

Labour Heritage



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Bulletin Winter 2005

2006 – the Centenary of the Parliamentary Labour Party

On the 12 February 1906, 29 newly elected Labour MPs met in the first ever PLP meeting and, the following day, had their photograph taken on the Terrace of the House of Commons. After just six years of existence, the Labour Representation Committee (formed in January 1900 by trade unions, Fabians and the Independent Labour Party) metamorphosed into the Labour Party.

Sadly, the party has recently taken little interest in its history. 2000 passed by with just a couple of high profile events in London. By contrast, the 50th anniversary of the PLP, in 1956, was well celebrated by the then National Executive Committee. 2006, likewise, will be used both to learn more about, and record, our history and also to celebrate our achievements. It will start at the Spring Conference in Blackpool – now designed “The Centenary Conference” – which by chance ends on the 12 February 2006. A facsimile of a 1906 album of photos of 48 Lib-Lab MPs (which included the miners and other working class MPs still elected under the Liberal banner) will be on sale, along with other commemorative items, while exhibitions will be held in St Helens, Battersea and in seats won in

1906. Ince – alone of those 29 won in 1906 – has remained in Labour hands ever since and today is represented by the party’s Chairman, Ian McCartney.

In April, a book of Obituaries of those 29 pioneer MPs – written by their successor MPs in the same seats – and including a reprint of the 1956 commemorative pamphlet will be published by Cavendish. Edited by Alan Haworth (former Secretary of the PLP) and myself, its title, *Men Who Made Labour*, reminds us that women did not even have the vote then, much less to right to sit in Parliament.

Other events will take place throughout the year (including tree planting organised by SERA, the Society for the Study of Labour History Conference in London in November, and a history of the PLP by Robert Taylor). Ideally, every CLP and union should do something to commemorate this anniversary – please ask your local party to play its part so that we use this opportunity to take our interest in Labour’s heritage into every part of the movement.

Dianne Hayter
Chair, 1906 Centenary Committee and
Member of Labour’s NEC

For further information see the Labour
1906 web site at –

<http://www.1906labourcentenary.org.uk/>



ESSEX CHRONICLE

THREE HALPENCE

FRIDAY, JULY 27th, 1945

No. 9,437

LABOUR WINS WITH LANDSLIDE, CLEAR MAJORITY EXCEEDS 150

Millington (2,000 majority) Holds Chelmsford and
Driberg Increases Majority at Maldon

TORIES LOSE COLCHESTER

R. A. Butler's 10,000 Majority at Walden Reduced to 1,000
Metropolitan Districts Go All Out for Socialism