

P1065 Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party

RECORDS' IDENTITY STATEMENT

Reference number:	GB1741/P1065
Alternative reference number:	
Title:	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party
Dates of creation:	1949-2014, n.d.
Level of description:	Fonds
Extent:	1 box
Format:	Paper, photograph, cardboard

RECORDS' CONTEXT

Name of creators:	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party
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Administrative history:	<u>Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party</u>
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The Scottish Labour Party was formed in 1888 by Keir Hardie and Robert Bontine Cunninghame Graham.

The Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party, now the Caithness, Sutherland and Ross Labour Party (2025) campaign for the Labour Party in the north of Scotland.

Canisbay Branch of the Caithness and Sutherland Constituency Labour Party

Formed in 1924, Canisbay was the first branch in the constituency and possibly the only one North of Perth at that time.

Colin Mackay

Colin Mackay was the Labour Party Canisbay Branch Secretary for 11 years and was responsible for persuading some leading Government members to speak at the annual dinner. This was in the time that Robert MacLennan was the Local MP (1966-2001).

The visits of the Labour Ministers took the form of appearances at local businesses and these feature in the press cuttings within the collection.

Latterly, Colin was one of the main supporters of the Arthur Yates Memorial Shield presented to the Thurso High School pupil showing most promise in Modern Studies.

Past Winners of the award include:

2004 – Andrew Douglas
2005 – Laura Taylor
2006 – Clare Mackie
2007 – Heather Morris
2008 – Debbie Ginniver
2009 – Mathew Clyne
2010 – Louise Usher
2011 – Aileen Banks and Sophie Nestor
2012 – Paul Ferrier
2013 – Michael Stone”
2014 – Megan Mackay
2015 – Meegan Anderson
2016 – Marc Deighan
2017 – Declan Gunn
2018 - Chloe Trueman
2019 - Niall Sinclair
2020 - Fara Donald
2021 - Katie Chambers
2022 - Caitlin Gunn
2023 - Charlize McPhee
2024 – Callum Prideaux.

Custodial history:

Deposited by a Labour Party member

RECORDS’ CONTENT

Description:

Minute books, photographs, newspaper clippings and other papers related to the Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party

Appraisal:

Accruals:

None expected

RECORDS’ CONDITION OF ACCESS AND USE

Access:

Open

Closed until:

Access conditions:

Standard conditions apply

Copying:

Copying permitted within standard
Copyright Act parameters

Finding aids:

Available in Archive searchroom

ALLIED MATERIALS

Related material:

Publication:

Notes:

Date of catalogue:

May 2025

Ref.	Description	Dates
P1065	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party	1949-2014, n.d.
P1065/1	Minute Books	1949-1985
P1065/1/1	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party Minute book (1 volume)	1949-1956
P1065/1/2	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party Minute book (1 volume)	1964-1967
P1065/1/3	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party Minute book (1 volume)	1967-1975
P1065/1/4	Caithness and Sutherland Divisional Labour Party Minute book (1 volume)	1975-1985
P1065/2	Photographs	1974-2014, n.d.
P1065/2/1	Two 'Dinner Dance' tickets and two black and white photographs of group mounted on white card, with accompanying typed text that reads; 'In 1974 the Canisbay Branch of the Caithness and Sutherland Constituency Labour Party decided to hold a Dinner Dance to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the branch, which was formed in 1924. Canisbay being the first branch in the constituency and possibly the only one North of Perth at that time. Robert MacIennan MP was asked to get a guest speaker and he was able to get Edward Short,	29 Mar 1974

	<p>Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. A memorable evening was enjoyed so much that it was decided to hold an annual Dinner Dance in future years.</p> <p>The photo is a group photo taken at the dinner Dance, which was held at the Sea View Hotel, John O'Groats.</p> <p>Back row: Ian Angus, Larry Thomson, M. Manson, Elna Davidson, Chrissie Manson, Peter Miller, Lorraine Miller, Helen Sinclair, Ian Banks, Robert Dundas, Alex Green, Alastair Ham, James Sinclair, Donnie Manson, Mitchel Bain, Margaret Angus</p> <p>Middle row: Colin Mackay, John Dunnet, William Stewart, Hugh Gunn, Lottie Green, Walter Manson, James Davidson, Alex Bremner, Marcus Sutherland, Peggy Bremner, William Macdonald, Margaret Mackay, Georgina Gunn, Charles Manson, Helen Ham.</p> <p>Front row: Mary Banks, John Green, Helen MacLennan, Edward Short, Donald Nicolson, Robert MacLennan, Mrs Short, Isobel Dunnet, Isaclene Manson.</p> <p>Donald Nicolson was the only founder member present.' (4 items)</p>	
P1065/2/2	<p>Black and white photograph mounted on white card, with accompanying typed caption;</p> <p>'John Dunnet, Branch Chairman, presenting Edward Short with a set of Caithness Glass Glasses' (2 items)</p>	1974
P1065/2/3	<p>Black and white photograph mounted on white card, with accompanying typed caption;</p> <p>'A Double Take' (2 items)</p>	1974
P1065/2/4	<p>Black and white group photograph, mounted in white cardboard card, with typed caption on back;</p> <p>'The 1975 Dinner Dance was held in the John O'Groats House Hotel. Dr David Owen, who was Minister of Health at the time, was the guest speaker.</p> <p>This is the only photograph of this function' (1 item)</p>	1975
P1065/2/5	<p>Black and white group photograph, with accompanying typed caption;</p> <p>'William Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland was the guest speaker at the 1976 Dinner Dance. He was possibly the best after dinner speaker to attend our functions. His wit and humour was out of this</p>	1976

	<p>world, a totally different person as to when he appeared on television giving interviews. He was the only speaker to get a standing ovation.</p> <p>Group photo taken at the Dinner Dance' (2 items)</p>	
P1065/2/6	<p>Black and white photograph, with accompanying typed caption;</p> <p>'Canisbay veteran Donal Nicolson (Danny) meets William Ross, Scottish Secretary. Looking on from left are Robert MacLennan MP, Colin Mackay (Branch Secretary), Alastair Ham (Vice Chairman), John Dunnet (Chairman).</p> <p>Michael Foot, Deputy Leader, was to be the 1977 guest speaker, but owing to a government crisis he was unable to attend. Hence the reason there are no photos' (2 items)</p>	1976
P1065/2/7	<p>Black and white photograph of smartly dressed woman presenting item to William Ross at a dinner table, accompanying typed caption reads;</p> <p>'I think the girl presenting William Ross with a gift is Wick Labour Party's Valentine Queen. Also in the picture from left are Robert MacLennan MP. Helen Ham. Margaret Mackay' (2 items)</p>	1976
P1065/2/8	<p>Black and white group photograph with accompanying typed caption;</p> <p>'The guest speaker for the 1979 Dinner Dance was the Rt Hon. Peter Shore MP. Secretary of State for the Environment.</p> <p>Group photo taken at this function' (2 items)</p>	1979
P1065/2/9	<p>Black and white photograph mounted on white card, with accompanying typed caption;</p> <p>'Liz Cornwall, Secretary of the Wick Branch of the Labour Party presenting Peter Shore with a Caithness Glass Vase.</p> <p>Looking on, left to right: John Dunnet, Canisbay Branch Chairman, Helen MacLennan, Robert MacLennan MP, Alastair Ham, Vice Chairman, Colin Mackay, Secretary' (2 items)</p>	1979
P1065/2/10	<p>Two 'Dinner Dance' tickets, one Social Gathering ticket and a black and white photograph of group mounted on white card, with accompanying typed text that reads;</p> <p>'The guest speaker for the 1980 Dinner Dance was the Rt Hon James Callaghan MP, Leader of the Opposition. Sad to say this was to be our last Dinner</p>	14 Mar 1980

	<p>Dance as by the time the 1981 Dinner Dance was to take place Robert MacLennan had defected to what is now known as the LIB/Dems.</p> <p>Group photo taken at this function' (5 items)</p>	
P1065/2/11	<p>Black and white photograph mounted on white card with accompanying typed caption that reads;</p> <p>'Rt Hon James Callaghan MP taken at the 1980 Dinner Dance with a group of Dounreay Employees.</p> <p>Back L/R: Alastair Hinds, Greg Kaser, Arthur Yates, Owen Pugh, Alastair Ham, Unknown, Roger Saxon.</p> <p>Front: Colin Mackay, George Sutherland, Margaret Hinds, James Callaghan, Cyril Digby-Grant, Robert MacLennan MP' (2 items)</p>	14 Mar 1980
P1065/2/12	<p>Three colour photographs of three gentleman attaching a trailer with a sign that reads 'For a New Scotland, Scottish Labour' to a white car (3 items)</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/13	<p>Colour photograph of two gentleman in suits, smiling at the camera, gentleman on the left is Peter Mandelson (1 item)</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/14	<p>Two black and white photographs of gentleman in suits sitting around a boardroom table, with paperwork and promotional material on the table in front of them (2 items) [one of the gentleman is James Hendry and another is Donald Dewar]</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/15	<p>Colour photograph of John Prescott shaking hands with a group of similarly well attired individuals (1 item)</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/16	<p>Colour photograph of Councillor Roger Saxon, Catherine Stihler (MEP) and Councillor Deidre Steven (Mackay) out the front of Dounreay (1 item) [stamp on back reads UKAEA Copyright, Reference No. K7010/2176]</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/17	<p>Colour photograph of Councillor Roger Saxon, Catherine Stihler (MEP) and Councillor Deidre Steven (Mackay) and unidentified male, out the front of Dounreay (1 item) [stamp on back reads UKAEA Copyright, Reference No. K7010/2177]</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/18	<p>Colour photograph of a stage with Joan Aitken, Donald Dewar and Tony Blair speaking (1 item)</p>	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/19	<p>Colour photograph of Arthur Yates and Joan Yates (1 item)</p>	c.1980-1990s

P1065/2/20	Colour photograph with label on back; 'In Wick, David ? and James Hendry' (1 item)	c.1980-1990s
P1065/2/21	Colour photograph with label on back; '2 August '97. Ben Hope, Sutherland. Campaign for a Scottish Parliament. L to R. James Hendry, Deidre Mackay, Caroline Saxon' (1 item)	2 Aug 1997
P1065/2/22	Colour photograph of Catherine Stihler and Deidre Steven holding a cheque for £10 million (1 item)	1999
P1065/2/23	Colour photograph presented in brown cardboard embossed card, of Andrew Douglas receiving the Arthur Yates Memorial Shield from rector John Inkster, Cyril Digby-Grant, Craig Omand and Colin Mackay and accompanying newspaper clipping (2 items)	2004
P1065/2/24	Two colour photographs presented in brown cardboard embossed card, of Laura Taylor receiving the Arthur Yates Memorial Shield from rector John Inkster, Cyril Digby-Grant, Craig Omand and Colin Mackay (2 items)	2005
P1065/2/25	Colour photograph presented in white cardboard embossed card, of Louise Usher receiving the Arthur Yates Memorial Shield from Cyril Digby-Grant, also present are Colin Mackay, Craig Omand and Roger Saxon, with accompanying colour photocopy of newspaper article (2 items)	2010
P1065/2/26	Colour photograph of Megan Mackay receiving the Arthur Yates Memorial Shield from Cyril Digby-Grant, with Craig Omand, Colin Mackay, Roger Saxon and unidentified male present (1 item)	2014
P1065/2/27	Colour photograph presented in brown cardboard embossed card, of unidentified female student receiving the Arthur Yates Memorial Shield from Cyril Digby-Grant, also present are Colin Mackay, Craig Omand and Roger Saxon (1 item)	n.d.
P1065/2/28	Three black and white photographs (one mounted on white card) with caption on back, 'Robert MacIennan presenting Colin Mackay with an engraved tankard. Colin was retiring as branch secretary after 11 years service' (3 items)	n.d.
P1065/2/29	Two black and white photographs, one mounted on white card, with accompanying caption; 'Joey Murray of Rogart, Sutherlandshire, being presented with a watch for her sterling services to	n.d.

	the Caithness and Sutherland Constituency Labour Party L/R Donnie Findlay, Robert MacIennan, Joey Murray, Roger Saxon, Craig Thomson' (3 items)	
P1065/2/30	Two black and white photographs with accompanying caption that reads; 'Prime Minister Harold Wilson's visit to the Constituency. I think this photo was taken in what was then the Station Hotel, Wick.' (3 items)	n.d.
P1065/3	Various	1978-1980, n.d.
P1065/3/1	Newspaper clipping taken from 'Atom News' with heading 'Fast Reactors – No Doubt about Britain's Lead' and accompanying typed caption that reads; 'The guest speaker for the 1978 Dinner Dance was John Cunningham, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Energy. How there are no photos of this function other than the newspaper ones, I cannot explain' (2 items)	Apr 1978
P1065/3/2	Typed letter addressed to Mr Saxon from Rt Hon James Callaghan MP, regarding his wife and him attending the Dinner Dance on the 14 Mar 1980 (1 item)	21 Sep 1979
P1065/3/3	Numerous newspaper clippings from various publications regarding Mr James Callaghan's visit to Caithness (10 items)	Mar-Apr 1980
P1065/3/4	Typed document titled 'Colin Mackay,' containing details about Colin and the collection (1 item) [information is presented in Administrative History]	n.d.