we are calling on the Tories to drop their anti-pensioner package immediately – older people should not be used as a political football.

And we promise that a Labour government will make education free at all levels and build the homes young families need, offering the security of a home for life.

Only Labour stands for the many against government by, of and for the few.

We say that if we all stand together we can build a fairer Britain.

There is no trade-off between young and old – and there should be no trade-off.

Society should not be setting the future of our young against security for the old.

We have the wealth to offer a decent, secure life for all.

Labour's proposals will ask the top 5 per cent of earners and the big corporations to pay a bit more, to help address these problems.

That way we can make sure that young people can get homes and pensioners can heat their houses in winter.

That way students can leave college without a huge burden of debt and older people can have their income protected through the "triple lock" which only Labour will guarantee.

I believe that this message is getting through.

The ink wasn't dry on the Tory manifesto before some of their own MPs and candidates were inching away from the attack on the elderly.

They know it's not right and it's not

fair.

They may even suspect it's not much of a vote-winner.

So Theresa, please end the anxiety for millions of older people and do a U-turn now. You will end up facing the right way.

Let me now say a word about young people.

And it is right that I do so in the youngest city in Britain, where forty per cent of the population is under 25.

But also a city where nearly ten per cent of young people are out of work, more than twice the national average.

In a region where poverty is increasing. Here in the West Midlands one child in three is living in poverty.

Sure Start was one of the best achievements of the last Labour government. We must build on that, instead of cutting back on school meals. A free school meal, without stigma, is the right of every child.

To make things still more difficult for the young, here in the West Midlands house prices have risen by five per cent over the last year, while wages are still lower than they were in 2008.

It all adds up to the worst thing for young people – loss of hope.

Hope for a decent, secure job.

Hope that you will be able to get a home of your own.

Hope that you can enjoy an education without fear of crippling debt.

We speak, rightly, of left-behind communities. There are many, alas, in the West Midlands.

But there is also the danger of creating a left-behind generation, enjoying few of the chances and none of the advantages of their parents.

As I said when launching our manifesto on Tuesday, Labour's approach is based on hope.

And that is our offer to young people.

Labour will scrap tuition fees and lift the shadow of debt from students. The Tories won't.

Labour will invest in jobs, skills and training across all regions, including here in our traditional industrial heartland. The Tories won't.

Labour will build more than one million new homes over five years, with more than half being social housing for rent. The Tories won't.

This is the sort of policy our young people have a right to expect from politicians.

After all, in offering the next generation free education and the chance of a job and a home we are only offering what should be regarded as basic human rights.

In return, we have the right to ask just one thing of young people today.

Register to vote.

This weekend is your last chance to register – the last chance to make sure you can vote Labour on June 8.

Let me be clear to all young people:

I want you to vote Labour.

But above all I want you to vote.

It is a right the working people of this country fought for.

It is a right that some in the establishment would diminish or take away.

So let's dispel once and for all the myth that young people are apathetic about society by everyone getting on the electoral register and then getting down to the polling station on June 8.

I know that young people did not leave politics – politics left them. Now we are bringing politics back to the rising generation.

Young, old or somewhere in between, we are all in the same country, the same communities.

Labour knows that we sink or swim together.

When the Tories offer tax cuts to their rich friends, we say let's make life livable for the many first.

When the Tories want to balance the books on the backs of the vulnerable, we say let's tell the wealthy and big corporations to start paying the tax they owe.

Simple choices. But ones that make a difference to millions of people.

And there is a simple choice before the country in this election:

The Labour way of working for the good of the entire community, or the Tory way which is perpetuating the grotesque level of inequality that already exists in our society.

I know which one I've chosen – the Labour way, for the many not the few.

Ends.

[Updated planning policy to strike a chord with live music fans](#)

The Cabinet Secretary wants an explicit reference to the 'Agent of Change' principle within updated national planning policy. Under this principle, if new developments or uses are to be introduced near a pre-existing business, such as a live music venue, it is the developer's responsibility to ensure solutions to address and mitigate the noise are put forward.

Lesley Griffiths also confirmed [Planning Policy Wales](#) will be updated to allow the designation of areas of cultural significance for music within Local Development Plans.

The Cabinet Secretary has decided to update Wales' national planning policy following a high profile public campaign, based around Womanby Street in Cardiff city centre, home to a number of popular live music venues. The adoption of the 'Agent of Change' principle into national planning policy and the designation of areas of cultural significance for music are two of the campaign's central aims.

The Cabinet Secretary said:

"Live music venues contribute greatly to Wales' thriving cultural scene and our night time economy. I am aware of the efforts to protect the future viability of these venues, including the "Save Womanby Street" campaign, in Cardiff and I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and commitment of all involved.

“Although the continued vibrancy of areas like Womanby Street depends on the ongoing participation of a number of different parties, including local authorities, the venues themselves and their customers, I have heard the calls to update our national planning policy to protect live music venues.

“I am delighted, therefore, to confirm I have asked my officials to start revising Planning Policy Wales at the earliest opportunity.

“I am sure this news will be music to the ears of Wales’ live music fans and I hope local planning authorities will have the confidence to apply these measures when considering planning applications.

News story: Ransomware advice

The NCSC has provided guidance for enterprise administrators and small businesses who want to reduce the likelihood of being held to ransom by WannaCry (or other types of ransomware).

1. Ransomware: ‘WannaCry’ guidance for Enterprise Administrators

NCSC site contains guidance for enterprise administrators who want to reduce the likelihood of being held to ransom by WannaCry (or other types of ransomware). There is more general advice and guidance on protecting enterprise IT on the [NCSC’s guidance site](#).

[Guidance aimed at larger businesses](#)

2. Ransomware: ‘WannaCry’ guidance for Home Users and Small Businesses

Guidance for home users or small businesses who want to reduce the likelihood of being held to ransom by WannaCry (or other types of ransomware).

This page contains guidance for home users or small businesses who want to reduce the likelihood of being held to ransom by WannaCry (or other types of ransomware).

[Guidance for Home Users and Small Businesses](#)

There is more general advice and guidance on protecting yourself online at [CyberAware](#).

ACE expansion plans – investment will treble manufacturing capacity and create jobs for unique Welsh firm

Backed by £50,000 from the Welsh Government's Growth and Prosperity Fund, the company is investing in new equipment that will treble manufacturing capacity and speed up production time to meet the growing UK wide demand for its services.

The £116,000 total investment will see staff numbers rise from 20 to 30 and also safeguard twelve jobs.

Ace Orthotics, trading as Ace Feet in Motion is based on Sanatorium Road and was established by Bob Cooper in 2001 to provide biomechanical gait analysis using state of the art dynamic pressure plates to help accurately assess movement through the foot and lower limb.

It provides specialist podiatric sports injury biomechanical services to the public and high profile sports associations including the WRU, Disability Sports Wales, Welsh Athletics, Welsh Netball and Cardiff City FC, as well as the NHS. It has also worked very closely with the regional Welsh rugby teams and several Premier League football clubs.

Ace's clinical service is supported by a manufacturing arm that designs and makes all forms of modular and bespoke functional insoles intended to correct an abnormal or irregular gait.

Its lab currently makes around 10,000 pairs of bespoke insoles every year, many manufactured utilising state of the art CAD CAM technology. However, 20% of which have to be made completely by hand as its machinery can currently only make insoles to a depth of 30mm. This investment in new machinery will allow the manufacture of insoles up to 66mm in depth.

Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

"Ace Orthotics provides a highly specialised and bespoke service and is the only business of its kind in Wales and I am delighted Welsh Government support will help it expand, create new jobs and win new business. The expansion is vital for its long term sustainable growth."

Thomas Cooper, Clinical Director at Ace, said:

"We have seen year on year growth and are experiencing growing demand throughout the UK for our products and need to invest to meet that demand. This investment is absolutely vital to take

advantage of these opportunities and will speed up production, cut costs and enable us to both produce more quality products and win new business.”

Skills and Science Minister, Julie James added:

“Ace Orthotics is a great example of how Wales’ thriving life sciences sector continues to go from strength to strength and I am pleased we have been able to support this company’s ambitious expansion plans in what is a very competitive and cutting-edge UK marketplace.”

In addition to providing specialist podiatry and sports injury biomechanical services Ace also has a specialist footwear centre which is open to the public selling specialist sports footwear and wider fitting comfort footwear.

It has developed its own modular insole range – Feet in Motion insoles (FiMs) as well as Paediatric FiMs which have become the insole of choice for clinicians working with children across the UK. Ace is currently exploring exporting this range across Europe and were part of an extremely successful Welsh Government Life Sciences Trade Mission to the Medica trade fair in Dusseldorf last November.