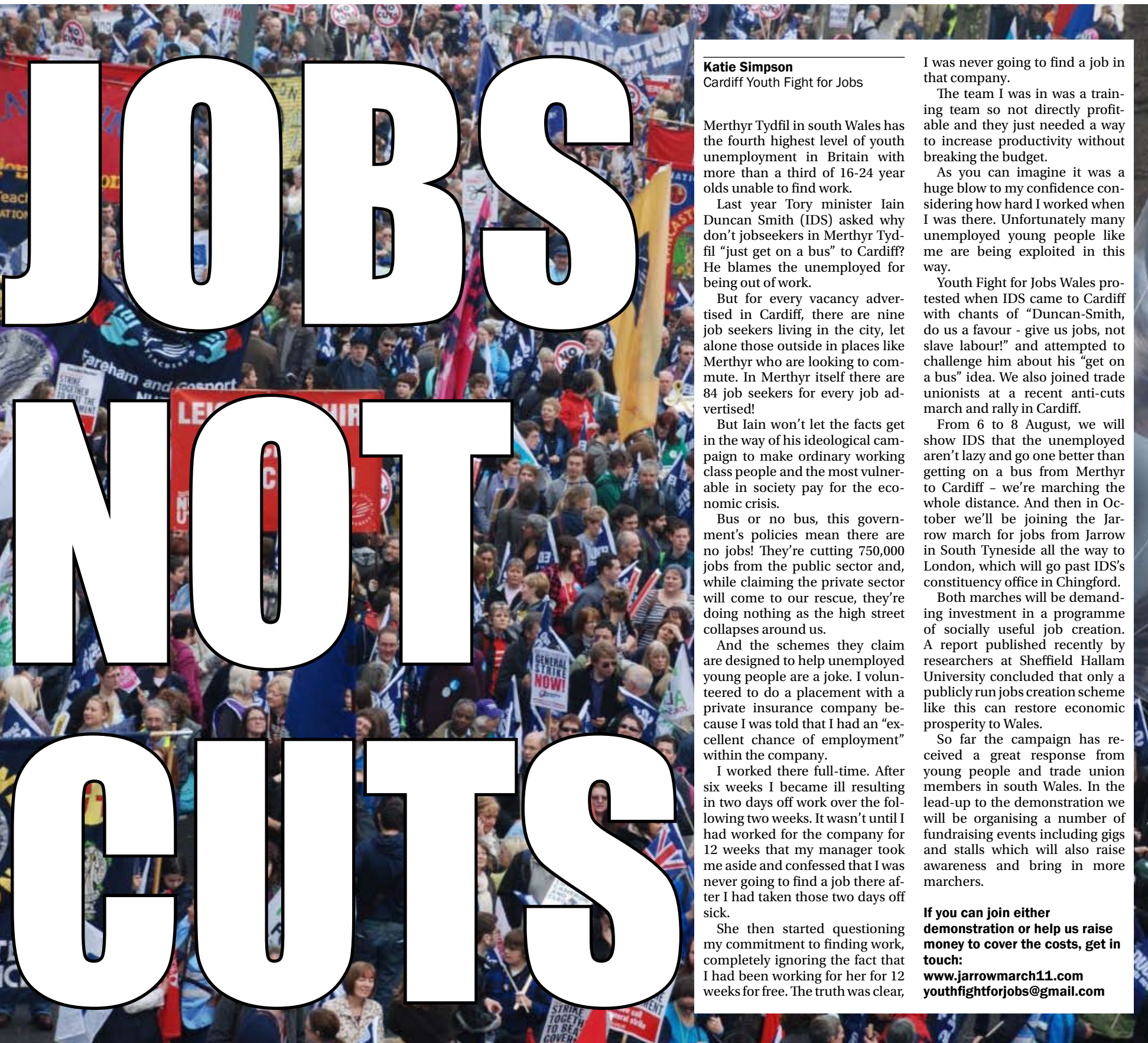


## Con-Dems have no solution to unemployment



**Katie Simpson**  
Cardiff Youth Fight for Jobs

Merthyr Tydfil in south Wales has the fourth highest level of youth unemployment in Britain with more than a third of 16-24 year olds unable to find work.

Last year Tory minister Iain Duncan Smith (IDS) asked why don't jobseekers in Merthyr Tydfil "just get on a bus" to Cardiff? He blames the unemployed for being out of work.

But for every vacancy advertised in Cardiff, there are nine job seekers living in the city, let alone those outside in places like Merthyr who are looking to commute. In Merthyr itself there are 84 job seekers for every job advertised!

But Iain won't let the facts get in the way of his ideological campaign to make ordinary working class people and the most vulnerable in society pay for the economic crisis.

Bus or no bus, this government's policies mean there are no jobs! They're cutting 750,000 jobs from the public sector and, while claiming the private sector will come to our rescue, they're doing nothing as the high street collapses around us.

And the schemes they claim are designed to help unemployed young people are a joke. I volunteered to do a placement with a private insurance company because I was told that I had an "excellent chance of employment" within the company.

I worked there full-time. After six weeks I became ill resulting in two days off work over the following two weeks. It wasn't until I had worked for the company for 12 weeks that my manager took me aside and confessed that I was never going to find a job there after I had taken those two days off sick.

She then started questioning my commitment to finding work, completely ignoring the fact that I had been working for her for 12 weeks for free. The truth was clear,

I was never going to find a job in that company.

The team I was in was a training team so not directly profitable and they just needed a way to increase productivity without breaking the budget.

As you can imagine it was a huge blow to my confidence considering how hard I worked when I was there. Unfortunately many unemployed young people like me are being exploited in this way.

Youth Fight for Jobs Wales protested when IDS came to Cardiff with chants of "Duncan-Smith, do us a favour - give us jobs, not slave labour!" and attempted to challenge him about his "get on a bus" idea. We also joined trade unionists at a recent anti-cuts march and rally in Cardiff.

From 6 to 8 August, we will show IDS that the unemployed aren't lazy and go one better than getting on a bus from Merthyr to Cardiff - we're marching the whole distance. And then in October we'll be joining the Jarrow march for jobs from Jarrow in South Tyneside all the way to London, which will go past IDS's constituency office in Chingford.

Both marches will be demanding investment in a programme of socially useful job creation. A report published recently by researchers at Sheffield Hallam University concluded that only a publicly run jobs creation scheme like this can restore economic prosperity to Wales.

So far the campaign has received a great response from young people and trade union members in south Wales. In the lead-up to the demonstration we will be organising a number of fundraising events including gigs and stalls which will also raise awareness and bring in more marchers.

**If you can join either demonstration or help us raise money to cover the costs, get in touch:**  
[www.jarrowmarch11.com](http://www.jarrowmarch11.com)  
[youthfightforjobs@gmail.com](mailto:youthfightforjobs@gmail.com)

### What we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change - a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

#### Our demands include:

##### Work and income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state

retirement pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstating the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

##### Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs - free at the point of use and under

democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

##### Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

##### Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

##### New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

##### Socialism and internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!