



Majority: 12,958 (42.9%) over LibDem 6-way

Description: Islington's less gentrified end: a rundown inner city area with low wages, high unemployment and high drug dependency; multi-ethnic, including many Irish-born and Turkish Cypriots; "it has the highest rate of long-term unemployment of any English constituency, a normal unemployment rate of well over 15%"(JC);

Position: On the PLP's Health and Social Security Committee '84-, Foreign Affairs Committee '93-, Northern Ireland Committee '93-; Chairman: Campaign for Non-Alignment '90-, Joint Committee on Kurdistan '88-, Committee for Human Rights in Grenada '83-, Stop Child Labour

Campaign '97-; Secretary, PLP Central and Latin America Committee; on CPLD Executive '83-; Vice Chairman, Labour Action for Peace; on National Council of CND; ex: on Social Security Select Committee '90-97; Chairman '93-96, Vice Chairman '85-93, London Group of Labour MPs; Secretary, Campaign Group '87-95; Hackney Borough Councillor (Chairman: Community Development '75-78, Public Works '78-79, Planning '80-81) '74-83; Haringey Councillor '81-83;

Outlook: Labour's leading serially-rebellious backbencher, the list of whose dissident votes is effectively synonymous with a tally of all the revolts against the Government; sometimes he rebels on his own; in the '97 to '01 Parliament he was top rebel with 64 deviant votes; a sea-green incorruptible, hyper-active, quasi-Trotskyist (LONDON LABOUR BRIEFING) hard-Leftist attempting only visually to mellow: has moved out of Oxfam-reject clothes into smart jackets, one burgundy; "a sort of Parliamentary Sandanista" (Tory Lord Garel-Jones); "it would be easy to mock [him] as a pastiche of the bearded Spartist fantasist still fighting fights, in his own head at least, that were won by the other side when Marxism-Leninism crumbled and his own party ditched Clause Four; it is a comfort to know that people like [him] survive in Parliament to remind us that in theory as well as in the rhetoric of the less-principled, politics is about immutable beliefs which cannot be compromised at any price" (Matthew Norman, GUARDIAN); "a rare and increasingly sought-after example of the unreconstructed Left" (Matthew Parris, TIMES); since he has escaped the fate of his more primitive and obstreporous Militant fellow-entryists is "as much an endangered species as the badgers, deer and other wild life he tries so hard to protect from hunters" (Michael White, GUARDIAN); has "energy and dedication", "naivety and preoccupation with never being outflanked on the Left" (Robert Low, OBSERVER); so deviant that only the deliberately politically-illiterate Tory MP Nigel Evans could score by describing him as "perhaps not New Labour but certainly Real Labour"; to others, "when you hear him called, its like spotting the Socialist Worker logo on placards at a demonstration; you have the cosy feeling that you can possibly ignore them" (Simon Hoggart, GUARDIAN); but, "let's face it, Jeremy's a toff, just trying to be prolier than thou" (a fellow Labour MP, on the subject of the Corbyn family split over schooling); an excellent, hyper-assiduous constituency MP, he was overwhelmingly re-selected by his increasingly safe constituency just before it voted 2-to-1 for a Blairite watering-down of Clause IV in '95; a unilateralist; "too close to the IRA" (Tory ex-MP Terry Dicks); a keen defender of the wronged `Guildford Four' and `Birmingham Six'; as a `Troops-out' backer of a united Ireland has been the most frequent host to leading Sinn Feiners, including Gerry Adams; "each time he has been reprimanded by the Labour leadership but never had the Whip withdrawn" (James Landale, TIMES); a campaigner for pensioners; a defender of asylum-seekers; a former poll-tax resister; an advocate of a univeral welfare state; an opponent of blood sports; an environmentalist, including Antarctica; pro-Palestinian; anti-

American; anti Indonesian occupation of West Papua, and Moroccan occupation of Western Sahara; a prolific spawner of small, short-lived hard-Left groups, some of which he has headed; also fertile in producing ten-minute-rule Bills; can make "a confounded nuisance of himself from a sedentary position which is only mildly preferable to the nuisance that he makes of himself when he stands up" (Tory ex-MP Sir Nicholas Bonsor); "he speaks with great conviction, and I have no doubt that, over the years, he has totally convinced himself" (Tory ex-MP Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith); "has the almost unique capacity to make a significant, important and worthwhile case (such as access to Westminster by the disabled) sound almost positively unattractive" (Tory ex-MP Sir Geoffrey Howe); "what he possesses in verbosity, he clearly lacks in a sense of humour" (Tory ex-MP Hugh Dykes); obsessed with picketing and other "extra-Parliamentary" activities and foreign tripping to show "revolutionary solidarity"; a leading Campaign Groupie and contributor to quasi-Trotskyist LONDON LABOUR BRIEFING and SOCIALIST ORGANISER; formerly sponsored by UNISON (ex-NUPE);

History: He joined the Labour Party and CND at school '66; was sympathetic to the Socialist Organiser Alliance of Trotskyist entryists; joined LONDON LABOUR BRIEFING editorial board - led by Ken Livingstone and Ted Knight and designed to push the London party Leftward - as General Secretary '79; became a Labour Agent for Trotskyist Ted Knight in Haringey, with subsequent questions about undeclared expenses May '79; was elected to Executive of Greater London Labour Party Mar '81; at Brighton he threatened a purge of soft-Left Labour MPs - led by Neil Kinnock - who had abstained from voting for Tony Benn for Deputy Leader Sep '81; succeeded SDP defector Michael O'Halloran as candidate for Islington North, with its large Irish community, beating off the challenge of then semi-Trotskyist Paul Boateng by 39 to 35, Feb '82; as Chairman of Hornsey Labour Party proposed issuing party card to Trotskyist Tariq Ali against NEC wishes April '82; wrote: "the party leaders are hellbent on an unremitting war on the socialists in the party - they have no intention of unilaterally disarming or taking power from the City...there must be a total defence of ANY socialist threatened with expulsion from the party" Sep '82; condemned the division of Haringey into two seats Sep '82; was elected to Executive of Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, although he opposed registration, as required by Labour Party Feb '83; was elected for Islington North, defeating ex-Labour SDPer John Grant June '83; organised Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams' visit to Commons July '83; called for a "London-wide lorry ban" July '83; worried about the US threat to the sovereignty of Nicaragua and the South African threat to Lesotho July '83; voted against Defence Estimates July '83; attended Turkish political trial Sep '83; proclaimed himself a member of the hard-Left Campaign Group Sep '83; attacking Kinnock as a "preaching careerist", supported Eric Heffer for Leader, Michael Meacher for Deputy Leader June-Oct '83; visited Turkey for Turkey Solidarity Campaign from where he wrote deploring its military rulers Sep '83; spoke against the "witch hunt" expulsion of Militant leaders Oct '83; spoke for "No Socialism Without Gay Liberation" Oct '83; urged annual Labour conference to proclaim to Central Americans, "we stand with you against American imperialism" to avoid "another Vietnam" there Oct '83; failed to secure entry of Gerry Adams to a Brighton Labour conference fringe meeting organised by the Labour Committee on Ireland Oct '83; again opposed continuing exclusion from Labour Party of Trotskyist Tariq Ali Oct '83; after visiting Grenada, he urged debate on arrests of members of its New Jewel Movement Dec '83; refused initially to criticise Archway road-widening protesters who harassed inquiry inspector into resignation Feb '84; urged better care for the elderly Feb '84; demanded stronger Labour and TUC support for striking miners Apr '84; was allegedly involved in Livingstoneite plot - "Target '87" - to deselect moderate London Labour MPs Mar-May '84; attacked bitterly the "shabby and squalid" Bill to replace the GLC with a Tory dominated quango May '84; defended the ILEA as a "unique education authority" May '84; attacked cuts in the London NHS May '84; introduced a Bill to abolish standing charges

for gas, electricity, water and telephone services for pensioners and the poor July '84; helped stop the Intimidatory Picketing Bill by shouting "object!" July '84; was arrested in Trotskyist-led anti-Apartheid demonstration outside South Africa House July '84; urged a blitz against drug addiction from which 15% of constituency's young men suffered Aug '84; marched in favour of 'Troops Out of Northern Ireland' Aug '84; was unsuccessful candidate of City Trotskyists for National Committee of Anti-Apartheid Movement Oct '84; invited IRA spokesmen to speak at House of Commons a fortnight after the Brighton bombing Oct '84; belatedly admitted two convicted Sinn Feiners had visited the Commons to discuss strip searches Nov '84; unrepentant, was reprimanded by Chief Whip Michael Cocks for "thoughtlessness of the highest order" for IRA invitations Dec '84; invited into Commons striking miners who were expelled after chanting "Coal Not Dole" from gallery Jan '85; helped stage a demonstration on the miners' strike which forced the suspension of the Commons, without consulting the Labour Party leadership Jan '85; introduced a Bill to abolish standing charges for pensioners Jan '85; again attacked ratecapping Apr '85; criticised the Government's refusal to negotiate with nine Leftwing local authorities refusing to set a rate Apr '85; after a private meeting in May, criticised Home Secretary Leon Brittan for not giving asylum to Tamils June '85; introduced a Bill to guarantee heat and light for pensioners June '85; said it was "absolutely disgraceful" for Roy Hattersley to have visited Madeira on behalf of a merchant bank (for Roy's friend Lord Williams) June '85; in an adjournment debate, attacked UK supply of arms to Chile July '85; urged an amnesty for sacked miners July '85; visited Cyprus as guest of EDEK Oct '85; was a speaker with Tony Benn, Diane Abbott and Peter Heathfield at a Socialist Action meeting Oct '85; in a TV debate on Militant efforts to oust Robert Kilroy-Silk, described local plots as "healthy debate" Oct '85; urged greater Labour activity against Israeli attacks on the PLO Oct '85; attacked as "a disgrace" Neil Kinnock's refusal to stand by hard-Left councils Oct '85; clocked up a low attendance at official standing committee meetings '84- '85; voted against Anglo-Irish Agreement Nov '85; went to Paris as guest of Western Sahara Solidarity Campaign Nov '85; urged more generous NHS pay Mar '86; urged solidarity with the people of El Salvador Apr '86; spoke in Florence for European Solidarity with Chile June '86; attacked the "unaccountable" policing of London July '86; visited Cuba and Nicaragua, where he found US policies were dictated by the need "to maintain a financial structure which enslaves most of Latin America" Aug '86; on Campaign Group slate, received 31 votes for Labour's Shadow Cabinet in his first effort Oct '86; served on the Social Security Bill Committee in which John Major ended single payments and the death grant and introduced the Social Fund '86; was alleged to have given #45 to a "clever confidence trickster" who passed himself off as an IRA bomber seeking to flee London Jan '87; introduced a Bill to provide for a better life for old age pensioners Mar '87; at a troops-out meeting he stood in silence for a minute to honour the eight IRAmen shot dead in an SAS ambush May '87; complained the British Government had helped keep the Pinochet regime in power in Chile July '87; nominated on the Campaign Group slate, he received 39 votes for the Shadow Cabinet July '87; urged support for a campaign against Labour Party economies Aug '87; intervened on behalf of Tamil asylum-seekers Aug '87; was summoned by Chief Whip Derek Foster for appointing as his research assistant, Ronan Bennett, a former anarchist and IRA sympathiser who, in 1975, was sentenced for the murder of an RUC inspector, which sentence was quashed a year later Sep '87; appealed for funds for CAMPAIGN GROUP NEWS Oct '87; was a sponsor of the Chesterfield 'Socialist Conference' open to Trotskyists outside the Labour Party Oct '87; fought the Commons security ban on his researcher, Ronan Bennett Oct-Nov '87; was on hit-list of moderate Labour leaders to curb Leftwing control of London Labour Party Dec '87; was a guest at the prison wedding of Paul Hill of the Guildford Four Feb '88; co-sponsored Tony Benn's Bill to end British jurisdiction in Northern Ireland Mar '88; was one of 15 hard-Left Labour MPs in the Campaign Group who backed the Benn-Heffer challenge to the Kinnock-Hattersley

leadership Mar '88; was beaten by Glenys Thornton in contest for Chairman of London Labour Party Mar '88; was first MP to protest Saddam Hussein's gas bombardment of Kurds in Halabja Mar '88; tried for an emergency debate to discuss the London parents' poll against the abolition of the ILEA Apr '88; backed Militant MP Dave Nellist against his suspension by the Speaker Apr '88; co-sponsored Tony Benn's Bill to ban the siting of foreign nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in Britain; deplored US control over 157 installations by over 30,000 privileged servicemen Apr '88; defied party policy in sharing a platform with Sinn Fein speaker Richard MacCauley May '88; deplored insidious influence on police of Freemasons June '88; protested increase to 20% of Labour MPs needed to nominate someone to contest the leadership June '88; voted against EC money resolution July '88; deplored celebration of enthronement of William and Mary - instead of the triumph of the Parliamentary armies over the King during the civil war - because William and Mary were imported to "forever guarantee the powers of the landowning classes as well as bringing with them the Protestant religion and the discrimination against Catholics that followed" in Ulster July '88; complained that Paul Hill of the Guildford Four had been moved 47 times as a prisoner July '88; urged release of Israeli-arrested Palestinian trade unionist Machmoud Masawri Sep '88; accused Labour leadership of retreating into appeasing Thatcherism Oct '88; urged support for Palestinian 'Intifadah' (uprising) Oct '88; on the Campaign Group slate, received 31 votes for Labour Shadow Cabinet Nov '88; was elected Vice Chairman of the PLP's Northern Ireland Committee Nov '88; protested the West's involvement in the just-ended Iran-Iraq war, which had caused 500,000 fatalities Nov '88; was elected Vice Chairman of PLP's London Labour MPs Nov '88; voted against Prevention of Terrorism Bill, and Ulster loyalty oaths, instead of abstaining Dec '88; became Chairman of Campaign for Non-Alignment, with aim of withdrawing UK from NATO in wake of changes in eastern Europe Dec '88; deplored deportation of Sri Lankan Trotskyist Viraj Mendis Jan '89; defended himself against criticisms of having allowed Ronan Bennett the run of the Palace of Westminster by saying he had never been informed about the charges against him Jan '89; introduced Elimination of Poverty in Retirement Bill Jan '89; voted against Speaker's exclusion of Jim Sillars Mar '89; made a plea to retain hedgerows Mar '89; raised the problems of Kurdish refugees May '89; co-deplored Neil Kinnock's abandonment of unilateralism May '89; presided over Sheffield meeting of Bennite-Trotskyist 'Socialist Conference' June '89; favoured turning Antarctic into a world environment park, without allowing mineral exploitation July '89; said: "we live in a dirty, polluted and dangerous city and I get more and more angry as I cycle round London having my lungs blasted full of exhaust from cars" July '89; co-deplored imprisonment of Mrs Khalil by Israelis July '89; shared platform with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams at meeting on fringe of Labour's annual conference Sep '89; visited Paris as guest of the Kurdish Institute of France Oct '89; urged "full compensation" for Guildford Four and reopening of case of Birmingham Six Oct '89; visited Brussels as guest of European Institute on Relations with Latin America Oct '89; stood surety for the Guildford Four when they were released on bail Oct '89; was found to have been the 11th most active intervener in the speeches of other MPs in previous two years Nov '89; addressed annual conference of the [Stalinist] Communist Party of Britain Nov '89; demanded a fresh investigation into the Birmingham Six, who had confessed after beatings and abominable treatment Nov '89; claimed Government was hellbent on trying to destroy the ambulance drivers Dec '89; won the 'Worst Dressed MP' contest, according to the GUARDIAN's Andrew Rawnsley, "for his exquisite examples of the traditional dress of north London: jackets from last year's jumble and trousers which are the most eloquent case for mercy killing" Dec '89; as a friend of asylum-seekers, was unhappy about Labour frontbenchers' hostility to right of abode for 50,000 Hongkong Chinese families Jan '90; again introduced Elimination of Poverty in Retirement Bill, to require monitoring of retired people and eliminate standing charges on gas, electricity and water and telephone rental Jan '90;

supported fund-raising by Stalinist MORNING STAR to retain "diverse editorial opinion" Feb '90; admitted he had never been successful with a Bill under the ballot procedure, although he had introduced seven ten-minute- rule Bills Feb '90; urged John Browne to resign for concealing his outside interests Mar '90; supported the Militant-run Anti- Poll Tax Federation Mar '90; helped launch hard-Left 'Labour Party Socialists' with Tony Benn and ex-MP Reg Race Apr '90; opposed designation of Finsbury Park as a redlight district May '90; introduced Bill to prohibit "barbarism" of hunting and killing of deer with dogs June '90; attacked as a smear Geoffrey Dickens' claim he had deliberately missed a statement on local IRA bombing June '90; urged better facilities for disabled June '90; urged better access to Westminster for disabled July '90; complained of under-funding of Islington Health Authority and its merger July '90; attacked poll tax July '90; urged recall of British forces from Gulf: "the armed presence out there makes things worse; it heightens the chances of war"; voted against the Gulf War Sep '90; was taken to court by Labour-controlled Islington Council for non-payment of poll tax Sep '90; received 26 votes for Shadow Cabinet, overwhelmingly from Campaign Groupies Oct '90; deplored accidents to cyclists Oct '90; urged a peaceful solution of Gulf crisis Nov '90; urging a warmer welcome in adjournment debate, said: "since I have become a Member, I have spent a lot of time dealing with the problems of asylum-seekers from many countries, including Iran, Iraq, Chile, Colombia and a number of Asian countries, particularly Sri Lanka and China" Nov '90; was retained as Secretary of Campaign Group Nov '90; again introduced Elimination of Poverty in Retirement Bill Dec '90; was named to Social Security Select Committee Dec '90; co-sponsored amendment urging peaceful freeing of Kuwait, based on economic sanctions and UN police forces Jan '91; voted against Gulf War Jan '91; co-deplored bombing of civilians in Iraq Feb '91; appeared in court for refusing to pay his #481 poll tax set by Islington Council Feb '91; helped set up 'Labour Against the [Gulf] War'; warned of secret war aims, including ouster of Saddam Hussein Feb '91; deplored impact of Gulf War on region's ecology Mar '91; supported Chris Mullin's view that Judith Ward could not have committed M-62 bus bombing Mar '91; attacked US for killing "at least 100,000 people in the Gulf War" but was unable to stop killing of Kurds Apr '91; introduced Asylum Seekers and Refugees Bill to facilitate their entry by a Refugee Protection Agency, a review board to hear appeals and charter of rights May '91; the Campaign Group put him and Dave Nellist on its slate in place of Jo Richardson and Audrey Wise May '91; introduced Abolition of Deer Hunting Bill June '91; attacked exploitation of Latin America July '91; was labelled a "Militant sympathiser" by Conservative Central Office Aug '91; spoke against expulsion from the Labour Party of Militant supporters Dave Nellist and Terry Fields Sep '91; supported Gulf War deserter Sep '91; led amendment pressing for defence industry diversification Oct '91; defended rights of Sahrawi people of Western Sahara Dec '91; with other hard-Leftwingers, urged British withdrawal from Ulster Jan '92; led competing hard-Left amendment urging end of "abhorrent" nuclear weapons Jan '92; opposed "awful" King's Cross Railways Bill, preferring the main terminal to be at Stratford Jan '92; urged solution of Central America's social and economic problems Feb '92; again urged his Elimination of Poverty in Retirement Bill Feb '92; urged an international trial for Lockerbie accused Feb '92; deplored spread of racism in Europe Mar '92; was supported in his re-election campaign by members of the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, whose cases he had fought Mar '92; intervened on behalf of death-fasting Tamil convicted of murder Apr '92; retained seat with majority up from 9,657 to 12,784, a swing to Labour of 4.57% Apr '92; blamed Labour's defeat on its failure "to offer people an alternative vision of society and a coherent programme for implementing it" Apr '92; was re-named to Social Security Select Committee July '92; co-sponsored Tony Benn's Bill for a referendum on Maastricht Sep '92; in ballot for constituency section of Labour's NEC, received 22,000?/17,000? votes Oct '92; again introduced Elimination of Poverty in Retirement Bill Nov '92; was rated as one of the most assiduous anti-Maastricht rebels, with seven rebellions against the Labour Whips out of

a possible nine Feb '93; again spoke up for self-determination of people of Western Sahara Feb '93; opposed Maastricht because it strengthened the European Commission without any increase in strength of European Parliament Mar '93; voted against 3rd Reading of Maastricht Bill May '93; opposed PR because it would lose Labour seats May '93; led Campaign Group amendment to Defence Motion, urging cuts to West European average June '93; again urged special handling of unaccompanied children seeking asylum June '93; introduced his Pensioners' Equality Bill to harmonise retirement at 60 July '93; in ballot for constituency section of Labour's NEC, received 16,000 votes Oct '93; unusually, spoke up for a local company, the Simkin Partnership Oct '93; again urged cuts in defence expenditure and diversification of defence industries Oct '93; urged limitation of wage increases to those MPs who did not earn more than #2,000 outside Nov '93; urged Government to keep its contacts in Northern Ireland "with all political parties, including Sinn Fein Jan '94; voting against restoring capital punishment Feb '94; voted to reduce age of homosexual consent to 18 or 16, Feb '94; voted for Margaret Beckett for Leader and Deputy Leader July '94; polled 16,418 votes in constituency section of Labour's NEC Oct '94; polled 31 votes in Shadow Cabinet election Oct '94; voted against EU Finance Bill Nov '94; voted for a LibDem amendment urging a referendum before further EU federalisation Feb '95; deplored the fact his constituency had voted 64.6% for Blair's watered-down Clause IV Apr '95; condemned London's hospital closures May '95; opposed NEC's vetoing of candidacy of Liz Davies, a contributor to his favourite LONDON LABOUR BRIEFING, as "totally unacceptable" Sep '95; polled 22,457 votes for NEC Sep '95; again introduced his Elimination of Poverty Bill Oct '95; paid tribute to Greece's record in World War II Oct '95; attacked US victimisation of Cuba and its desire to make Mexico "a cheap- labour pool" Oct '95; voted against Defence Estimates Oct '95; with hard-Left and "awkward squad" voted against Commons procedure reforms Nov '95; attacked "dreadful" Asylum and Immigration Bill as motivated by "xenophobia" and "backward populism" Dec '95; backed Tony Benn's defence amendment scrapping Trident and cutting spending to west Europe's average Dec '95; again opposed renewal of Prevention of Terrorism Act which had never "stopped a single IRA bomber" Feb '96; opposed Labour support for a new law making mandatory a life sentence for re-offending rapists Feb '96; urged assessment of the monarchy Apr '96; was Teller for the Noes opposing renewal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act Apr '96; initiated an adjournment debate on threat to flora and fauna of Antarctica Apr '96; voted for Bill Cash's referendum on Europe June '96; voted for a 3% cap on MPs' pay rise, against a pension based on #43,000 July '96; co-signed GUARDIAN letter urging scrapping of Trident July '96; raised issue of child labour in Britain July '96; ignoring Tony Blair's wish for an uncontested Shadow Cabinet, entered the ballot, receiving 37 votes July '96; backed Clare Short's attack on spin- doctors but preferred blaming "the direction in which Tony Blair is trying to take the party" Aug '96; the Shadow Cabinet voted unanimously to condemn his hiring a Commons room to launch Gerry Adams autobiography, the hiring being cancelled Sep '96; was rated the third topmost of "Blair's Bastards" by Hull University researchers, having voted 64 times since '92 against the leadership Sep '96; again contested the NEC, receiving 25,529 votes Sep '96; opposed the giant Millennium Wheel as "an eyesore" Oct '96; was carpeted by Chief Whip Donald Dewar for meeting a Sinn Fein delegation in the Commons Nov '96; escaped punishment under Labour's new rules after signing Socialist Workers Party petition pledging to fight any Labour weakening of union links or retention of "Tory policies" on the welfare state, by claiming he did not know it was an SWP document Dec '96; urged a "substantial rise" for the "worse-off" public sector employees Jan '97; was targeted by anti-abortion Pro-life Alliance Party Feb '97; retained his seat by an enhanced majority of 19,955, on a 6.7% swing from the LibDems May '97; urged new Home Secretary Jack Straw to give asylum to Nigerian dissident Abdul Onibiyo, previously deported by Michael Howard June '97; voted with four other Leftwingers in first rebellion against capping Somerset and Oxfordshire councils June '97; was under

pressure for tabling motions without showing them first to Labour Whips July '97; opposed Blair leadership's move toward centrally-approved register of potential candidates as a "pretty appalling vista" July '97; attacked pressure on impoverished East Europeans to buy expensive NATO weapons July '97; urged a better sharing of the world's wealth to prevent the poorest dying at birth and the wealthiest living to 90, July '97; objected to student tuition fees Aug '97; becoming fifth runner-up, polled 39,565 in NEC election Sep '97; voted with 46 other Labour MPs against cuts in lone-parent benefits in Social Security Bill, with four others to oppose its 3rd Reading Dec '97; backed Chris Pond's Employment of Children Bill Feb '98; voted against military action against Iraq Feb '98; voted against abolition of student maintenance grants June '98; was one of 24 Labour rebels voting against Murdoch-style predatory newspaper pricing July '98; initiated debate on global warming attacking non-compliance of US with emission reduction targets July '98; voted against the Anti Terrorism (Crime and Security) Bill Sep '98; co-urged prosecution of ex- President Pinochet in UK if extradition to Spain failed Oct '98; protested global environmental destruction and "increasing impoverishment of the poorest people in the poorest countries" Nov '98; opposed removal of benefits from people in breach of probation or community service orders as damaging to their children Feb '99; urged a revalued universal state pension, predicting a halving of state spending on pensions in coming 50 years Feb '99; sought public right of access to "vast acres" of MoD land Mar '99; co-protested Russian persecution of non- Orthodox religious faiths Mar '99; voted against bombing Kosovo Apr '99; revealed that his wife "Claudia and I have been separated for two years; I have not sought to make this public because it is a private matter; unfortunately the issue of our eldest son's education has brought it to public attention" - his wife had decided to send the boy to a selective grammar school May '99; he voted against means-testing of incapacity benefit May '99; said he was "horrified" by the Kosovan refugees, but "equally horrified by NATO bombardment of Yugoslavia" May '99; defended asylum-seeking over-stayers who had lived in UK for many years and lived in fear of being discovered June '99; opposed vouchers for asylum seekers as "the antithesis of a universal welfare state" June '99; voted against the Asylum Bill June '99; voted against legal aid curbs June '99; sought tax exemption from certain elements of public spending, such as defence, on grounds of conscience June '99; voted again against incapacity benefit means-testing Nov '99; voted against vouchers for asylum seekers Nov '99; voted against housing asylum seekers in detention centres Nov '99; sought bigger Government grant for Islington because of effect of high property prices on housing benefit pay-outs Nov '99; he was one of only 7 Labour MPs to vote against making permanent the Prevention of Terrorism Act 1974 - "a disgraceful piece of legislation that did much to damage civil liberties throughout the United Kingdom" Dec '99; sought release of Pinochet's medical records to query claim he was not fit to be extradited to stand trial in Spain Jan '00; sought more public investment in housing and better administration of housing benefit Jan '00; claimed illegal under race relations law a proposal to charge Indian immigrants suspected of planning to settle illegally #5,000 Jan '00; attacked Peter Mandelson's change of line over intervention in the Hinduja passport application Jan '00; attacked payment of housing benefit to high rent private landlords as "creating property millionaires through public sector expenditure", urged rent control and more council housing Feb '00; attacked Home Secretary Jack Straw's decision to let Pinochet return to Chile, so evading justice over 31 cases of torture and death or disappearance of 7,000 Mar '00; urged UK to press for self-determination for West Papua Mar '00; was teller in vote against definition of 'terrorism' in Terrorism Bill Mar '00; voted against curbs on jury trials Mar '00; claimed universal benefits were cheaper to administer than means-tested benefits Apr '00; attacked the debasement of the state pension, now worth only 14% of average earnings, opposed private pensions as less secure and more costly to administer, and voted to restore the state pension link to average earnings Apr '00; voted against non-disclosure of policy advice to Ministers Apr '00; initiating a debate to protest occupation of Western Sahara, was accused

by George Galloway of "mounting an attack on Morocco" Apr '00; he argued the CND case for British unilateral nuclear disarmament in debate on the Non Proliferation Treaty review May '00; he voted against part-privatisation of air-traffic control May '00; in a debate initiated by Tony Benn he urged that socialism form the moral basis of society May '00; he expressed "deepest sympathy" over the deaths by suffocation of 58 Chinese illegal asylum-seekers in a lorry at Dover, urging action on the causes that prompted "victims" to flee to Europe rather than even more "draconian measures" against asylum seekers June '00; he opposed PFI in the NHS as "candy floss" June '00; he opposed the wide definition of terrorist offences as likely to criminalise many UK-resident refugees from foreign regimes July '00; he was the lone Labour rebel against the Football (Disorder) Bill allowing the police power to ban supporters travelling to a match, asking "what is to stop any other legislation giving exactly the same powers to the police rather than the courts to act on?" July '00; called for Railtrack renationalisation July '00; urged resignation of Home Minister Lord Falconer following sacking of project's finance director Sep '00; co-urged end of US embargo of Cuba Nov '00; again voted against part-privatisation of air-traffic control Nov '00; visited Chile to address Reunion of Victims of Torture Dec '00; attacked inefficient privatised housing benefit service in Islington, seeking more council housing rather than "lining the pockets of bed-and-breakfast landlords and millionaires making a fortune out of the public purse though the housing benefit system" Jan '01; he was Teller for the 'Noes' against the City of London Bill expanding the undemocratic business franchise Jan '01; he praised contributions to society made by refugees who had stayed in Britain, protested the poverty of asylum seekers, attacked vouchers, and urged a "sense of humanity" Feb '01; he recalled the economic madness in Chile after Pinochet's coup, and the unbridled power of multinational capital which promoted it Feb '01; he opposed 10% selectivity in specialist state schools as damaging "universal comprehensive education", already undermined in inner London by selective grammar schools in outer London Feb '01; again opposed definition of terrorism wide enough to criminalise foreign dissidents in the UK Mar '01; objected to BBC radio reference to Jerusalem as "Israel's capital", noting that almost the entire international community saw Israel as in occupation of East Jerusalem Mar '01; welcomed the principle of International Criminal Court, but objected to US opt-out Apr '01; was re-elected with a 12,958 majority on a 6.4% swing to the LibDems June '01; saw US national missile defence system as "fundamentally undermining the whole nuclear disarmament process" July '01; opposed dispersal of asylum seekers, ripped off by b-&- b landlords with continual changes of address causing their children to drop out of the school system July '01; protested imprisonment without trial of 1,700 asylum seekers, an increase from 800 in '96 July '01; opposed Commons Select Committees "appointed by the Executive" and not by "non-office-holding backbenchers", but the Speaker refused to call his amendment seeking delay pending consultation July '01; queried that "PFI finance in public services is manna from heaven, money from God- knows-where that will give us the shining new building on the hill"; "the reality is we are storing-up an enormous charge for future generations" July '01; attacked "sectarian harassment and intimidation" of Catholic schoolchildren and parents in north Belfast as "reminiscent of Arkansas in the 'sixties" Sep '01; led call for self-determination for Western Sahara Sep '01; he claimed President Bush's post 9/11 declaration that 'this is a war between civilisation and the rest of the world', "parroted by the worst aspects of the British media, becomes an open sesame for nasty racists on the streets of inner London to have a go at anyone they believe to be Islamic" Oct '01; voted for the dismissal of Transport Secretary Stephen Byers' aide Jo Moore who had sought to "bury bad news" under 9/11 Oct '01; voted against the bombing of Afghanistan Nov '01; again voted against the increase in the business franchise in the City of London Nov '01; voted against the Anti-Terrorism Bill allowing internment without trial Nov '01; welcomed Bill restoring British citizenship to citizens of British dependent territories, and raised issue of right-of-return of Indian Ocean islanders to

Diego Garcia, leased to the US Nov '01; querying proposal to give police power to compel removal of disguises, he asked if his beard would be forcibly shaved Nov '01; voted against a ban on incitement to religious hatred as stifling free speech and legitimate debate Nov '01; he defended allocation of Commons offices to the four abstentionist Sinn Fein MPs Dec '01; claimed "the fundamental injustice of the Palestinian people" was "at the heart of much of the world's problems especially in the context of the war on terrorism" Dec '01; voted against compulsory ID cards Jan '02; led condemnation of Indian nuclear test Jan '02; voted against abolition of independent NHS patients' watchdog Community Health Councils Jan '02; co-signed GUARDIAN letter dubbing the Euro a "costly distraction" Jan '02; called on Government to "invest massively in expanding the social rented [housing] stock" in London Feb '02; voted to require faith schools to take 25% of pupils from families of other faiths or no faith Feb '02; sought the reporting to the Commons for debate and vote every Ministerial action under the Royal prerogative Feb '02; welcomed election of Leftwinger Bob Crow as RMT General Secretary Feb '02; protested imprisonment of Indian writer Arundhati Roy Mar '02; opposed US new nuclear weapons programme Mar '02; urged Arriva trains to "invest in its workforce" rather than "line the pockets of its shareholders" Mar '02; warned of British troops in Afghanistan getting involved in a "very long and very serious civil war" Mar '02; welcomed EU Parliament's opposition to Indian caste discrimination Mar '02; led criticism of Malaysian Government's detention of opposition leaders Apr '02; opposed Labour Party donor Richard Desmond because of pornographic publications from which he made his money May '02; voted against war in Iraq Sep '02; urged civilian control of Indonesian armed forces to curb their activities in West Papua and Aceh Oct '02; he rebelled serially against the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Bill, opposing exclusion of asylum seekers' children from mainstream schools, opposing deportation of asylum seekers found guilty of serious offences, and voting against the refusal of financial support for late-claiming asylum seekers Nov '02; he claimed UN Security Council resolution 1441 had been obtained under US pressure, that the US since 9/11 had encircled Russia, the Caspian oil basins and the Middle East with bases, and was spending more on defence "whilst unable to provide health care for 40 million ordinary poor American citizens" - and voted again against a war in Iraq Nov '02; he described the impending war in Iraq as "fundamentally about American commercial interests" Dec '02; he voted again against war in Iraq Jan '03; he claimed Turkish troops were poised to invade Iraqi Kurdish areas once the US invaded from the south and voted again against war in Iraq; he claimed the "perverted form of Islam" preached in the Finsbury Park mosque in his constituency "has zero support in the area and the local Muslim community" Mar '03; in a further debate on Iraq he claimed "fifty years of arming, financing and not condemning Israel and allowing it to possess nuclear weapons" were contributory factors to the destabilisation of the whole political process in the Middle east" and voted once more against war in Iraq Mar '03; he voted against foundation hospitals May '03; he voted against an enforced settlement in the firemen's strike May '03; he voted against jury trial curbs May '03; he voted against abolition of double jeopardy May '03; he voted for an independent inquiry into the use of intelligence to justify war in Iraq June '03; he voted against topped-up university fees June '03; he voted again against foundation hospitals July '03; he voted against the Government's welcome to a draft EU constitution July '03; he voted again for an independent inquiry into the use of intelligence to justify war in Iraq July '03; at the Campaign Group's conference-fringe meetin, he expressed distaste at having to travel to Bournemouth on a train full of corporate lobbyists, wondering "why we hold a conference for their benefit?" Sep '03; in a GUARDIAN letter he co-urged a referendum on the EU draft constitution Oct '03; he voted against the Government's Higher Education Bill Jan '04;

Born: 26 May 1949 , Chippenham

Family: Son, David Benjamin Corbyn, electrical engineer, and ????? (?Maiden?), a maths teacher at Stafford Grammar School for Girls, both Labour Party members; his equally hard-

Left brother, Andrew, was an oil expert in Mozambique; his brother Piers was a well-known London squatters' leader in the '60s; m 2nd Claudia (Bracchitta), d of anti-Pinochet Chilean exiles; they separated '97 but still shared the same house, following her insistence on Queen Elizabeth grammar school in Barnet for Benjamin, their eldest son; two other sons, Sebastian '88, Tommy '92 (one born while he was lecturing to NUPE members elsewhere in the same hospital);

Education: Castle House Preparatory School; Adams Grammar School, Newport, Shropshire; North London Polytechnic (did not complete degree);

Occupation: Formerly Sponsored by UNISON (ex-NUPE): #600 p a to constituency, 60% of election expenses and #100 for his office expenses) '83-95; Director, of Campaign Group News Ltd (publisher of SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN GROUP NEWS '93-, Red Rose Labour and Socialist Club (unremunerated) '93-, Blackstock-Highbury Vale Trust (unremunerated) '93-; Shareholder, in Hornsey Labour Party Premises Society Ltd (no dividend received); Joint Owner, of freehold of property in London N19; ex: NUPE Area Officer 75-83; Researcher: for AEU (APEX) '73-75, Tailors Union '71-73;

Traits: Slight; bearded; "his bearded and flint-like features appear to have been carved from rock, after the brutalist manner of early Socialist Realism; he never smiles" (Matthew Parris, TIMES); he "may have a rollicking sense of humour, though I have never heard it in public" (Simon Hoggart, GUARDIAN); "solemn, bearded and intense", "gaunt and stricken", "like some Renaissance Crucifixion" (David McKie, GUARDIAN); "I started wearing a beard when I was 19 and living in Jamaica; they called me `Mr Beardman'"(JC); in Jan '02 he won the Beard Liberation Front's Beard-of-the-Year Award, beating Rolf Harris; "whilst most of his chums have all moderated their views, dumped their corduroy jackets and grey suits, shaved their beards, and quietly cancelled their CND subscriptions, [he] has hardly changed a bit; he is the Fidel Castro of London N1" (Robert Hardman, DAILY TELEGRAPH); "Cor bin-Laden" (Labour Whip's notation); bitter- tongued; manipulative; "he can be so nice, but when he thinks he's right about something important, he becomes a different person" (Labour MP-colleague); a "spray-on proletarian" (Edward Pearce, DAILY TELEGRAPH); formerly "the nearest thing Parliament has to a Greenham Common man"; his new "red jacket...burns like a beacon" (Max Davidson, DAILY TELEGRGRAPH); "I dress in a comfortable and casual style in which I feel best able to serve my constituents"; cyclist ("I have had the same bike since I was 12"); vegetarian; formerly very close to Diane Abbott;

Address: House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA; 16 Turle Rd, London N4 3LZ (home); 129 Seven Sisters Road (office);

Telephone: 0207 219 3545 (H of C); 0207 263 7538 (home); 0207 263 9450 (office);