

Vol.2 Issue 2
Summer 2023



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Special Events at the Club

Sunday Sept 3rd 7.30pm
Red Film Club - 'Amelie'

Sunday Oct 8th 11am-2pm
'Stop Food Loss and Waste'

Friday 20th Oct 7.30pm
'Show Racism the Red Card'

Regular Events

- 1st Monday: Reading Group, 8pm
- 2nd Monday: Poetry Reading
Group, 8pm
- Tuesday (Alt) : Creative Writing
Group
- Every Tuesday: Folk Club: 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, 11-1pm
- Sunday: Singing for Pleasure 3pm
Weekly from 10th September
- 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 how music is helping the club



Dear Comrades and Friends,
I hope that you have had a relaxing summer and have enjoyed many of the activities that the Club has been able to offer in recent months. Music events have continued to play a major role in the life of the Club, with some great acts and many more planned for the

Autumn. Please keep an eye out for emails notifying events, and the listings on both the Club's website and Facebook pages.

One musical event that was particularly relevant to the current situation in the Middle East was the fundraiser organised by Stand Up to Racism for Medical Aid to Palestine. Brian Peters writes about the evening inside this edition of the Newsletter, and I felt that it was a good example of how the Club can combine culture, music, politics, internationalism and solidarity, while at the same time giving everyone a great evening.

A new musical theme for the Club has been the establishment of a 'Singing For Pleasure' group led by Singing and Workshop leader Annelie Leinhos. If you're interested in joining in the sessions, they are held on Sundays: further details are in this issue and on our social media sites.

Improving the environment in the Club continues with the Committee Room being redecorated, and new planters ordered for the garden. Castors have now been fitted on nearly all the banquettes in the lounge to allow seating to be moved more easily to accommodate different events. Solar panel lighting has been fitted in the outside shelter to allow members to relax in the garden when the days start drawing in.

Another welcome addition to the Club's activities is the formation of an Elfins Group of the Woodcraft Folk. If you know any children between the ages of 6 and 9 who are interested in the environment, peace and friendship, and internationalism and much more, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the group, please contact our Secretary, Kasey via the Club.

Finally, I'd like to finish off my piece for this Newsletter, congratulating all of the Labour/Cooperative Party Councillors who were successful in winning their seats on HPBC and ensuring a substantial working majority for the next four years.

A Luta Continua

Derek Clarke - Chair of Glossop Labour Club

Sam from Glossop Elphins on why Youth is NOT wasted on the Young..



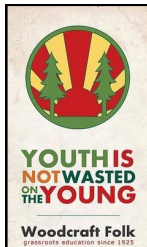
...at least not according to the good people at Woodcraft Folk, a nationwide co-operative movement for children and young people, the Glossop branch of which has found a welcome new home in the Labour Club.

I first became aware of Woodcraft Folk when someone I follow on Twitter made a reference to them. Being a millennial leftie with two small children, this sparked my interest. And when I discovered that the High Peak was without a group, I decided I had to start one!

Woodcraft Folk was founded in 1925 and is based on seven aims and principles which underpin the work we do - Education for Social Change, Co-operation, International Friendship, Children's rights, Equality and Inclusion, Nature and Environment, and Peace. We are part of a global network of youth organisations committed to a better, fairer world.

Glossop Elfins started in 2022 and have been involved in activities including a community litter pick, Fairtrade Fortnite, a Human Rights Day vigil. If you're interested in the sort of things we get up to, please check out our Instagram page (@GlossopElfins).

Although we'll be taking a break over the school holidays, the leaders are planning next term's exciting adventures! If you think you'd be able to get involved please let me know: maybe you've a skill or a hobby and you'd be willing to run a session, or maybe you'd like to volunteer regularly as a leader. The more support we have, the more children we can open the group up to. Similarly, if you know of someone who would enjoy being an Elfin, please get their grown-up to drop us a line and we'll do our best to accommodate them! Glossop Elfins is open to any child aged 6-9, and meets at the Labour Club on a Monday evening 5.30-6.45pm. For more information please email glossopelfins@gmail.com.



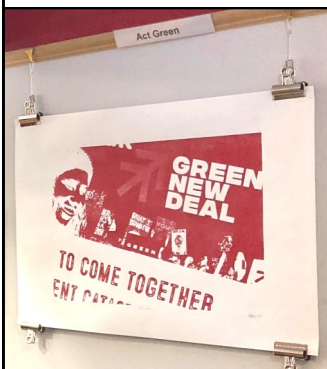
You are invited to wear **RED** on Friday 20th October from 7.30pm. If you're in the club for a social evening, to play board games, or to play music, come and **Show Racism the RED Card.**



Repair Café

The second Saturday in the month gives you a great opportunity to bring items that aren't working or need some TLC to this friendly café held between 11-1pm. It's an opportunity to save items from going to landfill or being thrown away.

Every Picture tells a Story Kasey Carver on an initiative that goes from strength to strength.



Towards the end of last year the committee agreed to pilot a proposal from one of our members, Susan Eversfield, to use the front room as an exhibition space for local artists. Susan was confident that there would be a lot of interest, and organised the first monthly exhibition in January. The socialist pictures and photos in the main room were moved into the snug to make space for the exhibits. Feedback from members and visitors was very positive, so we proceeded with the monthly exhibitions; Andy Gale has volunteered to curate the space. According to Andy, 'the main room at Glossop Labour Club is a really good space to hang artwork. I think that the eclectic mix of artists we're showing adds to the sense of place.'



Susan's exhibition was followed by displays of work by Heather Jones, Karen Heywood, Andy Gale, Chris Taylor and Barbara Helm. In May, we used the space to show prints made up of photographs celebrating local activism, for the club's May Day Weekend.

There has been considerable interest from local artists, and the space is now booked up to the end of the year with Mick Williams, Grace Williams and Saima Rasheed scheduled to show their work.

In October, the club is planning to use the space for an Open Art Exhibition with artists being asked to submit one piece of work by September 1st on the theme of 'Enough is Enough', work representing anything that is considered to be unfair or wrong within our society. Artists can submit pieces using any media, as long as it can be hung, and the work could be collaborative, within or across three age categories. Further details : www.glossoplabourclub.org.uk

Palestinian Benefit Evening - Brian Peters reviews a successful fundraiser

The cause of the Palestinian people is one close to the hearts of many club members, and the fundraising concert on June 3rd, held in support of Medical Aid for Palestine, in conjunction with Stand up to Racism, drew a healthy attendance. Opening the evening was the duo of Paula Darwish and Serpil Kiliç, with a musically intense performance of songs from Turkey, Kurdistan, and the wider Middle East including Armenia and the Arab world. Darwish's guitar was augmented by the bağlama, a traditional Turkish lute played in non-Western scales, of which Kiliç is an accomplished exponent, while the contrast between their two voices – Darwish more conventionally melodious but Kiliç more guttural and authentic – created an exotic mixture.



Between the bands, Ali Shawakhah (Palestinian proprietor of a New Mills cafe) spoke movingly about the Israeli state oppression experienced by Palestinians on a daily basis. Quite apart from the recent military attacks, the Arab population is faced by routine restrictions on working and simply moving around that make living a normal life a struggle. Ali was warmly received.



After the interval, Lazlo Baby took the stage. These festival favourites kicked off with a set of Irish tunes before settling into a highly energetic and eclectic set blending ska rhythms and a punk vibe with a strong Klezmer influence brought to the fore by Jip's exuberant clarinet and sax, and Dom's sinuous fiddle. A chunky rhythm section created some infectious beats which got people dancing at the back of the room, while the much-covered Tears for Fears song 'Mad World' provoked a singalong. Switching between original compositions, folk instrumentals and songs like the Specials' hit 'A Message to You Rudy' and Fun Boy Three's 'The Lunatics Have Taken Over the Asylum' (with contemporary politics no doubt in mind), Lazlo Baby delivered a highly entertaining set and declared unequivocally their own support for the cause. With over £400 raised, and some healthy business enacted at the table of Palestinian crafts, the night was a great success all round.

Singing for Pleasure - Mary Moss on a new venture for the Club



A new singing group has started at the Club, meeting on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00pm, and enjoying singing just for the fun of it! Songs from a variety of cultures and styles are learned by ear. We have an excellent Natural Voice leader, Annelie Leinhos, who also teaches us good breathing techniques and brings out the best in us. We are a mixed group, just getting to know each other – through June and July, about 12 of us attended regularly, with others dropping in now and again. Singing is good for your health in many ways, and it is a friendly, sociable activity. Our survey of attendees showed that everyone had

found the sessions really enjoyable and wanted to continue to grow the group in the autumn and winter.

So, we are very keen to welcome more members – there's no auditions, no reading from music scores, just listening and joining in. There's a charge of £6:50 per session to cover fees, a small reduction if you are able to pay for the first six sessions up front. No need to book, just come along at 3 o'clock on Sunday September 10th, or any Sunday after that. First session is free so you can try it out. If you'd like to know more about it, email: annie.hopley@gmail.com



International Day of Food Loss and Waste. Sunday October 8th 11am - 2pm

An estimated 11% of the food we buy is wasted, so how can we cut down on this in our homes? Come along to the Labour Club, and feel free to bring your ideas about what we can do to manage our consumption more sustainably, to help the planet. There will be a cookery demonstration highlighting easy ways to use up surplus food, rather than throw it away.

All are welcome. Lunch included. Free Event. To book please contact: margaret.peters@live.co.uk



Sam Baxter - a truly memorable night at the club, reports Brian Peters

Sam Baxter is a singer and musician raised in Glossop, but surely destined to be much more than 'local talent'. His concert at the Labour Club was his first gig in his home town for five years, after time away studying for a first-class honours degree in Folk Music at Newcastle University, and it was a triumph. Sam's repertoire on the night consisted almost entirely of traditional folk songs, but any sense of nostalgia or harmless pastoralism was rapidly dispelled. Kicking off confidently (despite technical glitches) with 'The Best Man Here', a subtly subversive song explaining how the labouring classes are forced to pay for army, state and throne, Sam tackled his repertoire in a thoughtful and reflective style, avoiding folkie mannerisms and letting the songs speak to us without bombast. His guitar playing, in three different tunings, was skilfully employed to underpin the songs with a sometimes dissonant and unsettling sonic backdrop, while his voice covered a strikingly wide range with apparent ease. Sam is an original talent – a sea shanty is a very different beast from the usual in his hands – and he knows how to make an old song relevant. The Appalachian mountain ballad 'A Soldier Travelling from the North' brought out a keen sense of betrayal and abandonment, while his introduction to 'The Prodigal Son' referenced a victim of AIDS. Spooky ballads of coffins, beheadings and ghosts induced pin-drop quiet amongst a potentially boisterous audience, but the finale of 'Time it is a Precious Thing' provoked a full-throated singalong, and his encore of that powerful contemporary piece about a working-class pigeon fancier, 'The King of Rome' clearly moved the room.



Sam Baxter will achieve great things as a musician, should he choose to. One of our members summed up the general feeling: 'When Sam becomes the big name he is destined for, we will all be able to say "We were there".'



Richard and his daughter Clara celebrate his 70th birthday

Richard Stone looks back at his links with Glossop Labour Club: 70 years old and still at it!

I first visited Glossop in September, 1979, at the start of my final year at Huddersfield Polytechnic. My then partner, Alison Hopkins, had begun working for Derbyshire County Council in the town. Some of my earliest memories of Glossop were the really good pubs, and being able to listen to Victor Brox at the Surrey Arms on High Street West. We met in Adelaide 20 years ago when he was touring, and I was sorry to hear that he died recently.

I moved to Glossop in July, 1981, and bought a house at the top end of Queen Street, and worked at Tameside College, High Peak College and Stockport College. I became a member of the Labour Club, and remember many of the older members who were linked to the wider labour and trade union movement. While many changes have taken place I was surprised to note on my brief return in late summer 2012, that much of the town was still the same. I was disappointed, however, to discover several of the pubs I used to drink in had closed.

In October, 1991, I moved to Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific as a Senior Lecturer in English and Technical Communications, attached to the Business Studies facility of the biggest college in the country. Subsequently I taught in Vietnam, before finally settling in South Australia. Here I returned to blue-collar employment, this time in car-component manufacturing. I am a shop steward on afternoon shift, and will be beginning another round of enterprise bargaining next week. Am I one of the last union men of the 1970s still standing? I have trained shop stewards for the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union in the main office, and take great pleasure in showing union members my original 1970s TUC Training Manual. Not much has changed and most of the contents are as relevant today as they were then. I also work as a freelance journalist and researcher and have had a large number of articles in left-wing and progressive publications and websites, in Australia and elsewhere. I also worked for the Morning Star for many years. I have made no plans to retire, as yet, although when I finally take the plunge I intend to study for a Ph.D. on the changing balance of forces across Southern Africa, from the Portuguese military coup in 1974 to the demise of Apartheid in 1994.

My post-graduate research for an M.A. was into the role of organised labour, from the establishment of Glossop, Hadfield and District Trades Council in 1891, to the start of the Second World War. It was an important time for the labour movement in many ways, as it established itself on firm foundations. The crowning glory was the establishment of the Trades Council in what was the Rose and Crown on High Street West in the early 1890s. It was a local Labour 'parliament for the working class'. I interviewed many older people in the town for my research and still retain the notebooks in my archive.

I was very interested in the role of the Potter family and Dinting Lodge. Edmund Potter was a radical Liberal whose constituency was outside the area, and was actively involved in the reform agitation of the time. He had also been the president of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, and in that capacity knew Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx. There are three pages about Edmund Potter in Volume 1 of 'Das Kapital'. As an employer, Potter recognised the importance of education for children well before it became compulsory toward the end of the 19th century, and he built a school for the children of workers at the back of the workplace. Potter had been influenced by the teachings of Robert Owen, an early English Socialist. The school was still standing in the 1980s when I was doing my research, with the original desks and seating. It was subsequently demolished and turned into a truck and trailer park. So much for property developers, and the history of the Glossop working class! Potter had a grand-daughter, Beatrix, the famous author. I have often thought it highly relevant that so many of her stories are about water-borne animals, and how as a child and young woman she must have wandered around the Dinting Lakes. Ever considered a Marxist analysis of 'The Tale of Jeremy Fisher', or of 'Jemima Puddle-Duck' and the predatory nature of capitalism? In the 1980s, along with the freshwater fishing club I used to fish the Dinting lakes regularly. I parked near Dinting Lodge and on occasions wandered around inside the court-yard. It was rather dilapidated, although still an impressive building. I find it disappointing that it was demolished, and not turned into a local museum with exhibits highlighting local radical and progressive traditions.

Looking back on my time spent in Glossop I have fond memories, with the 1984/85 Miner's Strike being a high-spot. I still carry my Yorkshire Area NUM lapel badge with honour. Best wishes and thinking of you all! Richard Stone, July 2023

Glenise Scott - Janet Dove pays tribute



On 24th July, Milltown Cloggies hosted a memorial evening for Glenise Scott at the Labour Club, of which she was a member. Glenise was well known in the Folk and Morris dancing world, and attended lots of music events at the club. She was one of the original members of Milltown Cloggies, and danced with them for over 34 years. She had many talents, which included writing moving songs about her life and experiences, many of them about the old mill towns around Manchester. Glenise, a quirky individual, really was one in a million, and was well loved by everyone. She died after a short illness on 21st May.

The memorial was attended by the Milltown Cloggies, dancers and musicians from other local Morris groups, and members of Glossop Labour Club. Close friends travelled many miles to say their goodbyes. A great evening was had by all with much singing, music and chatter about our great friend Glenise.

Robin Clayton - Bob Wood looks back on his contribution to the club.



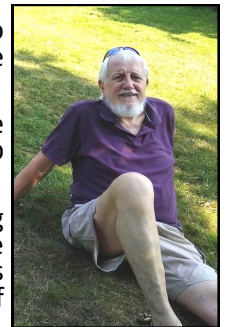
In April, we were saddened to hear that club member Robin Clayton had passed away. The Tuesday night folk club which Robin presided over has been a popular activity in the Club for the last fifteen years.

Robin and his friend Eric Jackson ran a folk club for many years in Tameside, booking regular guest artists as well as hosting singers' nights. The club was held in a number of different venues, from the Railway in Droylsden, to the Junction in Mottram, and the Bull's Head, Tintwistle. I remember that on a couple of occasions they found the Bull's Head locked and in darkness. It was then that Gwyneth Francis and John Hallsworth said, 'Why not come to Glossop Labour Club?'

By 2008, Robin was running the folk club alone, and it moved to the upstairs room in the Labour Club. When the downstairs refurbishment was complete, we moved back downstairs to the front bar area, where we have been ever since.

Under Robin's leadership the folk club was noted not only for an enjoyable musical experience but also for its inclusivity and the friendly encouragement he gave everyone who turned up whether they were experienced musicians or novices.

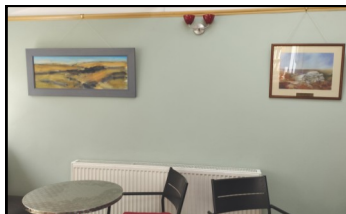
He will be greatly missed both for his skill in leading the folk club and also for his music. A song book comprising some of the songs Robin regularly performed is being compiled. Jeremy Dale said; 'We had a lovely celebration of Robin's life on 8 July, in the Labour Club, put on by his family. Many members of the Tuesday Folk Club entertained the guests by singing a number of Robin's favourite songs'.



Join the Monthly Tote

The Tote is a way of raising funds to allow us to buy special items, or undertake projects beyond those that can be supported from our normal income. Participating members pay £5 per month by standing order, each month we have a draw, and the winning member gets a 'prize' of £25. To join, request a form from:

kasey.carver@btinternet.com



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 to share the rooms, and this can sometimes be difficult, 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. The Garden Room is being refurbished and is an example of a room with many functions. Look out for opportunities to have your say on how things will look and develop over the coming months.



Red Film Club
September 3rd,
7.30 pm:
'Amelie'

The Red Film Club shows a wide variety of films, many with socio-political interest. Meetings are on the first Sunday of the month at 7.30pm, and are always popular with members. Our next film, 'Amelie', is a whimsical and engaging romantic comedy set in Paris, and received great reviews. French with subtitles. Check the Club website for further details.

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.glossoplabourclub@gmail.com

Write an article for the newsletter.

If you have an interest you think Club members would enjoy finding out about, please get in touch. Also, if you have a book or an event you've enjoyed and would like to review, that would be great. A favourite poem?

We welcome your views, and your input.

Contact: margaret.peters@live.co.uk