



STRAIGHT TALK

THE NEWSLETTER OF VERITAS

No. 6
April 2007

PARTY LEADER Patrick Eston
DEPUTY LEADER Howard Martin
PARTY SECRETARY Therese Muchewicz
PARTY TREASURER Basil Fulcher
HEAD OFFICE Catherine Cracknell
SPOKESMEN/WOMEN
Defence Vacant
Education Therese Muchewicz
Environmental Affairs Stephen Morrison
Foreign Affairs Frank Kelly
Health Patrick Eston
Home Affairs Vacant
Trade, Industry & Transport Graham Morris
Treasury Tony Byrne
Scotland Gustav Colliander
Wales Iain Sheldon

CONTENTS

From the Party Leader	1
Articles	
Whose Rights? Alcohol	2 3
Party News	
Election Candidates	4
Radio Interview and University Debate	4
New Core Value	4
Head Office News	4
Letters	
In Brothers, in	5
Editorial	5

for... **it will come.**

The leadership of Veritas (and by that I include the NEC as well) work very hard to raise our party profile. We are constantly looking for new ways to make the public aware of what we have to offer. It will take time, patience, belief and above all determination.

Please do not forget that the Veritas road show is available (see web site). It is fun; it raises our party profile locally and is available to help all the members of Veritas. All you have to do is ask.

Recently the road show went to Wales to assist Iain Sheldon where he is standing in the upcoming Welsh Assembly Elections. We have managed to get a leaflet into nearly 300,000 households in Mid and West Wales that will help our cause and raise our profile.

I wish him and all out candidates standing in the local elections well and we will post the results on our web site shortly after they are announced.

Members can contact me at any time should you have anything you wish to discuss with me. I can be contacted at patrickjamese@aol.com or leave a message on 0870 428 0087 and I will get back to you.

I am always pleased to hear from Veritas members.

Kind regards

Patrick Eston

Veritas Party Leader

From the Party Leader

Dear Colleagues

Once again I welcome the opportunity of writing a short message in this the latest edition of Straight Talk

Since the last publication of Straight Talk things have been steadily progressing in Veritas. I must confess that the rate of progress has been slower than I would have hoped for but perhaps this is to be expected in the circumstances.

To set up and organise a political party in the UK today is a mammoth task, it is one that requires patience, effort and above all determination from all of us.

The purpose of my message today is to assure you all that although you as members of Veritas may not see much evidence of the breakthrough we all wish

HEADQUARTERS

Veritas. 9 Dabryn Way, St Stephen, St Austell, Cornwall. PL26 7PF. Tel: 01726 824 021

Articles

Whose Rights?

The furore surrounding the government's proposals to extend the laws relating to sexual equality has highlighted a number of problems. The proposals will make it illegal for anyone who provides goods, services, facilities, premises, education or public functions, to discriminate against that person on the grounds of their sexual orientation. One fact that has been highlighted is that this will force adoption agencies, who offer services to the public, to place children with same sex couples who have entered into civil partnerships.

Yet, this debacle wrongly focuses on the issue of religious freedom and the right of individuals to be exempted from these regulations on grounds of conscience in contrast to the rights of individuals not to be discriminated against on grounds of sexual orientation. The real emphasis should be on what is in the best interests of the child.

Of course, America has allowed same sex adoption for many years, and for some this approach by the government is not new. Indeed, much research in this area claims that the affect on children being brought up in a family where there is only one parental role model is preferable to that of a child being brought up in no family at all. Of course, research also claims the opposite view suggesting that bringing up children with same sex parents has an overall damaging affect on the psychological, social and behavioural development of the child.

Whatever the reality of these claims, we as a society need to ask the fundamental questions. Are we are prepared to risk the development and welfare of our children in order to facilitate what can only be described as experimental social engineering and whether we value the traditional family?

Cardinal McCormac Murphy-O'Connor, leader of the Roman Catholic Church has warned that as a consequence, the Church's seven adoption agencies, which placed 227 children last year, cannot breach Vatican guidelines against allowing same sex couples to adopt, and would have no alternative but to close.

Now the Anglican Church and the Muslim Council

of Britain have joined in this debate supporting the position held by the cardinal.

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, the Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain yesterday stated that they fully support the leaders of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches over this issue.

Dr Bari is quoted as saying that the proposed regulations should "take full account of our multi-faith, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic society and make accommodation to accord with differing beliefs and values".

Whilst, one can appreciate this argument, which has some merits when abortion laws allow for exemptions on grounds of conscience, it is difficult not to see precisely where this argument leads. Allowing for exemptions on grounds of conscience seems innocuous when Christian groups whose teachings on sexuality and family values are drawn from mainly Biblical sources and Church teaching. The real danger lies with extending the principle to non-Christian religious groups whose beliefs and values are founded on fundamentally differing bases. Do we then acknowledge that other religions have a different approach to marriage, divorce and such like and accept the introduction of sharia law?

This claim also ignores the growing realisation that the days of multi-culturalism are over and that politicians and the public at large are beginning to acknowledge that we have only one culture. This is based on our Christian heritage and that respect for other groups who hold differing values and beliefs should not be at the expense of our own cultural identity. This approach only leads to divisions within society which will ultimately lead to cultural apartheid.

We have heard from religious groups on this issue but what of other associated groups? Dr Barnado's, the charity which works to help children by assisting with fostering, adoption and short-break care, seems remarkably silent on this issue. By their own admission the charity acknowledges that children being adopted or taken into care are already vulnerable, and interventions in their lives must overcome existing disadvantage, not add to it. Yet, on their website there is no mention of these proposed changes in the law which will have an

overall impact on adoption in this country if the government is to get their way. Perhaps they prefer to steer clear of the controversy?

These issues aside, it has to be noted that the issue of child welfare has been one of the corner-stones of social and political reform in this country since the late 1980's. The Children Act of 1989 saw the most comprehensive changes to child welfare law in this country since Victorian times. Whilst the welfare of the child was claimed to be paramount, this piece of legislation did not encompass changes to the adoption laws leaving a weakness in this area of child law.

This glaring omission was addressed by the Labour government who introduced the Adoption and Children Act 2002 which was fully implemented on 30 December 2005, and met with widespread approval. It represented the most radical overhaul of adoption law for 26 years, replacing the outdated Adoption Act 1976 and modernising the entire legal framework for domestic and intercountry adoption. Yet, interestingly enough, nowhere in this new legislation is the requirement that same sex couples will be allowed to adopt. So why, if it wasn't thought necessary to extend adoption to same sex couples at the time these changes were debated before Parliament, should it now be deemed necessary to do so through what is arguably back-door legislation? The answer is clear; that this government was aware that to introduce such a proposal through these new adoption laws would court controversy. Yet to introduce it through other measures might, if no-one was looking, go through with little opposition.

Finally then, putting aside any political and religious intrigue, one still has to ask the question whether the proposed changes to the Sexual Orientation Regulations, whose main thrust is equality, is really designed to adequately address the needs of the child whose welfare is paramount.

Whilst politicians, gay rights lobbyists and religious groups all fight their corners, one must not forget the main issue that the welfare of the child is of the utmost importance and that other considerations must - out of necessity - come secondary.

Therese Muchewicz
Party Secretary, Veritas

Alcohol

General Sir Colville Wemyss states in the book *English Inns* (1951): "In no country has the inn been of greater service to society than in England". He includes developments in self-government, social progress, sport, literature, art, music, science, resulting from the cross-pollination of great minds bonded socially in the consumption of alcohol. Such are the benefits of alcohol when used in the proper context, a lesson we learned over the centuries. The miseries of Hogarth's eighteenth century Gin Lane were in consequence of the misuse of alcohol. They were vanquished by the simple measures of increasing the price differential between high alcohol content spirits and low alcohol content beers, restricting the number of outlets and their trading hours, and encouraging the consumption of alcohol as a social activity in the public house rather than a solitary one in private.

Today, with ubiquitous licensed outlets and twenty-four hour drinking, the lessons of the past have been disregarded. The price for this folly is paid personally in ill-health and injury and financially by the demand on the NHS, police and emergency services and damage to property.

The effect upon the young is of particular concern. Their later drinking pattern at weekends segregates them from the modifying influence of the older generation and eats into their daylight activity hours at the cost of experience and development. Also the message they learn from twenty-four hour drinking conflicts with the concepts of responsibility, rules and self-discipline.

The local pub facilitates community cohesion in mingling gender, generation, race, colour and creed in social intercourse and thereby acts as a bulwark against many social ills. If the pub is to survive in other than the mythical form depicted in the soap operas, it must be promoted by valuing the social exploitation of alcohol and its benefits above a commercial exploitation whose hidden costs do not appear on the balance sheet.

Of what use is History if it is ignored?

J. Fallon
Veritas Party member

Party News

Election Candidates

The following people are standing for election in the Local Elections and National Assembly Elections this Thursday, 3rd May 2007.

Local Elections in England:

Tony Backhouse – Bolton

Sally Anne Longden – North Norfolk

Bob Maxwell – South Bedfordshire

Welsh National Assembly Elections:

Iain Sheldon—Mid and West Wales.

Full details about the candidates can be viewed on the Veritas website at 'Veritasparty.com'.

We wish them well in their endeavours.

Radio Interview and University Debate

Our Party Secretary, Therese Muchewicz, gave a radio interview and will shortly be attending a debate at Strathclyde University.

The radio interview was with Stuart Graham on Boundary Sound in Nottingham on 26 March where she was interviewed on the EU on its 50th Anniversary. Apparently, it went well.

In response to their kind invitation, Therese will soon be attending Strathclyde University on the 5th May to take part in their Annual Principal's Debate. This is apparently their centre-piece on the

debating calendar and is attended by numerous dignitaries from both inside and outside the university. It is chaired by their Principal and Pro-Vice Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamnett.

The debate is on "This House believes it is possible to be part of a nation without being part of a nationality" and seeks to explore the issues surrounding multiculturalism, what it means to be British, and if it is possible to reconcile so many faiths and cultures in one country. We await the outcome!

New Core Value

The following Core Value was voted in by the NEC on 2nd March 2007.

'Veritas will enforce a provisional moratorium on asylum seekers pending the establishment of

a proficient system to assess and validate claims of asylum. Thereafter, temporary asylum will be granted to genuine applicants only and on the proviso that they return to their country of origin when their asylum status is removed.'

Head Office News

Please note that Head Office has moved. The new address is:

9 DABRYN WAY,
St STEPHEN,
St AUSTELL,
CORNWALL. PL26 7PF

Tel.: 01726 824 021

My e-mail remains unchanged:
catpow@btinternet.com

Catherine Cracknell
Head Office Manager

Letters

Opinions expressed herein may not necessarily be the views of the editor.

In Brothers, in

During the post-war mass immigration years of the 1950's and 1960's, Britain's trade union movement was at the forefront of opposing unlimited immigration.

The reason was quite simple. Their aim was to protect the jobs of Britain's resident workforce and to prevent exploitation of cheap, foreign labour. The term 'Out Brothers, out' came to signify the determination of the union movement to protect the 'worker' against Government policy and greedy employers.

However, that was in the days when the term 'Made in Britain' was in itself enough to sell a product. It was when the powerful union base flourished, mostly amongst the industrial workforce that actually produced something for this country.

But what about now? The all-powerful trade unions in manufacturing are no more. As wave after wave of immigrant workers arrive eager to take what is on offer, has there been a single major trade union that has stood up and said no more?

Has the teaching union said immigration is ruining the level of education for some of our youngsters? No. What about the health and local government unions? Has either of them uttered a single word about the effect on hospitals or provision of local services? No.

They simply stand by in disgraceful and disgusting silence whilst this country goes to the dogs.

We should not be too surprised, as the major trade unions are, in reality, government sponsored clubs whose members and many full-time officials rely on tax-payers money to fund their secure jobs. Trade union and government funded jobs are not under immediate threat from immigration. The decision-making posts within such organisations are even better protected. We are not likely to see a local authority Chief Executive or top trade union official replaced with a competent immigrant who will do the job at half the price. If we were then the union message would no doubt change.

The old union cry of 'Out Brothers, out' is a thing of the past. Perhaps they should replace it with 'Come in foreign Brothers, come in – because we're alright Jack'

Carl Faulkner

Veritas NEC member.

Editorial

This newsletter is produced quarterly with the publication dates being the last day in January, April, July, and October. Any articles, letters, or other material suitable for the newsletter should be submitted by the 15th of these months for inclusion in the subsequent newsletters.

This newsletter is supplied as a PDF to members who are able to receive e-mails, and as a hard copy to members who are not able to receive e-mails.

Submission guidelines:

If material is supplied electronically as an e-mail, please submit as a word document or text only. Photographs are also welcome and should be

supplied as high quality JPEG files (no larger than 1Mb). As always, any submissions by post will be welcome.

All submissions by e-mail should be sent to the editor at:

straight-talk@veritasparty.com

or by post to:

Straight Talk

Veritas Headquarters,

5 Little Gregwartha, Four Lanes, Redruth, Cornwall.
TR16 6LN

Editor.