

Vol.2 Issue 1
Spring 2023



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Special Events at the Club

MAYDAY WEEKEND

Friday 28th April

- Workers Memorial Day, 6pm
- Art Exhibition: Andy Gale, 6.30pm
- Open Art - Launch, 6.30pm

Saturday 29th April

- Community Collage, 1-3pm
- Johnny Campbell, 7.30pm

Sunday 30th April

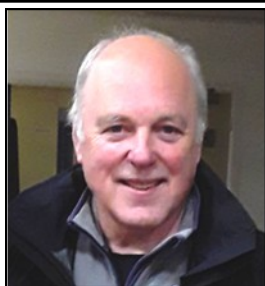
- Glossop History Walk, 10 am
- Singing Together, 3-5 pm
- Red Film Club, 7.30pm:
What Side are You On?
Monday 1st May
- May Day Parade in Manchester
(10.52 Train from Glossop)
- Poetry Evening, 7.30pm

Regular Events

- 1st Monday Reading Group, 8pm
- 2nd Monday Poetry Reading Group, 8pm
- Tuesday (Alt) : Creative Writing Group
- Tuesday Folk Club: Weekly, 8pm
- Wednesday: Gamers
- 2nd Thursday: Record Club, 8pm
- 3rd Thursday: Stitch Sisters, 8pm
- Every Friday: Club Night, 8pm
Games session, 7pm-9pm
Folk music session, 9pm-11pm
- 2nd Saturday Repair Café, 11-1
- 1st Sunday: Film Night, 7.30pm
- 2nd Sunday: Quiz, 7.30pm
- 4th Sunday: Michelle's Music Night, 8pm

glossoplabourclub.org.uk

Letter from the Chair : Derek Clarke on a busy time for the club



Dear Comrades
and Friends,

The last few months has been a busy time for the Club and the volunteers. Apart from the music sessions and the other regular planned activities, we have had the HPBC Mayor, Cllr. Ollie Cross and his wife Gill visit us twice in the last few weeks, once for the Toilet Twinning Project, and the other for Inter-national Women's Day. Both events were well attended, with the latter having most of the Hadfield and Padfield WI in attendance because of their association with Florence French (see below).

The refurbishment continues to cautiously move forward, and the solar panels and batteries are now fully operational. We are just in the process of arranging with our energy supplier to put us on a more suitable tariff. Alan Wilson's son-in-law has kindly used his drone to take aerial photographs of the Club and the photos will be on our website for members to see.

A special thanks to all of those who have volunteered to operate our Sunday Warm Spaces Project. While numbers from the public have been low, we have found that members have enjoyed dropping in for a coffee/tea/toast and a chat.

Now that the annual membership renewal

month has closed, a couple of people have approached me about their 2023 membership cards. The Committee is currently re-evaluating the type of card we want to use, and how it can be used for the benefit of members. When we've got some proposals, they will be circulated for members comments.

Finally, there may not be another Newsletter before the HPBC Elections in May, and I would remind people that if you vote at a polling booth you need some form of ID. Alternatively, use a postal vote. Either way,

VOTE LABOUR.

A Luta Continua...

**Derek Clarke - Chair
Glossop Labour Club.**

May Day Weekend at Glossop Labour Club:

Friday 28th April	Saturday 29th April	Sunday 30th April
Enough is Enough		
<p>Laying of bouquets for International Workers Memorial Day, 6.00 pm. Free.</p> <p>The public are invited to bring bouquets of flowers from garden and balconies to lay under the small tree planted in 2021 in the club's garden to commemorate this day. Light buffet provided.</p> <p>Art Exhibition by Andy Gale and collaborators, 6.30 pm. Free.</p> <p>The art works have been created out of material depicting local activism in pursuit of social and economic justice.</p> <p>Launch of Art Open, 6.30 pm. Free.</p> <p>Artworks to be exhibited on the theme of "Enough is Enough" in September with 10 submissions being exhibited in the club in October. There will also be the option to display works on a dedicated website. Decided terms will be available from the website.</p>	<p>Music with Johnny Campbell, 7.30pm.</p> <p>£10 CD or £8 DVD from the club, Glossop Community Building or Sockle Street.</p> <p>Strong political themes throughout his material with recent work focusing on racism.</p> <p>"I was a Worker they told me" - Frankie</p>	<p>Glossop History Walk, 10 am.</p> <p>A guided walk on the social history of Hadfield and Old Chassy, starting from the club and returning to the club afterwards.</p> <p>Community Collage, 1-3 pm. Free.</p> <p>Family friendly event for those who just want to drop in for a few minutes or stay until the end. Select pictures around the theme of "Enough is Enough" on being free - old May made an artwork.</p> <p>Singing Together, 3-5 pm.</p> <p>A relaxed fun event occasion for families including songs covering a range of styles and cultures but including some within the theme of the festival. All welcome, even if you can't sing, and for details will be provided in the internet.</p> <p>Film and Talk with "What Side Are You On?" 7.00-7.30 pm.</p> <p>Directed by Ken Loach, this film covers the 1984 miners' strike with songs, poems, interviews and documentary footage. It will be followed by a short talk from Terry Revell about the club's extensive support of this industrial dispute and a discussion on how this dispute relates to current disputes.</p>
Monday 1st May		
<p>May Day Parade in Manchester. Meeting at Gungy Train Station for the 10.52 train for midday start in Sockle Street Gardens for the family festival.</p> <p>Poetry Evening, 7.30 for 8pm. The Club's Reading Group will host an evening of poetry around the weekend's theme.</p>		

Glossop Suffragist - Florence French



A special event on March 8th - International Women's Day - commemorated the life of the local Suffragist Florence French, who lived in Glossop, worked tirelessly for the rights of women, and was a founder member of Glossop Labour Club. According to the 1901 Census she was a 'Cotton Twister' in the mill, living at 132, Victoria Street, Glossop, with her husband John. at that date. Sadly she died aged 35, and is buried in Glossop Cemetery. During her short life she worked in local mills and was active in writing letters to the local newspaper regarding women gaining the vote.



The idea to commission a plaque to place on our outside wall in her honour came from club stalwart Terry Revell, who himself unveiled the plaque. A PowerPoint presentation prepared by Gwyneth Francis, who has researched Florence's life, provided fascinating insights at the meeting.

Derek Clarke was delighted that the event, which also commemorated women who are active in the club in the present day, was so successful; 'The evening went really well. You never know how many people will turn up for something like this, but it was packed'. After the event, Alan, Martin and Derek mounted the plaque on the front of the club on the surround to the front door.



Left: Terry Revell and Derek Clarke at the meeting celebrating the life of Florence French.

Right: Florence making a one-woman stand in Glossop.



The Mill Ballads

A good crowd assembled at the club on April 2nd for this special presentation by the Cheshire-based folk band Trebuchet, in collaboration with the actor and musician Steve Howe. 'The Mill Ballads' tells the story of the Industrial Revolution through the eyes of Joseph Sefton, an apprentice at Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, and takes us through momentous events from the Napoleonic Wars to the rise of the Chartist movement. The technological developments that led to hand-weaving being replaced by the merciless rhythms of machinery, the fate of workhouse boys sold for a few shillings to work as apprentices for the mill owner Samuel Greg, and the rapid expansion of Quarry Bank, are described in a series of songs written mostly by singer and guitarist Keith Carter Harris, interspersed with spoken narrative. Steve Mansfield (of Powderkegs Morris) on concertina and low whistle, and Mark Seyler on electric violin, abetted by some sensitive amplification, created a rich musical texture, but it was Steve Howe who dominated the stage with a magnetic, impassioned performance in the persona of Sefton, reminding us vividly of the hardships and injustices that were the price paid by ordinary people for Britain's success.

Original songs such as 'The Apprentice's Prayer' and 'The Engineer', in conjunction with an interesting arrangement of the well-known 'Poverty Knock', set the scene effectively, before things came to a head with the powerful Steve Mansfield composition 'What I Saw', based on testimony that Samuel Greg's son Robert gave to the Peterloo inquiry in favour of the radicals (even this member of the boss class was appalled by the carnage). The finale, 'Rise Up', provided a stirring call call to arms, with Howe roaring out the chorus and the audience joining in, after which everyone set off for home with plenty to think about.



*Review and photo
by Brian Peters*

The Pankhurst Centre Garden Visit

Thursday 16th March 2023

A group of club members visited the Pankhurst Centre in Manchester on a grey day in March for a tour of the garden, which was re-designed in 2018 by local designer Janet Leigh. Money was raised by the Labour Club Women's Group and the Labour Club, and donated to the project, which employed Jan's creative skills to incorporate many aspects of the suffragette story, and she gave us fascinating insights into her selections of the colours and types of plant she used to create the garden. It commemorates the hard work and dedication of the Suffragette movement, those incredible women who fought for the vote, and others who struggled for women's equality. It offers a living, breathing and peaceful space within the city, and for the women and children who use Manchester Women's Aid (located at the Pankhurst Centre) it provides a vital therapeutic oasis.

The design and structure of the garden is based on Edwardian knot gardens, referencing to the era in which Emmeline Pankhurst lived in this very house with her family. The restrictions and confinements experienced by women of that time are reflected in the structures of the box hedging, while planting within these spaces uses whites, purples and greens to mirror the colours adopted by the suffragette movement. Red planting is interjected to symbolise the hardship, personal sacrifices and the loss of life which the women endured as part of their fight for equality, and many of the plant varieties bear women's names. An ironwork figure depicting a suffragette provides a centrepiece to the design, and quotations connected to the movement are dotted throughout the garden. Our party looked around the small museum at the centre, and we greatly appreciated the insights into the lives of the Pankhurst family and the struggle for women's suffrage.



*Club members enjoying a tour of the
Pankhurst Centre and Garden
hosted by Jan Leigh, pictured right
with Margaret Peters and Julia Brunt.*



International Women's Day



Joy Hallsworth receives her award from High Peak Mayoress Gill Cross.

A special celebration night at the club was held to unveil the plaque to suffragist Florence French, and also to honour women who currently make a contribution to the club in different ways. Three awards were given to women who are all familiar to us for their dedication to different areas of the life of the Labour Club. It was decided that this year we would honour women in three categories;

1. For work in promoting international solidarity.
This was awarded to Linda Walker for her international work.
2. For work in supporting the local community.
This was awarded to Joy Hallsworth for her work in the community.
3. For work in maintaining and supporting the Club.
This was awarded to Angela Grills for her work as membership secretary and also her fundraising work through the second-hand book sales.



Angela Grills receives her award from High Peak Mayoress Gill Cross.

The evening was a resounding success with a packed club and great atmosphere. In addition to the members and guests of those receiving the awards, Derek Clarke commented that; 'A large contingent from Hadfield and Padfield WI came

who have adopted Florence French and were all desperate to have their photos taken with the plaque which we had hanging on the wall in the club.'

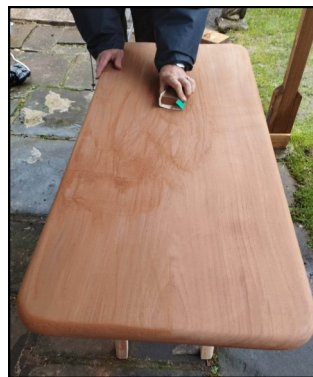
Bringing Something New to the Table.....

A couple of months ago, a group of members decided that as part of the refurbishment of the club, it was time to give a makeover to the rectangular tables in the snug and the main room. The tables were looking tired, and the unattractive dark varnish was badly marked or coming off, but it was clear were made of solid hardwood. Before we started, we decided to consult our club historian, Gwyneth Francis, about the origin of the tables, since there was more than one possible story, and it seemed important to set the record straight. Gwyneth explains: 'If you look at the tables you will see that they are all different sizes. A member, Richard Stone carried out interviews with several old club members, including Billy Leatherbarrow Junior, whose association with the club went back to the period of the First World War, and who was a very active member in 1926. Richard also researched the life of John Woolliscroft, who was a founder member of the Club, a political activist, and a member of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters & Joiners at the time of the General Strike. Both of these people testified that the tables were made during the General Strike, and the reason why they are not all the same dimensions is because - so oral tradition would have it - the tops were hand-made by members of the Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers at this time. The legs, however, are not the originals.' Gwyneth also mentioned an interview with the late Reg Grills, who told her how Ken Bracewell and Joyce Hoy had changed the original metal legs on the tables while he was abroad. According to Terry Revell, the replacement wooden legs on the tables came from the Labour Club in Hadfield when it closed down, and it's clear on examination that the legs do not match. More information may be found in Gwyneth's publication 'The History of Glossop Labour Club. Whatever their origin, the tables are obviously made of a beautiful red hardwood, which has now been returned to its former glory. The working party that laboured hard and long on the task consisted of Julia Brunt, Derek Clarke, Jeremy Dale, Angela Dale, Kath Mc.Devitt, Brian Peters, Margaret Peters and Martin Purvin.

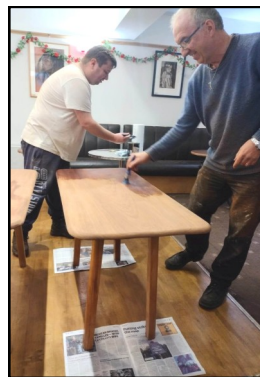
The photographs show exactly why the tables needed a make-over, and also the hard work that went into restoring them. Visit the club to see how splendid they look now. (Photographs: Margaret Peters)



As they were



Hand sanding



Varnishing



Finishing off the legs

Welcoming Spaces

A warm space for all to share

Glossop Labour Club took part in High Peak Borough Council's Welcoming Spaces scheme and we opened our doors each Sunday from 11.00am – 3.00pm from Sunday, 20 November 2022 until Sunday 19th March 2023. There was the chance to meet others in a warm and convivial atmosphere. Light refreshments were available, along with free WiFi, games, books and newspapers. We offered to help with family history research too. It was good to meet people who came along, and we thank all volunteers who gave up their time and effort to make this initiative work.

Our Days Out

There are opportunities to socialise in a variety of activities outside the Labour Club. There are three walking groups; The Red Ramblers, Red Amblers, and the Five Mile Walkers. Recent successful visits to Tatton Flower Show and Glossop's Christmas Lights have encouraged us to plan other activities next year. We visited the Pankhurst Centre Garden in March. There will be a club day visit to Tatton Flower Show between 19-23 July 2023.

Details from Martin Purvin or Margaret Peters via glossoplalourclub.org.uk

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

The Marriage Portrait

by Maggie O'Farrell

This book is chosen by : Pam Zuntz



Lucrezia, daughter of Cosimo di Medici was married to Alfonso the Duke of Ferrara as a teenage girl, and died not long after her marriage, which seems to have been unhappy as well as short. Soon after her death there were rumours about her how she died with suspicion landing on the Duke. This inspired the Robert Browning poem, My Last Duchess, a few hundred years later.

The book imagines the circumstances around her childhood, marriage and death in 16th century Italy, suggesting a girl of talent and spirit in a world where she was a political pawn. As she anticipates her death the mood is dark and threatening.

Send your 'Good Reads' to : margaret.peters@live.co.uk

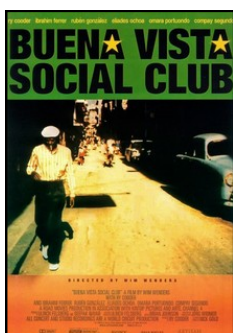
We're listening

Labour Club Committee members have been busy discussing ways in which we could improve the experience for members who use the club regularly. There are times when different groups need space, and this can sometimes be difficult to share, so we are working on ways in which we can use the space in our club creatively. This will involve some changes and we welcome your ideas and comments as we move through the process.

Red Film Club 2023

The Red Film Club has a reputation for showing a wide variety of films with mostly socio-political interest. These are shown on the first Sunday of the month starting at 7.30pm, and are popular with members. You can check the Club website for further details, but here's a peek at what you can expect soon.

May



June

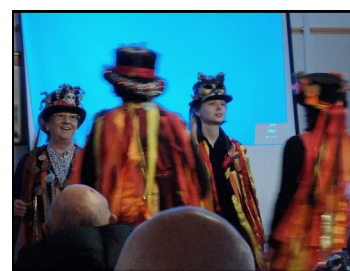


July



Morris: A Life With Bells On

In February, the Red Film Club presented this film, a hilarious spoof documentary about Morris dancing. A thoroughly enjoyable evening made even more so by the ice creams on sale in the interval, and a powerful introduction by our local Morris side, The Powderkegs, who we invited to dance before the showing.



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.glossoplalourclub@gmail.com

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 who will send you a standing order form.

Write an Article for the Newsletter

If you'd like to write an article for the newsletter, please send it to Margaret Peters on margaret.peters@live.co.uk