

# Fighting the cuts after 26 March demo

## Connecting London campaigns

Seventy people, representing 15 London borough anti-cuts alliances, met on Saturday 9 April to "share experiences" and discuss the way forward in fighting the cuts.

Borough campaigns now need to set themselves the task of fighting cut by cut, with protests and occupations, as well as supporting local trade unions taking strike action. The National Shop Stewards Network's resolution to the Trade Union Congress (see page 7) was circulated and it was generally agreed it should be taken up in all borough campaigns and taken around local trade union branches and workplaces.

Some local campaigns questioned whether they should work with the Labour Party now that councillors had voted through the cuts.

As a Socialist Party member from Waltham Forest anti-cuts union, I explained the position that campaign had taken all along: that we welcome anyone who is opposed to the cuts into the campaign and are happy to debate with anyone who defends voting for cuts, but we have resisted giving an uncritical platform or leading position to Labour councillors who were going to vote or had voted for cuts. This position received wide support in the meeting and no one put forward any different views.

As the borough campaigns have only just started to meet together it was agreed that this meeting did not have the authority to take decisions 'on behalf of London', so there were no votes on setting up formal structures at this stage, but there will be further meetings.

Paula Mitchell

## South East anti-cuts school

A South East anti-cuts day school, hosted by Brighton Stop the Cuts Coalition, took place on 9 April. Workshops were on council and education cuts, the economics of the crisis,



Over 500,000 people took part in the 26 March anti-cuts demo photo Paul Mattsson

building local groups and a debate on political representation between the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition, Labour and others.

## NSSN Anti-Cuts Campaign: www.stopcuts.net

Alex Gordon, RMT president, spoke about the need to coordinate industrial action as the next step for the anti-cuts movement, especially over public sector pensions at this stage, as a step towards a general strike. He also called for support for the Youth Fight for Jobs Jarrow to London march in October against youth unemployment, and informed the meeting of the local RMT branch's support for Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

(TUSC) candidates standing in Brighton on a clear no-cuts platform.

The day school helped draw together anti-cuts campaigns from across the region, including Redhill, Surrey, Brighton, Worthing and Lewes. A proposal to set up a coordinating committee to develop anti-cuts work on a regional basis was adopted by the day school.

Jon Redford

## Waltham Forest shows solidarity

On Thursday 7 April the Waltham Forest Anti-Cuts Union (WFACU) held a rally to discuss the next steps in building the fight against cuts after the magnificent 26 March national demonstration.

Speakers included Alex Gordon, RMT trans-

port union president, Paul Callanan, organiser of the Jarrow anniversary march for jobs, and Nancy Taafe, WFACU coordinator.

With around 50 leading local activists in attendance, plans were made to challenge the brutal cuts in the borough and to build for action nationally.

The meeting also supported a protest at Waltham Forest town hall on 13 April, when the council's cabinet decides on cuts to sheltered housing wardens.

The meeting approved the National Shop Stewards Network motion on fighting the cuts, and agreed to take the motion to local trade union branches.

Bob Severn

## Leeds links up against cuts

Around 100 people attended the Leeds Anti-Cuts Convention which had been organised by Leeds Against the Cuts. The workshops showed the links Leeds Against the Cuts had begun to build with community campaigns, with day centre services users addressing the session on Leeds city council's cuts and Leeds Tenants Federation running a workshop on the governments' attacks on housing.

Iain Dalton

## Anti-cuts protests

**'Second Battle of Hastings' anti-cuts march**  
Saturday 16 April, 12.30pm  
Assembling Hastings Pier

**Leeds May Day march for the alternative**  
Saturday 30 April, 11am  
Victoria Gardens, outside Leeds Art Gallery, The Headrow

## Building the Socialist Party

### Fighting fund reaches 135%

Alex Gounelas

Socialist Party fighting fund organiser

The first Socialist Party fighting fund quarter of the year closed in style at 135% of the target. The same quarter last year brought in 101%, so the January-March 2011 quarter saw a particularly impressive result with every region reaching its target.

Praising each branch that went well over target would take up a whole page! However, specific credit goes to: Stevenage Socialist Party on 483% of its target, Nottingham East on 358%, South East Staffordshire branch on 462%, Worcester 263%, Brighton Wednesday 236%, Southampton 235%, Llanelli 232%, Coventry West 229%, Winchester 226%, and Wirral and Chester on 200%.

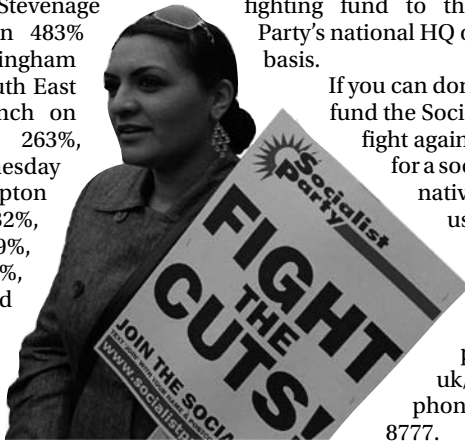
£39 was raised in paper sales extras at the Cannock Chase

miners' reunion in south Staffordshire. £100 was raised in Lewisham from a sponsored swim.

Some branches have had a boost from impressive Socialist Party conference donations, which has gone a long way to help pay for campaigning materials. However, it is still vital that regular campaigning stalls and midweek paper sales bring in the bread and butter fighting fund for every branch.

With local election campaigns now under way, branches should make sure they send in collected fighting fund to the Socialist Party's national HQ on a weekly basis.

If you can donate to help fund the Socialist Party's fight against cuts and for a socialist alternative, please use the form below or go to [www.socialist-party.org.uk/donate](http://www.socialist-party.org.uk/donate) or phone 020 8988 8777.



### Sales of the Socialist increase

Sarah Wrack

The Socialist sales organiser

Sales of the Socialist in January to March reached 81% of the target for the quarter, the highest total for over a year. This is largely due to the hard work of sellers of the Socialist in the anti-cuts campaigns, particularly on the 26 March TUC demonstration where thousands of copies of the anti-cuts special edition were sold.

Up and down the country, more and more people are buying the Socialist as a guide to fighting the cuts and to read about the campaigns around the country and the ideas of socialism. As more people have become aware of and joined the Socialist Party, subscriptions to the paper have steadily increased too.

Many areas have reported higher sales since the demonstration and so we can expect even better results at the end of the April to June quarter. To help achieve that, new style collector's cards have been produced to record sales and a new sales target system has now been launched.

Socialist Party members should



What a good read! photo S Mayo

get in touch to check their branch targets, request extra collector's cards or a copy of the Socialist's pamphlet, It's Your Paper - Getting the Socialist's Message Across, which includes lots of ideas to help increase sales.

If you are reading the Socialist for the first time, why not subscribe so you can get anti-cuts and socialist news every week? Use the form below, go to [www.socialistparty.org.uk/subscribe](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/subscribe) or phone 020 8988 8796.

### Notts anger at Labour cuts

The Nottingham West branch of the Socialist Party has started to hold campaigning stalls in Bulwell, Nottingham where Socialist Party member Charlie Taylor will stand as a Bulwell Forest ward TUSC candidate in the 5 May local elections.

The Labour council plans to slash £33 million this year

On Saturday 10 April the branch held its third stall there in four weeks, petitioning against the Labour-led Nottingham city council's plans to slash £33 million from its budget this year.

One woman explained that her husband's day care costs had rocketed by 75% in recent months. A student explained how the axing of EMA will affect him and that he was keen to get involved with the Youth Fight for Jobs campaign. In 90 minutes, 39 papers were sold with £15 fighting fund raised.

Neil Spencer  
Nottingham West Socialist Party

## Get involved

I'd like to join the Socialist Party  I'd like more information about the Socialist Party

## Donate

I'd like to donate £ to the Socialist Party please make cheques payable to Socialist Party

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## SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	January-March 2011	Final chart
Eastern	1,200	2,386		
East Midlands	1,550	2,732		
North West	1,200	1,773		
West Midlands	2,100	2,970		
Southern	1,200	1,690		
Wales	2,300	3,039		
London	6,100	7,170		
Yorkshire	2,900	3,347		
South East	1,000	1,148		
South West	1,400	1,579		
Northern	600	627		
England & Wales	3,450	5,358		
TOTAL	25,000	33,823		