**STOP CUTS**  
**DEMAND UNITED ACTION**

**LOBBY THE TUC FOR A 24-HOUR GENERAL STRIKE**

Martin Powell-Davies  
Member of the NUT teachers’ union executive

I might be a physics teacher but it doesn’t take rocket science to work out why the trade union movement needs to start taking united strike action. The Coalition is pushing ahead with vicious cuts, privatisation of services and attacks on our pay, pensions, rights and conditions. It’s high time that they were stopped.

There is a force that can do this - trade unions taking united strike action, backed up with support from the communities whose jobs and services we are struggling to defend.

Trade unions are strongest when we act together. It’s about time that we did so. That’s the message that the lobby of the Trades Union Congress being organised by the National Shop Stewards Network (NSSN) will be taking to TUC delegates in Bournemouth on Sunday 8 September.

A number of trade unions are already battling in important local or national disputes. FBU members have been balloting on industrial action to defend firefighters’ pensions.

The CWU have agreed to hold a national ballot of Royal Mail workers against privatisation. UCU members in higher education are considering action over pay. PCS is consulting members across the civil service on the next stage of its campaign of industrial action.

Teachers will be leading the way this autumn. A solid strike of both NUT and NASUWT members closed schools right across the North West region in June. Now members of both unions in the rest of England and Wales will take part in one of two further days of regional strikes in September and October. That will be followed by a day’s joint national strike action in November.

Teachers have no choice but to take action. From September, the government is imposing divisive performance-pay arrangements that will allow school management to pick and choose who gets a pay-rise - and who doesn’t. It’s a scheme designed to cut the pay bill and to force teachers to work even longer hours. In the New Year, they’re planning to announce more attacks on working conditions.

There are other important events for trade unionists to support in September - not least to build a mass demonstration in Manchester outside the Tory party conference on 29 September to call a halt to the destruction of the NHS by this government in the interests of their big business backers (see page 5).

However, demonstrations alone will not be enough. We need to call on the TUC to organise strike action coordinated right across our movement, a 24-hour general strike.

Some trade union leaders will continue to prevaricate but that makes it even more important that those who are up for the fight make plans for coordinated strike action.

The NUT and NASUWT have already pencilled in a date for national action in November. Let’s make it a day of coordinated national strike action that can start to push this government back at last.

**STOP CUTS**  
**United trade union action is more powerful than any austerity programme**

**Syria**  
No to imperialist military intervention  
See page 2
No to imperialist intervention in Syria

via social media, smart phones and traditional news channels a flood of bloody images, footage and reports of the suffering inflicted on the Syrian masses has been broadcast around the world. Following in August, following the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, there was a popular upris-
ing against Assad’s police state. But, as has been explained in the Socialist, interventions and enormous financial and military backing came from the semi-feudal monarchies of Saudi Arabia and Qatar and imperialist forces in the hope of derailing that movement. The uprising against Assad’s dictatorship has been skewered now into a sectarian conflict and has, moreover, unleashed a dangerous battle between the Sunni and the Shiites on a regional scale. The death toll of Syria’s new war of conflict is estimated to be over 100,000. Two million people have fled the country and around five million are internally displaced. This is horror piled upon horror. For the overwhelming majority of people the news that chemical weapons have been used in Ghouta, a district of Damascus, appears to represent the opening of a new circle of hell for the suffering masses. The reports that the dead are numbered in the hundreds and the injured in their thousands are as heart-breaking as they are horrifying. Given what has taken place, combined with the threat of regional instability looming, a desire for a solution to this horror is a human response. But to hope that the US and UK governments and their allies in France, Germany and Turkey could bring any solution, given history, both recent and long-term, is horribly mistaken.

Air strikes

Over the last months US President Obama has warned that the use of chemical wea-
pons in Syria would be a ‘red line’ to trigger an international response no fewer than five times. Already there are three US warsships in the Mediterranean with another on its way. Pilots in Cyprus have reported seeing war-
planes on British airfields there. Foreign Secretary William Hague has been preparing the ground here in Britain, indicat-
ing that action, if a UN mandate will be no obstacle: “It’s possible to take action based on great humanitarian distress.” He’s suggested that action, most likely involving aeriel bombardment, could take place within weeks, if not days. The UN security commit-
tee is split with Russia and China opposing intervention in the interests of their own capi-
talist classes.

There is major domestic public opposition to US and UK intervention despite the desire for an end to the slaughter. Memories of the build-up to the invasion of Iraq and the ‘dodgy dossier’ claims that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction are evoked by the current rush to attack. But is there a chemical attack?

Before UN inspectors have publicly report-
ed, US Secretary of State, John Kerry said that the US would respond to the ‘undeni-
able’ use of chemical weapons in Syria and that President Bashar al-Assad’s forces had comitted a “moral obscenity” against his own people.

“Moral obscenity” might also be a good word to describe the destruction of Iraq, including the alleged use of white phospho-
rus and depleted uranium tipped missiles, the open air prison that denies the Palestin-
ians their democratic and national rights, the massive and risky for the future of the entire region. Labour has not indicated how it would vote. A genuine working people’s party would mos-
sively oppose any form of military action in Syria. But Labour has a lurid record as vicious warmongers in government, sending troops to Iraq for a war of oil in the interest of big business and for strategic aims. In opposition Labour boasts an almost spotless record of kowtowing to the rotten Con-Dem austerity policies. Yet again the need to build a new political force to repre-
sent the anti-war, anti-austerity majority is glaring.

There can be no hope that any action on the ground, and the maintenance of Guan-

talism allies in the region.

There is no shortcut to the building of, and the implementation of the national and
democratic rights of the masses, with the recognition of the right of the Kurdish peo-
ple to self-determination including, if they so wish, the right to their own state.

Independent trade unions and the building of mass workers’ parties with a programme of land to the masses and the factories to the workers, implemented through a pro-

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There is no real capitalist solution to this conflict, threatening as it does in the unsta-

dential classes.

No to imperialist intervention! The with-
drawal of all foreign forces from Syria and the region

Against all oppression, the people must democratically decide their own fate.

For the building of united, non-sectarian
defence committees to defend workers, the poor and others against sectarian attacks from all sides

Prepare a movement to fight for a govern-
ment of representatives of workers and the poor

For a revolutionary constituent assembly in Syria.

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The rich lessons for today’s
crisis, crisis and capitalism

LONDON 2-3 NOVEMBER

A weekend of discussion and debate hosted by the Socialist Party

FIGHT AGAINST CUTS, CRISIS AND CAPITALISM

WHAT NEXT?

The Socialist Party’s magazine September 2013

Issue includes:

Prospects for struggle

Hannah Smith looks at essential outlets for mass anger

US elections

Socialist gains

Dublin lockout 1913

The rich lessons for today’s fight against austerity

South Africa

Workers’ party gains new ground

Tory fracking

Tory fraud

The Tory-led government’s greedy lies exposed
The economy seems to be falling apart, yet nothing seems to have dented the upper-class arrogance and air of confidence that pervades the Tories. It is easy to think of these aris-tocrats as stupid, but they are not. They will ruthlessly defend their class's power and privilege and this is proven by the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill from the Tory government that passed through both houses of the last parliamentary session and is due for rushed through this year.

The bill's provisions include the registration of all political campaigns, groups and bloggers and limits on campaign funding and donations. Electoratering is defined as anything directly or indirectly politi-cal. For breaching the new rules the penalty can be six to 12 months in prison. Political parties are excluded from this legislation. You can imagine the thinking behind it:

"The media is tame, parliamenta-ry parties are weak and all this lobbying would disappear. We certainly don't want any more DPAC people chainings themselves up in protest against attacks on disabled people. Activities like that just prove they are all fit for work. Of course, it can't all be banned. We're a democracy - even we wage wars to prove it. Everyone hates cor rupt politics and lobbyists. That's it. Put them all together: They are all trying to influence political decision-making! We'll label any form of political com- ment or activity electioneering."

"That's the way the NHS mentioned, especially in the run-up to an election. We can say the election period is 12 months and include referenda. Penalties for breaking the rules, force them to admit quarterly and weekly ac-counts, register as third-parties with the Electoral Commission, limit their expenditure and include all running costs and staffing as cam-paign costs."

"Obviously our party, Ukip, the BNP and those bloody Lib Dems should be excluded. Not that there's much chance of Labour being a problem - but how can we get at them? Miliband uniting Britain across Falkirk is a golden opportunity to curtail union donations, break the link. And scupper any attempt at building a new union-backed party while we're at it."

"A bill to rule out groups unfairly manipulating the system. Like lobbying groups... everyone hates them. Ob-viously, we'll let the lobbyists off the hook. The only transparency in this bill will be the light through the loopholes, but at least we can con- tain the dissenters - anti-cuts, NHS, ecology campaigns etc, charities, the voluntary sector, bloggers and e-petitions."

"Might even shut up the Guardi an. Brilliant - sell it as a bill to clean-up politics. Let's hope they all fall into line. After all the law is the law. Now, how would we deal with a mass movement?"

The trial of Chelsea Manning

Manos Lenihan

The final days of the trial revealed that large numbers of those to which the US military is sinking in an ef fort to persecute Chelsea (formerly Bradley) Manning. In 2010 this brave young military intelligence analyst released hundreds of thou-sands of secret documents to show the world the true face of the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Finally going to trial after more than three years behind bars where she was threatened with solitary confinement, shackling and sleep deprivation, Manning faced last month with charges adding up to 136 years in prison. Senior mili-tary and government figures openly admit that the final sentence of 35 years is intended to scare US sol-diers into keeping their heads down and their mouths shut.

Last week the US military released photographs of Manning dressed in a wig and make-up. Coming so close to the sentencing, this looks like a crude attempt to discredit Manning by drumming up and playing into trans-phobic prejudice.

More importantly, in an example both of trans-phobia as well as the stigmatising of those with mental health issues, a consensus emerged between the prosecution and the defence teams that Manning leaked the documents as an act of insanity resulting from gender identity problems.

Exposed

The attempt by the US military and government to write off Manning's great act of defiance as insanity is completely futile - vile acts of the US military have been exposed and nothing they do now can change that.

The truth is that Manning made her motives totally clear in state-ments and online conversations: "show the true cost of the war," to spark "worldwide discussion, de-bates, reforms". Manning realised that she was part of a machine that was inflicting carnage, oppression and torture on a huge scale, and tried to undermine it by releasing the truth.

Decay of democracy

The amount of secrets a regime keeps and the amount of lies it tells are an indication of the deep contradictions and depravity in its politics.

The US government now classifies over 90 million documents a year. This number, as it climbs by tens of millions year-on-year, is like an in-dex of the decay of democratic rights in the midst of a crisis of capitalism and barbaric imperialist wars.

In the drama around the sentences- ing of Chelsea Manning we have seen even more evidence of this with the establishment trying to smear her through bigotry and moralise her politically through Stalin-like forced confessions.

Lobbying bill: don’t let this Tory dream come true

Sue Powell

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One Housing Group workers go into battle again

**A One Housing Group striker**

Unison members at One Housing Group (OHG) will strike for five days starting on 3 September. Following a four-year pay freeze, OHG management is slashing frontline workers’ wages by up to 25%.

Some of the most skilled and experienced workers are due to face their own employees are due to face a 13% cut in pay. Senior executives have posted YouTube clips of themselves boasting of their success at the same time that over 200 of their employees are due to face severe cuts.

Opposition to the cuts has seen membership of Unite the Union increase from 5,000 to over 10,000. The decision to cut pay was announced in May last year. Collective action against management’s plans to lower wages has already delayed one of the group’s largest projects, which was expected to create 500 jobs in the support sector. But almost all of these jobs already exist and it is just a race to the bottom.

A Unison member, who is employed in the support sector, said: “We as a union need to stand up to management to make a ‘healthy surplus’, but insist they need frontline staff to take a pay cut to meet the group’s plans to expand its care and support market. They boast in the media of cutting the NHS by 40%.

One mental health worker in Islington described how they do this: “They replace experienced staff with low-paid support assistants and replace night staff with sleepover workers. Staff are on pay cuts by £200 on average. One Essus Unite member said: ‘I feel lied to. I thought I was secure and now I don’t know how I’m going to manage’.

A manager of a mental health service in Cambridgeshire said: ‘I’m not getting a salary decrease but the same thing could happen to managers as well’.

**A Unison striker holding the NSSN lobby of the TUC on 8 September to demand a 24-hour general strike**

See www.shopstewards.net

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**Coventry postal workers fight bullying management**

Postal workers at Royal Mail’s Coventry Delivery Office went on strike last month for three consecutive days. Over 80% of the 200+ workers (members of the Communication Workers) told the National Union of Journalists that they were cutting out bullying and workloads.

For several months, local managers have refused to follow national agreements. They make executive decisions about the time and weights loaded, regardless of the amount of mail coming into the office.

As a worker on the 'Shop Floor', it appears to me that the culture of management in Royal Mail today is to discourage and punish resistance, even from the lowest paid. Their plans backfired, frontline workers say they have the right to organise and not to be penalised.

We need to implement this urgently. We also need to link up with other postal workers around the country, even in dispute, and coordinate any action with them. All of our Union members at the Coventry Delivery Office are proud to be part of the union, fighting to keep customers happy and to protect jobs and services.

Stop Coastguard Cuts

The seaside and Rough Justice is one of the most beautiful places in the country at this time of year and attracts huge numbers of visitors. But visiting this part of the country is a lot more hazardous this year.

According to the PCS union, 13 rescue coordinators work out of the Heliport on the whole of the Isle of Sylt. The union has made an investigation trip to see why the service is in such a state.

Stop Coastguard Cuts...
Don’t let them kill our NHS

Wales’ Mid-Staffs crisis

Ross Saunders
Cardiff Socialist Party

Welsh NHS cuts have forced 13,000 operations to be cancelled in recent weeks, a whopping 4,000 of which were at the University of Wales Hospitals in the north, Cardiff.

The Royal College of Surgeons said services at the hospital were "dangerous" and "of poor quality".

Patients, they said, were "dying regularly" while waiting for heart surgery. 152 patients have died because of heart surgery delays at the Heath and Vardale Unions since the recession began.

Labour MP Ann Coffey has called the Heath, "the Welsh equivalent" of the Mid Staffs scandal, but Coffey played a terrific role as the Con-Dem's "patients' tsar" in attacking health workers for falling standards instead of government cuts.

Opposition is growing but it must get organised immediately, because the pace of attacks is quickening. Over half of the operations cancelled at the Heath were scheduled for this year.

Despite a promise by Labour’s First Minister, Carwyn Jones, to Wales TUC that cuts in the NHS would not mean redundancies at the Cardiff and Vale Health Board issued 186 notices to cut 384 staff. Labour-run Neath and Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taff councils threaten to do similar.

The heroic efforts of NHS staff, many doing unpaid overtime every week in incredibly working environments, will not be able to prevent the cuts doing further damage to the service.

The revelations have blown apart Welsh Labour’s claim that they are protecting Wales from Tory attacks. Wales doesn’t have privatisation pushed to the same degree as in England where the cutting of care is on an unprecedented scale.

According to the Audit Office, for 2014/15 spending per person on health in Wales will be lower than any other part of the UK. This will create more space for private healthcare companies to cater to those who can afford to jump to the queue.

‘Improvements’

Mark Drakeford AM, the health minister, has refused a public inquiry into the crisis at the Heath. Labour denounces cuts when demanded by Westminster, but pre-tends that they are ‘improvements’ when the Welsh Government obediently implements them.

For example, Labour claims the plan to downgrade Accident and Emergency Services in South Wales is driven by clinical priorities, not by cuts. Protests have forced a delay in the "South Wales Programme" which would leave just four or five fully equipped A&E and maternity departments for 2.3 million people.

Drakeford has declared ambulance targets ‘clinically irrelevant’. Despite the Herculean efforts of understaffed ambulance workers, the Welsh Ambulance Service has missed its targets every month for over a year. Urgent cancer care targets have also been missed.

Wales needs an Assembly government that would demand the needed funding or set their hands and weep while they swing the Tory axe. Drakeford’s first announcement as health minister was that health boards must stick to their spending limits.

The opposite policy should be pursued: health boards should spend what is required to maintain services. Other parts of the public sector, like councils which can borrow or use reserves, can take up the slack, while a Wales-wide campaign against health cuts links up the vibrant local campaigns to demand the needed funding from Westminster.

Wales TUC, despite passing a motion at its conference, has not organised a demonstration against NHS cuts. Building a mass movement in Wales to defend the NHS, linking up with the rest of the UK, is essential: without it the NHS will be killed by privatisation in England and starvation in Wales.

Photo Becky Davis

For more information: www.socialistparty.org.uk

Fighting mood to defend Whipps Cross Hospital

Waltham Forest Socialist Party

There was standing room only as over 100 people attended a packed public meeting on 19 August, called by Waltham Forest Unison Health branch to discuss the fear that Whipps Cross Hospital is being off-loaded for cuts, privatisation and closures.

The meeting was chaired by Unison Health joint secretary and Socialist Party member Len Hockey, who outlined the debate that Bart’s Health Trust (covering Whipps Cross and several other hospitals in east London) is trying to closures.

Despite a promise by Labour’s health minister that would demand the need for the TUC to name and shaming, they did not see closure as so important as waiting for heart surgery.

Price and improvement, not more cuts and privatisation.

Similarities were drawn with what happened at Stafford Hospital - while the people of Mid-Staffordshire were appalled at sub-standard care, they did not see the need for an inquiry as a solution and 50,000 of them marched in April.

At the end of the meeting everyone took away piles of leaflets for the protests in September and Unison petitions to get support for the campaign.

Defend all NHS services and staff

Protest: Monday 16 September, 5pm, Whipps Cross Hospital

Demonstrate: Saturday 21 September, 12noon, The Green by Whipps Cross Hospital (near roundabout bus stops), marching to Walthamstow town square

Support the DPAC week of action

A disabled activist

Between 29 August and 4 September, Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC) is organising a ‘Reclaiming Our Futures’ week of direct action to oppose Con-Dem austerity and attacks on benefits, public services and disability rights.

On Thursday 29 August, DPAC will be calling on UNISON to support Transport for All’s protest outside Crossrail’s Canary Wharf office in London to demand inclusive access to all stations in this £16 billion project.

Crossrail’s current plans will mean seven stations will be inaccessible to wheelchair users and others with mobility impairments.

On 29 August, DPAC is also encouraging its supporters to send lettered postcards to MPs, disability charities and the media to raise the need to both oppose and stop the current attacks on disabled people.

While DPAC’s week of action is largely centred on London, there will be a national day of action on Friday 30 August.

Last year DPAC’s campaign forced the withdrawal of the Paralympic sponsor Atos in the administration of the brutal Work Capability Assessment, but this year activists are being encouraged to organise protests on a range of issues including welfare reform and the bedroom tax.

On Sunday 1 September, a ‘Reclaiming the Social Model’ event is being held in the Unite trade union’s London headquarters.

And following further on-line action on Tuesday, DPAC’s week of action will conclude on Wednesday 3 September with a ‘Freedom Drive’.

These ‘blocks’ will then converge for a lobby of Parliament and the launch of a UK Disabled People’s Manifesto.
“I HAVE A DREAM” 50th Anniversary of the march on Washington for jobs and freedom

The 50th anniversary of the historic March on Washington for jobs and freedom falls on 28 August 2013. It was on this date that Martin Luther King gave his famous “I have a dream” speech from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Eljeer Hawkins, an activist in the Socialist Alternative Black Faction, provides the history behind the event.

The size of the mobilization on that hot August day in 1963 was unprecedented; the upbeat, confident joyous spirit was pervasive. People from every part of the country were there, many of them first time from across the colorline calling for Freedom Now!

The mass movement for civil rights which came before and the rally that was won, inspired by the struggle against the racist social system,产出了大规模的群众运动和罢工浪潮，孕育了斗争精神，战胜了严重的挫折。

Economics and the struggle for jobs provided the life-blood of the movement. The mass movement of workers is the single most powerful force in the world.

The Black Power movement was dominated by reformist politics. The aim of the Black Power movement was the dismantling of the apartheid of education, worship, voting, law, jobs, and housing.

The earlier phase and chances of the civil rights movement was linked to the Democratic Party and was dominated by reformist ideology. Such a movement was to be linked to a reformist strategy of voting in elections and supported direct acts of civil disobedience.

A hot and humid day 200,000 people from around the country, people of all ages, from all walks of life, gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial. Martin Luther King of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) gave a clarion call for an end to racial injustice.

The speech would energise and mobilise the millions for the new wave of non-violent action that would sweep all of America, and in the process, bring down the walls of legal segregation.

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Carlisle
Building the anti-bedroom tax fightback

Brent Kennedy
Carlisle Axe the Bedroom Tax

Carlisle Axe the Bedroom Tax campaign has really got the message out in the last two months. In July we had a city centre protest, which attracted up to 100 people over the course of two hours and good coverage in the local press. But now we are concentrating on the housing estates and have covered most parts of the city.

There was a public meeting with the local head of Riverside Housing Association - who were handed 6,000 council houses for £2,500 each ten years ago. We offered our cooperation if they would guarantee not to evict tenants due to the tax, and to fight for the removal of the tax and reimbursement of losses incurred by public housing bodies after the next election.

We thought that this would go down well with the Riverside boss, seeing as he's a prominent Labour Party member, but somehow he declined. Funny, that.

After much detailed questioning, we finally admitted that severely disabled tenants in Carlisle who fall into arrears will be evicted out of their homes with no alternative accommodation and will then no longer qualify for social housing.

So we've adopted the Unite trade union's proposal to collect names and numbers for a phone-in of people willing to turn up to protect such tenants from the bailiffs, as well as mobilising their neighbours. This has found a positive response from tenants and we are now building networks on their estates.

They will be looking to us to coordinate this work and give a lead. We can't let them down now, having urged them publicly through posters, leaflets and the press to fight back.

Blame bankers not tenants!

Jimmy Haddow
Edinburgh, Socialist Party Scotland

Edinburgh Labour councillor Cammy Day, vice-convenor of the health, well-being and housing committee, considers that the council should deny any hardship payment to tenants affected by the bedroom tax they spend too much on "non-essential" items such as cigarettes and alcohol. Edinburgh's Evening News reported this with TV's fictional so-called underserving poor of the Gallagher family from ' Shameless.' Rather than fight the bedroom tax, the Labour SNP council coalition would rather stigmatise tenants and force them into poverty. Edinburgh faces the loss of £107 million in housing benefit over the next five years. The share of bedroom tax-afflicted council tenants in rent arrears has risen from 27% in April this year to 72% by the end of May. Edinburgh council should challenge the SNP government to change section 16 of the Housing Act 1988 to allow for full evictions for those who have left high housing benefit and entered "squalor".

A Riverside spokesman later told the Evening News: "This isn't about a punch-up with bailiffs. It's about making eviction as difficult and financially and politically as possible." Last week we held a protest and sit-down meeting, well reported in the local paper and on the BBC and ITV regional news programmes - which all showed that this bedroom tax is about sharing out housing resources. The backdrop was formed by piles of bricks and rubble, framed by arching ICs, where a week earlier 16 post-war, single bedroomed flats had stood. 400 residents of the housing estates and had covered most parts of the city.

The idea that unsafe shale gas extraction is about cheaper energy for working class people is nonsense. It's about exploiting for the greedy energy companies and never mind the consequences for the rest of us.

As socialists we need to link the protests to the wider movement against the capitalist system and its demand for profit at any cost.

Stop ring evictions

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Carlisle Axe the Bedroom Tax campaign has really got the message out in the last two months. In July we had a city centre protest, which attracted up to 100 people over the course of two hours and good coverage in the local press. But now we are concentrating on the housing estates and have covered most parts of the city.

There was a public meeting with the local head of Riverside Housing Association - who were handed 6,000 council houses for £2,500 each ten years ago. We offered our cooperation if they would guarantee not to evict tenants due to the tax, and to fight for the removal of the tax and reimbursement of losses incurred by public housing bodies after the next election.

We thought that this would go down well with the Riverside boss, seeing as he's a prominent Labour Party member, but somehow he declined. Funny, that.

After much detailed questioning, we finally admitted that severely disabled tenants in Carlisle who fall into arrears will be evicted out of their homes with no alternative accommodation and will then no longer qualify for social housing.

So we've adopted the Unite trade union's proposal to collect names and numbers for a phone-in of people willing to turn up to protect such tenants from the bailiffs, as well as mobilising their neighbours. This has found a positive response from tenants and we are now building networks on their estates.

They will be looking to us to coordinate this work and give a lead. We can't let them down now, having urged them publicly through posters, leaflets and the press to fight back.

Blame bankers not tenants!

Jimmy Haddow
Edinburgh, Socialist Party Scotland

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Egypt: Hundreds killed as al-Sisi’s military tightens its grip on power

Robert Becher Committee for a Workers’ International (CWI)

The military hijacked June and July’s millions-strong anti-Morsi mobilisations to take power

The Committee for a Workers’ International (CWI) is the socialist international organisation to which the Socialist Party is affiliated. The CWI is organised in 45 countries and works to unite the working class and oppressed peoples against capitalist exploitation and to fight for a socialist world. For more details including CWI publications write to CWI, PO Box 3688, London E11 1YE. email cwi@worldsoc.org.uk

www.socialistworld.net The CWI website contains news, reports and analysis from around the world. Recent articles include:

Sudan: Rally against closure of anti-Morsi pro-democracy newspapers

South Africa: Marikana workers remember the police massacre

Over 5,000 miners gathered on ‘the mountain’ where their comrades had been shot down one year earlier.

Democratic Socialist Movement (CWI South Africa) reporters

Tunisia: Mass protests to remove Ennahda regime

Paul Murphy MEP Socialist Party (CWI Ireland) interview on RT

UGTT and Popular Front must remove the Ennahda regime

Israel/Palestine: “Talks are a charade”

Actions of Israeli government reveal its real intention - mass movement needed.

General al-Sisi and his fellow military rulers will not find it easy to firmly re-establish a ‘security state’. The revolution is not yet over. The rapid disillusionment and subsequent outbreak of opposition to Morsi’s rule showed how quickly opposition can develop.

While the recent bloody events may understandably produce hesitation due to fears of repression and the growing sectarianism, this will not last forever. The combination of Egypt’s deep economic and social crisis plus the emerging strength of the workers’ movement will lead to renewed struggles.

Left or workers’ organisations should have no thought of supporting this military regime in any way; it has never had a progressive character. This is why the regime has been supported by the western powers which, like Obama, have now only seen very greatly criticising the brutal suppression of opposition.

In tumultuous events like those, the workers’ movement, and the revolution, needs clarity more than ever. From the moment of February’s euphoric overthrow of Mubarak, the CWI has been arguing that the revolution could only be successfully concluded in the interests of working people where: ‘the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: ‘the interests of working people when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people... assert their right to decide the country’s future. No trust should be put in figures from the regime or their puppet masters when: “the mass of the Egyptian people...
Elysium is a dystopian sci-fi action film starring Matt Damon and Jodie Foster. It follows the story of Max Da Costa, a factory worker living in the ruins of Los Angeles in the year 2154.

In this future, the rich and powerful have fled the poverty, disease, and environmental destruction they've wrought on the world, and moved to a space station called Elysium. There they live in an idyllic society, far removed from ordinary people's struggles on earth.

Like director Neill Blomkamp's critically acclaimed last film District 9, Elysium uses the sci-fi genre to explore social issues. The major difference is that instead of humans exploiting and oppressing aliens, it is the super-rich exploiting and oppressing the overwhelming majority.

As he started developing his art in the 1920s and 1930s, times of economic depression, crowds and factories would inevitably mean his focus would be on what those times meant for the working people and poor of the north of England (being a Northerner himself).

In one room entitled “The Social Life of Labour Britain,” the paintings show scenes such as evictions (“The Removal, 1928”), fatal diseases (“The Fever Van 1935, where ill children were taken from their homes to hospitals, often never to return again”) and auctioneers (pawn shops, “Jackson’s Auction and Saleroom, 1952”).

These are easily comprehensible in today’s austerity Britain of benefit cuts, bedroom tax, along with the dismantling of the NHS, pawn shops and pay day loan companies becoming part of working people’s daily lives.

Lowry’s work, painting during the Great Depression and the post-war recovery, is shockingly relevant today. There are more similarities between our lives and those of the crowds in his paintings than differences.

Exhibition review Lowry’s one track vision

Amalia Loizidou

The exhibition “Lowry and the painting of Modern Life” at Tate Britain (until 20 October) has quite a rich collection of Lowry’s work depicting industrialised Britain. This “painter of modern life” worked from the 1920s until a few decades later.

“I’ve a one-track mind. I only deal with poverty. Always with gloom,” Lowry said. Lowry was a Conservative voter. But two things are almost always present in his work - factory chimneys and crowds. He was painting what he saw in his rounds as a rent collector.

Unlike films which show the opposition “human side,” Elysium makes no attempt to humanise the rich and powerful. They are either seen as thinly ignorant of the human system of inequality and exploitation that they benefit from, or are consciously fighting to protect that system.

When a group of gangsters try to hijack a rich executive making his way to Elysium, the audience feels no sympathy for him; it’s the same executive that runs the factory that has effectively killed Max - his only chance of survival is making it to Elysium.

The film doesn’t say it explicitly, but the root of the problem is capitalism. Socialists say that this system that puts short-term profits ahead of all else, the environment to workers’ living conditions, must be replaced to achieve equality and real change.

The film shows Matt Damon fighting for humankind rather than the actual organising needed to establish a society that can meet the needs of all.

Nonetheless, this is a film worth watching.

This is an edited extract from a review that appears on socialistworld.net

Let us rise! The Dublin Lockout – its impact and legacy

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www.socialistbooks.org.uk bookshop@socialistparty.org.uk

A hundred years ago, the most bitter industrial battle in Ireland’s history, the Dublin Lockout of 1913 – was under way. The Socialist Party in Ireland has produced a lively book commemorating this immortal struggle and the inspiring leadership of fighters such as Jim Larkin.

Let us rise! The Dublin Lockout – its impact and legacy
Ex-Sports Soccer worker

As a former employee of Sports Soc- cer which was the predecessor of Sports Direct it came as little sur- prise to me to learn that this company is one of the worst culprits for using zero-hour contracts.

Sports Soccer’s policy at the store I worked at was basically to sign as many people as it could onto zero- hour contracts, which put a lot of reserve labour at their disposal. The deal was if you step out of line once on the shop floor the look of you we will give your hours to somebody else.

It was store policy that you had to be on the shop floor ten minutes before your shift (and pay) started. So for every six shifts they got a free hour out of you.

In fact, they got a lot more than that - it was also made clear to you at the interview that you were ex- pected at the end of the day to tidy the store which, again, was unpaid and usually took between 30 and 45 minutes. Shop floor workers, I am sure you are shocked to learn, were on minimum wage.

Employees had to enter the store through the back door where there was a big sign saying that if you opened it without a supervisor present you would face immediate dismissal. Worst of all you were hu-

Sick Of Your Boss report

Sports Direct HQ

Youth Fight for Jobs held a protest in Shoreham, a village in North Derbs, which is home to Sports Direct’s headquarters and distribu-

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We were making a stand against the company’s use of zero-hour contracts - which 98% of their staff are estimated to be on - and mak-
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Our protest got a lot of attention and support from passers-by and we spoke to current and ex-workers of Sports Direct.

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Employees had to enter the store through the back door where there was a big sign saying that if you opened it without a supervisor present you would face immediate dismissal. Worst of all you were hu-
I started working for the fast food restaurant Kentucky Fried Chicken nine months ago. I had left my job in a supermarket, where I was a workplace rep, to find a full-time job, not being able to get by on 16 hours a week and with no chance of finding a full-time contract there. Eventually I found this job at KFC. At KFC a full-time contract is supposed to mean 20 hours a week minimum, which isn’t great by any stretch but it was more than I was getting at the supermarket.

For a time there was not much to complain about, I was averaging 20 to 40 hours a week. If anything my complaint would have been about the irregular hours but, on a mere £6.19 an hour, at least I was earning just enough to get by. Suddenly full-time workers found themselves given less than enough to get by on 16 hours a week.

I decided to challenge my manager on this issue. I knew full well that I read my contract properly I would have noticed the fine print which allows the company to adjust its workers’ hours to business needs. This is a way for KFC to use zero-hour contracts while putting their hands on their hearts and saying they don’t.

Perhaps the most explicit confession came from another manager when I asked what was the difference between a full-time contract and a part-time contract if workers aren’t guaranteed the minimum hours stated. The manager replied that there is no difference and “it’s just a way in which they can use and abuse you”!

What is needed in KFC and similar companies to defend workers and ensure real contracts with guaranteed hours to business needs. This is the way for KFC to use zero-hour contracts while putting their hands on their hearts and saying they don’t.

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What is needed in KFC and similar companies to defend workers and ensure real contracts with guaranteed hours to business needs. This is the best way to tackle unfair dismissals, bullying and harassment in the workplace. Are we sick of our boss? You better believe it! See page 11 for more on zero-hour contracts and Sick Of Your Boss.