

Vol. 1, issue 1, December 2021



## Inside this Issue

**P1. Letter from the Chair;  
Derbyshire Carols**

**P2. Spotlight:  
Michelle Holding**

**P3. The 'Unite Community';  
The 'Time Out' Group;  
The Reading Group**

**P4. 'Mayday';  
Groups in Lockdown;  
Betty Brindley - A Tribute**

## Special Events at the Club

*Sunday December 5*

Bar: 7pm; Film: 7.30pm

**Red Film Club:**

**Inherit the Wind**

*Friday 10th December*

Bar: 7.00pm Starts: 7.30pm

**Derbyshire Carols**

*Saturday December 11th*

Bar: 7.30pm Starts: 8pm

**Rum Baba, Steve Roberts , The  
Lesley Davies Band**

*Sunday December 12th*

Bar: 7.30pm Starts: 8pm

**The Cajun's Special**

*Saturday December 18th*

Bar: 7.00pm Starts: 7.30pm

**Xmas Quiz Special**

*Sunday December 19th*

Bar: 7.30pm Starts: 8.00pm

**Michelle's Music Night**

## Regular Events

**1st Monday Reading Group: 8pm**

**Tuesday Folk Club: 8pm**

**2nd Thursday: Record Club: 8pm**

**Friday Club Night: 7-9 streamed  
music; 9-11 folk music session**

**Writer's Group**

**Quiz Nights**

**Women's Group**

**Glossop Gamers**

## Letter from the Chair: Derek Clarke on the Challenges and Opportunities facing the Club



Dear Comrades and Friends,

The last twenty months have been a particularly difficult time for both members and the Club. I know that many of you have experienced first-hand this dreadful virus and have lost friends and loved ones as a result. We are still facing a difficult future but the Club has continued to function and will continue to be there for the members.

The newly elected Committee has a wealth of experiences to bring to the aid of the Club to ensure its future success. For example, this Newsletter keeping the membership informed, will become a regular feature.

Other planned activities are for making the Club more accessible and the setting up of a Repair Café which will go some way to challenging capitalism's 'throwaway society'.

However, we cannot be unaware of what is happening around us and there is no doubt that the threat to the environment from global warming is a challenge to all of humankind. As a Club we have our part to play in reducing carbon emissions and we are currently considering an ambitious plan for the installation of solar panels on the

roof at the rear of the Club with storage batteries and, in the longer term, a heat pump. These proposals will not only significantly reduce our carbon footprint and result in financial savings but will act as a showcase for other small businesses in the area.

It's not always easy to see how we move forward in circumstances like these, but it is something that socialists and co-operators who formed the Club, and those who followed, have been doing for over a hundred years. It is our responsibility to continue in that vein.

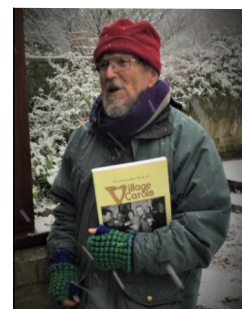
*A Luta Continua...*

Derek Clarke  
Chair Glossop Labour Club.

## 'Tis the Season : Jeremy Dale Introduces Derbyshire Carols 2021

Back in the nineteenth century, the established Church decided they would no longer have Christmas carols in church. They didn't like the words of some of the carols, and they didn't like the rough untutored singers. But the people decided they liked singing the carols, so they continued to sing them elsewhere, which usually meant the village pub. Thus began a tradition which still persists in many places, including several North Derbyshire villages: Hathersage, Castleton, Eyam, Foolow, and Sparrowpit. Each has its own repertoire of carols, including some that are unique to that village, and local versions of 'standard' carols - especially 'While Shepherds Watched' which is sung to an amazing range of tunes. They are all great fun to sing.

We decided about ten years ago that we should introduce some of these carols to Glossop, and it is now a regular event. Last year, because of COVID, we couldn't hold a live event, so we did it by Zoom. Community singing by Zoom is a non-starter; we got round this for some carols by five of us (Brian and Margaret Peters, Karen Heywood, Stella Quinn and me) recording individual tracks which Brian merged into a united contribution. We added to that some solos, and some carols from CDs and YouTube. The response was amazing - we had people joining from other parts of the UK, and also from Germany, the USA and Canada. This year, we will combine the live event in the Club with a Zoom option. This is a ticketed event. Free.



**Derbyshire Carols: Glossop Labour Club, Friday 10th December @ 7.30pm**



Thank you for helping us  
to fund special projects  
by joining the Tote!

## Join the Monthly Tote

The Tote is a way of raising funds to allow us to buy special items, or undertake special projects, beyond those that can be supported from our normal income. Members participating in the Tote pay, by standing order, £5 per month. Each month we have a draw, and the winning member gets a 'prize' of £25. To join the tote, contact Kasey Carver at [kasey.carver@btinternet.com](mailto:kasey.carver@btinternet.com) who will send you a standing order form.

## In Conversation With : Michelle Holding

*For a few years before Lockdown began in 2020, there was a Sunday Folk Music Session at the Labour Club which was always held on the 4th Sunday of each Month. The informal music nights were run for a number of years by Joe Brindley, who passed away early last year. There was a feeling among those who were stalwarts at the session, like Baz Renwick and Jeremy Dale, that it would be hard to step into Joe's shoes, so they asked whether anyone would be willing to take on the mantle. Luckily, up stepped singer and banjo player Michelle Holding, and along with her regular musical partner Bonz Barnes, she has been running the session for a few months. Margaret Peters asked her what made her want to be involved.....*

*When did you first start coming to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Session?*

Quite a while ago - I would always do my best to go when I could. That was partly because Joe Brindley ran it, and he was a pal. Both Joe and his wife Betty had been very kind to me when I joined the Powderkegs Morris Dance side, so I decided to get along to the session when I could. I have such fond memories of hearing Joe there; he had a real breadth to his singing and choice of songs.

*What made you feel like you wanted to run the session?*

A while ago, Bonz and I had talked about setting up some kind of informal gig where we could keep playing our own music regularly, maybe on a monthly basis, but it was really difficult to find the right venue. Then the Lockdown happened and everything changed. Joe passed away in 2020, and it looked like the 4th Sunday session might come to an end, but we knew the Labour Club wanted to continue with the music if possible, and Jeremy was asking if anyone would like to run it. It seemed a shame that, when everybody wanted to come back after the lockdown ended, there wouldn't be a session to go to - people were really hungry to go and sing and play, but it wasn't going to happen. So we stepped up - we didn't know how many people would want to come, so we decided to test the water.

*Did you find it hard to take over?*

I found it hard the first week because I was aware of the danger that, when you step into someone's shoes after they've passed away, it can become a memorial session for them. It doesn't then have a life of its own to carry on, and I was conscious of that danger. Bonz and I sing 'Sammy's Bar', which was one of Joe's favourite songs, at the end of every session with everyone joining in. It feels like that brings some continuity to the event. I am conscious that I don't want to upset people. Joe was very much about good company and camaraderie, singing together and good humour. Having stepped into it, it feels like we are trying to keep something of the essence of that.



*What are the best things about the session?*

Anyone can participate, and the standard of playing and singing is good, which encourages people to contribute and want to listen. People seem to feel welcome, and to share the experience; like they're a part of something you can join in with, and can then encourage others. For me, getting back to seeing other people is important after Covid; for some people, this is the first time they've been out and able to socialise with others. I think it's a welcoming space even if you're not a musician, and some people come just to listen. The music is varied and inclusive. I've been to sessions where people have been kind to me, and I feel very lucky that I was taken under the wing of some more experienced musicians, so I learned a lot from that and I've tried to emulate that kind of welcome. I feel quite comfortable now in what I think makes a good session, which at its best is a good and entertaining evening. People should be having a nice time. If you're only going to get two songs or tunes you need to feel comfortable in joining in the choruses or join in playing tunes, and people do!

*You've been performing music in concert with Bonz for some time, and it seems like the session reflects your relaxed approach as a duo.*

At the session my role is to be the host. Bonz is really good at joining in with anything - he's a great musician and he adds a lot to any session. My strength is in singing, although I know people see me as a banjo player. We've been playing together for 12 years, and it's a bit like a Jack Sprat situation, if you get my drift: we complement each other because we have strengths in different areas. We also like to have a laugh.

*What are your aims for the future?*

We don't have long term aims. I'm happy for it to go along and see how it develops. As long as people are coming and enjoying themselves, that's great. I think there's a real wealth in what we've already got. The main thing for me is that people feel welcome and that they have a good time.

*Tell us a Secret...*

I've spent a while recently learning the art of crafting wooden spoons.....and developing my skills, across 100 spoons of practice!



**Michelle's Music Nights: 4th Sunday of the Month @ 8pm**



## High Peak Unite Community - Kasey Carver on recent developments

### What is the Unite Community?

The Unite Community is an innovative development for the Trade Union movement. As part of Unite the Union, it is designed for those who cannot be in a Union (unemployed, retired and self-employed) to come together to progress Unite's mission within their community: *To organise people to strive for a society that places equality, dignity and respect above all else.*

We meet monthly at the Labour Club with members having the option to join the meeting by zoom. Our current activities include campaigning on issues relating to Universal Credit, Racism, the threat to the NHS and to encourage Trade Union membership; as well as planning with the Labour Club for a big May Day event next year.

### What have we been doing?

#### Campaigning:

Never shy of taking our lovely banner on a march or setting up a street stall, we often join our comrades in Chesterfield for more creative stunts to hit national media.

#### Free Film Showings to the Public:

I, Daniel Blake, Dispossession, Peterloo.

#### Industrial Action:

We had a pivotal role in a successful industrial action with a local company in Chapel by using a few stunts to expose their bullying behaviour to the community; we have been instrumental in successfully supporting other workers in Buxton to negotiate fair disciplinary procedures.

#### Glossop Benefit Interview Support Service:

Coordinating volunteers to provide advocacy for those attending work capacity interviews.

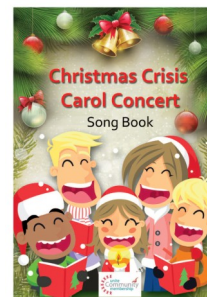


#### Public Talks:

Education Cuts, Social Security, Threats to Local Voluntary Groups, Threats to our local Fire Service; Universal Basic Income, Participatory Budgeting.

#### Christmas in Crisis:

We published a Song Book of politically adapted Christmas Carols used (and still being used) locally and nationally.



#### Participatory Budgeting:

We ran a PB project for voluntary groups within the Whitfield Community.

#### High Peak Stand Up to Racism:

We have supported its foundation and current activities as a core campaign.

#### Are you interested in joining us?

It only costs 50p per week to stay in the Trade Union Movement.

Further information:

<https://highpeakunitecommunity.com/>  
or: [kasey.carver@btinternet.com](mailto:kasey.carver@btinternet.com)

## The 'Time Out' group at Glossop Labour Club Angela Dale sees how they are settling in.

When the Bureau wanted to re-start its much loved 'Time Out' community group after Covid, it approached the Labour Club as a possible venue that would allow those attending to have more space and ventilation than their usual meeting room at the Bureau.

Time Out has now been using the downstairs rooms at the club every Friday since the end of June this year. It has proved a very popular venue as, in the summer, there is plenty of space to sit outside and enjoy the garden and, as the weather gets colder the club is warm and

cosy indoors. The 'Time Out' group covers a wide age range and welcomes any local residents who would like to get together for a chat, tea and biscuits and maybe a game of bingo or a quiz.

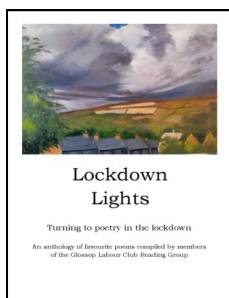
The Bureau also uses the Club to run its CV workshop every Wednesday. This provides help and guidance in preparing a CV and making a job application.

Time Out is run by Paula, who is employed by the Bureau, and William, the lead volunteer – both pictured on the right:



## The Labour Club Reading Group

Recently the reading group has been meeting at the Labour Club once a month, and on Zoom on other weeks. Last year we printed a collection of poems selected by members, 'Lockdown Lights' People made their donations to Glossopdale Foodbank, and we were pleased to raise over £1000 with this and an evening of Poetry and Song. There are still a few copies available if you missed it.



We are now working on a new project, 'Food for Thought', which is based around the way literature has inspired us with recipes. It should be out for Christmas, and again, we will be asking for donations to the Foodbank in return for a copy.

**Labour Club  
Reading Group:  
1st Monday  
@ 8pm**

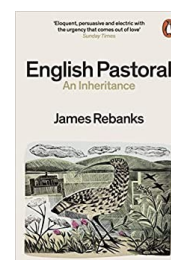


Recipes inspired  
by Literature  
*Food for Thought*

### 'I've just finished reading and enjoyed...'

This book chosen by Margaret Peters.

Send your 'Good Reads' to :  
[margaret.peters@live.co.uk](mailto:margaret.peters@live.co.uk)



## Julia Brunt reflects on the effects of Lockdown, and looks forward to May Day

### 'Mayday' for the Planet 29 April - 2nd May 2022

Following on from this year's COP26, and the very clear need for continued action by all, we are organising a weekend of events over the May Day weekend next year. This will explore ideas around community, environment and politics, including a variety of activities. Our aim is to work with other community groups in Glossop, and to showcase some of the many activities and campaigns that the Club is involved in.

#### Can you help?

Do you know any teachers or other people involved with Glossop's primary and secondary schools, who could help us open up a competition to their pupils? We have approached the schools directly but a personal connection usually helps - a lot!

Do you have any ideas for activities that you would like to see happen on the May Day weekend?

If you can help please email:

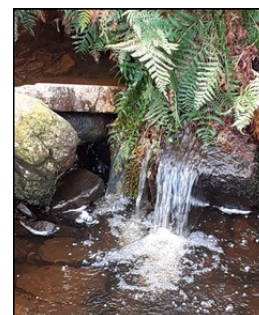
[glossoplabourclub@gmail.com](mailto:glossoplabourclub@gmail.com)

**The Labour Club is a wonderful space for local groups to meet on a regular or ad-hoc basis.**

**To book, contact Angela Dale**  
[bookings.glossoplabourclub@gmail.com](mailto:bookings.glossoplabourclub@gmail.com)

### 5-Mile Walking Group

We managed to keep this friendly group meeting regularly all through the pandemic, adapting as required. At one point we had to split into two groups of six, walking circular routes in different directions - making sure we didn't sit down on any benches when that was forbidden, especially to drink a coffee! At one point we were reduced to walking in pairs, but we kept going. The physical exercise and companionship was a life-saver for many of us during lockdown, especially for those living on their own. We increased the frequency of walks from once a month to once a fortnight, on Saturday mornings (not too early), and we cover about 5 miles - as it says on the tin. Refreshments at a local pub or cafe are a frequent feature at the end of the walk - and sometimes at the start and middle too! We take it in turns to lead the walks, having 'reccied' them in advance, and have a registration system so we have the information for track-and-trace should we need it. We car-share or use public transport where possible, and recent expeditions have included Padley Gorge, Bamford, Ladybower, and Lantern Pike. Images by our resident photographer Mr Edward Picton.



### Stitch sisters

We meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Club from 8 pm for crafting and chatting, often more of the latter. The name is misleading - crafters of all genders are very welcome to join this informal and sociable group. Just bring along something you're working on.

### Women's group

Before lockdown we met monthly at the club. During lockdown we met weekly by Zoom for discussion of women's issues, with a particular focus on politics. We have yet to return to the Club for face-to-face meetings but are keeping the Zoom meetings going. Again this has been invaluable to those isolated during the pandemic.

For information on these three groups please contact Anne Robinson  
at [margannerobinson@btinternet.com](mailto:margannerobinson@btinternet.com)

## Betty Brindley (1932-2021) - Jan Lee remembers



In pre-Covid times, whenever there were music-themed evenings at the Club, there was always the distinct possibility that Joe and Betty Brindley would be there. Both of them were singers and Joe loved to play his melodeon. Betty had a very good voice, and at Christmas time they used to go around various Derbyshire villages including Hathersage, Castleton, Eyam and Foolow, to take part in singing the carols local to each area. They were very active

in the Derbyshire Carol evenings at the club, and Betty always enjoyed joining in.

Joe used to play his melodeon with the Powderkegs Morris Dancers and, after he retired from the band, Joe and Betty continued to attend the annual 'Powderhorse' weekend when Powderkegs would meet up with Dead Horse Morris from Whitstable. It was the tradition that Betty would bake a delicious fruit cake for everyone, to be eaten with Wensleydale cheese of course. There was one year when Betty was unwell and Joe made the cake under Betty's watchful eye. Let's just say that Joe needed more practice!

The Powderkegs were very fond of them both and dedicated a special dance to them entitled - not surprisingly - "Joe and Betty". When Joe passed away in 2020, the Powderkegs formed a guard of honour at his funeral and played the music for the dance as he was taken into the chapel. Betty passed away in November of this year, and we did

the same for her.

She did not enjoy good health latterly, but Betty always had a smile on her face and loved to have a laugh. We will all remember her sparkly eyes and cheeky grin.

Our thoughts are with her two daughters Janet and Alison. A wake was held at the Club after Betty's funeral and the music session that followed was, we hope, a fitting tribute to them both.

