

The fight against cuts continues...

Scotland: potential to build a mass movement

A VERY positive meeting of anti-cuts campaigns and trade unionists took place in Glasgow on Saturday 6 November. The Defend Glasgow Services campaign had invited representatives from anti-cuts campaigns, trade union organisations and community campaigns to the meeting to discuss the setting up of a Scottish anti-cuts alliance/federation.

Philip Stott
Socialist Party Scotland

Anti-cuts campaigns were represented from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, West Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire and Ayrshire.

The PCS civil service union was represented and trade union branches also sent delegates including Dundee Unison local government and Tayside Healthcare Unison. Shop stewards and branch reps from the Unison, Unite and RMT unions were also there. Clydebank trades union council was in attendance as well as Youth Fight for Jobs.

Brian Smith, branch secretary of Glasgow City Unison and the Defend Glasgow Services campaign, emphasised the importance of building the movement based on "opposing all cuts in jobs, public services, pensions and welfare benefits while working to build mass trade union and community opposition to the cuts".

Reports were given from local campaigns on the scale and impact of the cuts and the campaigning already taking place which has included organising local demonstrations, lobbies of councils, public meetings



20,000 people marched through Edinburgh on 23 October.

photo Ray Smith

and mass petitioning.

The hugely successful Scottish Trades Union Congress demonstration of over 20,000 people in October showed the potential to build a mass movement against the Con-Dem savagery. However, an organised campaign with clear aims and a fighting programme is necessary.

A number of contributions explained the importance of organised and coordinated strike action by trade unions. Glasgow Unison has tabled a resolution for the Scottish Unison conference in December calling for the building of a one day coordinated public sector wide strike.

Important discussions took place

on demanding that councils do not make cuts and instead set 'needs budgets' that defend local services.

It was made clear that the involvement of elected politicians was welcomed as long as they pledged to oppose all cuts and vote against all cuts in budget meetings.

There was unanimous support for a resolution that asked for delegates to report back to their campaigns and trade unions with a view to establishing a Scotland wide anti-cuts alliance at a conference in January 2011. A steering committee was agreed, with one person from each campaign, which will help coordinate activity and prepare for the conference in January.

Angry campaigners discuss Stroud fightback

THURSDAY 4 November saw the first anti-cuts alliance meeting in Stroud, which followed an anti-BNP public meeting held a few weeks before. Socialist Party members played a leading role in organising both meetings.

Over 70 people from a wide section of the community, including trade unionists, came to hear Green Party councillor Martin Whiteside, ex-Labour MP David Drew, and Chris Moore of the Socialist Party.

A strongly voiced commitment to fight against the cuts was made by Drew.

Councillor Whiteside and other Green Party members agreed that instead of making cuts the council could set a needs budget. This was in response to Socialist Party members raising the history of the 1983-87 Liverpool council that won £60 million of extra funding from central government.

These are good words from the

local Green Party, but they must be accompanied by real action.

There was palpable anger at the cuts from many in the room, along with discussion of socialist ideas and militant methods to fight them.

We are now building for the Gloucestershire Anti-Cuts Alliance demonstration on Saturday 20 November, which starts at 10.30am at Gloucester Park.

Tom Faraday
Gloucestershire Socialist Party

Building the Socialist Party

Winning new members

THERE HAS been a surge in interest in socialist ideas and the Socialist Party since the Con-Dems announced its latest attacks on working class, middle class and young people in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) on 20 October.

Sean Figg



photo Senan

Scores of people have been interested in joining the party on the many protests and meetings around the country in the days and weeks following the review, while many more have contacted the party by phone, text or via the internet.

There is a general openness to the ideas of socialism and the idea of joining a party to get organised and fight back. The Socialist Party is putting its stamp on events with a clear and bold strategy to fight the Con-Dem cuts, including the party's role in pushing for a national trade union demo in 2010.

In recent months, the Socialist Party has seen a marked increase in people joining the party in every region. Every area has reported new people getting in touch

- workers, trade union activists, young people - who are considering and preparing to join us.

The Socialist Party is now running a special recruitment fortnight. Socialist Party branches around the country should make sure they sign up people who are already convinced and ask those who have been working with us in the anti-cuts campaigns, workplaces, trade unions and colleges and universities, and everyone who attended Socialism 2010 to join the best fighting organisation.

If you are interested in joining the Socialist Party, then please complete and return the slip below, go to www.socialistparty.org.uk/join, phone 020 8988 8777 or text 07984 027 754.

Help fund socialist campaigning

THE SOCIALISM 2010 finance appeal raised over £30,000 at the inspiring Saturday night Rally for Socialism. The rally showed that Socialist Party members are at the heart of the mounting fightback against the Con-Dem government of millionaires and the demonstrations and protests that have been taking place in every area.

Ken Douglas
Socialist Party national treasurer

The Tories and Lib Dems have millionaire and billionaire big business backers but we rely on the support of ordinary working class people.

The way that our members and supporters responded to the appeal showed their confidence in the party's analysis and strategy for fighting the cuts and their understanding of the importance of having the finance to fund our campaigns.

Some of the pledged donations, amounting to thousands of pounds, came from redundancy

payments and the proceeds of a flat sale. The bulk of the money came from the £5, £10 and £20 notes from the hundreds attending the rally and those who couldn't make it on the night.

But we won't stop there! On 1 December Socialist Party members will be launching a Christmas collectathon, hitting the streets and building support for a national demo against the cuts, raising the finance to fund our campaign and all the leaflets, posters and other material that will be needed. This will also be the ideal time for Christmas parties, raffles and other fundraising activities.

If you haven't yet donated to the Socialism 2010 appeal it's still not too late! The appeal will be running all this month so you can pledge now and redeem it by 30 November - with your help we could raise even more. You can donate at www.socialistparty.org.uk/donate (please label your donation as 'Socialism 2010 appeal') or telephone 020 8988 8777.

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www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson

Walthamstow Socialist Party meeting
How can we defeat tuition fees?
Thursday 11 November, 7.30pm
William Morris Community Centre,
Greenleaf Road, London E17 6QQ

Reading Socialist Party meeting
How to fight the cuts
Thursday 18 November, 7.30pm
Pakistan community centre, Park Hall,
London Road, Reading

Stevenage Socialist Party meeting
How to fight the cuts
Monday 22 November, 8pm
Shephall Community Centre, Shephall
Green, SG2 9XR

Leeds Socialist Party meeting
Liverpool - A city that dared to fight
Monday 29 November, 7.30pm
The Adelphi, 1-3 Hunslet Road, Leeds

Manchester: NSSN-initiated anti-cuts demo
Wednesday 8 December
7.30-10am lobby before council meets
4-6pm demonstration after council meets
Outside Manchester Town Hall, Albert Square

Lincoln Socialist Party meeting
How can we defeat tuition fees?
Wednesday 17 November, 7.30pm
Unison Club, Beaumont Fee, Lincoln

Preston trades council anti-cuts demo
Saturday 20 November, 11am
Preston Flag Market, Preston,
Lancashire

Shropshire Socialist Party meeting
How we beat the Tories last time!
Thursday 25 November, 7.30pm
Hobbs Room, Shrewsbury Library,
Shrewsbury

Nuneaton Socialist Party meeting
The Spanish revolution
Wednesday 8 December, 7pm
Hatters Space community centre, Upper
Abbey Street, Nuneaton

Your area not listed?
Phone 020 8988 8777

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SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	October-December 2010	deadline: 7 January
Eastern	1,200	314	███	
Yorkshire	2,900	737	███	
Wales	2,300	521	███	
Southern	1,200	253	███	
South East	1,000	200	███	
North West	1,200	233	███	
Northern	600	102	███	
South West	1,400	230	███	
East Midlands	1,550	250	███	
West Midlands	2,100	258	███	
London	6,100	371	███	
England & Wales	3,450	52	███	
TOTAL	25,000	3,528		