

With all due respect to those who still support whatever ideals it has left, I do firmly believe that Labour, with its present mentality, is giving a very good imitation of a political Party that has very little to offer the cause of constructive debate on most modern-day issues.

What is really the most disappointing with many in the Party, is their total pre-occupation of raking up the past when they are being politically challenged. Chris Mullin MP, especially sounds tired and flat, with no eye to the future. Heavy Industries, coal mining, Margaret Thatcher, The Tories in the 1980's, how the shops in Fawcett Street were boarded-up when he first came to Sunderland, (even though I remember a Binns and Woolworths, but never mind facts sometimes get in the way of a story), etc etc. He might as well release a record of himself and just save his breath. Chris Mullin is a decent enough person, but he gives the distinct impression that he has run out of steam and is just going through the motions. Comparing the political firebrand when in Opposition to what he is like now, sees a world of difference. Perhaps Blair and now Brown have worn him down?

Then we have those City Labour Councillors, some of whom turn from being quite reasonable individuals into people possessed, when the above mentioned headings are raised. Given the slightest excuse they go off into a tirade, which presumably makes them feel a lot better when they are finished. These Councillors, many of whom have senior posts in the City, can return to a by-gone age almost at will. History is a great teacher but not when it is used as dead weight around our City for political point-scoring.

For those who openly support the Labour Party, or others who assume a position of faked neutrality when critical of political opponents, the challenge for them is argue their corner without this monotonous journey into the past for their comfort zone. Many people under 40 years old probably don't even know what they are talking about half the time. Indeed I believe all generations are getting tired of this and that our City deserves much more imaginative representation than is presently on offer.

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