

# LABOUR LINK

No mud-slinging, no personal attacks, just a clean report from your Labour Representatives August 2004



## MAKING POLITICS RELEVANT IN CHARNWOOD.



Richard currently works as Parliamentary Assistant to Andy Reed MP. Andy says ...

"Richard believes in the same sort of politics as me - no nonsense, positive and proactive".

"His work-rate is outstanding, and he's got some great ideas about helping us to transform communities. And YES, I think he can win in Charnwood!"

Dear Constituent

I am really pleased to welcome you to our first edition of Labour Link.

You may see politics as irrelevant, view politicians as simply "in it for themselves" and believe that the Labour Party locally and nationally is out of touch with the daily concerns facing people in Charnwood. I know that there are tremendous challenges ahead. It is my aim however to work with you to help transform our diverse communities right through Charnwood.

The aim of LABOUR LINK is twofold. Firstly, overleaf you will find out what your Labour elected representatives in Charnwood are campaigning for on your behalf. Secondly, Charnwood's Labour councillors and myself want to help you. We are launching our brand new HELPDESK, also overleaf, and whether you need help on matters ranging from benefit entitlement, housing advice, have a gripe against the council, or you are part of a church or voluntary community group that needs help with funding - we have an expert team that can work with you, at no cost to yourself.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together to make Charnwood a better place to live and work.

RICHARD ROBINSON

Labour Parliamentary Spokesperson for Charnwood Constituency  
2 Acres Road, Leicester Forest East, Leicester LE3 3HA  
Tel: 0775 1970 640

## Educational maintenance allowances - support for staying on in education

You may be interested one of the ways the Government is helping young people make the most of their education.

For young people throughout Charnwood constituency to prosper, it is vital that they be given a chance to maximize their potential. Evidence shows that young people who continue their education past 16 learn more, earn more and contribute more to our community. That's why I'm pleased that the Government is launching educational maintenance allowances. **The allowance is available to all 16-19 year olds from families with an annual income of less than £30,000 a year- that's more than half of all families.**

The allowance is paid direct to the student, as long as they attend classes and show real progress. It can be used to fund textbooks, travel or any other purpose the student wishes and there will be bonuses for achievements and learning.

I encourage every family with a child who is leaving secondary school this year and has an annual income of less than £30,000 or less to apply for this allowance- even if your child has not yet decided whether to stay on in education this September - if they apply now, the benefit will be paid straight away in September if they choose to stay on in education. Here's a ready reckoner to see how much this allowance could be worth

Family Income	EMA payment to student
Up to £19,630 per annum	£30/week
£19,631 to £24,030 per annum	£20/week
£24,031 to £30,000 per annum	£10/week

If you'd like more information on educational maintenance allowances, including an application pack, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or call the EMA hotline on 080810 16 2 19.

**Update  
Live!**

Want to know what's going on in your Area...?

Sign-up with your e-mail address for live updates from Richard at [robinsonr@parliament.uk](mailto:robinsonr@parliament.uk)



## PEN PICTURE

Richard is a drummer and percussionist who recently featured in a "Strands of Gold" tour ([www.goldrecords.co.uk](http://www.goldrecords.co.uk)) with Mal Pope, Esther Alexander and Phil Baggaley.

Richard has an excellent track record of success in campaigning and working with and for communities, and is currently a District and County Councillor in Nottinghamshire. His achievements include:

- A Setting up a Community Computer Facility (providing access to IT resources and training for all)
- B Successfully campaigning for restoration of a vital bus link to local hospitals.
- C Helping young people in the community to get the facilities they want, with the support of the Police.

As an expert in the social security system, Richard has helped many people claim their right to additional benefit entitlements they were previously unaware of. Contact him if you need help.

## THE LABOUR PARTY IN CHARNWOOD

FROM MOUNTSORREL, ROTHLEY, ANSTEY, SYSTON, THURMASTON, GROBY, RATBY & LEICESTER FOREST EAST  
WORKING TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

**IN YOUR AREA**

**Kirby Muxloe, Leicester Forest East**

Campaigning to get you Noise Reductions from the M1 Motorway

Richard attended the public meeting organised by Motorway Action Group (MAG) on 21<sup>st</sup> May in Enderby. Here he pledged to support MAG in their efforts to get Noise Resurfacing and Acoustic barriers to protect many affected residents from vehicle noise from the M1 motorway.

After writing to affected residents Richard is organising a submission to be presented to senior Government Ministers in the Department of Transport, pressing the case for quick action on behalf of Kirby Muxloe and Leicester Forest East residents.

**Mountsorrel, Rothley, Anstey, Syston, Thurmaston, Birstall**

Campaigning for elderly & disabled people

Both Richard and Andy Reed MP are assisting Charnwood Voluntary Service - CVS (based at John Storer House in Loughborough) in their attempts to raise £80000 to replace 2 mini buses. Apart from seeking sources of funding for CVS –

Richard and Andy are joining forces to do a light-hearted high profile sponsored event in October – in order to raise funds for the vital work done by the CVS. Watch this space for more details!!!!!!

**Stafford Leys Community Primary School - Leicester Forest East**

Even if children of Stafford Leys Community Primary School, Leicester Forest East are not looking forward to the start of the autumn term, their parents teachers and the school governors certainly have cause to! Following decades of having to use mobile classrooms which were hot in the summer and often draughty if not cold in the winter, the school will welcome the use of a new specially designed Meadows Building. This consists of a suite of four classrooms with integral facilities and possibly a medical room. It is expected that some of the rooms at least will have new furniture and perhaps be fitted with interactive white boards. It is this type of investment that is happening in schools across the county. Is it happening in schools near you? If it isn't then start asking why because the Government has provided money to schools within the Charnwood Parliamentary Constituency, to make it happen. Please write to me about with any concerns about investment in your school.

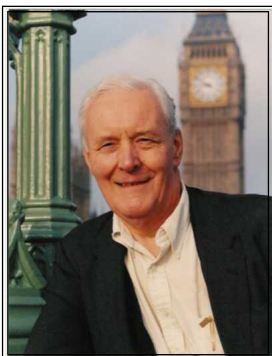
**LABOUR LINK - HELP DESK**

/We need help on the following issue(s)

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Please return to Richard at 2 Acres Road, Leicester Forest East, LE3 2HA (☎ 0775 1970 640 or 0116 299 1704)

**Charnwood Constituency Labour Party proudly presents  
AN EVENING WITH TONY BENN**



**Tickets:  
£5.00**

FRIDAY 5th NOVEMBER 2004  
BIRSTALL CO-OP (7-10PM)

FREE BUFFET, ENTERTAINMENT & PAY BAR

WE EXPECT THIS TO BE A SELL-OUT EVENT  
BOOK YOUR TICKETS EARLY FROM  
KEITH CLAFTON (0116 299 1704) Kclafton@hotmail.com  
2 Acres Road, Leicester Forest East, LE3 3HA

**YOUR LABOUR CONTACTS**

County Councillor for Thurmaston  
Cllr. David Knaggs (1056 Melton Road, Syston, Leics)  
☎ 0116 2607034

District Councillor for Thurmaston  
Cllr. Tony Cowles  
☎ 0775 4980 983  
cllr.tony.cowles@charnwoodbc.gov.uk

District Councillor for Ratby  
Cllr Ken Hunnybun ( 4 Spring Close, Ratby, Leics LE6 0XD)  
☎ 0116 238 8354

**YES! I would like to make a difference by....**

Joining the Labour Party....

NAME: .....

Delivering "Labour Link".....

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**LABOUR - WORKING IN YOUR COMMUNITY**



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