

Come to Socialism 2010

The Socialism event on 6-7 November is a must for every trade unionist, socialist and campaigner. It is a brilliant opportunity to discuss socialist ideas in a great atmosphere. There are sessions to interest everyone and two inspiring rallies. Accommodation is available and there's a party on Saturday evening. Book your tickets now at www.socialism2010.net or ring 020 8988 8777. Tickets cost £25 for the weekend (£12 concessions) and one day costs £15 (£7).



MEP Joe Higgins speaks at Rally for Socialism 2009.
photo Rob Emery

Rally for Socialism

6.30pm Saturday 6 November, Friends Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, NW1 2BJ

Speakers include: **Cindy Sheehan**, US anti-war activist, **Matt Wrack**, FBU general secretary, **Alex Gordon**, RMT president, **Andros Payiatsos**, general secretary, CWI Greece, **Peter Taaffe**, Socialist Party general secretary. Rally tickets cost £5.

Party for Socialism

Saturday 6 November.

Doors open 9pm Camden Centre, Judd Street, WC1H 9JE.

Live music, licensed bar, great venue. £2 on door / £1 concession.

Socialism 2010 closing rally: Workers of the world united

3pm Sunday 7 November, Friends Meeting House.

Speakers include: **Joe Higgins** MEP, Socialist Party Ireland, **Yessenbek Ukeshbayev**, Kazakhstan 2012 movement, **Hannah Sell**, Socialist Party, deputy general secretary.

The discussion sessions will be at ULU, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HY. Topics include:

- What is socialism?
- Marxist philosophy - a different way of viewing the world
- Can the cuts be stopped? What strategy do we need?
- Women and the struggle for socialism. Do we need a new 'new feminism'?
- The universities - stronghold for right-wing theories - can this be changed?
- Greece, Spain, Italy. Them or us? Markets vs. Workers - who will win?
- Human nature: too selfish for socialism?
- Are cuts necessary? What would a socialist budget look like?
- Can we build a new workers' party whilst Labour is in opposition?
- Made in Dagenham. Forty years since the equal pay act - have women won equality in the workplace?
- We will not be a lost generation - youth fight for a future!
- Cuba and the world economy. Where next for the Cuban revolution?
- Can we have socialism and democracy?
- How can we build fighting trade unions?
- How can we defeat the far right?
- How we beat the Tories last time round. Lessons of the poll tax
- Afghanistan and the anti-war movement
- The politics of the environmental movement



Socialist Books will be displaying an impressive stock of literature of interest to socialists and trade unionists. Bring your cash, cheque book or credit card!



WE ARE appealing to all members and supporters of the Socialist Party and to all readers of *The Socialist* for a donation to the Socialism 2010 finance appeal.

Ken Douglas

Socialist Party national treasurer

As we make this appeal, this ConDem government of millionaires is preparing to announce the biggest attacks on public services since the 1920s.

Mass protests have broken out across Europe where cuts have already been implemented, with general strikes in Greece and Spain. In the next few months Greece will come to Britain as the cuts make their impact here and workers begin to resist.

These cuts can be resisted. Thatcher, the so-called Iron Lady, suffered two defeats in the 1980s - against Liverpool City council in 1983-84 and the poll tax mass non-payment campaign which ultimately brought her down.

In the forefront of both these battles were supporters of Militant, the forerunner of the Socialist Party. These campaigns are rich in lessons for today, particularly of building from the ground up, with anti-cuts unions in every area acting as a fulcrum for trade union and community action, building into a democratic and nationally coordinated network.

Fight the cuts

SOCIALIST PARTY members are playing a vitally important role. We are active in protests and demonstrations in every area and in helping to establish and build the anti-cuts unions.

In the trade unions and the National Shop Stewards Network we helped ensure the success of the lobby of the TUC on 12 September, to put pressure on it to call a national demo against the cuts this year. The TUC has reluctantly announced a demo for March 2011 but that isn't soon enough and we have to keep up the pressure - national action can drive the Tories back.

Our ideas and experience can be a vital resource. We must reach as wide an audience as possible with them.

Many people, particularly young people, are looking for an explanation for this capitalist crisis and are

eager to discuss the socialist alternative.

We need your donations to help maximise our opportunities to build support for socialist ideas - to produce the leaflets, posters and other material which are indispensable to our work. We have begun to produce more books and pamphlets, including reproducing some of the classic works of Marxism which are either out of print or need to be in a more affordable format. If you like the look of *The Socialist's* colour pages then we also need to ensure that we can have colour on every page as quickly as possible.

International

PART OF your donation will go towards assisting our international work. The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), which has affiliated parties and organisations in more than 35 countries. Throughout the world members of the CWI are carrying out pioneering work, often in very difficult conditions.

In Pakistan, members of the CWI have been instrumental in building the Progressive Workers' Federation which now has over half a million members. They are currently engaged in raising funds from trade unions around the world and setting up workers' relief committees to provide support for workers and their families whose lives have been devastated by the recent floods.

In Russia CWI members have been brutally attacked and sustained life-threatening injuries for successfully demonstrating to prevent the destruction of greenbelt forests around Moscow; in Kazakhstan CWI members daily risk imprisonment and torture protesting against the brutal regime.

A CWI world congress will be held this year and your donation will help delegates from every section across the world attend the congress, as well as increasing assistance with travel and other costs so they can take part in meetings, protests and demonstrations in their own countries and put forward a socialist alternative.

The Socialist Party depends entirely on donations from ordinary people - your donation, whether it is a few pounds or £50 or £100 or more, is essential to enabling us to put forward a socialist alternative to the future of increasing poverty and misery that capitalism offers.

School students strike in Dover

ASCHOOL student strike took place this week in an academy in Dover. The school has just been turned into an academy with sponsorship from Canterbury Christ Church University, two grammar schools and Kent county council.

Jon Redford and Claire Laker-Mansfield

A student at Dover Christ Church Academy told us: "We went on strike about lunch periods, which had been shortened by 15 minutes and split into two, meaning we have all been split up from our friends. We got a new headteacher when the school became an academy. The old one was popular and listened to students' views."

Police called

"WE ORGANISED the strike on Facebook with a group called 'strike for lunch', adding friends and calling for a walk-out. On 4 October at 11.15am, we walked out en masse with more and more students joining us."

"Our numbers eventually swelled to around 300 students. We chanted: 'We shall not be moved,'

'We want Archers [the name of the school before it became an academy] back' and 'We want lunch-breaks!'

"The police were called to 'restore order'. It is wrong that the police were used - we have a right to protest and make our feelings known!"

Protests will continue

SOCIALIST STUDENTS and Youth Fight for Jobs distributed leaflets explaining that we supported the students' right to protest. We were enthusiastically received by the students who planned another protest, and supported our idea of holding a silent protest on the grass outside the school with placards and banners.

However on the day this didn't happen. The management rounded up the ringleaders and sent them home.

Protests will increase across the country. Cuts and privatisation are what the government has prepared for education across the country, and such protests will increase in response to top-down, heavy-handed tactics.

Socialist campaigners can play a big role in supporting these actions and helping them to be a success.

Huddersfield Join the March Against EMA Cuts

Wednesday 20 October Assemble 12.40pm outside entrance to Greenhead College, Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4ES

Come to our meeting Can we fund a living EMA for all?

Monday 18 October, 5pm downstairs in Cafe Evolution. For more info contact Dexter on 07843994596 or e-mail collegesagaincuts@hotmail.co.uk Join the campaign Facebook group: Huddersfield Colleges Against EMA Cuts

Mansfield Youth Fight for Jobs and Socialist Students Protest against EMA and public spending cuts

Wednesday 20 October, 12.30pm West Nottinghamshire College Chesterfield Road South Mansfield, NG19 7BB

I want to donate/pledge £..... to the Socialism 2010 finance appeal (cheques payable to the Socialist Party)

Name/address:

Tel/email:

Send to: Socialism 2010 appeal, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD