NEWS RELEASE 2/10/17

CELEBRATING THE MOST SUCCESSFUL BRITISH PRIME MINISTER OF 20TH Century

Marking life of Clement Attlee at a two-day festival, 7-8 October, 11am-9pm
Sands Films Studios, 82 St Marychurch Street, Rotherhithe, London SE16 4HZ

Join actors, film-makers, biographers and academics for Attlee Remembered, a unique exploration of the life of a modest yet great British Prime Minister – voted the most successful British prime minister of the 20th century by more than one survey¹ – who died 50 years ago this weekend.

The organisers of Attlee Remembered believe Attlee is a man who needs discovering. At Gallipoli he was last but one to leave the beaches and during the Spanish Civil War he fought to send aid to the anti-fascist brigades. In 1945, his role as Churchill’s wartime deputy and his responsibility for Britain’s war economy led him to electoral victory in his own right, and to launching the most transformative social reform programme of the 20th century. It included the NHS and National Insurance; Childcare, Maternity and Disability benefits; Legal Aid, Town Planning and National Parks.

Deborah Burton, Attlee Remembered organiser, says: “The wider public deserves to know much more about the man who did more to improve the lives of millions than any other Prime Minister – a legacy that continues to this day in the form of the NHS and many other rights he enshrined in law. He embodied the ‘policy over personality’ dedication to political life and public service, often lampooned in the press of the day. But he would be deeply saddened to see the erosion of so much that he set in motion. He came into politics to see an end to poverty.”

“On this, the 50th anniversary of his death, we want to say ‘thank you’ to Clem Attlee. A shy man with a deep love of poetry, he had great political courage and determination. Britain would be a much poorer place without him.”

Saturday talks highlights include ‘Attlee Then and Now’ with Ken Loach and Attlee biographer Francis Beckett (1pm); screening and discussion ‘Spirit of 45 (3pm); Sunday highlights include ‘What makes a great Labour leader?’ with Melissa Benn, Rachel Holmes (1pm); Attlee Social Worker Before Prime Minister (3pm) and closing Sunday evening performance ‘In Clem’s Own Words’ with Adjoa Andoh, Richard Attlee, Jeremy Hardy, Kika Markham (7pm).

The venue is Sands Films Studios, on the river at historic Rotherhithe. Tickets booked on Eventbrite (search Attlee Remembered) https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--london/attlee-remembered/
Films free, talks £3 and Sunday theatre £5. A £10 weekend pass is available through the Box Office 020 7231 2209

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¹ See https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers/clement-attlee
For more information, please contact Deborah Burton, 07779 203455 Deborah@tippingpointnothsouth.org

3. Tickets - films are free, talks £3, Sunday theatre £5, weekend pass £10. Call Box Office 020 7231 2209. To book visit: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--london/attlee-remembered/
4. Full programme, visit: https://attleenation.org/2017/09/12/attlee-remembered-programme/
5. Attlee Remembered aims to appreciate and value the enormous contribution made by Clem Attlee to British society, up to the present day, through the implementation of the most wide-ranging set of radical domestic policies that, under his leadership, transformed British society after 1945. Although Britain was bankrupt after WW2, the Attlee government managed to introduce the NHS and National Insurance and Social Security, the Childcare Act, disablement and maternity benefits and a Legal Aid Act. His administration brought in the Town and Country Planning Act and National Parks Act. One million homes and 1,000 schools were built, and 25,000 new teachers hired. He also nationalised many post-war, broken industries such as rail, coal, gas, electricity, water. In 2004, a Mori/Leeds University poll of 139 British political scientists and historian ranked Attlee the greatest Prime Minister of the 20th Century.
6. Picture courtesy of the National Portrait Museum (Ref INF 14/19)
   The Times and other surveys
8. Attlee Remembered is a project of Tipping Point North South, a non-profit organisation that works in documentary, events and campaigns. Visit: www.tippingpointnorthsouth.org