

**75 years ago 200 unemployed men from Jarrow marched from their home in the North East to London to demand jobs and an end to their poverty conditions.**

**Youth Fight for Jobs is marching their route again to demand:**

- A massive government scheme to create jobs which are socially useful and apprenticeships which offer guaranteed jobs at the end - both paying at least the minimum wage, with no youth exemptions.
- The immediate reinstatement of EMA payments, expanding them to be available to all 16-19 year olds, and the scrapping of university fees.
- The immediate re-opening of all youth services that have been closed, including reinstating sacked staff.
- The scrapping of 'workfare' schemes - benefits should be based on need not forced slave labour.
- A massive building and renovation programme of environmentally sound, cheap social housing.

**To get involved with the march and for updates from the marchers, see the website (opposite), email [youthfightforjobs@gmail.com](mailto:youthfightforjobs@gmail.com) or call 020 8558 7947.**

**See page 12 for details of the 'London leg' and the national demonstration for jobs and education on 5 November.**

# March for jobs

[www.jarrowmarch11.com](http://www.jarrowmarch11.com)

# Coventry: 'The Jarrow March is on its way!'

**Lenny Shail**  
Coventry Youth Fight for Jobs (YFJ) organiser

Coventry was once a city famed for the prosperity of its working class people. It was said you could leave one job in the morning and have another by the evening. Today there are over 10,000 people looking for work, including 3,000 youth.

Over 100 young people, trade unionists and anti-cuts campaigners joined the Jarrow marchers on a demonstration in Coventry on Saturday 22 October. Assembling on Coventry's cathedral steps, the marchers met hundreds of potential Coventry University students on the campus grounds opposite for an open day. These young people will be the first to face £7,500-£9,000 a year fees at the university.

## Public support

Ian Pattison, an unemployed marcher from Leeds, sent the demo on its way with a rousing speech on the need for young people to fight for a future.

The demo made its way through the city centre gathering passers-by and shoppers in support of the marchers' demands and slogans. These included the chant: "Decent jobs on decent pay - the Jarrow March is on its way".

An impromptu stop and short rally at the central fountain brought the city centre and shoppers to a standstill. I appealed for support for the march.

Coventry Socialist Party councillor Dave Nellist gave an inspiring speech to the hundreds who gathered to listen. He highlighted the fight of the heroes of the original Jarrow Crusade 75 years ago. But he also explained the plight so many people in Coventry currently face in terms of poor housing, education cuts and fees, and lack of jobs and services, urging people to support and join the fightback.

Dave pointed out that the main three parties want to put the cost of the economic crisis on the heads of working people. He finished by appealing for people to come to London on 5 November as the Jarrow March finishes.

The demo continued and finished with a packed and bouncing indoor rally with activists from Warwick and Coventry universities and from the PCS, UCU, Unison, TSSA, Unite, NUT, FBU and CWU trade unions.

Ben Sprung, London FBU firefighters' union regional organiser gave support and solidarity, mentioning the scrapping of EMA and tripling of student fees. Raul Lagunas, a local DWP rep gave support from the PCS and highlighted the importance and significance of 30 November. Jane Nellist, joint secretary of Coventry NUT and secretary of

Coventry TUC, said it was a privilege to join with the Jarrow marchers and spoke of the importance of young people joining and getting active in trade unions. She finished by saying: "don't make public sector workers work until they drop - give young people a job and a future!"

Rob Windsor, former Socialist Party councillor, and a local Unison member and Coventry council housing worker gave their solidarity and support for the march's demands for a house building and renovating programme to create jobs and homes.

Sarah Wrack, national press officer for Youth Fight for Jobs, ended the rally with a stirring speech. She explained that YFJ stands in solidarity with all those fighting back including those on the Hardest Hit demos and the Occupy LSX campaign and other movements against cuts across the world.

The night before the demo the marchers were treated to a reception put on by Coventry CWU and were housed by trade unionist and socialist supporters of Youth Fight for Jobs.

The marchers ended the day with fantastic hospitality and food at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Coventry, arranged by local TSSA rail union rep Manjit Gill.



Building the fightback and building solidarity at Occupy LSX



**Paul speaking at the general assembly of Occupy LSX** photo Paul Mattsson

Occupy London Stock Exchange (Occupy LSX) completed its first full week on Saturday. With rumours of impending eviction from St Paul's courtyard flying about a large crowd turned out to support the occupation.

At the general assembly in the afternoon Paul Callanan from Youth Fight for Jobs was among a number of speakers. Paul brought greetings from the Jarrow March. He pointed out that the marchers and the occupiers shared similar aims.

The Jarrow marchers were determined not to become a lost generation. The march itself was just the beginning of their campaign to restore the EMA, put an end to unpaid internships and fight for jobs and a decent future for young people.

A big cheer went up when he put forward YFJ's

New figures show the biggest drop in university applications for 30 years as school leavers show how they feel about the prospect of £50,000 debt. City University in London saw applications drop by 40%. The Sunday Times reported that "teenagers from poorer families are proving more hesitant about applying". YFJ demands free education for all.

total opposition to any university fees.

The Occupy movement itself seems to be spreading. A new encampment has sprung up at Finsbury Square, round the corner from Liverpool Street station in the heart of London's finance district.

**Neil Cafferky**

# Wales takes action to defend young people

"I completely agree - these bankers getting bonuses, while they say EMA is unaffordable." These were the words of an enthusiastic student who met Youth Fight for Jobs (YFJ) campaigners in Swansea on Saturday 15 October.

In the week that saw youth unemployment hit 991,000, the highest level since records began, YFJ supporters in Swansea campaigned at a local FE college. This was followed up by campaigning as part of an all-Wales day of action in the city centre.

15 YFJ members, supported by two Remploy workers, leafleted and petitioned in the city centre, collecting about 150 signatures.

The mood was very sympathetic. One student told us about how she is only paid £3.60 an hour because she is under 18, which shows why YFJ's demand for a living minimum wage with no youth exemptions is so important.

As a result of the action we have potential new YFJ members and several more were keen to join the Jarrow March for Jobs. We also did an interview with the South Wales Evening Post, who printed an excellent report with photos.

**Ben Golightly**

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**£10 (+ £2 p&p)**

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Men's S, M, L, XL, XXL and women's M, L

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or send your order with a cheque made out to 'Youth

Fight for Jobs' to PO Box 858,

London E11 1YG

Students from across Wales gathered at the steps of the Senedd on Saturday 22 October in protest against cutbacks to the Welsh higher and further education systems.

Edmund Schluessel, who convened the event, said: "It's wrong that the Wales Assembly is cutting the NHS Wales budget. It's just as wrong as the Assembly is cutting back on investing in Wales' future by cutting back education.

"If the Welsh government is serious about fighting for the interests of the people it says it represents, it should set a needs budget based on the cost of the public services that working and unemployed Welsh people depend on to get by in life, and hand the bill to Westminster.

"George Osborne can afford it - he just found £75 billion for the banks, after all."

The students met at Cardiff University to discuss a new, united front against education cutbacks with support from universities and colleges across Wales.

**Contact: Edmund Schluessel, 07947 214169 and Ross Saunders, 07766 460366**

The Jarrow marchers' blog is well worth the read. It includes a march diary, updates on the activities of the march and details for the 5 November demo in London.

Here's Alex Moore's rap. He says: "it's a bit of a work in progress, so bear with me."

Bring bring, bring bring,  
Bring bring, BRING BRING  
Tories on the phone,  
Tell them to leave our services alone!

Knock, knock,  
Clegg at the door,  
Tell him we won't take the cuts no more!

Tweet tweet,  
There's a message on twitter,  
The poor are getting poorer, and the rich are getting richer!

Bleep, Bleep,  
You got mail!  
The NHS is not for sale!

Just updated my Facebook status!  
'Why are the government always at us?'

No one stands for you! No one stands for me!  
We need a new mass workers' party!

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