



Labour Party
Membership



MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Welcome to the Labour Party; it's brilliant to have you on board. You have joined hundreds of thousands of people committed to fighting for a better, fairer Britain. As our newest member you have just made us even stronger. Thank you.

I hope this booklet will help you find where your next step could take you in the Labour Party. Whether you want to passionately engage in debates and help create party policy, to stand as a candidate for elections, or to build friendships with like-minded people, you're in the right place.

I do hope you take the opportunity to get involved. By getting to know your local party, sharing your ideas, and campaigning on the issues you care about, you can make your voice heard. And together we can create real change.

Thank you again for adding your name to our cause. Wherever your membership takes you, I'm delighted and honoured that we're on this journey together.

Best wishes,

Jeremy Corbyn
Leader of the Labour Party

Contents

'WHAT YOU'VE JOINED'

Our history and values	4
Our members	5
How we work and where you fit	6
Your talents	7
Annual Conference	8
How Labour makes policy	9
Campaigns for change	10
Digital Revolution	12

'WHERE CAN YOU GO NEXT?'

Young Labour	14
Labour Students	15
Trade Unions	16
Affiliated Societies	17

'LABOUR ESSENTIALS'

Useful contacts	18
FAQs	19
Jargon buster	20
Your views	21
Message from Jeremy	23

Five things to do today

- 1 **Get in touch with your local constituency contact – their details are on the front of your membership card.**
- 2 **Activate your digital membership card at my.labour.org.uk**
- 3 **Share your reason for joining! Telling someone why you joined is the most likely thing to persuade them to do the same.**
- 4 **Find and connect with your local party on Facebook or Twitter.**
- 5 **Sign-up for an online training session by emailing training@labour.org.uk**

Our history and values

The Labour Party is built on equality, social justice and compassion.

These values were at the heart of our foundation as a parliamentary pressure group by Keir Hardie in 1900, and have been the golden thread running through everything we have done since.

From the first Labour government through to our historic third term election victory in 2005, we have created lasting change to the lives of the British people with revolutionary achievements like the NHS and the National Minimum Wage.

We have, and always will represent working people across Britain.



1924

First Labour Government formed

1948

Creation of the NHS

1967

Homosexuality decriminalised in England and Wales

1970

Equal Pay Act becomes law

1999

National Minimum Wage comes into effect

2000

Human Rights Act comes into effect

2016

Membership passes half a million



PHOTO: NHS Foundation Trust



Our members

By joining as a card-carrying member, you have demonstrated you share our values of equality and inclusivity. It is so important that every member has a chance to have their say and contribute to our great diverse and democratic movement. No member should ever feel intimidated or undervalued.



MEMBER'S PLEDGE

As the newest member of our Party, thank you for agreeing to this pledge.

As a member, I pledge to act within the spirit and rules of the Labour Party in my conduct both on and offline, with members and non-members and I stand against all forms of abuse.



To find out more about the terms and conditions of your membership, as well as your rights and responsibilities, go to labour.org.uk/termsandconditions

How we work and where you fit

The Labour Party is mainly a voluntary organisation, powered by passionate, dedicated people who use their free time and energy to make the Labour Party the thriving, community-led movement it is.



You'll most likely meet people in your branch and constituency first – officers, treasurers or secretaries. They're the volunteers who make sure your local party is able to make important decisions on everything from socials, campaigns and policy events. **It's only through these efforts and organisation that we can achieve electoral success at all levels of government, and change society for the benefit of all.**

"Our membership has increased from 200 to over 700, so as you can imagine it's taking me a little longer to answer emails! When I speak to members I try to find out more about their interests and talents, that way I can better help them find their place in the party. We don't agree on everything (that's democracy!), but we're united by the fact we're all working for the same thing, and that is especially great to see on campaign days. I find we're at our best and most productive when we're out talking to our community about the things that matter the most."

**Mark,
Secretary of Cotswolds CLP**

DID YOU KNOW?
CLP = Constituency Labour Party.
 For more terms you might not have heard before, have a look at our jargon buster on page 20



Your talents

As a member you're at the heart of everything we do, and we want you to be as involved as you want to be.

There are many ways you can get more involved in the Labour Party, and they all begin in your CLP. Go along to meetings, support the people running them (they're members and volunteers too!) and enjoy being surrounded by people working for the same things you are.

If you've got a particular skill or talent you want to offer, tell your local party about

it! **Whether you're a budding designer, social media expert, great with numbers and figures or even just bursting with enthusiasm for anything and everything, there's a way for you to get involved.**

By helping out in your CLP, supporting the people currently holding these roles, you show yourself as a team player and may even end up being elected yourself.



Annual Conference

As a member you have the chance to attend one of our most exciting events and experience policy making in action! **Labour's Annual Conference takes place every autumn and is one of the largest and most high profile political events in Europe - with over 10,000 people attending each year.**

Our delegates and visitors take part in debates to shape Labour's vision for Britain. With over 400 fringe events, a vibrant exhibition and great opportunities to network and share ideas, Annual Conference is an event not to be missed.

Highlights of Annual Conference:

- ✔ Leader's speech
- ✔ Keynote speeches from the Shadow Cabinet
- ✔ Training events and seminars
- ✔ Exciting new members' events (often with special guests!)



Don't take our word for it, here's what two new members had to say about Conference!

"A fantastic experience, very motivating, very emotional at times - I will definitely be returning!"

"I arrived as a new member on my own, unsure of what Conference was all about and found a warm welcome; new friends; reassurance and friendly advice to find my way around."



How Labour makes policy

Labour Party policy is made through an open and democratic policymaking process, in consultation with our members and supporters, businesses, civil society groups and other experts.

At the heart of this process sits the National Policy Forum (NPF), made up of more than 200 representatives from all sections of the Party, with the largest part elected by ordinary members (you!) in each region and nation of the UK. Other members of the NPF represent Labour councillors, MPs, affiliated trade unions, socialist societies and other groups.

NPF Representatives each sit on one of a number of Policy Commissions, with members of the Shadow Cabinet. Each Policy Commission specialises in specific policy areas, meeting regularly to take evidence from experts, look at ideas and feedback from Party members, and discuss and develop new policy. Their work forms the basis for debates at Annual Conference, and eventually informs Labour's Manifesto.

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

You can play your part in this process on the Labour Policy Forum website: policyforum.labour.org.uk. This site is designed to help you share your ideas and help shape Labour's next Manifesto.

Find Labour's latest policy consultations, share your ideas with our Policy Commissions and get feedback from your NPF Representatives, and join discussions with other members and supporters.

Everyone can have a say in developing Labour policy, so all submissions are considered by the relevant Policy Commissions. By taking part in our open and democratic policymaking process, you can help contribute to future policy documents, influence debates at Annual Conference, and help shape Labour's next Manifesto.

Campaigns for change

Our campaigns up and down the country rely on volunteers to keep going. Members like you are the driving force behind transforming communities across the UK.

The most effective method of campaigning is meeting voters face to face. Knocking on doors and speaking to people in our local area allows us to engage with Labour voters throughout the year, not just at election time.

Door knocking ensures a strong Labour Party presence in the area, and demonstrates that we are actively seeking opinions and listening to people in local communities. This is how every Labour Party member can help us win power locally and nationally, and form the Labour Government our country needs.



Local campaigns are how we make a real difference to peoples' lives.

Is a service that your community relies on closing? Maybe a local library or fire station? Or a bus service route that you think should exist? Talk to your local party about it. Chances are, other people in your area will feel the same. Get involved, motivate other members and start transforming your community!

DID YOU KNOW?

You don't have to be a policy expert to speak to people on the doors. Chances are you'll relate to any local issue people have, and if there is something you don't feel you can answer, report back to your team and they'll help you out - it's a team effort!



STOP THE TAX CREDIT CUT CAMPAIGN

Back in 2015, the Tories unveiled their unfair plan to cut working tax credits, threatening the incomes of millions of hard-working families. We took our campaign to Stop the Tax Credit Cut to high streets and homes across the UK.

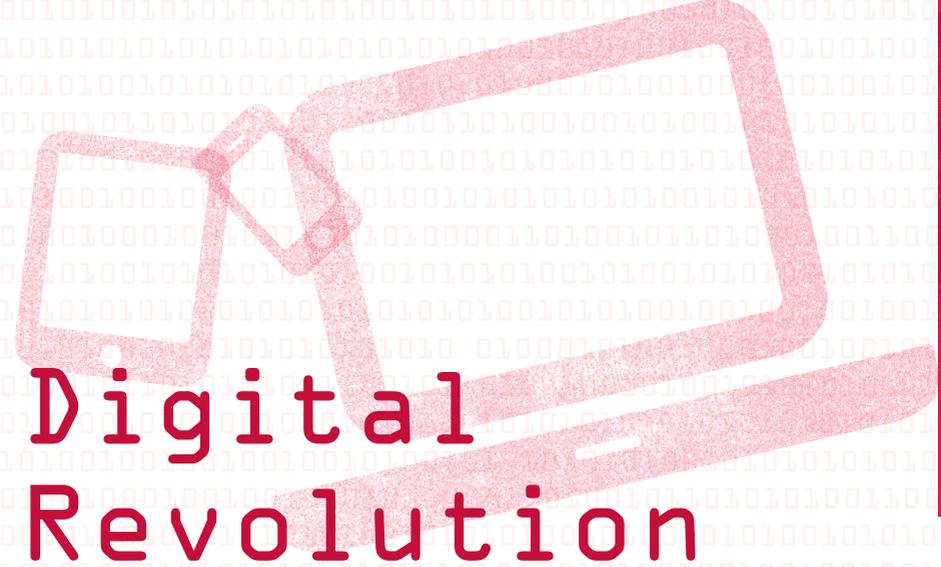
Through the tireless efforts of our members, knocking on doors and sharing our message we forced the Tories to U-turn on their plans. This is how our campaigns make a real difference.





“ My Labour is a first step towards rebuilding our Party organisation around the needs of our members, making it easy for everyone to play a full and active role. ”

Tom Watson,
Deputy Leader
of the Labour Party



Digital Revolution

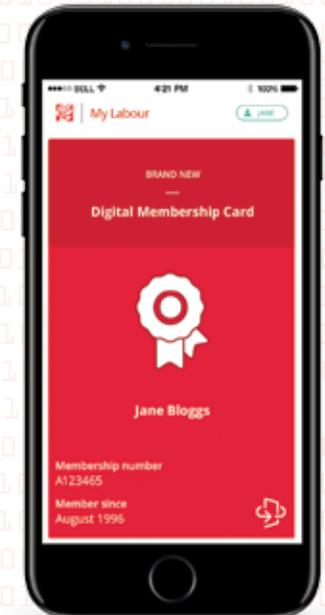
We are transforming the Labour Party into a vehicle for political change in the 21st century

My Labour is a new digital platform for Labour Party members. The home of your digital membership card, My Labour makes it easy for you to access information about your local party and get in touch. Once you have activated your My Labour account, you will be able to update your contact details, see upcoming events and access other Labour Party services including the Labour Policy Forum and shop.

This is the first step of our digital revolution and we'd love to know what you think. To find out more or send us your feedback, get in touch.

✉ labourmembership@labour.org.uk
☎ 0345 092 2299

You can also email Tom directly on talk@tom-watson.com.



Activate your My Labour account today at my.labour.org.uk



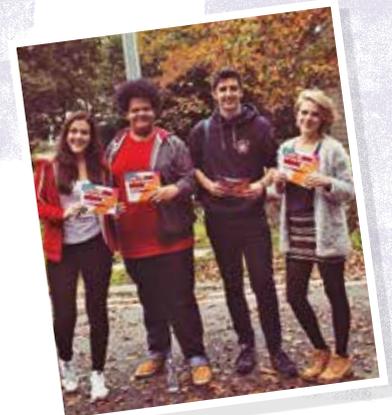
Labour Students

Labour Students is the biggest student political organisation in the country, with thousands of members at universities and colleges across the UK. We take Labour's message to students and stand up for people at college and university within the Labour Party.

We have Labour Clubs at many Higher and Further Education institutions which hold lots of exciting events. National events give members the opportunity to spend time with other Labour Students from across the UK, hear from and speak with high-profile politicians, debate current issues and most importantly make some great new friends.

We're also a campaigning organisation, proud to put our values into practice. We work to get Labour MPs, MSPs, MEPs, AMs and Councillors elected - because it is with Labour in power that students get the best deal. We also campaign on key student issues too, like the Living Wage and getting students registered to vote.

Whatever you choose to do with Labour Students, you'll have the chance to play your part in shaping the future. So go ahead and get involved!



Young Labour

Are you under 27? If the answer is yes, you're automatically a member of Young Labour.

Young Labour is a great place to meet other like-minded young people, discuss policy, learn new skills and campaign for Labour in crucial elections.

There are lots of different ways you can get involved:

- **Find out if there's a Young Labour group near you** - you can do this at younglabour.org.uk. If there isn't, why not set one up yourself? Get in touch with your regional office to get started!
- **Get in touch with your Young Labour National Committee** to find out about campaigning events and opportunities in your region. You can find their contact details on our website.
- **Stand to be the Youth Officer in your local Labour Party** - head to the resources section of our website to download our handy guide to being a Youth Officer.



"With more members than ever before, this is an incredibly exciting time to get involved in Young Labour. From campaigning to debating to just hanging out with like-minded people, Young Labour is a great way to get involved, and make great friends along the way."

Jasmin Beckett,
NEC Youth Representative
Caroline Hill,
Chair of Young Labour

THREE THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW:

1. Join your University Labour Club
2. Like our page on Facebook facebook.com/labourstudents/
3. Follow us on Twitter [@labourstudents](https://twitter.com/labourstudents)

WHERE CAN YOU GO NEXT?

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Trade Unions

Joining a trade union or affiliated society is a brilliant way of engaging with the wider Labour movement. Our links with unions and socialist societies allow us to maintain our commitment to ensuring our Party has a strong presence in every community up and down the country – and not just at election time!

Trade unions and socialist societies are an important part of our rich Labour tapestry, forming a link between our affiliates and our Party which is essential for future progress.

Being a member of an affiliated society allows you to meet like-minded people, to discuss and campaign on issues that really matter to you.

We also offer the opportunity for members of trade unions or socialist societies to sign up as affiliated supporters of the Party. Affiliated supporters are invited to local party meetings and are a vital link to the trade union community – so if you know a trade unionist you think would be interested, let them know!



**JOIN AN AFFILIATED
TRADE UNION AT**
[www.unionstogether.org.uk/
about#unions](http://www.unionstogether.org.uk/about#unions)

Affiliated Societies



**There really is something
for everyone... Get in touch!**

BAME Labour

▶ bamelabour.org.uk

Chinese for Labour

▶ chineseforallabour.org

Christians on the Left

(previously The Christian Socialist Movement)

▶ christiansontheleft.org.uk

Disability Labour

▶ labour.org.uk/disabled-members

The Fabian Society

▶ fabians.org.uk

The Jewish Labour movement

▶ jlm.org.uk

Labour Animal Welfare Society (LAWS)

▶ labouranimalwelfaresociety.org.uk

Labour Business (previously Labour Finance and Industry Group)

▶ lfig.org

Labour Campaign for International Development

▶ lcid.org.uk

Labour Housing Group

labourhousing.co.uk

Labour Movement for Europe

▶ labourmovement.eu

Labour Party Irish Society

▶ lpris.org.uk

Labour Students

▶ labourstudents.org.uk

Labour Women's Network

▶ lwn.org.uk

LGBT Labour

▶ lgbtlabour.org.uk

National Union of Labour and Socialist Clubs

▶ bates.r4@sky.com

Scientists for Labour

▶ scientistsforallabour.org.uk

Socialist Educational Association

▶ socialisteducation.org.uk

Socialist Environment and Resources Association

▶ sera.org.uk

The Socialist Health Association

▶ sohealth.co.uk

Society of Labour Lawyers

▶ societyoflabourlawyers.org.uk

Co-operative Party

▶ party.coop

▶ KeplT.Coop

Useful contacts

GENERAL ENQUIRIES:

🖱 labour.org.uk/contact
☎ 0345 092 22 99

If you have a question about your membership, send an email to labourmembership@labour.org.uk and someone will get back to you.

Or, if you want to send us a letter, our address is:

✉ **The Labour Party**
Labour Central
Kings Manor
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 6PA

If you have a question on Membersnet, Contact Creator, Nationbuilder or Campaign Creator, you can reach Campaign Technology at campaigntechnology@labour.org.uk

If you want to know more about Annual Conference, and how to attend, give Conference Services a call on **0345 092 3311** or email them on conferenceservices@labour.org.uk

Get in touch with the Young Labour team at younglabour@labour.org.uk

FAQs

When I call the general enquiries line, who am I speaking to?

Our dedicated Membership Team in Newcastle are on the other end of the phone, ready to help you with anything from finding your membership number to putting you in touch with your local or regional party contact.

What does my membership fee pay for?

Unlike the Tories, we don't rely on a small number of donations from wealthy donors. We rely on funds from our members, and your membership fee provides a vital boost to our training and campaigning efforts, at election time and beyond. Without that, we simply wouldn't be able to run the Labour Party.

How do I take part in policy making?

On policyforum.labour.org.uk, you can find Labour's policy consultations, share your ideas with our Policy Commissions and get feedback from your NPF Representatives, and join discussions with other members and supporters. There's more information on page 9.

How do I activate my digital membership card?

Go to my.labour.org.uk and follow the instructions. You'll need your email address, membership number and date of birth. For more information head back to page 12 of this booklet.

How do I change my details?

You can do this easily at My Labour, see above.



Jargon buster

ANNUAL CONFERENCE This takes place every autumn and is one of the largest and most high profile political events in Europe. Delegates at Conference vote on policy documents brought by the NPF.

BLP Branch Labour Party, your local party, based on ward boundaries for the election of Councillors. A lot of Labour Party activity takes place at branch level, it is from here members take part in choosing local council candidates.

CANVASSING/VOTER ID Speaking to people! Can be face-to-face or on the phone. During these conversations you will also find out who people are planning on supporting at elections.

CLP Constituency Labour Party, made up of several branches and based on the electoral area for the election of MPs. It is from here you can help choose which members will represent you at Annual Conference.

GOTV Get out the vote. You'll hear a lot about this around election time. Throughout a campaign we identify Labour voters (through canvassing), we then encourage them to go and cast their vote on polling day.

NEC The National Executive Committee is made up of elected representatives from every section of the Party – government, MPs, Councillors, trade unions and CLPs. Members vote for their CLP representative in a ballot every year. The NEC sets the Party's objectives and oversees the running of the Party nationally.

NPF The National Policy Forum is made up of more than 200 representatives from all sections of the Party, with the largest part elected by ordinary members in each region and nation of the UK. Other members of the NPF represent Labour Councillors, MPs, affiliated trade unions, socialist societies and other groups.

PLP The Parliamentary Labour Party is the group of Labour MPs in parliament.

Your views

Can you spare a minute to answer five short questions?

We want to find out more about you – tell us what you care about and what you believe in. This way we can help you make the most out of your membership.

Name: _____ Membership Number: _____

1. What prompted you to join the Labour Party?

- Received email, call or letter from the Labour Party
- Asked to join by someone you know
- Name _____
- Spontaneous decision
- Had been thinking about it for a while
- A particular news story
- Please specify _____

2. Tell us how you want to get involved.

- (tick as many as you like)*
- Generally support the Party
 - Shape our local and national policies
 - Get involved in local campaigns and elections
 - Train to become a politician (Councillor, MP etc)
 - Meet like-minded people
 - Discuss party policy and current events

Membership Number:

3. How would you like to get involved in Labour campaigns? *(tick as many as you like)*

- Speak to people over the phone
- Speak to people face to face
- Attend a Labour Party social event
- Share a campaign online
- Deliver leaflets
- Make a donation

4. What do you think are the most important issues affecting our country today? *(tick as many as you like)*

- Brexit
- Crime
- Economy
- Education and schools
- Employment
- Environment
- Health
- Immigration
- Welfare and benefits
- Cost of living
- Other
- Please specify _____

How would you prefer to be contacted?

(Please provide your preferred details)

Email _____

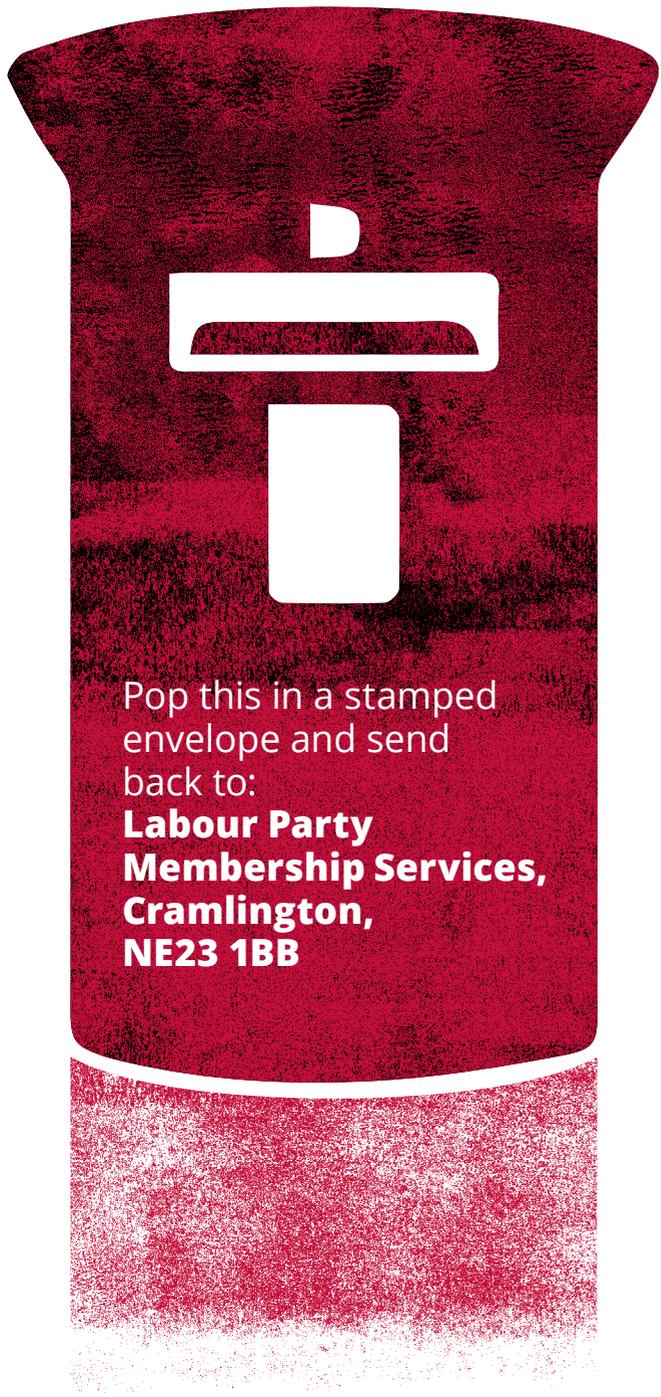
By post _____

By phone _____

5. Do you already volunteer in your local community? *(If yes, tell us more)*

Please return this survey to:
**Labour Party Membership Services,
Cramlington, NE23 1BB**

The Labour Party may contact you using the details you have supplied. If you prefer us not to contact you using particular personal details, please write to the address overleaf.



Pop this in a stamped envelope and send back to:
**Labour Party
Membership Services,
Cramlington,
NE23 1BB**

Joining is just the start – I look forward to seeing where your membership takes you.

Jeremy

