

Building the socialist alternative on 30 June

Sean Figg

The 30 June strike was a huge success for the workers striking to defend their pensions and for everyone opposed to the Con-Dem cuts. But 30 June was also a huge success for those putting forward a socialist alternative to 'austerity' and those building the Socialist Party.

Nine Socialist Party members on the PCS civil service union executive and one on the NUT teachers' union executive helped bring this coordinated action about.

In hundreds of schools, colleges and government offices Socialist Party members, alongside their colleagues, helped organise pickets of their own workplaces.

In many towns and cities it was party members who ensured demonstrations and strike rallies were organised, building on the respect and authority won after years of hard campaigning.

Many Socialist Party members not on strike took the day off work in order to visit picket lines and attend rallies and demonstrations in solidarity.

Socialist Party members got an excellent response on all the key points put forward in leaflets and in the Socialist. In particular, on the strategy needed to escalate the action to a full 24-hour public sector strike and beyond if the government does not back down.

Many workers agreed with the need for the trade union movement to break fully with Ed Miliband's 'scabby' New Labour and begin building a new mass workers' party.

Thunderous applause

In town after town Socialist Party speakers put these arguments and received thunderous applause and cheers. Strikers, meeting us for the first time, snapped up leaflets. Many said they wanted to join or find out



On strike in Swansea photo Rob Owen

more about the Socialist Party and filled in 'join' cards. The number of website applications to join the party

has markedly increased.

The Socialist Party is unlike the mainstream political parties. Our

members are activists organising and giving a lead in their own workplaces and communities. We organise democratically and every member has a say in how the party is run.

We believe that organisation is crucial. By being in a party with over two thousand members, organised around a programme, the power of every individual is magnified a dozen times over.

Even if you've never campaigned on anything before, the party will give you the ideas and training you need to start. Individuals become more effective with the support of the party behind them and the party becomes more influential as our banner and ideas reach more and more people through the tireless campaigning of our members.

Get in touch. Join the Socialist Party! Phone 020 8988 8777, email join@socialistparty.org.uk, go to www.socialistparty.org.uk/ join or use the form below.

Pride London No to cuts! No to discrimination!

Greg Randall

Socialist Party LGBT group

Members of the Socialist Party's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) group and London party members took anti-cuts campaigning to Pride London on 2 July.

Pride started off as a political demonstration for LGBT liberation, but it's now a commercialised event with corporate sponsors and contingents there to advertise products. Despite this, there are always people there who want to protest against homophobia and discrimination.

We leafleted and spoke to people to explain how the cuts will have a particularly severe effect on LGBT people. Economic crisis also leads to scapegoating - hate crimes against LGBT people increased by 21% in 2010/11.

Our material was well received, and we sold 40 copies of the Socialist



At the Socialist Party stalls photo Greg Randall

before joining the march alongside trade union contingents and anti-cuts groups such as Queer Resistance and Queers Against the Cuts.

As the fight against cuts develops we'll be making sure that the message goes out into the LGBT com-

munities to build a political movement that will cut across all the commercial dross infecting Pride. We'll be putting forward socialist ideas against capitalist prejudice and big business exploitation, and for LGBT liberation.

Socialist Party youth meeting: Successful and insightful

Nick Hart

Winchester Socialist Party

On Saturday 2 July over 50 young Socialist Party members met in London to discuss the political situation facing young people and how best to get more of them to join the party.

The meeting started with Socialist Party general secretary Peter Taaffe giving a clear and thorough explanation of the roots of the capitalist crisis, the uprisings in North Africa and southern Europe, and how these relate to events in Britain.

After lunch, separate sessions discussed: women and the struggle for socialism; the role of the state; and building the fightback against the cuts. During the final session we heard from members in many different party branches on how we have been able to attract new young people into the party and what needs to be done to further build campaigns that can win for young people.

Throughout the day we discussed the mood to fight back amongst young people, most recently demonstrated on 30 June when 51% of 18-24 people surveyed supported the pensions strike by teachers, lecturers and civil servants.

There was a chance to discuss our work within the growing anti-cuts movement, and the ideas and strategy we should put forward to defeat the government.

There were contributions on the student movement, and the new ideas and tactics that have sprung up, including those of UK Uncut. Party members praised the positive role of this organisation in raising awareness and bringing new people into action against the cuts, and discussed how to help build a mass movement bringing together workers, students and the unemployed.

Overall it was a successful and insightful meeting, which left everyone ready to win wider layers of young people to the ideas of socialism.

Come to the Socialist Party summer camp

August bank holiday 26-29 August

Debden House Centre, Debden Green, Loughton, Essex IG10 2NZ

Political discussions in a relaxed atmosphere, fun for children and adults, camp fires - book now!

Discussions will include: Sport and socialism • Fighting the anti-union laws • The 'Arab Spring' • The world economy • Is society becoming more sexist? • Selling the Socialist • How can we defeat the Con-Dems? • World in revolt

Activities and facilities at the summer camp include: Walks in the woods • Deer park • Crèche • Cycling (bikes for hire or bring your own) • Games • Barbecues • Camp fires • Tents for hire • Meals at a reasonable cost

The new venue at Debden in Epping Forest has everything we need, see www.debdenhouse.com. It is in a beautiful place, but it is also very accessible (ten minutes drive from a tube station) and close to the M11 and M25.

The rates are: waged adult £50, unwaged adult: £25, child £12, fam-

ily £100, day £10.

Even if you haven't got a tent, we can supply them - just bring a sleeping bag - but please book in advance. You can cook for yourself or buy evening meals from the camp kitchen. You will need a plate and cutlery. Tea, coffee and cold drinks will be available all day and there will be a burger bar in the evening.

Tell us how many adults and children you are booking for and the children's ages. Send a £10 deposit to: Summer Camp, Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD. Or ring 020 8988 8782 to pay by card.

Day-Mer festival support for 30 June pensions strike

The 22nd Day-Mer Festival, organised by the Turkish and Kurdish community organisation Day-Mer, took place in Hackney, north London, on 3 July.

Socialist Party members Chris Baugh, PCS assistant general secretary, and Martin Powell-Davies, an NUT executive member, got warm responses to their speeches in the wake of the united strike action of their unions on 30 June which many Day-Mer members took part in.

Youth Fight for Jobs held a stall for the 2011 Jarrow to London march (see page 6 for details) and gave out hundreds of leaflets for the event.

Suzanne Beishon



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SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	April-June 2011				Deadline: 8 July
Wales	2,300	2,607	■	■	■	■	
North West	1,200	1,268	■	■	■	■	
South West	1,400	1,426	■	■	■	■	
Yorkshire	2,900	2,944	■	■	■	■	
West Midlands	2,100	2,120	■	■	■	■	
Southern	1,200	962	■	■	■	■	
East Midlands	1,550	1,170	■	■	■	■	
South East	1,000	580	■	■	■	■	
London	6,100	3,221	■	■	■	■	
Eastern	1,200	590	■	■	■	■	
Northern	600	208	■	■	■	■	
England & Wales	3,450	4,742	■	■	■	■	
TOTAL	25,000	21,844	■	■	■	■	