BATTERED BORIS MUST GO
and all the Tories with him!

Nick Chaffey
Socialist Party national committee

Battered by his own MPs in parliament, his Oxbridge allies in the Supreme Court, and even some press barons, the isolated Tory leader has used his party conference as a platform for a right-wing populist election manifesto.

He is hoping to appeal to working-class leave voters, angered by three years of parliamentary obstructions. But nothing Johnson offers will solve the problems of workers or end the crisis. Trying to appeal to working-class voters with promises to raise the minimum wage and increase funding for the NHS, schools and the police, shows the looming election will not be fought only on Brexit. It will also be a judgement on austerity. A record that haunts Johnson wherever he goes.

The announcement of an increase in the minimum wage is an admission of the poverty that has risen under the Tory austerity rule of Cameron and May. All voted through by millionaire Johnson.

A promise for the future will do nothing to alleviate the record rise in child poverty, the daily pressure on low-paid families to buy food and pay the rent.

Attempts to patch up the Tory party with a right-wing populist appeal will not last the week. When a perpetual liar throws around future spending promises on health, education and local authorities, that will mean nothing for the hospitals, schools and councils; for the nurses, porters, teachers, TAs and council workers.

There is no new money today, and what is on offer in no way makes up for years of cuts. So the acute crisis in public services will continue and the anger at austerity will continue to boil.

But as parliament re-opens, the pantomime continues with debates on procedure and inflammatory language. The continued delay and uncertainty over Brexit leaves working-class voters increasingly alienated from politics, and full of four-letter words of their own.

Away from the media headlines, but reported every week in the Socialist, the growing number of localised strikes, and now important national disputes developing in Royal Mail and the universities, reveal the battle lines that this election should be fought over.

Corbyn’s own conference commitments on pay, social care, education and scrapping Universal Credit will enthuse working-class and young voters. But it needs to be heard, loud and clear.

That must be done on the streets, through rallies and demonstrations mobilised by the left-led trade unions, demanding an immediate general election and an end to austerity. Corbyn has to call on his own Labour councils not to implement another penny in further cuts.

All of this could counter the lies and slanders in the Tory media. Linked to a decisive call for a vote of no confidence in Johnson, such a campaign could be a winning platform for Corbyn, especially if he were armed with socialist policies and Labour candidates prepared to fight for a permanent end to the age of austerity.
Supreme Court warning to future socialist government

CAPITALIST ELITE SPLIT-FLIGHT - A GOVERNMENT IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

For the workers’ movement, however, these serious splits at the top could be only a prelude to far deeper divisions as the capitalist class, whose mode of operation remains unchallenged, seeks to turn back the working class’s struggle for power.

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The capitalist class in Britain appears to have come to the conclusion that additional measures are required to stifle the working class’s movement for power. How could this be done? The capitalist class is not alone but can become of critical importance to the workers’ movement if it stands in the way of the workers’ movement’s demands.

The capitalist class in Britain appears to have come to the conclusion that additional measures are required to stifle the working class’s movement for power. How could this be done? The capitalist class is not alone but can become of critical importance to the workers’ movement if it stands in the way of the workers’ movement’s demands.
Friends with benefits

Boris Johnson is facing separate legal action and police investigations.

An oil company for a major project it has sold off a fossil fuel project.

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He said: "I'm doing everything possible to stop this happening."

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PCS general secretary election
Support Marion Lloyd - action not words; a proven track record of fighting for members' interests

Marion Lloyd (contingent on one of the six entries at the Business, Innovation and Skills office in Sheffield, May 2016 photo Alan Tait)

End low pay - support Salaff Royal security workers’ action

Coroners have moved to give the women of Grenfell Tower identity and a name.

 PCS workers’ walkout forces employers to back down

Keith Gibson speaking to striking workers at a workplace gate meeting photo Math Whale

Crown Paints dispute - union steward speaks out

Works at Karro Foods victory

PCS members picketing Crown Paints

Christine Winfield

June 2016

Socialist

Workplace

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IS A WORKERS’ BREXIT DEAL POSSIBLE?

Paul Mitchell  
Socialist Party executive committee

The newspaper described its leaves in 2015 as a “final assault against the capitalist establishment”, a working class “cry of rage” against mass poverty and wage austerity while the rich get richer. A Tory-led Brexit, deal or no deal, will do nothing to solve the causes of that rage. For remaining in the EU would just guarantee against the capitalist austerity. On the other hand, even the result of the referendum can only stoke the existing anger against the mainstream, pro-capitalist parties even further.

The Socialist Party has always opposed the EU as a ‘bosses’ club’ – a machine between different capitalist states and governments aimed at creating the largest possible arena for multinationals to be controlled, with as few barriers as possible. 

But the consensus among reformists is that a Brexit deal will be an insufficient deal, will not improve the lives of working-class people. The argument is that there was a responsibility on the shoulders of the leaders of the workers’ movement – the trade union leaderships of the RMT and Aslef, the leaderships of the trade unions RMT and Aslef, the leadership of the trade unions Euston and the TUC, and the leadership of the ‘workers’ movement’ even further.

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The Socialist Inbox

Do you have something to say?

We welcome short views and criticism in no more than 250 words to editors@socialistparty.org.uk - or if you're not online, call 020 7224 9796.

Don’t forget to give your name, address and phone number.

Socialists in south east London are celebrating the 80th birthday of Peter Ballantine.

The son of a shipping clerk, he was born in Chiswick just after the start of World War Two. At Trinity College Dublin he became active in the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and discovered a range of political views. His return to London in 1970 coincided with the emergence of the left and the formation of the Social Democratic Party in 1961. He first met Peter Tatchell from Roborough and Tony Smith, a trade union activist and Labour MPP among a number of candidates who launched Militant in 1964, forerunner of the Socialist Party.

After a year of unemployment, Peter moved south to become a research assistant at the Labour Research Department and then a secretary of the Labour Party in south east London. He was a union shop steward at the local National Westminster bank. Peter married Shirley Tatchell in 1971.

Peter spent his later working years as a professional at Blue Peter.

Peter has always been an active member of the Socialist Party. Generous with his time and money, he has been a good and committed supporter of all that we do.

We need a programme that can help all workers, but especially women. We need a programme that can help all workers, but especially women. We need a programme that can help all workers, but especially women.

The Socialist Party needs a programme that can help all workers, but especially women.

Rebel Music

A brand new musical set in the era of The Clash.

Rebel Music is a coming of age story set in the 1970s. Two young people, Simon and Dave, write a musical for a conference leading to physical and abusive treatment, taken at a trade union fund raiser in the House of Commons.

The two are not political activists. Though not a detailed political history of the era, Rebel Music focuses on the fear of the time and the racism of the time.

Menopause policies

One of the last taboo issues for women, the menopause is now getting the attention it deserves.

Despite policies in place, there are still many gaps in the support women are offered. Women continue to suffer stress, anxiety, depression and insomnia.

We need a more comprehensive approach to menopause policies. They need to be made available to all women, regardless of employment status.

Rebel Music

Robert is a 16-year-old boy, living in the 1960s. Through teenage disasters and the trade union movement, he follows the path of his parents.

Both parents work for National Westminster Bank, which is involved in the Vietnam War and the Imperialist War in the Congo.

At the 1979 conference the core of MPs; and for the control of the Labour leader to be reselected, such as Margaret Hodge and Jo Cox. Those MPs who would attempt to take control of the Labour Party could begin at once and some 60 seats. The situation is very fluid with many women working in the public sphere.

The Socialist Party needs a programme that can help all workers, but especially women. We need a programme that can help all workers, but especially women. We need a programme that can help all workers, but especially women.

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Students across the South East are furious with Johnson and the Tories, but see Corbyn as too hesitant. They are looking for ideas which can explain the unprecedented political crisis, and for a way to pull a real fight for socialist change.

Below are reports on just some of the campuses where Socialist Students and the Socialist Party have been out building the fightback. Find out more about Socialist Students at socialistsatunis.org.uk.

Cardiff

Bea Gardner

I went to a well-attended Socialist Students meeting on 16 October. Many people, and the best discussion I have ever seen, talked about their ideas and their engagement with the tenants' movement, and what they have done so far.

I really hope that more people can join us in this battle.

Leeds

Aidan Tarrant

I met with several students on the 18th of October. They are very excited by the possibility of creating a new socialist movement on campus. They have met previously with the Socialist Students network and have plans to start a new group.

Iain Dalton

I gave a talk at a Socialist Students meeting at the University of Leeds on 18th October. We had good engagement and talked about the need for a new socialist group on campus. The students were interested in the ideas and presented many questions.

I think this is a great opportunity to start a new socialist group and I hope that more editorials can join this exciting movement.

Brighton

I organise regular street meetings all day at the University of Sussex, and meet students on campus after lectures, and on their way home. I am glad to see that the awareness and support for socialist ideas is increasing.

We had a great discussion about the need for a new and strong socialist group on campus.

Bradford

Iain Dalton

At the University of Bradford, we had a great discussion with several students about the need for a new socialist group on campus. Many students were interested in the ideas and have plans to start a new group.

I think this is an amazing opportunity to start a new socialist group and I hope that more students can join this exciting movement.

Leicester

Lucy Morris

We had a great discussion with several students about the need for a new socialist group on campus. Many students were interested in the ideas and have plans to start a new group.

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Sheffield

Sebastian J. Foster

I gave a talk at a Socialist Students meeting at the University of Sheffield on 18th October. The students were very interested in the ideas and presented many questions.

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East Midlands

Iain Dalton

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West Midlands

Iain Dalton

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London

Charlie Elliot

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Manchester

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West North

Iain Dalton

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Catalonia independence movement two years on

The arrest of 12 Catalan nationalist leaders on charges of rebellion marked the second anniversary of the failed independence struggle in Catalonia. Nine have been charged with rebellion, which can result in 25 years in prison. These charges are designed to warn and intimidate the Catalan masses against further action for self-determination.

Tony Saunois, secretary of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), draws out the vital lessons of this struggle.

To secure a victory for an independent Catalonia it would have to have a programme for a socialist federation across North Africa

This could have appealed to those who are searching and struggling in Catalonia who opposed the independence movement and who feared the annexation and control which the Catalan nationalist leaders like Pagella and his fellow, Pablo Iglesias, have in effect been advocating.

These Catalan leaders could not have secured a struggle against the capitalist class in the rest of the Spanish state which would never accept an independent Catalonia.

The Spanish state, backed by the organisation of the Committee for the Defence of the Republic (CCD) which has previously defended and organised general strikes, worked hard to make sure that theoll it would be impossible. Very conveniently this terroristic gesture has been dismissed as unimportant by the official media who are running a campaign of distortion and lying in order to control the working class.

A struggle for a socialist Catalonia would have united the working class of Catalonia and appealed to the working class throughout the rest of the Spanish state to join together in a two-class fight against the main Spanish government.

I could have appealed to the workers in the rest of the Spanish state, of Murcia and Extremadura and the rest of the south, as well as the workers of the Basque Country, to form a voluntary, democratic socialist confederation.

The independence movement had to be a mass movement against the social democratic PSC (Spanish Socialist Party) and the Catalan soft-pedalling ‘Loyalist’ left party Podemos (‘We can’), led by Pablo Iglesias, who also opposed the struggle for independence.

Since the defeat of this movement the determination of the Catalan bourgeoisie to rule is being reinforced by all possible means. The whole project to play off the movements for demands is being dismantled by government repression.

This is despite a change of government - now a minority government led by Pedro Sanchez of Psoe (Spanish Socialist Party). This government - now a minority government - has made clear he will repeal the attacks made by the previous conservative government.

The harsh punishments for workers and the middle classes - who live in Catalonia. Dire conditions that political stability, the IMF, and all the维护s that political stability, the IMF, and all the economic policies in the most recent budget. Democratizing and transforming capitalism.

The beginnings of disagreements and splits within the military and security apparatus are emerging. There was initial hesitation over how to handle the street protests before they grew in numbers and spread.

Egypt.

The mass protests in neighbour-

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A showdown between Royal Mail bosses and 120,000 workers is taking place as jobs and conditions come under attack.

Plans to separate Parcelforce workers into a new limited company and rip up agreements with the CWU have rightly angered the whole workforce. Added to this, many postal workers are experiencing harassment and bullying as more pressure is heaped upon their deliveries.

New technology that was meant to improve work life is being used to spy on workers and punish instead.

The CWU ‘Four Pillars’ agreement, that was signed up to by Royal Mail management in 2017, is now under review, with a real threat to jobs and services, leading to an accelerated ‘race to the bottom’ on working conditions.

Suddenly, Royal Mail is pleading poverty when it comes to reducing the working week by one hour under the agreement. But it can afford to give millions of pounds to the new chief executive and shareholders!

Faced with the prospect of massive job losses and hard fought gains by trade unionists over the years, CWU members are determined to fight back. Up and down the country, gate meetings have been taking place to secure a massive ‘yes’ vote in the ballot.

Expressed anger

Rank-and-file CWU members have joined forces to express their anger. Social media has been ablaze with videos and photos as workers display their unity and strength, determined to beat the restrictive Tory anti-trade union laws and tackle the culture of bullying in the workplace.

All the warnings about the dangers of privatising Royal Mail back in 2013 are now beginning to unfold. Driven by the desire to reward shareholders and fat cat bosses - workers are expected to pay the price with gig economy working practices.

Postal workers in the CWU are showing that fighting back and collective strength can win the struggle to defend jobs and working conditions. But only a fully nationalised postal service run in the interests of the many not the few, under democratic workers’ control, will lead to safeguarding this national treasure.

Delivering a massive yes vote in the CWU ballot is the first step in that process.

Renationalise the industry under democratic workers’ control