

# Scotland: Inspiring meetings hear the socialist alternative to cuts

## Socialist Party Scotland

Socialist Party Scotland hosted two successful and inspiring public meetings on fighting the cuts and the case for socialism. More than 70 socialists, trade unionists and young people came along to our meetings in Glasgow and Dundee.

More than 50 people came to the Glasgow public meeting. Clare Daly, Socialist Party TD (MP) in the Irish parliament, explained the savage attacks facing the working class of Ireland.

Clare highlighted that the new Fine Gael/Labour coalition government is carrying out the same brutal austerity measures as the previous discredited Fianna Fáil/Green government. Clare and fellow Socialist Party TD Joe Higgins are helping to build support for a mass movement against the cuts in Ireland.

Janice Godrich, the national president of the PCS civil servants' union, explained the militant approach PCS is taking to fight the cuts.

The meeting discussed standing election candidates committed to opposing all cuts

Brian Smith, leader of the Defend Glasgow Services campaign and Glasgow City Unison branch secretary, exposed the reality of the Scottish National Party (SNP) government's cuts agenda. 18,000 public sector jobs are going in 2011-12



Dundee students walked out of school on 1 April photo SPS

in Scotland. Workers are facing pay cuts and attacks on pensions and terms and conditions.

Brian called for a campaign of co-ordinated strike action against the cuts. The need for political representation was also discussed with the Socialist Party Scotland supporting the idea of a coalition of anti-cuts candidates committed to opposing all cuts at next year's Scottish council elections.

Jamie Cocozza, a member of the Youth Fight for Jobs (YFJ) campaign in Glasgow, outlined the attacks on young people and the campaigning work of YFJ.

Peter Taaffe, the general secretary of the Socialist Party of England and Wales, spoke last. Peter outlined how the world economic crisis has resulted in the capitalist class remorselessly attacking the livelihoods of working class and poor

people. Massive mobilisations of workers and youth have taken place in Greece, Spain and Portugal, and could also take place in Britain.

A lively discussion took place with contributions and questions from those attending the meeting. £360 was collected for the fighting fund. 15 people put their name down to either join or to come to more meetings of the Socialist Party Scotland.

In Dundee, 21 people came along to hear Clare Daly, Peter Taaffe and school student David Mundt speak.

David outlined the work of the Students Defending Dundee Schools (SDDS) campaign that has organised a sizeable campaign against cuts by the SNP council to education funding.

SDDS organised a walkout of hundreds of school students on 1 April. Some school students involved in SDDS were at the meeting.

# Carmarthenshire council day club closure lobby

## Unison member and anti-cuts campaigner

On Wednesday 8 June about 20 people, made up of service users of the Noddfa Teilo Day Club, trade unionists, Llanelli Anti-Cuts Campaign and community activists lobbied Carmarthenshire county council. We were there campaigning to support Rhian Barr who, by collecting 1,700 signatures against its closure, was allowed to address the full council.

First we had to sit through a prayer and then the back slapping of council members who congratulated some local sporting celebrities on their achievements. The council found time to talk about a rugby player's relative's cat that was bitten by a dog. But the council was not prepared to debate the closure when Sian Caiach, from the People First Party, attempted to get the subject discussed after Rhian spoke.

Rhian, aged 75, gave an emotional speech. She criticised the council for the speed and the manner in which the council had closed the day club. Rhian read out some comments from Grace, 91, who uses the day club, and had previously chained herself to the railings of Noddfa Teilo in protest against the closure.

Rhian explained how the day club was a lifeline for many and how

many would not leave their home all week if they were not attending it. She accused the council of off-loading its responsibilities to the voluntary sector without a proper assessment of the needs of the people affected. Rhian called on the council to reverse their decision to close Noddfa Teilo.

This was all filmed by a person in the public gallery. The chair objected to the proceedings being filmed and called the police who arrested the person.

If the Independent/Labour council won't fight the cuts, then they should make way for those that will. We'll make sure that voting for cuts is a lot easier than implementing them.



photo Wales SP

# Dewsbury rejects racist EDL

## Eye witness report

Arriving in Dewsbury on the day of an English Defence League (EDL) march, I was immediately met with an incredibly tense atmosphere. Police vans patrolled round the town centre. Many shops, even large chains, were closed and those that were open had only a few customers visiting.

When the EDL arrived in Dewsbury, people greeted them with jeers and insults, before they moved down to the Unite Against Fascism

(UAF) demo. While there, the EDL continually tried to break their kettle and instigate a fight.

Following both rallies, I made my way back to Leeds. There, by sheer chance I got off my bus right next to where the EDL buses were emptying and immediately heading to pubs in Leeds as the centre swarmed with police. And the EDL were again met with contempt. People even ran out of shops and pubs the EDL entered to let the police know.

People in West Yorkshire showed that they weren't interested in the divisive, racist views of the EDL.

# Caerphilly fighting fund success

## Adam Linsey

Caerphilly Socialist Party is approaching 200% of its fighting fund target, helped by collecting close to £100 in just a week and a half, with over 200 copies of the Socialist also sold in that time.

Donations from the public are gratefully received by one of our many campaigners. Our target is £2,300 for the whole of Wales, and the money is vitally needed to help pay for much-needed leaflets and other material. The branch has re-

cently started to distribute a monthly newsletter.

We did a lot of door-to-door campaigning regarding the cuts proposed by Rhondda Cynon Taff council during the election campaign with members of the branch knocking doors every weekday evening, selling copies of the Socialist and raising fighting fund.

We received a lot of agreement from the general public in our campaign and the branch has agreed to continue to door-to-door campaigning, now against the proposed part closure of two local hospitals.

## Dates for your diary

### Lancashire Socialist Party

#### Preston campaigning event and meeting

Saturday 18 June, starting 10am  
Flag Market, Preston town centre  
Branch meeting at the Black Horse pub, Friargate  
All Lancashire members and supporters welcome  
For more info, email ian.howie@talk21.com

### Stevenage Socialist Party

#### What we stand for

Monday 20 June, 8-9.45pm  
Bedwell Community Centre, Bedwell Crescent, Stevenage  
SG1 1NA

### Bradford Socialist Party

#### NHS, job cuts, pensions strike - how can we unite the fightback?

Tuesday 21 June, 7.30pm  
Equity Centre, 1 Longlands Street, Bradford, West Yorkshire  
BD1 2TP. For more info contact Iain on 07809 839793

### Llanelli and West Wales Socialist Party

#### What next after the 30 June pensions strike?

Thursday 30 June, 7.30pm  
Railway Tavern, Station Road, Llanelli  
Ring Rob on 07541 145 108 for more information

### Cardiff Socialist Party

#### Why sexism is not 'natural'

Tuesday 5 July - call 029 2044 0571 for more details

### Liverpool Socialist Party

#### How to defeat the cuts - the case for socialism

Tuesday 5 July, 7.30pm  
Main hall, The Casa pub, Hope Street, Liverpool L1 9BQ  
Speakers: Peter Taaffe, Socialist Party general secretary; Janice Godrich, PCS president; Dave Nellist, Militant MP 1983-92, now Socialist Party councillor; Tony Mulhearn, Liverpool 47 councillor; Youth Fight for Jobs speaker

### All-London Socialist Party meeting

#### 800,000 strike in Britain - what next in the fight against cuts?

Thursday 7 July, 7.30pm  
Room 3B, University of London Union, Malet Street, WC1E 7HY

## Socialist Party summer camp Bigger and better than ever!

Friday 26 to Monday 29 August

New venue, Epping Forest:

Debden House Centre, Debden Green, Loughton, Essex IG10 2NZ  
Phone 020 8988 8777 for more details and to book your place

www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson

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## SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	April-June 2011					Deadline: 8 July
Wales	2,300	1,893	█	█	█	█	█	█
Yorkshire	2,900	1,919	█	█	█	█	█	█
North West	1,200	733	█	█	█	█	█	█
East Midlands	1,550	888	█	█	█	█	█	█
West Midlands	2,100	1,153	█	█	█	█	█	█
South East	1,000	493	█	█	█	█	█	█
Eastern	1,200	481	█	█	█	█	█	█
Southern	1,200	476	█	█	█	█	█	█
South West	1,400	549	█	█	█	█	█	█
London	6,100	2,047	█	█	█	█	█	█
Northern	600	112	█	█	█	█	█	█
England & Wales	3,450	2,421	█	█	█	█	█	█
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>13,169</b>	█	█	█	█	█	█