

# Merseyside: 'Going forward with confidence'

## A hundred people cram into Socialist Party public meeting

**Hugh Caffrey**  
North West Socialist Party

Up to 100 people, including Socialist Party members, former members, young workers and retired workers, crammed into the Merseyside Socialist Party public meeting on 5 July. This made a fitting tribute to the 20th anniversary of Liverpool Militant MP Terry Fields being jailed for refusing to pay his poll tax.

The poll tax was prime minister Thatcher's flagship policy, which meant every adult, rich or poor, was charged the same local government tax.

In a campaign led by Militant, the predecessor of the Socialist Party, 18 million people refused to pay, forcing Thatcher to resign and the tax to be abandoned.

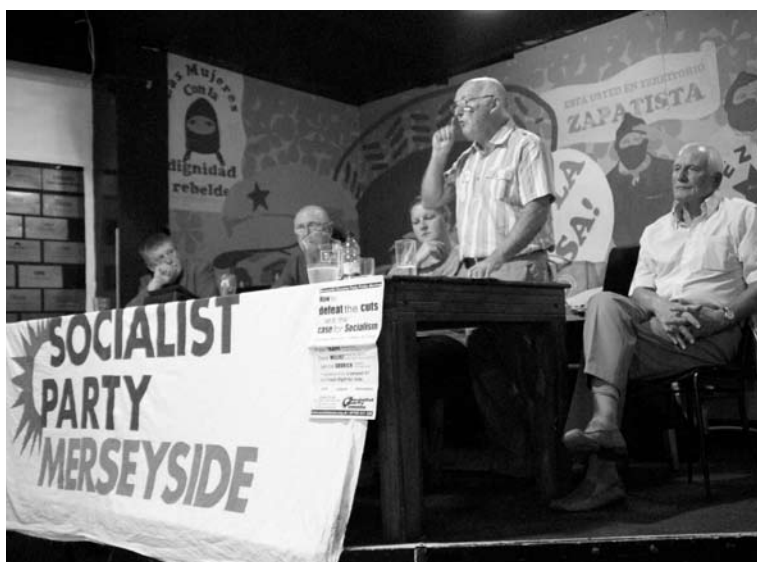
PCS union president Janice Godrich (personal capacity) nailed the myth cultivated by the Con-Dems and media, repeated many times by Labour leader Ed Miliband, that "negotiations" on public sector

pensions are actually taking place between the trade unions and the government. There is no real negotiation, just a Con-Dem blueprint for savaging workers' retirement.

Socialist Party deputy general secretary Hannah Sell speaks on fighting the cuts at a London Socialist Party meeting: [www.socialistparty.org.uk/issue/678/12343](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/issue/678/12343)

Coventry Socialist Party councillor Dave Nellist illustrated working people's will to fight - unlike the politicians! In reality, said Dave, we now have three parties in a 'coalition for cuts'!

Lisa Dempster spoke on the campaign to save Knotty Ash Sure Start. Liverpool Labour council leader Joe Anderson, who has said his council has 'no choice' but to make cuts,



Peter Taaffe speaking at the Merseyside meeting photo Harry Smith

had told Lisa to "understand my position".

Lisa replied: "No Joe, you have to understand my position as a parent who has to explain to her three-year-old daughter why she can't go

to the nursery she loves because you have shut it!"

Alec Price, on behalf of Youth Fight for Jobs, described the all-fronts assault on young people by the Con-Dems. Alec will be taking part in the

2011 Jarrow-London march.

Tony Mulhearn, a leader of Liverpool council's battle against cuts in the 1980s, spoke next. No number of attacks on the record of the 1983-87 council, which refused to make cuts and won £60 million of extra funding from the then Tory government, can obscure the fact that we need that kind of struggle now. A new mass party of the working class is essential.

Peter Taaffe, Socialist Party general secretary, welcomed the meeting as the first such event of this size for many years on Merseyside. Peter said we should go forward with confidence in the battle against cuts.

Inspired by the speakers and our ideas, £360 was donated to the collection and numerous copies of the Socialist paper were sold. Several people agreed to join the Socialist Party, with many more expressing interest in joining.

In closing, the meeting passed a resolution on fighting cuts, which can be read at: [www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/12338](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/12338)

# Support for Jarrow March at the Durham Miners' Gala

**Emily Hammersley**  
Newcastle Socialist Party

60,000 people descended on Durham on Saturday 9 July for the 127th annual Durham Miners' Gala. The Gala sees ex-miners and their communities join with other trade unionists to march through the city centre accompanied by the surrounding pit villages' local brass bands and a proud display of colliery banners.

Despite the closure of all coalfields in Durham, the Gala maintains great popularity, attracting thousands of people every year.

Socialist Party members from all over the North and elsewhere in the country were out in force on the day. Socialist Party, Youth Fight for Jobs and National Shop Stewards Network stalls were a great success.

In particular, the Youth Fight for Jobs' Jarrow March and the Socialist Party's strategies to defeat the cuts attracted a great deal of positive



photo Northern Region SP

interest from members of the public. 130 copies of the Socialist were sold.

Labour leader Ed Miliband cancelled his appearance at the Gala as he refused to appear speaking along-

side RMT transport union general secretary Bob Crow. This has been viewed by many in the traditionally Labour-voting North as a further confirmation that Labour cannot be relied on to fight the cuts.

# Lewisham People's Day not to Lib Dem's taste

A dozen Socialist Party members ran a very successful stall at Lewisham People's Day where tens of thousands attended south east London's biggest free festival.

Our petition calling for a 24-hour public sector general strike went down really well as we met many public sector workers who faced cuts and pensions attacks.

Former Lewisham Socialist Party councillor Ian Page took part in a 'politician's question time' in the Carnival Against the Cuts area. Ian raised the need for councils to oppose cuts and set needs budgets, linking up with lo-

cal trade unions. Despite the clear popularity of People's Day the Lib Dem representative suggested that one cut she agreed with was to end the festival!

Passers by heckled the pro-big business politicians. Their parties' stalls were reduced to bring and buy sales!

We handed out hundreds of leaflets, sold 37 copies of the Socialist and met a number of people interested in finding out more about the Socialist Party.

**James Kerr**

# Fighting Fund hits 111% of target

**Alex Gounelas**  
National fighting fund organiser

The Socialist Party (SP) reached 111% of its national fighting fund target in the April-June quarter. Fighting fund is crucial to ensure a socialist opposition to Con-Dem cuts is provided.

The fighting fund is the money the Socialist Party raises from its members, readers of our paper and the thousands of working class people who support our campaigns and struggles.

Well done to all the regions that smashed their targets: the North West, East Midlands, London, South West, Wales, West Midlands and Yorkshire.

Many donations were collected around the 30 June pensions strike thanks to wide support for the SP's demand for a 24-hour public sector general strike. Large financial contributions were made by, often low paid, trade union members attending Unison and PCS conferences.

Manchester Central SP has found massive support for its call to fight all cuts and in particular NHS cuts and raised over £100 on one Saturday stall.

The two Nottingham SP branches have also done well campaigning against cuts, but also in getting £2 solidarity price from regular buyers of the Socialist which, unlike the Murdoch press, supports workers in struggle. Southampton, Caerphilly, Coventry West, Lewisham and Stoke SP branches have all been doing an especially great job on campaign stalls.

Branches should send fighting fund into the SP centre every week to help keep a better record of how much is left to raise.

In the July-September quarter it is important to keep regular stalls and campaigning activity going, as well as all other fund raising methods, during the summer holidays.

Can you make a donation to get the next quarter off to a good start? Please see the form below, or go to [www.socialistparty.org.uk/donate](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/donate).

## 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

## SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	April-June 2011	Final Chart
North West	1,200	1,670	█	█
West Midlands	2,100	2,731	█	█
Wales	2,300	2,765	█	█
Yorkshire	2,900	3,339	█	█
East Midlands	1,550	1,757	█	█
London	6,100	6,686	█	█
South West	1,400	1,426	█	█
Southern	1,200	1,122	█	█
South East	1,000	655	█	█
Eastern	1,200	628	█	█
Northern	600	223	█	█
England & Wales	3,450	4,806	█	█
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>27,816</b>		

### 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

### Subscribe

12 issues £9  6 months £18  1 year £36  please make cheques payable to Socialist Publications Ltd

Western Europe: 12 issues £16, half year £32, year £50 Rest of world: 12 issues £25, half year £50, year £90

Return slip or pay at [www.socialistparty.org.uk/subscribe](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/subscribe)

Name  
Address and postcode  
tel/email

Return to: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD or phone 020 8988 8777 to pay by card, to arrange a direct debit, or to join.

Credit card No:

Name: Start Date: Expiry Date: Security Code: Issue No: