

I am a new member of the Labour Party, but the welcome I have received makes me feel that this is the right place to be to express my political commitments. I have been politically active for many years, and studied politics and international relations at the University of Plymouth, graduating with a doctorate in 2008. While I was studying at Plymouth I mixed my academic life with real world politics serving as a Councillor on Restormel Borough Council, and for four years was privileged to be Leader of the Council.

My political life has been very shaped by my concern for what are my major concerns: tackling poverty and the great challenge of the damage our lifestyles we are doing to the environment. For me the impact of our changing climate is THE political issue we must urgently tackle if my grand-children and their children are not going to inherit huge problems.

My political interests have led me into my current role, leading a charity, Community Energy Plus, which works to tackle fuel poverty and promote the take up of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Poverty in all its forms still has a big impact on our society, and it is something we absolutely have the power to change. No child needs to grow up poor and for me it is utterly unacceptable that children in Cornwall in 2017 don't have enough to eat and their education is inadequate because of cuts in the name of so-called "austerity". At the same time I don't want to answer the phone to another pensioner who can't afford to keep their home warm enough and are making themselves unwell because of the cold damp home they live in.