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the Socialist

Formerly **Militant**



BRAZIL

Bolsonaro a threat to workers and oppressed
>p14-15



PETERLOO

When the state massacred workers for demanding the right to vote
> p8-9



BUDGET

Hammond offers no relief from austerity
>p2

Mark Best
East London Socialist Party

This week's budget shows again the urgent need to kick out the Tories. The Chancellor Philip Hammond says "the era of austerity is finally coming to an end." But for people having to rely on food banks, young people working multiple jobs with low to zero hours, and those pushed into homelessness by cuts and the chaos of Universal Credit, the age of austerity goes on.

Even the leader of a Tory council in Walsall said "never, ever believe what you hear from central government. Austerity is not over."

As he, like Tory and Labour councillors across the country, is preparing to pass on the government's cuts at a local level, it's clear: austerity isn't over.

The Tories represent Britain's capitalist class. Low wages, unaffordably high rents and cuts to public services are all that capitalism has to offer for workers and young people. It's no wonder that people across the world are looking for an alternative.

A 72-page report recently produced by Trump's White House admitted that "socialism is making a comeback in American political discourse."

In the last couple of years we've seen the mass rallies held by Bernie Sanders and the historic election of Socialist Alternative member Kshama Sawant to Seattle City Council. We've seen the successful campaigns of self-proclaimed socialists Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Julia Salazar.

American capitalists are fearful that the 'pitchforks' are coming for them.

Capitalism is killing us and it's no wonder people are hungry for ideas on how to fight back. People are increasingly being drawn to socialism like a beacon.

If you want to discuss what is necessary to kick the Tories out, to debate how we can run society democratically for public need not private profit, and to find out what you can do to join the fight for a socialist world, then come to Socialism 2018 - a weekend of debate and discussion in central London on 10 and 11 November.

ONLY A SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE CAN END AUSTERITY

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What we think

Philip Hammond attempted to give the impression that his budget on 29 October represented a major turning point for the economy and for Tory policy. But the reality was clear to see - nothing of substance on offer for working class people, and a desperate government still divided at every level.

Theresa May's bizarre statement at Tory party conference that "austerity is over" was dialled back to Hammond pledging that it's "coming to an end". In fact there has been no overall increase in spending on public services other than the NHS - and even that money is not enough to stop continuing real-terms cuts.

The disagreement between the prime minister and the chancellor over how much to promise spilled out before the budget was announced when Hammond indicated that the announcements were contingent on getting a Brexit deal agreed and a 'no-deal' scenario would require a "different approach".

Meanwhile, May briefed journalists that all of the budget's commitments were fully funded regardless of Brexit negotiations. In the actual budget speech Hammond again contradicted May by leaving open the possibility that the spring statement could become a "full fiscal event" if needed - ie an emergency budget in the case of no deal.

This is a further indication that May is desperate to bolster her incredibly weak and fragile support base, and recognises the threat her government faces as a result of mass anger building under the surface. Why else would a government so wedded to privatisation pledge to abolish Private Finance Initiative deals for future projects?

She also wanted to placate backbench Tory MPs feeling the pressure in their constituencies. This has particularly been the case in recent weeks over the chaos with Universal Credit.

The chancellor pledged to slightly slow its roll out and to increase by £1,000 the amount claimants can earn before suffering cuts to the benefit. But this won't end the suffering it's causing - we need to fight for Universal Credit to be scrapped, and with the government on the back foot, now is the time.

Schools

The huge anger that has been shown in several recent protests for increased funding for schools is clearly responsible for the £400 million extra announced (see page 16). But the Tories are incapable of disguising how cruel and out of touch they are. Hammond said the money would help schools "to buy the little extras that they need." In reality, many schools cannot cover the costs of basic teaching resources and support staff.

Besides which, this sop was dwarfed by the £1 billion extra given to defence. The small-scale spending increases, while all extra funds are welcome, show no actual change of direction.

£500 million extra was announced for the housing infrastructure fund, which funds infrastructure such as transport and schools to allow homes to be built. But that does nothing about the fact that nowhere near enough



Why would a government so wedded to privatisation pledge to abolish Private Finance Initiatives?



Theresa May photo Arno Mikkor/EU2017EE/CC



Philip Hammond photo Chatham House/CC

homes are being built and those that are are unaffordable for the vast majority.

Responding to the budget, a report by the Resolution Foundation has revealed that, far from aiding struggling families, Hammond's trumpeted tax cuts in fact primarily benefit the top 10% of earners, who stand to gain £410 a year. Meanwhile poorer families will have a paltry £30 more annually as a result.

Real alternative

Corbyn rightly called this a "broken promises budget" and dispelled the lie that austerity is over. But there is an urgent need for him and the Labour left to outline a clear economic alternative - or some workers can be convinced that Hammond's budget is the best they can hope for.

The day before the budget, shadow chancellor John McDonnell was interviewed by the BBC's Andrew Marr. He returned to Labour's hugely popular manifesto commitments from the 2017 general election, and attacked Hammond's plans in advance. But unfortunately he appeared to again be making the mistake of attempting to assure the capitalist class that a Labour government wouldn't go 'too far, too fast'.

He spoke of "beginning the process of reversing austerity" in a way that is "realistic and responsible". In answer to Marr's attacks on Labour's plans to nationalise the utilities, McDonnell's main defence was that these are "traditional business measures".

And when asked if a Corbyn government would reverse cuts to local government funding - such a major factor holding Labour's vote back in areas where Labour councils have implemented brutal cuts - he again only said they would 'begin' this process.

No amount of niceness or soft phrasing will make big business amenable to Corbyn and McDonnell's programme. Even Hammond has gone too far for some sections of the capitalist class! The Office for Budget Responsibility and Moody's ratings agency criticised the chancellor for spending all projected growth rather than using it to balance the budget.

The only answer is to present a fundamental socialist alternative. That means committing to halt all cuts at every level and to invest in the jobs, homes and services that people need.

It means being clear that nationalisation would be done by paying compensation to shareholders only on the basis of proven need. It means pledging the nationalisation of not just a few key companies but the 100 or so that control the vast majority of wealth in society.

A Labour government could be swept to power at any time, given the weakness of the Tories and the mess they're in over Brexit. If that were to happen, attempts at sabotage by the capitalist class would be inevitable, and could only be defeated by socialist measures.

The capitalists' most reliable henchmen would be the Blairites inside Labour. Corbyn must deal with this now by a programme of measures to transform Labour through democratisation and kicking out the Blairite saboteurs.

SOCIALISM 2018

Debate: Capitalism v Socialism. All defenders of capitalism welcome. Please get in touch. See opposite page and socialism2018.net

Have you got news for us? DEADLINE: Friday before publication date - urgent news: Monday

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WORKSHOPS AT SOCIALISM 2018

See www.socialism2018.net for info on rallies, free creche, accommodation and more...

THEMES	SATURDAY 3-5PM	SUNDAY 10AM-12NOON	SUNDAY 1-2.45PM
CORBYN, LABOUR & SOCIALISM	CORBYNISM THREE YEARS ON Speaker: Peter Taaffe, Socialist Party general secretary Chair: Theo Sharieff, Socialist Party youth organiser DRAMA STUDIO, 1ST FLOOR	BREXIT - HOW CAN WORKERS' INTERESTS BE DEFENDED? Speaker: Claire Laker-Mansfield, editor, the Socialist Chair: Iain Dalton, Socialist Party National Committee (NC) DRAMA STUDIO, 1ST FLOOR	WHY REFORMISM IS NOT ENOUGH Speaker: Sarah Wrack, Socialist party Executive Committee (EC) Chair: Nick Auvache, North London Socialist Party secretary DRAMA STUDIO, 1ST FLOOR
AUSTERITY MUST END	CAN UNIONS FIGHT AUSTERITY? Panel discussion with RMT president Sean Hoyle, Glasgow and Birmingham home care strikers, and other trade union militants Chair: Kris O'Sullivan, Birmingham Socialist Party CLARKE HALL, 3RD FLOOR	NEW SESSION: PCS AGS ELECTION - THE REAL ISSUES AT STAKE Speakers include Chris Baugh, PCS AGS (personal capacity) and Rob Williams, NSSN chair. Chair: Katrine Williams ROOM: LOGAN HALL, LOWER GROUND FLOOR	WHAT HAPPENS IF COUNCILS SET NO-CUTS BUDGETS? Speaker: Clive Heemskerk, Socialism Today deputy editor Chair: Corinthia Ward, Birmingham Socialist Party secretary CLARKE HALL, 3RD FLOOR
COMMUNIST MANIFESTO TODAY	UNDERSTANDING MARXIST ECONOMICS Speaker: TU Senan, Committee for a Workers' International secretariat Chair: Sue Atkins, Southampton Socialist Party ROOM 739, 7TH FLOOR	DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM: THE METHOD OF MARXISM Speaker: Ross Saunders, Socialist Party NC Chair: Caroline Vincent, Leicester Socialist Party ROOM 739, 7TH FLOOR	HISTORICAL MATERIALISM - NOT JUST KINGS AND QUEENS Speakers: Ken Douglas, Socialist Party national treasurer Chair: Mary Finch, East London Socialist Party ROOM 739, 7TH FLOOR
CAPITALIST CRISIS	10 YEARS ON FROM LEHMAN BROTHERS - WORLD ECONOMY ON THE BRINK AGAIN Speakers: Steve Score, East Midlands Socialist Party secretary Chair: Aidan O'Toole, Nuneaton Socialist Party ROOM 802, 8TH FLOOR	THE CASE FOR SOCIALIST NATIONALISATION Speakers: Paul Callanan and Ian Pattison, Socialist Party NC Chair: Hannah Davis, Birmingham Socialist Party CLARKE HALL, 3RD FLOOR	CAN ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE BE STOPPED? Speakers: Tom Baldwin, Socialist Party National Committee Chair: Rob Hooper, Leeds Socialist Party ROOM 731, 7TH FLOOR
WHAT IS SOCIALISM?	BITESIZE 1 - 3-3.50pm: ASK ANY QUESTION ON SOCIALISM YOU WANT: Speakers: Socialist Party organisers Alistair Tice, Elaine Brunskill and Becci Heagney BOTH IN ROOM 604, 6TH FLOOR 	BITESIZE 2 - 4-4.50pm: WHY JOIN THE SOCIALIST PARTY? Speakers: Socialist Party organisers Nick Chaffey, Helen Pattison and Mark Best ROOM 604, 6TH FLOOR	WHAT IS BOLSHEVISM? WHAT IS STALINISM? Speaker: Len Shail, Socialist Party NC Chair: Mark Best, Socialism 2018 organising team ROOM 604, 6TH FLOOR
FIGHTING GENDER OPPRESSION		SOCIALISTS AND THE GENDER RECOGNITION ACT Speaker: Michael Johnson, Socialist Party LGBT+ group convenor Chair: Sarah Sachs-Eldridge, Socialism 2018 organising team ROOM 822, 8TH FLOOR	TROTSKY'S TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME AT 80 - A BRIDGE TO THE UNCONVINCED Speaker: Sarah Sachs-Eldridge, Socialist Party national organiser Chair: James Ivens, editorial team, the Socialist ROOM 604, 6TH FLOOR
RESIST RACISM	FIGHTING FOR REFUGEE RIGHTS IN THE TORY 'HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT' Speaker: Isai Priya, Socialist Party NC and Mathan, Refugee Rights Campaign Chair: Lawanya, Tamil Solidarity NUNN HALL, 4TH FLOOR	FROM BNP TO FLA - THE ROLE OF THE WORKING CLASS IN FIGHTING RACISM Speaker: Paula Mitchell, Socialist Party London Secretary and Paul Rafferty, Manchester TUC secretary (invited) NUNN HALL, 4TH FLOOR	PANEL DISCUSSION: WOMEN'S LIVES MATTER Speakers include: Amy Cousens, Leeds Women's Lives Matter, Jane Nellist, NUT executive, Glasgow equal pay striker and others tbc Chair: Angie Waller, Barnsley SP secretary LOGAN HALL
CAPITALISM MEANS WAR	VIETNAM 1968, IRAQ 2003: IMPERIALISM & WAR Speaker: Niall Mulholland, CWI secretariat Chair: Jaime Davis, Caerphilly Socialist Party secretary ROOM 736, 7TH FLOOR	1918: HOW REVOLUTION ENDED WORLD WAR ONE Speaker: Bob Labi, CWI secretariat Chair: Tom Barker, Leicester Socialist Party ROOM 731, 7TH FLOOR	FALKLANDS/MALVINAS Speakers include Edward Wilson, socialist novelist Chair: Nick Hart, Birmingham Socialist Party ROOM 736, 7TH FLOOR
WORLD IN CRISIS	CAN THE CHINESE ECONOMIC MIRACLE LAST? Speaker: Hannah Sell, Socialist Party deputy general secretary Chair: Juliette Fogelman, East London Socialist Party ROOM 822, 8TH FLOOR	LATIN AMERICA - LESSONS FOR THE LEFT IN BRITAIN & EUROPE Speaker: Tony Saunio, CWI secretary Chair: Dan Gilmore, Newcastle Socialist Party ROOM 802, 8TH FLOOR	ANTI-SEMITISM, ISRAEL, PALESTINE AND THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALISM Speakers: Judy Beishon, CWI secretariat, Paul Reilly, RMT executive, Paul Heron author of book on Ahd Tamimi Chair: James Kerr, teacher, Lewisham Socialist Party ROOM 822, 8TH FLOOR
POPULISM RISING?	COULD TRUMP WIN IN 2020? Speaker: Kshama Sawant, Socialist Alternative Seattle Chair: Josh Asker, Southampton Socialist Party LOGAN HALL, LOWER FLOOR		EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE: CAN THE LEFT REBUILD? Speakers from Poland, Croatia and Romania Chair: Mira Glavardanov ROOM 731, 7TH FLOOR
NATIONAL QUESTIONS		DOES ANOTHER SCOTTISH INDYREF HELP WORKERS FIGHT BACK? Speakers: Philip Stott and Matt Dobson, Socialist Party Scotland Chair: Linda Thraves, Swansea Socialist Party ROOM 804, 8TH FLOOR	STRUGGLE FOR AN INDEPENDENT SOCIALIST CATALONIA Speaker: Juan Ignacio Ramos, Izquierda Revolucionaria Chair: Bea Gardner, Southampton Socialist Party NUNN HALL, 4TH FLOOR
TORY COLD CRUELTY	LESSONS FROM THE POLL TAX FOR FIGHTING TORY ATTACKS Speaker: Dave Griffiths, West Midlands Socialist Party secretary Chair: Lucy Riglin, Cardiff Central Socialist Party secretary 804, 8TH FLOOR		AFTER GRENFELL - THE FIGHT FOR A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME ON HOUSING Speakers: Paul Kershaw, Unite housing workers branch chair, campaigners from Butterfields Won't Budge Chair: Nancy Taaffe, Waltham Forest Socialist Party ROOM 802, 8TH FLOOR
UNDERSTAND CAPITALISM	CAN THE STATE BE NEUTRAL? Speaker: Alec Thraves, Socialist Party NC Chair: Lindsey Morgan, Leicester Socialist Party COMMITTEE ROOM 1, 4TH FLOOR	FULLY AUTOMATED LUXURY COMMUNISM - IS AI TAKING US THERE? Speaker: Robin Clapp, South West Socialist Party secretary Chair: Scott Jones, editorial team, the Socialist ROOM 736, 7TH FLOOR	
HISTORY OF RESISTANCE	PETERLOO 1819: LESSONS FOR TODAY Speakers: Hugh Caffrey, North West Socialist Party secretary, and Kevin Parslow, Unite branch secretary Chair: Lily Branchett, Birmingham Socialist Party ROOM 731, 7TH FLOOR	NHS AT 70 - THE FIGHT FOR ITS FUTURE Speakers: Tessa Warrington, Socialist Party NC and Tom Hunt, Chatsworth ward campaigner and nurse Chair: Jon Dale, Mansfield Socialist Party secretary ROOM 804, 8TH FLOOR	1968 - A REVOLUTIONARY YEAR IN FRANCE AND BEYOND Speaker: Clare Doyle, CWI secretariat Chair: Ryan Aldred, Plymouth Socialist Party COMITTEE ROOM 1, 4TH FLOOR

Registration: Registration will open at 12.30pm on Saturday and 9am on Sunday

Workshops: Workshops will run from 3pm to 5pm on Saturday and 10am-12noon and 1-3pm on Sunday.

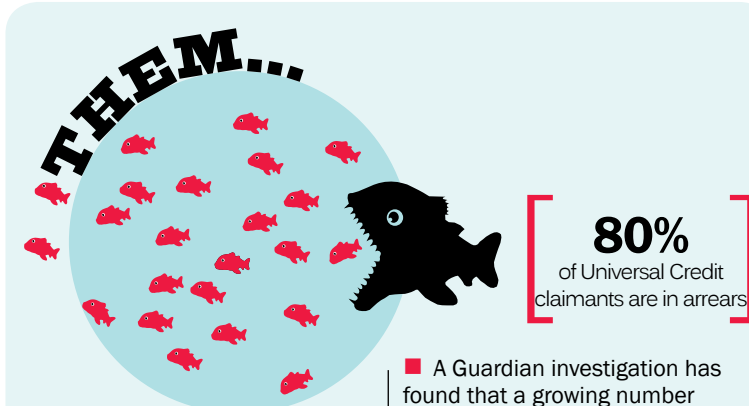
Rallies: The main rally will be on Saturday 6.30-8.30pm. We will also have a closing rally on Sunday 3-4.30pm

We want you to join the Socialist Party. Drop in session to sign up 12 noon Sunday, Room 604

Join us! www.socialistparty.org.uk • text join with your name & postcode to 07761 818206 • email: join@socialistparty.org.uk • phone: 020 8988 8777 • write to: Socialist Party, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD

Programme subject to slight changes





■ Monthly rents at one 'co-living' apartment block in Wembley, London start at £1,450 for a studio and £1,590 for a one-bedroom flat. They go up to £2,200 for a two-bed and £3,000 for a three-bed.

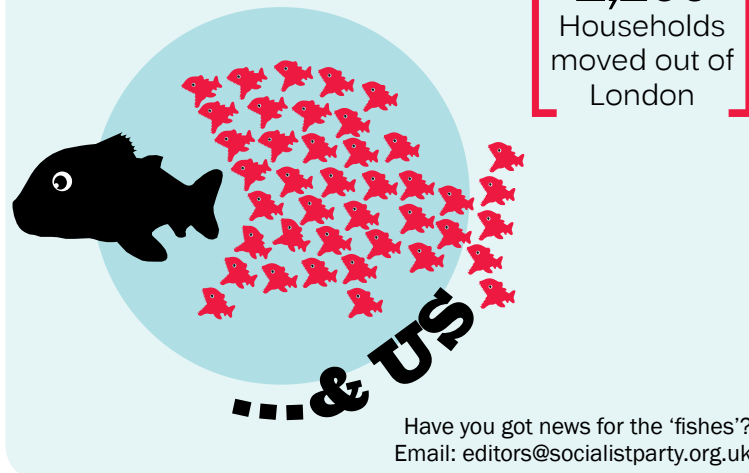
£3k
Monthly rent for a three-bed flat with shared facilities in London

■ A report by 'Transport for New Homes' has found that the scramble to build new homes is producing houses next to bypasses and link roads which are too far out of town for people to walk or cycle there, and which lack good local buses.

At Great Western Park near Didcot in Oxfordshire, residents climb over a fence to get where they need to go because footpaths with neighbouring areas are so poor.

At Castle Mead in Wiltshire, people wanting to use the shops, community centre or pub have to use an underpass after dark - or brave the lorries on a by-pass without a footpath.

And at Prior's Hall Park near Corby in Northamptonshire, developers trumpeted the estate's closeness to the M1 for the commute to London - but seven years since the first section was completed, there's no shop or café on site.



Have you got news for the 'fishes'? Email: editors@socialistparty.org.uk

Homelessness, Universal Credit misery, high rents, cramped flats, isolated estates... END THE HOUSING CRISIS NOW!



photo Paul Mattsson

Connor Rosoman
Brighton Socialist Party

Housing in Britain is in crisis. Bailiffs were called to a house in Hove on 26 October after the tenant - struggling to get by on Universal Credit - fell into rent arrears. I joined a local tenants' union which held a picket outside the house to prevent the evictions.

Many tenants find themselves unable to live alone due to skyrocketing rent prices. Under new 'co-living' schemes in big cities, up to several hundred tenants are packed into massive apartment buildings with shared bathrooms, kitchens and other such facilities. Bedrooms are cramped, leaving people with little space to themselves.

The spread of small, overcrowded housing can have negative effects on physical and mental health, and such 'co-living' spaces are another step in this direction.

At the same time, many of those who can afford their own homes find themselves living on new housing developments built on the edges

of towns without local facilities and with poor transport links.

This means many working-class families are forced to drive to reach, schools, doctors and shops. As a result of the increased traffic, families spend hours in the car just to reach essential services. Instead of these poorly designed neighbourhoods, we need quality, affordable housing and decent public transport.

Homelessness

Meanwhile some have nowhere to live at all. Homelessness has seen a dramatic increase, with an estimated 4,751 people sleeping on the streets last year. This is a 15% increase since 2016 alone.

But councils have tried to sweep the problem under the rug - forcing rough sleepers out of the cities by using Public Service Protection Orders (PSPOs). Many homeless people have been denied legal aid in challenging councils that have used PSPOs in an attempt to criminalise homelessness.

Universal Credit has driven many people into rent arrears and - alongside precarious contracts and poverty wages - thousands of people in work cannot afford a home. We

need to fight back against low pay, benefit cuts, rent hikes and poor-quality housing.

The Socialist Party campaigns for rent controls and we raise the demand that local councils fight back by using their extensive reserves and borrowing powers to set no-cuts, needs-based budgets.

With the Tories having lifted restrictions on borrowing to fund council house building, there is absolutely no excuse for Labour councils not to act. They should begin a massive programme of council-house building to provide all people with high-quality, affordable places to live.

This means building a mass campaign and demanding the funding needed from the government. Jeremy Corbyn should pledge now that any council which took such a road would see its funds restored on day one of a Labour government.

SOCIALISM 2018
'The fight for a socialist programme on housing' will be a session at Socialism 2018. See page 3 and socialism2018.net

Philip Green scandal - bring him down like BHS

Claire Laker-Mansfield
Socialist Party executive committee

Billionaire boss Philip Green has spent millions of pounds attempting to hide multiple allegations of sexual harassment, bullying and racism towards his employees.

As well as gagging orders and pay-offs, Green shelled out more than £700,000 obtaining a legal injunction designed to keep the story out of the media. The wall of silence was ended when the issue was raised by Labour peer Peter Hain in the House of Lords, who used parliamentary privilege in order to avoid falling foul of the legal injunction.

Green's response to the allegations hitting the headlines - including crassly brushing off his alleged behaviour as 'banter' - has only added weight to the claims of his accusers.

Racist comments

Revoltingly, in an interview published on 28 September, he supposedly rebuts accusations that he made disgusting racist comments aimed at the Filipino workers who staff his \$150 million superyacht by saying: "My family's longest-serving Filipino employee has been with us 28 years."

It is no surprise to learn that Green is accused of bullying. Being prepared to trample on the lives of others is a prerequisite for making billions of pounds based on a business model relying on rock bottom wages, casual contracts and asset stripping.

Women and those from ethnic minorities are disproportionately likely to face low pay and work in casualised settings.

To believe that Green also holds bigoted attitudes towards many of those he relies on to generate profit takes no great leap of the imagination.

Tory and Blairite politicians are now either joining the chorus of condemnation against Green, or else are staying silent. But they've substantially changed their tune.

Back in 2010, David Cameron invited Philip Green to advise his government on 'efficiency' - the choice Tory euphemism for cuts.

Fortune

Green made his fortune on the basis of buying ailing businesses at knock-down rates. His astonishing ability to cut 'costs' - otherwise known as jobs, wages, pensions and conditions - was cited as his principle qualification for this appointment.

The Con-Dems took Green on as an adviser at a time when his business portfolio included the retailer BHS. This company was effectively stripped of assets by Green before it was forced to close. Its workers were left high and dry. They not only lost their jobs, but found that he had left behind a gaping hole in the pension fund.

Green extracted hundreds of millions of pounds from the company. At the same time, it's estimated he avoided more than £160 million in UK tax. His wife - the legal owner of Green's Arcadia group - continues to

officially reside in tax-haven Monaco.

And it's not just the Tories who've been chummy with Green. Tony Blair was among those who recommended he be knighted in 2006.

Green is not a just 'one rotten apple'. He is deeply enmeshed in the capitalist establishment.

And sexism and racism are part and parcel of the capitalist system - as scandals, including those revealed under the banner of #MeToo, are increasingly exposing.

Investigation

Stripping Green of his knighthood, as many pro-capitalist politicians are now demanding, barely scratches the surface. He should face investigation, overseen by workers' representatives and trade unions, over all allegations of sexist and racist abuse, as well as on the huge payments made to try and silence accusations.

What's more, we demand the opening of the company's finances to full inspection by trade unions and the public. Regardless of his alleged personal conduct, Green's role in the collapse of BHS itself justifies the nationalisation of Green's 'assets', in the form of the giant Arcadia group.

This should be brought into public ownership, under democratic workers' control - with compensation paid to shareholders only on the basis of proven need. Only this measure would be sufficient to guarantee the protection of jobs and pensions for all the 22,000 workers it employs.



SOCIALISM 2018
Sessions on fighting sexism, racism and winning rights in the workplace will take place at Socialism 2018. See page 3 and socialism2018.net

London gig economy workers march against bosses

photo Paula Mitchell



Paula Mitchell
London Socialist Party secretary

A brightly coloured and noisy protest of precarious workers marched and danced its way around central London on 30 October. Starting at Transport for London headquarters, workers marched to the Royal Courts of Justice, demanding workers' rights and an end to the gig economy.

The biggest anger was directed against Uber at the Court of Appeal. The gig economy firm is trying to avoid giving holiday pay, sick pay and other rights to their drivers.

Uber drivers organised by the small independent trade union IWGB were joined by Deliveroo cyclists, and newly organised foster carers and video game workers. These workers demanded payment by the hour. Representatives also took part from general union GMB and the Bakers' Union BFAWU, and the protest was addressed by Dave Ward, Communication Workers Union general secretary.

The next leg of the protest was to join outsourced security workers at Senate House, University of London, fighting for decent pay and against privatisation.

60% of wildlife wiped out - urgent action needed to save planet

Since 1970, 60% of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles have been wiped out due to deforestation, farming techniques and other human activity.

A report by leading scientists and the World Wildlife Fund warns that the annihilation of wildlife is now an emergency that threatens civilisation.

The news follows warnings that even limiting global warming to the current target of 2°C is not enough. Scientists are now insisting on the lower limit of 1.5°C - and saying we have just 12 years left to change course.

Unprecedented change is required if we want to have a planet to live on, cities and towns to live in, food to eat, water to drink and

to secure the survival of wildlife and ecosystems which are vital to human life.

This change can only be achieved by socialist transformation on an international scale, through the mass action of those who most need it: the working class and young people.

Only on the basis of a socialist world - where the planet's resources are taken out of the hands of those driving climate change, the capitalists, and into collective ownership, as part of a democratic plan for green production - can we truly meet the needs of all society, and avert catastrophe.

■ 'Can environmental catastrophe be stopped?' is a session at Socialism 2018. See page 3 and socialism2018.net for more

Join the fightback! Join the Socialists!
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photo Paul Mattsson

University and College Union General secretary censured but anti-union laws frustrate strike ballot

Sam Morecroft

UCU Yorks and Humber regional executive (personal capacity)

June's University and College Union (UCU) congress was shut down when staff walked out in response to motions criticising the general secretary Sally Hunt. The annual democratic congress reconvened on 18 October.

The reconvened congress was largely to debate these motions, calling for a vote of no confidence in the general secretary and a vote to censure her. Both stemmed from this year's pension dispute.

While the 14-day strike staved off an attempt to decimate our pensions, the stitch-up by the general secretary and full-time officials to end the strikes has angered members.

Sally Hunt could not attend the congress. She recently announced that she has been suffering with multiple sclerosis for some time, and has been forced to take medical leave. Socialist Party members in UCU send solidarity to Sally at this difficult time.

Exeter UCU delegates withdrew the no confidence motion, explaining the reasons behind it but acknowledging it wasn't appropriate to hear in light of the general secretary's health. The King's College London UCU motion - calling for censure of the general secretary for her conduct during the strike - was overwhelmingly passed.

While Sally Hunt is absent, her duties will be performed by a senior unelected official. Two emergency motions were tabled which called for the congress to send greetings to Sally Hunt, to ensure members retain control of our disputes, and address the leadership's democratic

legitimacy during this absence.

They were ruled out of order. This was challenged and delegates won the vote to hear them but fell 17 votes short of the two thirds majority needed to overrule the congress business committee.

The ballot results for higher education pay and equality and further education pay have been released. They represent a huge achievement.

The higher education turnout was the largest for the UCU ever on pay - 42%. Nearly 70% voted for strike action. But the vast majority of institutions failed to reach the Tories' arbitrary and undemocratic 50% turnout threshold.

In further education only four colleges reached the threshold. In higher education my own Sheffield branch narrowly reached 50% with six other universities. If there's to be national industrial action we will need to reballoon.

Our union must reflect, and return to organising. The anger over pay, casualisation, workload and the gender pay gap will only grow.

This has been a year of building our union, with successful local disputes and the incredible 14-day pension strike. The Tories' anti-union laws have frustrated us for now. But we are determined to smash their undemocratic thresholds and to fight to defend post-16 education from austerity.

**Can unions fight
austerity? Just one of
many sessions at
SOCIALISM 2018
See page 3 and
socialism2018.net**

WELSH COLLEGE STAFF SET TO STRIKE ON PAY AND WORKLOAD



photo London Socialist Party

College lecturers in Wales have voted by an overwhelming majority to strike, busting the undemocratic Tory strike threshold. The employers, Colegau Cymru, refuse to recognise the all-Wales ballot. They demand the union divide up the dispute college by college, despite Colegau Cymru negotiating for all colleges collectively.

We've witnessed ten years of barbaric educational vandalism by the Tories. 91% of University and College Union (UCU) members voted for an improved pay offer on a 52% turnout. 54% voted in the workload ballot, 90% backing strike action.

Intensifying workload, job cuts, and a decade of real-terms pay reductions (approximately 20%) are lowering staff morale. Some of our members even seek charity support as they face financial difficulties.

The Education Support Partner-

ship claimed requests for grants were up 40%. Our 7.5% pay claim goes some way to recompensing these losses.

A UCU Wales survey showed members are working 50, 60 and 70-hour weeks, but getting paid for 37. Lecturers are literally working two days for free.

UCU Coleg y Cymoedd members hope that Colegau Cymru agree to the workers' demands.

Clare Gibbs
UCU Coleg y Cymoedd
(personal capacity)

CWU special conference

Sharpen up our act? Yes. But weaken our democracy? No

**Socialist Party members
in the CWU**

The Communication Workers Union (CWU) has faced the consequences of the breakup of a once publicly owned industry.

On 3 November, a special conference will debate a redesign of the union's structures and finances.

Every union should discuss where it needs to direct its resources. But core principles of democracy and lay-member control must be defended.

The CWU's resources and money should be targeted to ensure we are in the best position to fight back against the employer, as we did in the recent pension dispute.

The proposal to take 50% of the current branch reserves - nearly £3 million - will be seen as a 'raid'. We don't support members' money being wasted or lying idle, but is that the case here?

Union branches have more work-

load on a smaller layer of reps while workforce fragmentation and bullying management are on the up. There's a growing struggle to secure adequate time off for reps.

Often these funds are used by branches to carry out basic functions. The union could allow branches with bigger geographical areas or multiple employers higher membership subs retention.

"Sanctions"

Sections of the redesign report read like an employer's performance management scheme. Talk of monitoring and "sanctions" against union activists is wrong. The best accountability of our reps is the right to regularly hold them to account and vote them out of office.

Training is vital for all reps, and to lose the option of residential training would be a backward step. The current proposals don't even make a financial case for closure. No decision should be made until this has been done.

Investment in organising and

recruitment is the answer to gaining more members. And defending and improving the conditions in the communications sector.

One proposal is conferences every two years. This must be opposed.

The national delegate conference is our parliament. It's the one time in the year that we set union policy and strategy, and call leaders to account.

We have to address the cost and difficulty getting people there, but to cut it is not the answer.

The leadership's alternative "policy forums" still cost time and money, they don't make binding democratic decisions, and can be ignored by the leadership.

The pensions dispute shows that we're at our best when we're fighting for members. The best way of winning new members and activists isn't 'clever' management tools but delivering for members on the ground in defence of their jobs, pay and conditions.

■ Read the full version at
socialistparty.org.uk

Driving London's buses

A laser in the eye and a boot up the bum!



A London bus driver and Unite union member

Why are drivers involved in road traffic incidents often tired? Transport for London (TfL) could ask the real bus experts - the drivers!

We're under pressure from the intensity of work and long hours. For example, drivers working five-and-a-half hours continuously before having a legal 30-minute break.

The bosses' solution to driver tiredness isn't shorter hours. They want to introduce a camera where a laser points at the driver's eyes to detect tiredness and the seat vibrates to wake the driver up. A laser in the eye and a boot up the bum!

TfL and Mayor Sadiq Khan have plans to eliminate injuries and deaths on the bus network by 2030. Unfortunately, the private bus companies which operate routes are only interested in profits.

Last year a report by the London Assembly into bus safety said: "TfL's mantra 'safety is our top priority' appears not to be the reality. Instead, TfL encourages bus operators to make punctuality their top priority."

Some bus companies have "remote sign-on" plans. Instead of the bus depot, the driver starts from the changeover point. That means not being aware of any notices such as diversions, not being able to discuss with colleagues or station staff, and travelling in their own time in order

to maximise driving time.

We should be consulted on any changes to our terms and conditions. In fact, there should be democratic workers' control of our employment conditions. It's no surprise that these attacks are taking place as the Tory government removes funding to TfL - which Khan is allowing to go through.

Tom Kearney - a bus crash survivor now campaigning for safety along with bus drivers - was correct that it's not a technology issue but an issue of lack of toilets, long hours, failed air conditioning in bus cabs and the way the employers treat bus drivers.

Safety will always be compromised until Unite's policy of public ownership is implemented.

The case for socialist nationalisation. Just one of many sessions at
SOCIALISM 2018
See page 3 and
socialism2018.net

Still fighting D00

RMT transport union members took five more days of strike action against the threat to axe guards and roll out driver-only operation on South Western Railway 23-27 October. The union said that members were solidly supporting the dispute across the length and breadth of the franchise.

PCS LEFT UNITY ELECTION: BALLOT OPENS

Hear Chris Baugh at the Saturday night rally, and Marion Lloyd at the Sunday rally at
SOCIALISM 2018
See page 3 and
socialism2018.net

PCS civil service union Assistant General Secretary (AGS) Chris Baugh, elected three times since 2004, has won at least eight nomination meetings in his campaign to be the Left Unity AGS candidate for a fourth term.

Left Unity regional group meetings have now met and agreed their nominations. Voting will take place during November. Socialist Party member Chris Baugh is opposed, in a divisive move, by Janice Godrich, current PCS president, with support from PCS General Secretary Mark Serwotka.

The move to replace Chris has led to a potentially damaging campaign within Left Unity. Chris, along with other Socialist Party members, is being opposed by the newly formed Socialist View including the Socialist Workers' Party.

It is clear they want to remove the voice of the Socialist Party in PCS. Their slates are divisive and do not follow in the best traditions of the left, which reflect all strands of

opinion in Left Unity.

For the Left Unity national committee their slate challenges positions held by Socialist Party members Marion Lloyd (current Left Unity chair) and Dave Semple (current editor). This slate also removes two women activists from small government departments.

Their national executive committee (NEC) slate, if successful, will remove Socialist Party members Marion Lloyd, Katrine Williams and Dave Semple. In contrast, the Chris4AGS campaign has put forward a limited slate, leaving places for those currently on the Left Unity national committee and the NEC, including Socialist View supporters.

The election campaign has brought to the surface political differences. The Chris4AGS campaign, which is supported by the Socialist Party and many independent socialists across the union, has united around a programme which sets out a fighting strategy to take the union forward.

On pay, we support a full democratic discussion to determine the next steps and to agree future industrial strategy - one which maximises the potential of reaching and exceeding the Tory-imposed ballot threshold.

This discussion should include, for example, linking pay with jobs and conditions, an aggregate ballot, and an organising strategy to build the union. This contrasts with the 'more of the same' approach by

Socialist View supporters.

Rather than unconditional support for Labour, the Chris4AGS campaign stands for the continued political independence of PCS while working with Labour to ensure it implements the promises it has given the union. The Chris4AGS campaign stands for lay power and increased democracy, including extending the election of full-time officers.

We stand for an open, democratic and inclusive Left Unity - a rank-and-file organisation which fights for and supports a left leadership, but retains sufficient independence to hold the leadership accountable.

We are seeking support in the Left Unity ballot - which closes on 23 November - for the candidates listed below right.

Our slates leave places to be filled by other incumbent Left Unity national committee and PCS NEC members. We stand for unity within the left around a programme to fight to defend PCS members, resist Tory attacks and oppose austerity.

PCS: RE-ELECT

CHRIS BAUGH

#Chris4AGS

NATIONAL GALLERY REPS ENDORSE CHRIS BAUGH

We are PCS union reps at the National Gallery. We include our branch executive positions but are writing in a personal capacity.

Chris Baugh has been an outstanding source of support to the branch for many years.

Chris was at the forefront of opposition to the privatisation of visitor services in 2015 and after a lengthy industrial dispute led negotiations that secured a robust back-to-work agreement protecting existing terms and conditions for members.

Naturally those conditions are constantly under renewed attack by the employer and again Chris has been a valuable source of advice, expertise, support and encourage-

ment throughout. Members greatly value Chris's active involvement in our branch campaigns and the support he has consistently offered.

We are not getting involved in internal politics. All we know is that experience has taught us that when the going gets tough, this branch can rely on Chris.

We have no hesitation in recommending support for Chris Baugh's re-election as PCS assistant general secretary and urge all Left Unity members to support him.

Graham Eve (branch secretary), Colin Eeles (branch chair), Lynn Boothman (health and safety officer), Ian Hall (equalities officer), Patrick Sofela (rep)

PCS elections

Nomination for Left Unity candidate for AGS: Chris Baugh
Nominations for Left Unity slate for the PCS national executive committee:

President: Marion Lloyd
Vice-President: Katrine Williams
NEC: Clive Bryant, Alan Dennis, Steve Thorley, Kris Hendry, Rhea James, John Jamieson, Tahir Latif, Marion Lloyd, Kenny McKay, Dave Semple, Hector Wesley, Katrine Williams, Harvey Crane

PCS Left Unity national committee

Chair: Marion Lloyd
Treasurer: Alan Dennis
Equal opportunities officer: Kris Hendry
Editor: Dave Semple
Young members' officer: Sarah Spencer
Scrutineers: Sian Ruddock
Committee members: Clara Paillard, Bobby Young

Follow our campaign on Facebook - Re-elect Chris Baugh AGS

Hugh Caffrey
Socialist Party national committee

Manchester was England's second largest and the world's first industrial city by the early nineteenth century. The industrial revolution had swelled the population, including that of neighbouring Salford, to hundreds of thousands of people by 1819.

But Manchester continued to be run like a mediaeval market town - without even the corrupt trappings of limited parliamentary 'democracy' which existed elsewhere.

The main demands of the radical reform movement which grew at this time were for the right to vote for all men (rather than just the rich), annual parliamentary elections, and the introduction of secret ballots.

Under the unreformed system, 152 parliamentary seats had less than 100 voters. Old Sarum constituency in Wiltshire, for example, had seven voters and two MPs. Meanwhile Manchester, with its huge population, had none!

The huge demonstration in St Peters Field on 16 August 1819 was the high point of the working-class part of the radical reform movement, which was demanding democratic rights. For the working-class people who joined the movement, these rights were seen as a means to an end: a better standard of living.

On this day, over 60,000 people gathered on St Peter's Field in central Manchester. This enormous figure was equivalent to half the adult population of Manchester and Salford.

Thousands assembled from dawn, marching into the local town centres, where they assembled into groups of 100. Prominent among the marchers were female reformers, who had their own contingent from Royton. Sashes, cotton dresses, and the 'cap of liberty' were widely worn.

One establishment commentator viewed this organisation of working-class women as "more menacing to the established institutions than the education of the lower orders."

Peaceful

This was a peaceful and unarmed demonstration. Protesters carried banners and had musical bands. In the words of the request made by leading radical campaigner Henry Hunt, they were 'armed with no other weapon than that of a self-approving conscience.'

By contrast, the local authorities had mobilised 1,500 soldiers from yeoman divisions of Cheshire and Manchester & Salford. These were part-time volunteer soldiers, mounted on horseback and armed with swords. They were owners of small businesses, right-wing supporters of 'King and Church', violently opposed to any improvement in the lot of the masses.

Manchester's ruling 'magistrates' committee' was terrified at the well-organised demonstration. They read the Riot Act and ordered the arrest of Henry Hunt and others on the platform, a typical tactic for breaking up mass demonstrations.

The special constables refused to do so without support from the troops. This support was immediately ordered and the yeomanry, many of them drunk, attacked the crowd, hacking and slashing at people and trampling them beneath horses' hooves.

The 15th Hussars regiment was sent in to strengthen the onslaught and people fleeing were attacked by two infantry regiments as well as an artillery regiment.

Around 15 demonstrators were killed there and then. Over 600 were injured on the day. The largest group were about 250 people trampled beneath charging horses.

The war against Napoleon had culminated in the particularly bloody battle of Waterloo four years earlier, widely known at the time for its huge casualties. The slaughter at St Peter's Field was soon called 'Peter Loo', drawing the comparison with 1815. Within a week, the name 'Peterloo Massacre' had been coined.

From the 1790s, radical and trade union organisations and ideas developed. The French revolution had huge support. It's estimated that a quarter of English workers would rather have fought for France than Britain in the Napoleonic wars which followed it.

Workers' movement

The nascent workers' movement of the 1790s was crushed as Britain became a military dictatorship, with martial law, executions, floggings, and transportation - deportation to the colonies to work as forced labour.

The Combination Acts banned trade unions, strikes, collections of money, or oaths of support to workers' or radical societies. 'Church and King' mobs mobilised right-wing supporters in violent attacks on radicals and union activists.

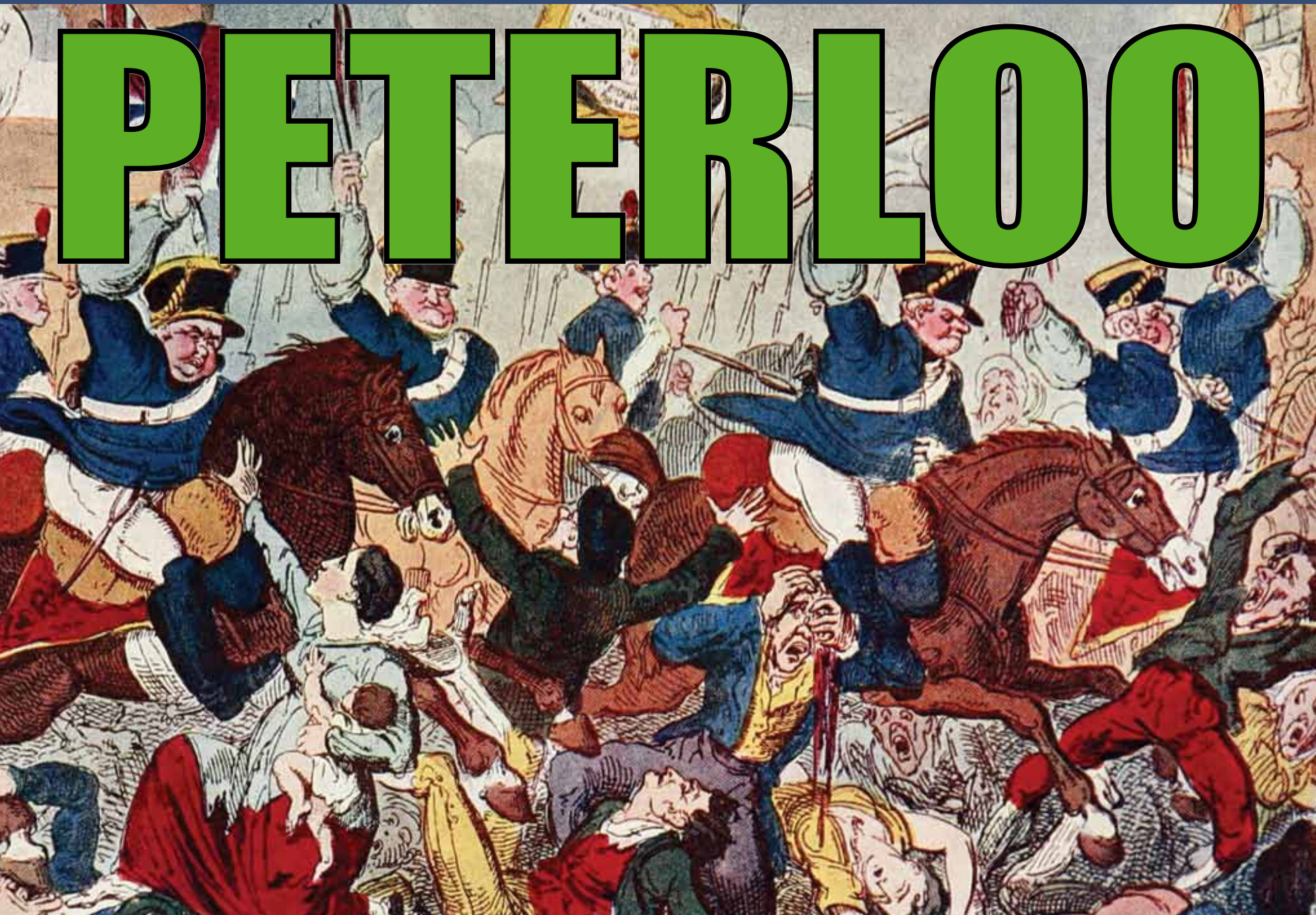
The rural population was devastated by legalised land grabs. Landowners were given the right to build walls around 'their' land and to evict the current users, who were driven into the cities ready for super-exploitation by industrialists armed with new technology.

The Black Dwarf, a radical paper, wrote at the time that the worker is, "locked up in factories eight storeys high, with no rest till the engines stop and he rushes home to get refreshed for the next day."

Children over seven worked twelve or fifteen hours a day in factories. The average life expectancy of a Manchester labourer was 17 years. These years were spent living in slums, with no water, no sanitation, epidemics of disease, widespread pollution, and very high child mortality rates.

Periodic strikes and riots alternated with periods of repression. The 'reform' and 'radical' move-

"If the people were to rise and smite their enemies, was not this the time?" Samuel Bamford, Peterloo demonstrator



ments of the time involved several sections of society: the new capitalists of industry, the more progressive section of the middle classes, the mass of the actual working class, and the poorest.

The capitalist class was increasingly divided between old and new capitalists. The latter were criminalised for demanding for the vote. Elite reformers founded the Hampden Club in London in 1811. Prominent reformer Major Cartwright toured northern industrial districts in 1812 and 1813, encouraging the development of popular reform societies.

The old capitalists were split among themselves over free trade or protectionism. This led to the introduction of the Corn Law in

1815 which propped up the price of grain on the domestic market, benefiting rich grain farmers. Grain prices more than doubled in 18 months.

By contrast, the government refused to protect wages: it condemned unions, rejected petitions for a minimum wage, and repealed existing regulations on wages and apprenticeships.

From 1811-16 the widespread 'Luddite' workers' movement developed, opposing the use of new technology to cut pay or jobs. The government used huge military force to put this down with widespread executions and transportations.

In 1815-16 there were widespread strikes, demonstrations and

riots. Workers' resistance to this huge crisis led them to look for political ideas in publications written by middle-class reformers, particularly Cobbett's Political Register. Riots dropped off, replaced by a mass movement with political ideas.

A petition to parliament signed by 500,000 people was ignored by the government at the start of 1817. The government intended to repeat the 1790s by breaking the movement with massive repression. The national reform leaders failed to react adequately, and the national organisation was broken up.

Manchester increasingly came to the fore as the area with the largest and best-organised mass movement. After repressing

the March 1817 'Blanketeers' demonstration, the Manchester authorities decided to set up the Manchester and Salford Yeomanry (MSY), in case the troops were insufficient to put down a larger demonstration.

On 9 June hundreds of Derbyshire workers joined the 'Pentrich Uprising', believing they were part of a national insurrection. Tragically they were isolated and arrested before they got far. Three of the leaders were hanged and beheaded, others were imprisoned or transported for life. The underlying mood remained explosive with mass cotton workers' and miners' strikes across Lancashire and Cheshire a year later.

Review: Peterloo pamphlet

"The sun looked down through a sultry and motionless air...over the whole field were strewn caps, bonnets, shawl and shoes, and other parts of male and female dress, trampled, torn and bloody."

As the bicentenary of the Peterloo massacre approaches, the publication of this pamphlet by the North West Socialist Party is extremely timely. In six short, crisp chapters, mostly newly written for this publication, the authors set the massacre in the context of the class struggle of the time, as few conventional authors do.

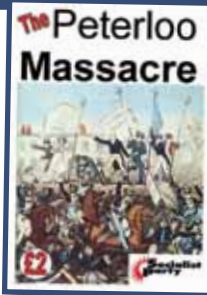
The pamphlet offers a comprehensive analysis of the situation facing working people in the early 1800s: the halving of weavers' wages, a doubling of grain prices between 1816 and 1817, food riots, the driving of impoverished agricultural labourers into the cities, and so on.

All this was against a background of acute state repression. The workers combine in unions. They strike, rise up and explore every possible tactic. The nascent working class is excluded from the franchise. Rotten boroughs have almost as many MPs as electors. Swelling cities like Manchester, Leeds and Birmingham are totally unrepresented in parliament.

Workers demand the right to vote, yet also strain against private property, the monarchy and the state. With rare exceptions, they are abandoned and disappointed by middle-class radicals. With increasing self-confidence they prepare the ground for what the pamphlet calls 'the world's first national workers' movement': Chartism.

The pamphlet is £2 or bulk orders of ten can be bought for £14. Contact Hugh Caffrey at manc_sfe@hotmail.com or 07769 611 320.

Paul Gerard, Salford Socialist Party



The reform movement was led by middle-class people. But, particularly in and around Manchester, it sank deep working-class roots. In June 1819, a conference of delegates from 28 northern towns met in Oldham and called for the "formation of Union Societies in every town and village... and also the frequent holding of public and district meetings."

Union Societies spread across Lancashire. Under the name 'Political Protestants', they developed across Yorkshire. They went on to grow in other manufacturing areas hit by 'General Distress' - particularly in the west midlands and north east.

The movement paid special attention to Irish migrants, other sections of the poorest workers, and women. The first of the female reform societies was established on 18 June in Blackburn, where women were a significant part of local workforce.

"Universal Suffrage"

These gave a space to working-class women to organise themselves and discuss their own demands as well as their common struggles with working-class men. A banner at a reform meeting in Leigh on 11 August proclaimed "No Corn Laws, Annual Parliaments and Universal Suffrage".

"Peaceably if we can, forcibly if we must," was a slogan widely used in the radical reform movement. On the hills around Manchester, ex-soldiers organised secret night-time drilling as working-class people prepared to confront the state. Tragically, Henry Hunt called on the movement to stop "playing at soldiers" and not be provoked "to commit any breach of the peace."

Events were developing in a revolutionary direction. Successive demonstrations built morale and were part of a conscious strategy towards a national convention and a national uprising.

Mass organisation was proving more powerful than previous 'conspiracies' and Lord Liverpool's

government feared losing control and encouraging a burgeoning working-class movement if they conceded anything.

The backlash against Peterloo mobilised the working-class movement and provoked middle-class 'public opinion' into sharper criticism of the government, which was unnerved by these developments. Mass meetings were held across the West Riding - neighbouring parts of east Lancashire and west Yorkshire - and night-time drilling continued.

The intended next steps in the north west were coordinated mass meetings on 1 and 8 November 1819. However, the middle-class limitations of radical reform movement leaders then became sharply apparent. Looking to more passive appeals to public opinion - rather than escalating a mass movement - they called off the demonstrations.

This caused huge confusion in the movement, at which the government then struck. Its spies caused havoc and aided the isolation and arrests of key militants, with Peterloo leaders put on trial.

New laws in November and December banned armed drilling and collection of arms, enabled easier prosecution of radicals, attacked the radical press, and effectively banned radical public meetings and working-class demonstrations. Struggle continued in the 1820s, but at a lower level, in the workplaces.

The working-class was defeated in 1819. Within 12 months, Lancashire activists had concluded that Hunt should have made a stand the previous year. Timing is the art of politics and never more so than in a revolutionary period.

Above all, the idea of an independent workers' movement separate from all sections of the capitalist establishment had taken firm hold. These hard-learned lessons prepared for Chartism, the world's first national workers' movement 20 years later, and remain essential for the movement today.

GLASGOW'S EQUAL PAY UPRISING SHOWS POWER OF WORKING CLASS



Strikers picket a refuse depot photo Matt Dobson

Matt Dobson
Socialist Party Scotland

Around 8,500 working class women in Glasgow made history on 23-24 October when they took industrial action. As BBC news commented, it was “one of the biggest ever strikes in the UK on the issue of equal pay”. In truth, it was more like an uprising, in which the power of the working class was clearly demonstrated.

Picket lines were set up across hundreds of primary schools, nurseries, cleaning depots and council buildings. You did not have to walk very far to find a picket line or hear one!

Later on, a colourful sea of 10,000 strikers, fellow trade unionists, and supporters, marched in a noisy and vibrant demo on the first strike day that shook the streets from Glasgow Green to George Square.

Central to the mobilisation was the tremendous fighting capacity of low-paid women workers, who made up 90% of the strikers.

Betrayed by the previous right-wing Labour council which presided over the pay inequality scandal for a decade - and the new Scottish National Party (SNP) council that promised a just resolution but has dragged its heels - working-class women had had enough.

The strike reflected their pent-up anger but also the experience of the last decade of vicious capitalist

austerity. As a striking marcher said: “We want fairness. I’m a single parent, struggling to support my family on £800 a month”.

After the pickets finished, a sea of strikers flooded Glasgow Green for the demonstration.

Bus drivers let strikers travel free to Glasgow Green. The 75 bus from Castlemilk was seated almost entirely by strikers singing and chanting their way to the demonstration.

There was mass support from the public. As the demonstration came into the city centre, shoppers applauded. This was despite a barrage of anti-strike propaganda by the council leading up to the strike.

Council management in Land and Environmental Services initially threatened to discipline any worker who did not work during the strike. But on the morning shift in a marvellous display of solidarity, all 600 refuse workers - almost all male - walked out in solidarity with the women picketing the depots.

Some social workers, and some in the Glasgow Life arms-length organisation, also refused to cross picket lines and took solidarity action.

SNP exposed

The SNP falsely claimed that the trade unions are pawns of Scottish Labour, that the strike is only taking place due to Glasgow being a SNP council.

Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and Richard Leonard, Scottish Labour leader, did give

welcome support to the strike. But they failed to denounce the previous Labour council’s actions, which only lends weight to accusations of opportunism.

Glasgow City Unison countered the SNP’s claim by citing its militant history of 12 strikes for fair pay against the pay scheme, mainly when Labour was in power.

The reason for this strike was the Court of Session judgement in August 2017 that ruled the Glasgow pay scheme unequal and unfair. The women gave the SNP a chance after the consultative ballot in the summer, but the council let them down in negotiations. Striking is the only way to press for a negotiated settlement.

SNP council leader Susan Aitken poured petrol on a fire by suggesting that the strikers did not “understand the reasons” they were taking action.

Disgracefully, council officers and “spokespersons” ran a scare-mongering campaign targeting the home care strikers, publicly raising concerns that there would be fatalities and hounding the trade union over the issue of life and limb cover.

The SNP administration and council officers also tried divide and rule.

They called off negotiations with Unison and the GMB union as punishment for organising the strike. They would only negotiate with the Action 4 Equality lawyers and the non-striking Unite union. However, all the claimant organisations were

united in rejecting this approach.

Socialist Party Scotland has played a crucial role in this dispute in the leadership of Glasgow City Unison - whose members made up 5,500 of the 8,500 strikers.

We have been building solidarity, including strike fund donations, over the last few weeks. We distributed thousands of our strike leaflets on the demonstrations and pickets.

Three Unison strikers - Ingrid, Denise and Lynne Marie - spoke inspirationally at our post-strike rally meeting, alongside Brian Smith, branch secretary of Glasgow Unison and member of Socialist Party Scotland, and Philip Stott, our national secretary.

Lessons

We argued that the SNP, just like Labour before them, has no right to claim to be anti-austerity if they pass on Tory cuts, attack terms and conditions or refuse to implement equal pay schemes.

Labour was thrown out of power in Glasgow and the same could happen to the SNP. We raised the demand that the Scottish government and Glasgow City Council meet the cost of equal pay, estimated to be up to £1 billion, and set fighting, no-cuts budgets that defy Tory austerity.

We also highlighted this strike as an example of what can be achieved and that it should serve as a wake-up call to the trade union national leaders to call co-ordinated action against cuts and austerity.

Solidarity action for victimised teacher

In a vindictive act, EIS teachers’ union member Victoria Wainwright, a supply teacher, was told that she would never be able to work at her school again after taking solidarity action with the Glasgow strikers.

Victoria refused to cross the picket line. She told the Daily Record: “They said, ‘The head teacher doesn’t want you back - and, moving forward, you are going to find it very difficult to get a job in Glasgow.’”

“To me, it sounded quite threatening and like I was being blacklisted.”

Trade unionists must demand her reinstatement and the lifting of any blacklisting. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Call to arms by Southampton council unions

Keith Morrell
Independent councillor,
Southampton City Council

Unite and Unison unions representing Southampton City Council staff have declared that they will oppose and campaign against budget cuts announced by the Labour administration.

The unions have branded as “callous and shoddy” the proposed closure of two council-run residential care homes, the replacement of Sure Start staff by volunteers and the outsourcing of looked-after children’s services. These and other cuts will result in 123 staff losing their jobs.

These latest cuts come after eight years of attacks on public services in the city and the loss of over 1,000 jobs. For the last seven of those years the council has been controlled by Labour! Labour councillors should make a stand against these cuts or face being replaced by councillors who will.

Encouraged by this new determination of the trade unions, the families of adults with severe learning difficulties are now calling on Unite and Unison to support their on-going campaign to re-open full-time the Kentish Road Respite Centre, an



Fighting to keep open Kentish Road Respite Centre, with anti-cuts councillor Keith Morrell left (on megaphone) photo Southampton SP

earlier victim of budget cuts.

Kentish Road campaigners Lisa Stead and Amanda Guest, the mothers of two young people with severe learning difficulties, said: “We welcome this stand by Unite and Unison and pledge our full support. We know from the support we’ve had

from the people of Southampton that this action by the unions will get enormous support from a city sick of austerity.”

To kick off the campaign, Unite Community Southampton Area is organising a demonstration for 10.00am on Saturday, 3 November,

outside the Solent Spark Building on East Park Terrace in Southampton (SO14 0YN), where the Labour Party’s South East Regional Conference will be taking place. Unite Community has urged residents of the city and surrounding area to attend and show their solidarity.

Campaign building to save Scarborough and district hospitals

Nigel Smith
York Socialist Party

The campaign against York NHS Trust transferring non-medical staff into a ‘wholly owned subsidiary’ - a step towards privatisation - has exploded into a mass campaign to save the Scarborough and district hospitals from cuts.

A management consultancy company has been brought in to advise the trust on a review of acute services. People in Scarborough fear this will result in only one thing: cuts to the services at Scarborough Hospital and to the other trust hospitals in Whitby, Bridlington and Filey. The



photo Mary Finch

hospitals in Selby and Malton could also be affected.

An online petition against cuts to services has already secured almost 24,000 supporters and there are over 12,000 members of the Facebook group. This is extraordinary in a town with a population of less than 62,000.

Hundreds of citizens have already attended so-called consultation meetings, putting the hospital management on the back foot. The trust claims that it has no firm proposals to cut, but similar promises made in other trusts turned out to be false.

York NHS Trust has already proved to be opaque and divisive in setting up a wholly owned subsidiary and people know this.

A two-day strike against the setting up of this company has already taken place. More industrial action looks inevitable.

The first Save Scarborough and District Hospitals planning meeting has taken place. I was invited to as chair of the steering group fighting privatisation plans across the trust.

Mike Forster from the successful Hands off Huddersfield Royal Infirmary campaign and Socialist Party member sent greetings and gave advice to the group.

There is a determination to put an end to the erosion of NHS services across the region, a determination that can stop these attacks.

the Socialist Leeds sales successes

Iain Dalton,
Leeds Socialist Party

Starting with issue 1000 of the Socialist, Socialist Party members in Leeds have been selling the newspaper every week outside the new Leeds City Council building in the city centre. Each Friday morning, we’re there selling to various workers, some of who buy each week. Others will buy the Socialist more occasionally, or if the cover story piques their interest.

Since starting the sale, we’ve now sold over 100 copies of the Socialist, with sales varying from sometimes just a couple of papers to selling 15 one week.

Among our readers are shop stewards who regularly buy the Socialist, one of who has, since reading it, felt inspired to become more active in their union and become a senior rep. But we also meet others passing the front of the office who have bought the paper, including Leeds Beckett university students.

Since the universities started back we’ve also restarted our paper sale prior to Socialist Students meetings at Leeds University. Last week we sold eight copies.

It isn’t true that people aren’t interested in buying a socialist newspaper. What is the case is that less people carry cash, with about one or two copies on each sale being sold via our card reader.



Selling the Socialist in Leeds photo Iain Dalton

WHAT'S ON

- Here are some of the Socialist Party meetings taking place around the country this week. For a full list of meetings and events see socialistparty.org.uk/whats-on. Please send details of your meetings, protests and other events to editors@socialistparty.org.uk
- Leicester: Why we want a ‘People’s Vote’ on the EU to be a general election. Featuring Paul Murphy, Solidarity TD (MP) and Socialist Party member in Ireland, via Skype link-up.**
Saturday 3 November, 2.30pm at Secular Hall, 75 Humberstone Gate, LE1 1WB
- Birmingham: Chile 1973 - Lessons from Pinochet’s counter-revolution**
Monday 5 November, 7.30pm at The Wellington, Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5SN
- Bristol: Disaster capitalism - Turning the environmental crisis into profit**
Tuesday 6 November, 7.30pm at Malcolm X Centre (small building), 141 City Road, Bristol B2 8YH
Call/text 07986 951527 for more info
- Salford: Che Guevara - symbol of fashion or struggle?**
Wednesday 7 November, 7pm at Malaga Drift cafe, 1 Church Street, Eccles, Salford M30 0DL.
Speaker: Sally Griffiths.
Call/text 07740 348 550 for more info
- Hackney: World War One and the labour movement**
Wednesday 7 November, 7.30pm at Cafe Z Bar (side room), 58 Stoke Newington High Street, London N16.
Speaker: Peter Jarvis
- East London: Fighting for workers’ interests in the Brexit fog**
Thursday 8 November, 7.30pm at Sylvia’s Corner, 97 Aldworth Road, Stratford E15 4DN
- Walthamstow: The role of revolutionaries in the unions in the Corbyn era**
Thursday 8 November, 7.30pm at William Morris Community centre, Greenleaf Road, London E17 6QQ
- Socialism 2018**
A weekend of discussion & debate on socialist ideas to change the world. Hosted by the Socialist Party
Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 November
Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL (see page 3)
- Future events:
Leeds TUC: Fighting austerity
Conference organised by Leeds Trades Council
Saturday 24 November, 10am-4pm
Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, Leeds LS3 1AD
facebook.com/events/2131352280525506/
- Women’s Lives Matter national meeting on how fight cuts to domestic violence services and refuges**
Wednesday 8 December, Leeds venue tbc
Womenslivesmatteryorkshire@gmail.com

Brazil presidential election

BOLSONARO - A THREAT TO WORKERS
AND ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE

Left must build a powerful socialist alternative

Andre Ferrari
Liberty, Socialism and Revolution
(LSR - CWI Brazil)

The victory of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil's second round presidential election by a 10% margin over the Workers' Party (PT) candidate Fernando Haddad, represents a setback for the Brazilian working class and opens a new chapter in Brazil. It will also embolden the far right in other Latin American countries.

Bolsonaro is a far-right populist from a military background. He has defended the former military regime, defended the use of torture, and adopted an anti-poor, racist, misogynist and homophobic stance both during the election campaign and before it.

At his last election rally he spoke of the need to "eliminate the opposition and socialism and communism".

In the run-up to the elections the military police entered over 20 universities following electoral judges' ruling against "anti-fascist" groups. This decision was later overturned by other sectors of the judiciary. However, it illustrates the extremely repressive nature the new government of Bolsonaro will have.

Threats

At one PT rally, a car drew up and a gunman got out shooting one person. At the Bolsonaro celebrations his supporters brandished pistols firing them into the air. In Niteroi a district of Rio de Janeiro, military armoured cars took to the streets to celebrate Bolsonaro's victory.

In São Paulo, in front of the house of a newly elected radical left PSOL (Socialism and Liberty Party) congress member who is trans, a trans person was shot dead in a clearly politically motivated attack.

Bolsanaro had previously proclaimed: "Yes, I'm homophobic - and very proud of it."

This victory poses a threat and challenge to the workers' movement and the left. In the final stages of the campaign a growing mood of resistance was developing, reflected in massive anti-Bolsonaro protests in Rio and other cities.

PSOL and the MTST homeless workers' movement have correctly

taken the initiative to call protests. A new layer of workers and young people far more critical of the PT from the left is emerging.

The victory of Bolsonaro is a product of the failure of the 'left' governments when in power. The PT was involved in corruption along with all the capitalist parties in Brazil.

It introduced pro-capitalist policies and failed to enact socialist ones. Brazil was plunged into its deepest recession for a century. The social consequences of this, an horrific rise in urban violence, were used in a demagogic manner by Bolsonaro. Nearly 70,000 people were killed in Brazil in the last year.

Bolsonaro also used the crisis in Venezuela to attack the left. The failure of the Chavista-led governments to break with capitalism has resulted in a social catastrophe which is now being used by capitalist politicians and governments worldwide to attack 'socialism'.

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The victory of Bolsonaro is a product of the failure of the 'left' governments when in power

'Third round'

Brazil's outgoing billionaire, neoliberal president Michel Temer (who in 2016 ousted former PT president Dilma Rousseff in a parliamentary coup), following Bolsonaro's victory is now reintroducing his previously defeated attack on pensions. This and other anti-working class measures will give the left the opportunity to begin to build a fighting socialist alternative.

Brazil's 'third round' will be fought on the streets. The workers and left organisations need to be drawn together to begin a fightback.



Second round votes
Jair Bolsonaro - 55.1%
Fernando Haddad - 44.9%

105 million valid votes
8.6 million invalid votes
2.5 million blank votes

Bolsonaro photo Fabio Rodrigues Pozzebom-Agencia Brasil/CC

This means defending democratic rights and repelling all attacks on working people and the oppressed. The need, in the short term, to form self-defence committees against threats and attacks from the far right is urgent. LSR is fighting now

to build the resistance to Bolsonaro and to fight for a more powerful socialist alternative.

■ **See also, 'Polarisation, risks and resistance in Brazilian elections' at socialistparty.org.uk**



Brazilian anti-Bolsonaro protesters in London photo R4vi/CC

Parliamentary coup in Sri Lanka
Workers and oppressed
must fight both rotten
capitalist camps

Siritunga Jayasuriya
United Socialist Party
(CWI Sri Lanka)

Sri Lanka is experiencing a dramatic constitutional crisis - an unprecedented parliamentary coup.

It has seen the president - Maithripala Sirisena - break his coalition with Ranil Wickramasinghe, suspend parliament, and appoint the former dictator-president Mahinda Rajapaksa to take the prime ministership.

The United Socialist Party held its biennial conference just two weeks prior to this development. In our perspectives document, unanimously adopted, we wrote in the first paragraph: "The Sri Lankan capitalist class is faced with a serious crisis. This 'Yahapalana' ('good governance') government can be termed the weakest since so-called independence from British rule 70 years ago."

It continued: "The crisis in the government was evident when President Sirisena and former President Mahinda Rajapaksa - the two opposition political leaders - conspired to have a 'no confidence' motion passed against PM Wickremasinghe... [They] wanted Ranil Wickremasinghe ousted from the premiership.

"But Ranil was able to win the confidence of parliament, defeating the no-confidence motion, and thus he temporarily gained stability. But that did not resolve the crisis in government".

The conclusion of the document emphasised that the social atmosphere we live in today is one of a society where a small vibration could lead to dramatic change.

The legality of this action by President Sirisena can be debated. But more importantly this move was conducted in a completely conspiratorial manner.

This kind of parliamentary coup is new to Sri Lankan politics but we have seen many of a similar nature in the South Asian region - in Pakistan and the Maldives, for example.

This constitutional coup is designed to give time to Rajapaksa to buy MPs over to his side by using his powers as a prime minister. Most MPs have no policies but are there simply for the money and the perks. Some have already started crossing over to Rajapaksa's side.

Rajapaksa and Wickramasinghe are each claiming that they have a majority in the parliament and will be able to get the necessary 113



Reactionary PM Mahinda Rajapaksa
photo Nader Daoud-WEF/CC

MPs on their side. This is going to be a real test for both Rajapaksa and Wickramasinghe when parliament meets on 16 November.

If, for argument's sake, Rajapaksa cannot get a majority then this can lead to a very volatile and unstable situation. He will mobilise his supporters onto the streets and that can lead to a semi-civil-war situation between the two forces.

Power

This is obviously going to be the last chance for Rajapaksa and it can boomerang against him as well. So it would be wrong to underestimate Rajapaksa: he will do everything possible to consolidate his power.

Already his supporters have forcibly taken over the many key government institutions, like all the state media, and attacked people opposing him. One person was killed inside the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation.

There can be more incidents between now and 16 November. It cannot be ruled out that some MPs will be arrested, including Wickramasinghe, if Rajapaksa and Sirisena feel that they cannot obtain a majority in parliament.

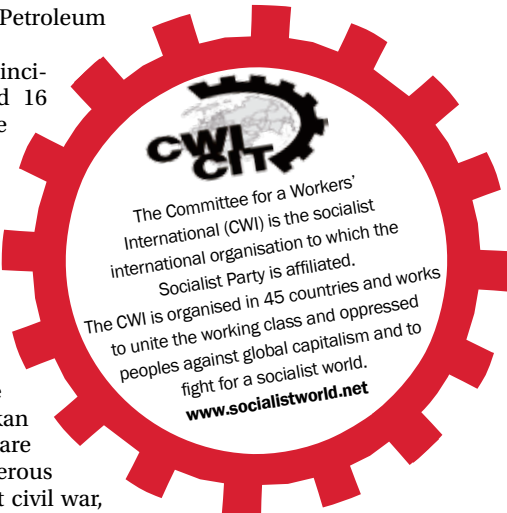
On the other hand, there are campaigns which have started for the release of all the Sri Lankan Army "war heroes" who are in custody for their murderous actions during the recent civil war,

and the release of the imprisoned ultra-reactionary Buddhist monk, Gannasara. This is an indication of the nature of a future government under Rajapaksa.

In this crucial situation, socialists have to appeal to all the trade unions and working people, to take an independent stand against both rotten capitalist camps. They must advance demands on key social, economic and political issues faced by the working class the poor, and all the oppressed peoples, including the Tamils.

Clearly, there is no way out for the poor masses in Sri Lanka within the bankrupt capitalist system. There is a great need to fight to build a broad mass working-class party to prepare a long term strategy to establish a workers' government.

■ **Full article on socialistworld.net**





What we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialism – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also oppose every cut, fighting in our day-to-day campaigning for every possible improvement for working class people. The organised working class has the potential power to stop the cuts and transform society.

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 socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

PUBLIC SERVICES

- No to ALL cuts in jobs, public services and benefits. Defend our pensions.
- 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 and 'free schools'!
- 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 un-recycled 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, gender, 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.
- For the right to vote at 16.

MASS WORKERS' PARTY

- For a mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-racist and anti-cuts campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Fight for Labour to be transformed into such a party: deselect the Blairites.

SOCIALISM AND INTERNATIONALISM

- No to imperialist wars and occupations.
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and the banking system 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' neoliberal European Union and single market. For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!



**Join the fightback!
Join the Socialists!**

socialistparty.org.uk/join 020 8988 8777

✉ @socialist_party 📞 text 07761 818 206 🌐 /CWiSocialistParty

SAVE OUR SCHOOLS

Build for national strike action



photo Paul Mattsson

James Kerr
National Education Union executive committee candidate and Lewisham teacher (personal capacity)

An insultingly low figure: that's the reality of Philip Hammond's budget announcement of £400 million in capital spending for schools.

Now we need to build for national strike action to force him to fill the

funding gap. £2.5 billion has been cut from schools since 2015. This was a major factor in the Tories' loss of seats at the 2017 general election. Yet Hammond still described the budget's one-off payment patronisingly as being for the "little extras" schools need.

The tone was deliberately condescending. This government arrogantly believes that it can face down the education unions and wider movement on funding, based on how they have carried through their

attacks on education in the last eight years.

We now need to show their cockiness is misplaced. An indicative online ballot of all National Education Union (NEU) members is due to start to consult us on whether we are prepared to take strike action to win the necessary money for schools.

We need to methodically build a resounding 'Yes' vote in that ballot on a massive turnout. Meetings need to take place in every school

- in the ICT suite if possible so NEU members can fill out the ballot together. We must be discussing why it's so important to vote Yes.

We also need to give members confidence that the indicative ballot will be translated into a formal ballot for strike action as early in the New Year as possible. This will avoid the mistakes the leadership have made in the past, such as calling isolated one-day protest strikes in the summer term without a serious strategy to win.

If we take these steps, we have the chance to begin to undo the untold damage the Tories have done to education and to play a part in forcing them out of office.

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