

# Socialist Party 2012 congress appeal Support the fight against all cuts

**Ken Douglas**  
Socialist Party national treasurer

Socialist Party members from branches throughout England and Wales will be meeting at our national congress on 10-12 March to prepare for the battle ahead against the austerity policies of this coalition of millionaires, and how to raise the necessary finance to ensure our party can fight on all fronts.

This movement is putting the politicians under pressure - Labour's Ed Miliband and Tory David Cameron have both been forced to vocally protest at the remuneration packages for RBS executives Stephen Hester and Philip Hampton, who were in line for million pound bonuses.

However, they're not the only ones - the big five banks stand to pay as much as £45.7 million in salary, bonuses and incentive payments to their chief executives.

While we are all expected to tighten our belts, the rich have started dancing again, according to the Daily Telegraph, spending millions on extravagant parties.

The wealth of the richest 1,000 people in Britain has risen by a third in the last year; one of them will be taking delivery of the biggest luxury yacht built in Britain, costing more than £100 million.

This is while thousands of workers are losing their jobs - for example 11,000 RBS workers over the last three years - and facing pay cuts.

## Where's the opposition?

"Tough," was Ed Miliband's response on BBC's Newsnight to low paid public sector workers facing pay cuts. This is how the leader of the Labour Party contemptuously dismisses the shattering effect on the lives of thousands of workers caused by this Con-Dem government's policies. There might as well

be three parties in the coalition!

We need a mass party with a leadership that is prepared to take on big business, the rich and their representatives in parliament, and to challenge the idea that there is no alternative to cuts, to the destruction and privatisation of public services and the welfare state.

The Socialist Party is playing a vital part in this process, in the trade unions, the anti-cuts unions and

American workers fight  
back: Watch Socialist

Alternative member

Bryan Koulouris speak in  
London

[www.socialistparty.org.uk/  
articles/13599](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/13599)

community campaigns, and in developing the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition.

Our analysis shows a way out of this capitalist crisis - the amount of wealth in the world could ensure a decent life for everyone but only if the working class and poor can gain democratic control and ownership over it.

That's why building the Socialist Party and winning people to socialist ideas is so important - and why we need the finance to help us do so. Every donation is welcome whether you are at school, unemployed or on a low wage - it is the spirit in which it is given that is important. If you are working we would like you to consider making a bigger donation.

The Socialist Party is a force for world socialism - help us to reach a bit further with your donation.

**To donate, phone 020 8988 8762, go to [www.socialistparty.org.uk/donate](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/donate) or see the form below (please label your donation 'for congress appeal')**

## Obituary: Gwenda Beishon

Over four decades, from the 1970s until her recent death, Gwenda Beishon was a continuous subscriber to the Militant newspaper and then the Socialist.

Throughout this time she was a left-wing member of Brighton Labour Party, regularly condemning the right-wing leadership of the party. Her father - from a Russian-Jewish family - had emerged from World War One's front trenches to enthusiastically welcome the 1917 Russian revolution and adopt communist ideas, later recruiting her Polish-Jewish born mother to them too.

Gwenda met her future husband John in the communist society at Birmingham University,

but along with many others they came to reject Stalinist ideology and join the Labour Party, which then included many left-wing and Marxist activists.

Gwenda twice served as a Labour councillor in Brighton, but the political activity that she liked most was her unrelenting local activism - leafleting, discussing with people on doorsteps and helping to sort out their problems. She was also an active trade unionist in the NUT teacher's union.

Gwenda will be remembered as a very avid reader and a lover of classical music, but also as an ardent socialist whose convictions ran very deep.

**Judy Beishon**

# Haringey takes action against academies

**Chris Holmes**  
Haringey Socialist Party

On Saturday 28 January, up to 1,000 people in north London marched from Downhills primary school, Tottenham, to Haringey Civic Centre, Wood Green.

Downhills is one of four primary schools in the borough faced with forced 'academisation' - being taken out of local authority control to be run by unelected businesses and organisations - by education secretary Michael Gove.

The marchers included staff, parents and pupils from the schools, joined by local residents and trade unionists from across North London. They were there to give an answer to Tory lies that schools like Downhills are failing their children and that putting the running of such schools into the hands of private companies is somehow a solution to the challenges that inner city schools face.

## Proud of our schools

The demonstration made it very clear that people in Haringey are proud of their community schools - and that Gove and the Tories have no idea or any real concern for these challenges. But they are ideologically committed to academies and putting them in the hands of their friends in big business, such as Tory golden-boy and Carpetright millionaire Lord Harris.

The private company due to take



photo Paul Mattsson

over Downhills has no experience in running a primary school with the kind of social make-up of the schools in Haringey.

Academies, first introduced by the previous New Labour government, have no better a record than local authority run schools. It is proper funding, not privatisation-

by-another-name that schools like Downhill need.

It was no accident that the march ended with a rally on the steps of the council offices - the marchers were clear that what they wanted was a community school run by elected representatives of the community - and not for profit.

# Save Derbyshire youth services!

**Becci Heagney**

On the afternoon of Monday 30 January over 100 people held a rally and march in Chesterfield before the first consultation meeting into the future of youth services in Derbyshire. Young people from Eckington youth club had collected petition signatures to defend the services.

Derbyshire county council is proposing the closure of 29 youth centres and the sacking of 157 youth workers. The Tory-controlled council justifies this attack on the basis that, according to their figures, only 28% of 13-19 year olds use them regularly.

The leader of the council, Andrew Lewer, says that the youth service is therefore too expensive to run. What is really behind these proposals is the desire to have these vital services run by volunteers as opposed to full-time paid staff.

Gregory Roberts, one of the young people that helped organise the rally, said: "I don't think they see behind the scenes what the youth workers do for us. They don't see it as a valuable thing that they are do-

ing. I think there are other ways of making money other than cutting these services.

"They've obviously held this meeting at a time when people are at work to stop them from coming to it. But it's still clear the support that we've got."

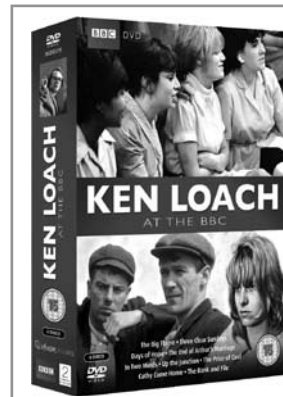
## Consultation meeting

After the march, over 200 people attempted to get into the consultation meeting but were refused entry at first, being told that they should have registered beforehand. Even-

tually, the meeting was moved into a bigger room to accommodate everyone.

The council's 'consultation' is in reality forcing ordinary people who are desperately trying to save the services they rely on to tell the council what other service should be cut instead.

Young people and their supporters in Derbyshire are determined to carry on fighting to defend youth services and jobs in the county, but the only way to secure victory is to unite service users and workers to say no to all cuts.



## Raffle - Ken Loach at the BBC

Win the Ken Loach at the BBC DVD box set (RRP £51.05), reviewed in the Socialist issue 699, by entering the Socialist Party raffle - £1 a ticket.

Phone 020 8988 8771 or send cheques (made payable to Socialist Party) to DVD raffle, Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD

The draw will take place on 10 March 2012.

## 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:

## SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	January-March 2012				Deadline 30 March
South West	1,400	583	█	█	█	█	
Northern	600	196	█	█	█	█	
London	6,100	1,890	█	█	█	█	
North West	1,200	354	█	█	█	█	
Eastern	1,200	267	█	█	█	█	
Wales	2,300	496	█	█	█	█	
Yorkshire	2,900	364	█	█	█	█	
West Midlands	2,100	235	█	█	█	█	
Southern	1,200	115	█	█	█	█	
East Midlands	1,550	135	█	█	█	█	
South East	1,000	19	█	█	█	█	
England & Wales	3,450	176	█	█	█	█	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>4,835</b>	█	█	█	█	