

Vol.4 Issue 1

Autumn 2025

In this Issue:

- P1 : Letter from the Chair
Politics in The Club
- P2 : From the Archives
Response to Flags
Political reading group?
Gaza Protest
- P3 : Safeguarding & Bar News
- P4 : Glossop & The General Strike
A view of the Club book group
Political Monday 27 October
- P5 Members' cards
Premises & Refurbishment
Social Sundays become
Friendly Fridays
- P6 Festival of Stubborn Gladness

Regular Events

- 1st Monday: Reading Group: 8pm**
- 2nd Monday: Poetry & A Pint 8pm**
- 4th Monday: Political Mondays 8pm**
- Tuesday (Alt) : Creative Writing**
- Every Tuesday: Foodbank 10-11am**
- Every Tuesday: Folk Club, 8pm**
- Every Wednesday: Gamers 8pm**
- 1st Thursday: Open Mic**
- 2nd Thursday: Record Club 8pm**
- 3rd Thursday: LGBTQ+ Social**
- Every Friday: Foodbank 10-11am**
- Every Friday: Club Night (snug)
7pm-9pm: Board games (snug)
9pm-11pm Folk music (main room)**
- 1st and 3rd Saturdays: Gamers 12-5pm**
- 2nd Saturday: Repair Café, 11-1pm**
- 1st Sunday: Film Night, 7.30pm**
- 2nd Sunday: Quiz, 7.30pm**
- 4th Sunday: Michelle's Music Night, 8pm**

glossoplabourclub.org.uk

News from GLC Chair, Mary Moss

It's great to see another Club newsletter. Many thanks to all contributors and especially to Anne Robinson for bringing it together. At the AGM in June we were sad to see our Chair, Derek Clarke, standing down but we will still see plenty of Derek and you can read about his suggestion for a new group on our next page!

The 'new' committee will ensure the Club offers varied social and political events for members and the local community. The articles here demonstrate the broad range of Club activities, historical and current, all dependent on the hard work of volunteers. If you would like to get involved,

please get in touch. Otherwise just come along to events, or to Friday Club night. We have just experienced the hottest summer on record. The impact of climate change is increasingly visible, but the voices of those who deny it are getting louder. In England, there has also been an outbreak of hostility to migrants and expressions of abhorrent, open racism "The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it". Albert Einstein. We are determined to keep speaking out and taking action where we can.

Politics in the Club by Kasey Carver

GLC rightly boasts about being the oldest socialist club in continuous existence, and have been able to thrive, whilst maintaining our political mandate. This may be due to the political profile of Glossop but also the foresight of the committee who, in 2011, registered the Club as a not-for-profit company.

With this step came a new set of Articles which mirrored the previous constitution but with one important innovation: two types of membership were established, Social and Full. Full Members do not have any extra privileges but rather their status reflects their commitment to making a contribution to the running of the Club and allows them to vote at the AGM or to stand for the committee. Those accepted for full membership must demonstrate socialist credentials and a commitment to the Club. This protects us from becoming just a social club as so many Labour Clubs have.

Commitment to the political agenda was consolidated three years ago when the role of Secretary was job-shared, with the political elements becoming the responsibility of the Campaigns and Solidarity Officer. The following year, this post was confirmed as a permanent member of the Senior Officers team to facilitate the political activities of the club. They are the first

point of contact for any political issues that arise from time to time, eg, coordinating how the Club responds to the "Raise the Colours" campaign.

The role will also initiate or support others in the marking of various anniversary or commemoration days such as International Workers' Memorial Day, International Women's Day and, of course, May Day Weekend. On a routine basis, the monthly series of 'Political Mondays' has a very loose format and provides a platform for a range of events from talks, performances to films, with plenty of opportunity to discuss and share ideas.

Most subjects discussed on Political Mondays are proposed by members but on 22 September follows our 2025 May Day Weekend theme, the rise of the Far Right, with a cold hard look at Fascism.



The key take home message is that politics in the Club is not the preserve of the Campaigns and Solidarity Officer; the post is there to support and encourage members with what they want to do.

From the archives

Many thanks to Terry Revell for unearthing this fascinating article from February 1951 that illustrates yet another of the varied interests that the Club has helped foster.

Do we really have to talk about flags? (again, sigh!)

A flag is just a symbol but the issue is what it symbolises; recently it has been made clear that it means very different things to different people. GLC is committed to anti-racism – we dissociate ourselves completely from the divisive claims of ‘taking the country back’ and the violent hostility that has been expressed against migrants. We challenge the scapegoating. We stand with victims of abuse. We note the Far Right history of those who have orchestrated the recent flag raising campaign and strongly object to the intimidation and exclusion it has represented in community spaces.

GLC is determined to consistently demonstrate anti-racism in all our activities, for example, the ongoing series of ‘Love Music, Hate Racism’ gigs, and our focus in ‘Political Mondays’, such as the excellent talk by Jim Joyce about German Socialism in the 1930s. More and different events are proposed and I invite members to join a small planning group to get the ball rolling. We hope to work alongside other Glossop groups to promote a positive message of welcome, compassion and hope and to counter myths about migration.

Look out for notices of meetings coming soon!

By Mary Moss



Driver Turner, of Glossop, explains to Clifford the mysteries of locomotive 64346 while fireman Winterbottom, of Hadfield, looks on.

Waiting for the signal

GLOSSOP'S newest club is waiting to hear six words from national headquarters — “Full steam ahead, you are in.” It's the latest branch of the Spotters' Guild and if you care to drop in at Glossop Labour Club some Wednesday evening you would hear forty youngsters, aged between ten and 17, talking about railway engines.

Fifteen-year-old Glossop Grammar School pupil Charles Patterson of North-road, got the idea. When he leaves school he hopes to become a railway draughtsman. He wrote to Mr. Moyer, national secretary of the Spotters' Guild, and was told to go ahead.

Black and white enamel badges arrived and the club is now in the fifth week of three months' probation. When that's over, they will be financed by headquarters. At the moment subscriptions are being collected by the branch's oldest member, seventeen-year-old Clifford Remington, of Heath Cottage.

On this young man's shoulders falls the responsibility of collecting threepence a week from each member.

Booking clerk at Glossop station (where he became interested in engines two and a half years ago) Clifford has an advantage over his club mates. When he's not busy telling people the time of the next train or issuing tickets, he's noting the particulars of engines.

Right now he's got a full time job with the combined office of secretary and treasurer of the club. The latter part must give him a few headaches. Rent (half a crown a week) at the Labour Club is a constant drain on funds but finances to date are not exactly unhealthy.

The boys get a lecture about engines each week from Clifford. A drawing competition has been organised and when the warmer weather comes the club hopes to make arrangements to visit locomotive sheds and works.

As the situation in Gaza keeps deteriorating, protests continue rain or shine—5.00 pm every Wednesday

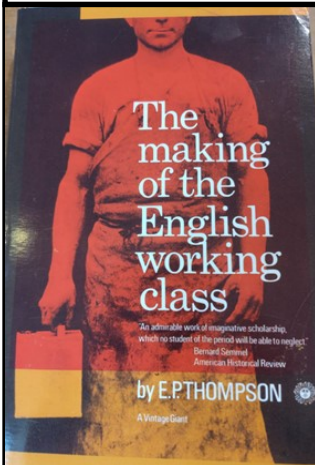


Anyone interested in starting a 'political' reading group?

One of the most important books on understanding the origins of the working class is E P Thompson's *The Making of the English Working Class*. It may have shortcomings around gender, race and Empire but it is a fascinating read for anybody interested in history from below. Recently, I decided to reread it to see if it offered anything to help me understand what is happening today.

After finishing the first chapter mostly about religious influences, especially Methodism, on working people in the 18th Century I wondered if anybody else would like to join me in a reading group to discuss the ideas Thompson puts forward. The book is almost 1000 pages long and I'm not suggesting that we read it all at once, maybe over a number of months next winter? If you're interested let me know and we can sort out some dates.

Derek Clarke derekclarke@macace.net



'Safeguarding is Everyone's Business.'

Glossop Labour Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of all Club users. A small group including committee and club members has developed a Safeguarding Policy which aims to keep everyone safe while using the club. We want to make sure that the process of reporting any concerns that arise from possible harm to children and vulnerable adults is clear and easy to follow.

It is important that all are aware of this policy, as recently more activities at the Labour Club involve working directly with children, young people and adults who may be at risk. We recognise our common responsibilities to build a safeguarding culture and ensure our volunteers treat all those who may be at risk with respect so that they are

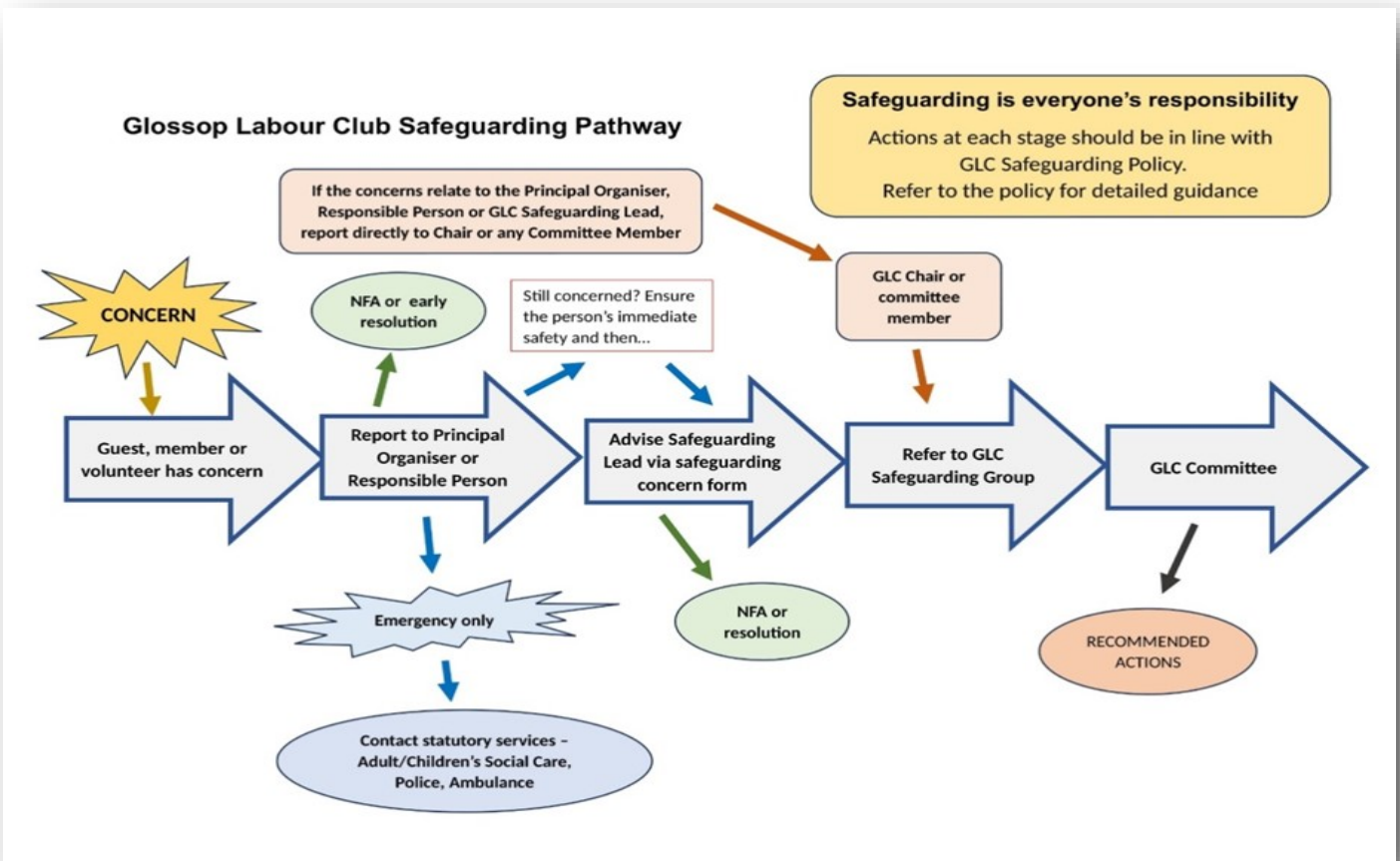
comfortable and able to participate fully in the social life of the Club.

Any safeguarding concerns should be reported to the designated Safeguarding Officer as outlined in the diagram below. All incidents will be examined confidentially within a week of being reported and a decision made for any action which needs to be taken. Any external groups that meet in the club will have their own safeguarding policy, and will liaise with the club's safeguarding officer in relation to concerns.

We hope that transparency and open communication will prove useful in ensuring that those who use the club are respected, and issues of concern can be raised using the procedure outlined in the policy.

Margaret Peters, Safeguarding Officer

This diagram shows the process we would follow as a safeguarding group. Please contact the group if you have any questions about this policy. A copy of the policy is available in the Club.



Latest news from the bar

We are expanding our range of alcohol-free products, with the addition this month of alcohol-free Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc—all of the taste, none of the headache!



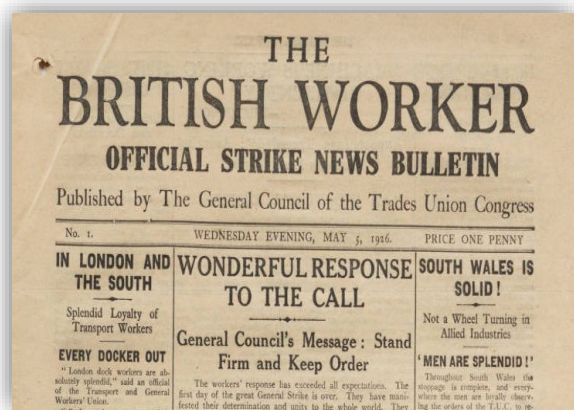
New at the Club!
Tuesday 10-12 midday,
upstairs rear room
Poetry Reading Group
All welcome
 £2 pp to cover room hire

1926 Glossop and The General Strike

2026 marks the centenary of one of the most important events in British labour history. At midnight on 3 May 1926 the Trade Union Congress (TUC) called on all of its affiliated Unions to ask their member to withdraw their labour in solidarity with the miners who had been on strike and had been locked out of work for refusing to accept lower pay and longer hours imposed on them by the coal owners. 'Not a minute on the day, not a penny off the pay' was the miners' defiant call.

Richard Stone's booklet on our own John Woolliscroft provides us with an insight into events in Glossop.

"Large numbers of Glossop workers supported the General Strike. Many of the town's workplaces shut. There was no public transport, newspaper or basic requirements."



"In Glossop, as in many towns and cities a Strike Committee was formed to coordinate support and agitation."

John Woolliscroft and other Glossop Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers activists such as Fredrick Fielding were able to get branch members to take solidarity strike action in support of the miners "

"There were also collections in support of the miners, organised by Joe Austin and Claude Wooley." In which "Working people in the town responded well to their appeals."

For nine days Britain came to a standstill with almost 2 million workers refusing to work until the miners' demands were met. Throughout the period working people stood solid behind the miners but on 12th May, and much to people's disbelief, the TUC announced the end of the Strike. They had won no guarantees, no written agreements, no conciliatory deals.

The miners would continue their strike for another seven months, but facing poverty, starvation and isolation they were eventually forced to return to work. The 'Great Betrayal' would go down in the labour movement's history as one of its darkest periods.

There will undoubtedly be much discussion next year—at the Club and elsewhere—on what actually happened in 1926 and what, if any, lessons present day trade unionists and socialists can take from it.

Derek Clarke

The Book Group—going strong since 1997!

A couple of weeks after we (Omar and partner, Ro Cole) moved to Glossop, our daughter-in-law alerted us to a film about refugees at the Labour Club. We went and enjoyed it very much. It was friendly and welcoming. Since then we have enjoyed other films and music nights at the Club, but a highlight for us has been the book group


We both love reading and discussing books. We like having a book to read that is chosen by someone else, probably with different tastes, certainly with different life experience. And then to talk about it with a friendly, curious, engaged and warm group of people, we get to hear such varied viewpoints. Everyone brings something different to the pot and we leave all the more enlightened, whether or not we actually liked the book!

You'd think that this would be quite an easy thing to achieve – a book group where people read and discuss the book(!) But, in our experience, at least, it doesn't always pan out that way. For example, one group we had attended transformed itself into a competitive cooking and entertaining club. Another evolved into a lovely social gathering and yet another became a forum for a select few to hold forth. In all the above the book discussion became a serious casualty. Not so with the LC book group where we've enjoyed the inclusive approach in which everyone's views are welcome and respected – and the main focus is the book!

Omar Sattaur

We always welcome new members if you would like to find out more, contact Anne on margannerobinson@btinternet.com

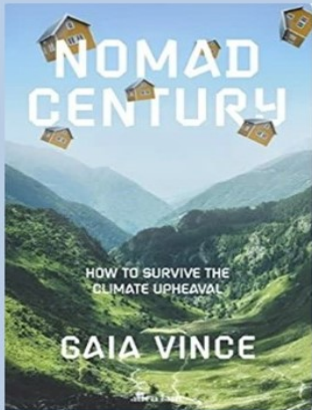
Political Mondays
at Glossop Labour Club
Information, Ideas, Interpretation



Peter Allen, club member, will introduce
Nomad Century
How to survive the climate upheaval
Monday 27 October, 7.30 pm.
Free Entry
Glossop Labour Club, 11-13 Chapel St, SK12 8NS

Peter will be talking about a book he has read recently which has had a great impact on his thinking. Gaia Vince argues that,

in the context of the Global Climate and Ecological Emergency, migration is not the problem but the solution.





Next books

6 October *Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak
3 November *Austerlitz* by W G Sebald

Members' cards

The new membership card system introduced in April has proved a real success. For members it means that it is much clearer what your membership status is and whether your subs are paid up to date, as well as giving you special members' prices at the bar. For the Club, it has helped our understanding of our membership, boosted retention and will enable us to target our communications. Nothing to argue with there.



To get members' prices at the bar, you need to collect your card and have it activated. The good news is that almost half of paid up members have done this – we have issued 160 cards so far – but that means there are lots more cards still to be picked up. And of course, there are new members coming on board all the time, a more than healthy 57 so far in 2025.

Watch out for announcements about the next sessions at the Club when cards will be issued or, if you know when you might be coming in, email on glossoplabourclub@gmail.com

This year's committee elected at the AGM

Chair—Mary Moss

Secretary—Martin Purvin

Treasurer—Anne Robinson

Campaigns & Solidarity Officer —Kasey Carver

Members: Liz Armstrong, Jeremy Dale, Angela Dale, Rod Gray, Joy Hallsworth, Eddie Picton, Joan Rutherford, and Debbie Windley

LGBTQ+ Social

3rd Thursday every month from 7.30

Premises—Mary Moss

We are always working to improve parts of the building and also the garden. Those of you who use the outdoor space will have noticed the attractive repointing of the boundary wall, being admired here by Martin.

The committee is considering refurbishments to the Club. We would like to know what you feel are the priorities. So, we are running a survey throughout October asking you to let us know what needs doing – it could be a maintenance matter or a bigger change. Look out for paper copies of the short survey in the Club and for a link to the online version in an email.

The Tote raises money for capital spend – if you are not already in it, please consider joining the monthly draw. Email on glossoplabourclub@gmail.com



Social Sundays become Friendly Fridays— Kasey Carver

The Club is entering its 4th year of offering a welcoming space over the winter as our response to the cost-of-living crisis. The Community Fund (Lottery Funding) has funded part of last year and this coming year. For two years, we have worked with Whitfield Food Club, using their surplus food to cook up a hot two-course meal each Sunday. As many attending were from Whitfield, when we stopped in March, the Food Club decided to continue running sessions at the Whitfield Community Centre, which was subject to a community buy-out earlier this year. Their sessions have been very successful and helped to establish the Centre in the community so they have decided to keep going this winter. The Club celebrates Whitfield Community's success and would not want to compete with them so we are moving the Club's sessions to Fridays.

One stand-out feature of Social Sundays was the very large age range of those attending. We realised that there were not many opportunities for the very young to meet up with the very old. We have reconfigured our new Friday sessions to

start at 3pm - so young people can come straight from school - until 6.30 pm. We will also change the way that food is offered, with meals being plated from the kitchen and available throughout the session. There will still be activities such as crafting, toys and games, as well as newspapers for all ages.



As always, we would be very grateful for more volunteers for cooking, food preparation and general supervision during the sessions. Please do email the Club if you think you can help, even if just for one or two sessions. Start date in November tbc as we hope to launch with the very popular Chris Mitchell, Children's Entertainer, who has kindly offered to give up his time for free.

Festival of Stubborn Gladness

22 November Midday-11.00 pm

**In memory of Michelle Holding,
a true friend of the Labour Club**

**Michelle's music nights still run at the Club on the
4th Sunday of every month**

A brief for the defense

Jack Gilbert (from collected poems 2012)

Sorrow everywhere. Slaughter everywhere. If babies are not starving someplace, they are starving somewhere else. With flies in their nostrils. But we enjoy our lives because that's what God wants. Otherwise the mornings before summer dawn would not be made so fine. The Bengal tiger would not be fashioned so miraculously well. The poor women at the fountain are laughing together between the suffering they have known and the awfulness in their future, smiling and laughing while somebody in the village is very sick. There is laughter every day in the terrible streets of Calcutta, and the women laugh in the cages of Bombay. If we deny our happiness, resist our satisfaction, we lessen the importance of their deprivation. We must risk delight. We can do without pleasure, but not delight. Not enjoyment. We must have the stubbornness to accept our gladness in the ruthless furnace of this world. To make injustice the only measure of our attention is to praise the Devil. If the locomotive of the Lord runs us down, we should give thanks that the end had magnitude. We must admit there will be music despite everything. We stand at the prow again of a small ship anchored late at night in the tiny port looking over to the sleeping island: the waterfront is three shuttered cafés and one naked light burning. To hear the faint sound of oars in the silence as a rowboat comes slowly out and then goes back is truly worth

Entry by donation

Proceeds to :-

Macmillan Cancer Research
& Dr Kershaw's Hospice



Afternoon—open session for music,
singing, poetry

Evening—concert featuring
Michelle's many musician friends
And cake throughout—lots of cake!

Write an Article for the Newsletter!

If you would like to write an article for the newsletter, send it to Anne Robinson margannerobinson@btinternet

Room Hire

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.glossoplalbourclub@gmail.com