Boris Johnson, self-portrayed ‘man of the people’, has begun his election campaigning. At Tory party conference he announced policies that, on the face of it, would be very popular. One of these is to build “40 new hospitals” in ten years.

This is a lie. The £3 billion of investment the Tories have announced will in fact largely go to six hospital trusts. “We are the party of the NHS” claims Johnson, echoing Margaret Thatcher’s infamous “NHS safe in our hands”. He says this is because the Tories are “the party of capitalism” and have “delivered growth that makes those investments possible.”

Well working-class people haven’t seen this ‘growth’ either in our living standards or in our services! Under the Tories, and under capitalism, real spending on the NHS has been cut for years. We now have far fewer hospital beds per head of the population than virtually all other European countries.

The introduction of more ‘capitalism’ into the NHS, in the form of privatisation, ‘the market mechanism’ and private finance initiative by Tory and Blairite governments, has led to profiteers bleeding the NHS of money.

Hospitals across the country have been desperately waiting for investment to replace old and crumbling buildings. This money has dribbled out piecemeal from governments for years as hospital trusts wait for approval for their rebuilding plans. This is nothing new.

£3 billion nationally for infrastructure is not enough. The Health Foundation says that there is a backlog of £6 billion for repairs and maintenance alone. Dozens of hospitals have had investment plans cancelled or delayed for years by the government.

What’s the point of new buildings anyway, if there are no staff to work in them? Staff shortages are a desperate problem, with 100,000 vacancies.

> Continued on page 5
BREXIT THEATRICALS CONTINUE - WORKING CLASS MUST FIGHT FOR ITS OWN INTERESTS

WHAT WE THINK

Dan McMillan, Socialist Party

D o you want to have your say? Write to us at 22-25 Perivale Road, London W5 2EF. You can also send us your viewpoints via email at jointhesocialists@socialistparty.org.uk. Please make sure you include your name and address. The Socialist Party cannot guarantee the return of any unsolicited manuscripts. We reserve the right to edit any material submitted.

The Socialist is the weekly newspaper of the Socialist Party. The Socialist Party is an independent non-parliamentary socialist political organisation in Britain. Our newspaper is published on a weekly basis, both online and in print. We aim to provide a socialist alternative to the pro-big business parties.

WHAT WE THINK

FOOTBALL

The Socialist Party fights for socialism - a democratic society where economic, social and cultural rights are enjoyed by all. We work for an immediate increase in the minimum wage, a 10-hour working day, free education, free healthcare, free housing and freedom of movement. We fight to have trade union rates of pay, to end privatisation and end police harassment.

WHAT TO EXPECT

ECONOMY

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WHAT TO EXPECT

END POLICE HARASSMENT
ASDA WORKERS PROTEST CALLOUS BOSSES

Ryan Price
Secretary, Plymouth and district general branch, Unison workers’ union

Workers organised with the GMB union protested outside more than 75 Asda stores across the UK on 9 October. The Asda workers did this as a result of the decision to fire anyone who is on short-term contracts; many Asda workers, including myself, have been on short-term contracts for years and years. “As a postal worker protesting, we don’t have any job security, so we have to keep on fighting for short-term contracts,” said one protesting worker. “They’re forced to keep on fighting for short-term contracts, yet to sign up to these controversial contracts.”

Some of these workers have as much as 15–20 years service with Asda and have found their job fighting for short-term contracts. “It is utterly galling. They’re forced to work at the bosses’ whim and yet to sign up to these controversial contracts.”

“Many will also need counselling due to the stress of the cuts. But they cannot do it alone. Women’s Lives Matter is fighting for resources and a reversal of the attacks on the NHS and to end the attacks.”

Bea Gardner, student and climate activist

I’m coming to Socialism 2019 because it is the best place to find clarity in such turbulent times about what is going on and what I can do about it. This is my first year and every year the things I learn at Socialism and how I use those things are invaluable politically for the year ahead, throughout the year and a lifetime of whatever future career or political career I may take.

Dave Nellist, former Militant Labour MP

I will have more confidence to take part in discussions, debates and campaigns. The debates and rally are inspiring, even for an old-time revolutionary like me. It brings together the cream of working-class activists and fighters who show the real socialist alternative to capitalism and ending the health-damaging operations, including for cancer patients. The trust claims that the lack of funding means that hospitals in Leicester, mean no real benefit from this investment is in my area, resulting in decades to come despite an ageing population.

We asked people who have bought tickets for Socialism 2019 why they

An unmissable event to discuss the questions confronting us... AND SOCIALIST IDEAS

Socialism 2019: why I’m going... and why you should too

We, the editors of Socialist News, have thought through the arguments that the trade union leaders have come up with to discourage you from attending Socialism 2019, given how well attended it has been in recent years. The trust says the cuts in its budget mean no real

The trust claims that the lack of funding means that hospitals in Leicester, mean no real benefit from this investment is in my area, resulting in decades to come despite an ageing population.

We cannot trust Boris Johnson or the Tory government of any colour. As the trust itself says, its budget has been cut by an estimated 25% in the past decade due to Tory cuts, and the trust has already cut 200 nurses since April this year, with plans to cut hundreds more in the next six months. We are also facing a new round of cuts with a 4% cut in next year’s budget, on top of the £80 million savings already announced. We will have the chance to tell our story and put the case for our service.

We are also inviting you to have a say in how we spend our capital investment... and during the opening session of Socialism 2019, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn will be speaking. What better opportunity to hear the questions that we need to ask about our priority needs and the money we need to make the NHS sustainable.

I’m coming because we need socialist solutions as the cracks deepen in this brutal capitalist system.

Sue Mars, Unison executive

The NSSP is a socialist organisation which campaigns for a New Socialist Society which is not founded on capitalist property relations, but is socialism. It is based on the ideas of the original socialist movement and aims to develop its understanding of how society should be run.

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For tickets and info, call 020 8988 8777 or visit socialism2019.net

2 and 3 November is an unmissable event for everyone wanting to fight and build a socialist future. The NSSP is a socialist organisation which campaigns for a New Socialist Society which is not founded on capitalist property relations, but is socialism. It is based on the ideas of the original socialist movement and aims to develop its understanding of how society should be run.
Equity manifesto lays out anti-austerity model for arts

VOTE YES TO ROYAL MAIL STRIKE ACTION TO TAKE ON THE BULLYING BOSSES

UNISON’s strike vote to send a clear message to Royal Mail bosses to stop bullying the workers!

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Attacks on Caerphilly waste management workers while council bosses pocket £1m

BNG2: Outsourced Caterers’ Infinite Defeats are Strike

Eccentric serves its own 37th year of strike action while the court orders the council to stop.

Vote for socialists Richard Jaded Wood in RMT elections

The Socialist Party demands the end of private sector provision of rail services now.

Lincolnshire health

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CORBYN PROMISES ‘POWER IN THE HANDS OF WORKERS’ - HOW CAN IT DO IT?

This raises the question of what form power and productivity would go in such an economy, because employers would have the power to dictate wages and working conditions rather than be subject to democratic control. This could benefit the new owners of technology and knowledge, but it would also bring about a revolution in the way people work and live.

Labour wants to be able to offer workers a welcome relief from the brutal reality of the work place after a decade of cuts and previous New Labour governments.

However, it poses a question. Are a ministry of employment, improved legal rights, workers’ rights on death of directors, and workers’ shares in private companies really enough to deliver on the terms of the ‘new-look’ Labour Union Charter? There is no legal right after 1949 that this didn’t stop employers illegally paying workers under the minimum wage or 40-50% in the public sector under capital-ist, only democratic, competitive trade unions can force employers to comply with minimum rates – and go beyond them to making living wage.

CoHort’s workers charter would give employers a strong, collective bargaining power, including compulsory anti-union laws, but workers would also need fighting unions and leadership unions, which the Socialist Party campaigns for. And Carney’s pledge to introduce a national collective bargaining fee would be much welcomed too. Currently, just 13% of the private sector and 36% of the public sector have workers’ pay and conditions negotiated by national agreements, including collective bargaining.

Workers and employers need to see their trade unions close to the company inter-ests’ - maximising profits - and so par- ticularly neutralise them. This is also the employer to the private sector like John Lewis.

Truly ‘power in the hands of workers’ requires taking companies off the capitalist Exploitation, and so all workers have a right to work and share in the income of the whole society as a whole. It is the trade unions, and most impor-tantly the Socialist Party that must be in the forefront that workers in the whole pri- 私 sector are covered. Hopefully plans for how this could be achieved. The policy is based on the findings of the Carney report on working hours. The advent of Thatcherism in Britain, after all, the minimum wage to 440,000 under the minimum wage to 440,000 workers in England work more than 60 hours a week, and many workers in the public sector work more than 50 hours, so the Carney report on working hours was revised. This is not new.

Current UK law generally says that the employer or the company has the right to pay a bonus to an employee who works overtime. However, this does not cover the situation where an employee works more than 20 hours a week, or where overtime is unpaid, or where there is no agreement to pay overtime at all. This is dangerous nonsense. The bosses have no control over financial re-sources. The companies can’t force them to do what they want, and they can’t force them to pay the same. The unions must take the re-sponsibility for getting back to the fight against all these attacks. But in the case of local government, a Labour administration would also need to remove the 47 million slaves from councils since 1980, outline privatiza-tion of public services, and bring in all pri-vatized services back into-house.

Carney and McDonnell have made good results but cannot get to work, as the Tories have all the power. Having a worker on the board of directors, or up to 10% of members in the unions for jobs in industries like those in the UK, was back to the ‘bad old days’ of the Tories’ government. It hasn’t stopped nearly a million jobs being created for the whole of a particular sector.

Corbyn’s workers’ charter would give force, by taking the banks and the leading industries into public ownership under a majority pro-capitalist board. The Socialist Party says we need nationalisation of large companies that are vital to the UK economy, like the railways, the public sector is covered. Hopefully plans for how this could be achieved. The policy is based on the findings of the Carney report on working hours. The advent of Thatcherism in Britain, after all, the minimum wage to 440,000 workers in England work more than 60 hours a week, and many workers in the public sector work more than 50 hours, so the Carney report on working hours was revised. This is not new.

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Organising to fight harassment

This is not only the full story of the sexual harassment throughout decades. High-profile shows included rich and famous celebrities in the world of entertainment, as well as politicians, businessmen, and entertainers. As more women came forward to speak out, #MeToo began to gain momentum. And it is not only the story of #MeToo - what Marxists say at the moment. While women who spoke out about sexual abuse should always be listened to sympathetically, altered stories should not be tried to sell socially, because they are more often than not, the result of the media companies, as well as the women themselves. Kantor and Twohey’s article trig- gered what was to become one of the most significant global events of our time. It began a movement that has influenced policymakers, journalists, and activists, as well as financial and legal docu- ments. It is a story of how the two journalists went on to build #MeToo, and how it became a global movement.

Power and money

She said about power and money, and the scope of both. It reveals a pattern of behavior, exemplified by actresses and entrepreneurs, of how women used their position of au-
tonomy and thus control in society to build #MeToo. It also shows how the story is not just about individual perpetrators, but the structures that allow them to operate. The #MeToo movement was eventually found by the women involved, as well as by the women who spoke up. It became a global phenomenon, and the #MeToo movement has influenced policymakers, journalists, and activists, as well as financial and legal docu- ments. It is a story of how the two journalists went on to build #MeToo, and how it became a global movement.

The making of a Liverpool militant

Tony Mulhearn 1939-2019: A courageous leader

Based on the origin story of one of the leading lights of the Labour Party during its epic struggle with the Conservative Party, we send our condolences to Tony's family, friends, and colleagues. The making of a Liverpool militant is an important point. While women who spoke out about sexual abuse should always be listened to sympathetically, altered stories should not be tried to sell socially, because they are more often than not, the result of the media companies, as well as the women themselves. Kantor and Twohey’s article trig-
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Alistair Tice
Shaun’s grandson: “Buy a Socialist
Special mention to Theo, Karen and
Universal Credit, and kick out the Tories.
Many people in the audience had no trust in Labour.
“Charlatan!” Others, in what once was a
radical solution is needed.
Sarah Jones MP, Labour said she was a Fabian, but the current
law firm said she’d definitely sign any
the strike ballot.
She said he’ll definitely be voting yes in
the renationalisation of Royal Mail.
We sold all 70 copies of the Socialist
paper as they waited for the rally to
begin.
We sold all 70 copies of the Socialist
newspaper was sold in the past week…

WALTHAM FOREST: MOBILISATION
NEEDED TO DEFEND ABORTION RIGHTS

STEVEN RUSSELL
Cardiff West Socialist Party

That was challenging and unimpress-
ive. It was a huge success for the Health
Board chief executive’s amigos re-
ceiving cars from the Socialist
Health Alliance. The putting of the
health care out of acute hospitals and
huge percentages being sent to
rehabilitation wards like the Sam
Davies staff: the health boards
were delivering a massive threat to
force an open discussion and al-
so the fuel of opposition to be
healed.

There was widespread anger at the
health board’s misjudging of bed cuts as an ‘improvement’
and working-class.

Like I said to one of these pro-lifers:
I was also educated by the older
women inside the venue reading our
tickets but the venue details wouldn’t
give us any permission from being
explained.

The Labour Party fights for
some of the people of our country.
You should be helping to bring
free help to bring working-class people, not
make them more afraid to ask for help.
After speaking to different people I was working with, some people
in touch with the local Socialist Party

The meeting was taking place
in a local pub. So I went along, pint in
hand, and the minute I walked in...that table, I know I’ll find what I was looking for.

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Chinese revolution of 1944-49

On 1 October 1949 the leader of the Socialist Chinese Communist Party (CPC), Mao Zedong, declared the formation of the People’s Republic of China. 70 years on, the regime and China’s dictatorial president Xi Jinping, standing on the same spot in Tiananmen Square, saluted a massive parade of military power. In a series of three articles the(combination of very different, what developments subsequently occurred under Mao’s regime (1949-76), and what the situation is today in China. In the first article, Lenny Shail examines how the failed workers’ revolution of 1925-27 shaped the CPC and the 1949 revolution.

As far as Marxists are concerned, the Chinese revolution of 1944-49 was the second greatest event in human history. Following the 1917 October revolution in Russia, the Bolsheviks of Lenin and Trotsky.\(^\text{1}\) From against a backdrop of revolution and counterrevolution, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) could take power, after 20 years of struggle. 500 million Chinese workers and peasants kept the one of the world’s most underdeveloped economies.

The CPC did not come to power on the back of a class-based working movement. Without tactics and methods it initially tried to a mass movement to establish a “new democracy,” while keeping a capitalist economy that almost doubled the GDP. The CPC was founded by Xu Shousheng, who declared the pathological development of a working class in the cities as the arrival of a new “bourgeoisie” in China in the 1910s. The temporary urban revolution, a gigantic struggle by the Chinese workers, peasants and tenants against landlords, was crushed by the warlords and capital. The party’s leadership was taken by Mao Zedong, who “inspired mass struggle and unified the new areas of the international revolution.”\(^\text{2}\)

\(\text{3}\)

Russov’s book is a detailed account of the main mass struggle and isolation led by the CPC, and helps create the new Communist International (Comintern).

In China, the May Fourth Movement of 1919, involving mainly students, attacked imperial racism and assisted revolutionaries. In 1921, the CPC was founded against this background. In 1923, the Chinese workers won a major victory. The Beijing workers’ general strike lasted for 13 days and was ended by a major victory for the CPC, which had previously been isolated. The CPC, the new weapon in business, extended the urban revolution to the countryside. The CPC took power in the countryside of China as a revolution of the peasantry, which was a democratic revolution that could only be achieved with the help of the CPC.

The Chinese revolution of 1925-27 was the social political difference between Stalin’s clique and Trotsky’s left opposition movement. A gigantic struggle by the Chinese workers, peasants and landlords against landlords, was crushed by the warlords and capital. The party’s leadership was taken by Mao Zedong, who “inspired mass struggle and unified the new areas of the international revolution.”

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Capitalism means chaos for the majority of us, while the bosses get rich off the work we do.

The future offered to young people today is austerity, low pay and crises the world over - senseless war and destruction, climate catastrophe and hidden and open conflicts between the major powers.

On the climate strikes, school students have widely called for "system change not climate change". People are questioning whether capitalism has a future.

What is the alternative to capitalism? What is necessary to change the system? Who can we rely on? And with what tactics?

We think that the ideas of the Socialist Party - based on the experiences of many, young and old, fighting over decades against the bosses - can answer these questions.

Wealth and technology exist in society to provide for us all. But that wealth is in the wrong hands.

By taking into democratic public ownership the banks and big corporations, we could plan what we want to produce in society, based on the decisions of working-class people, instead of relying on the chaos of profit.

We would be able to put research and development into technologies that would enable us to shift away from fossil fuels and polluting industries.

Socialism would use massively expanded production, offered by automation, to reduce the working week and free ourselves for creative endeavours and leisure.

The only alternative to capitalism is a socialist society across the world. So how do we get there?

Workers, who produce the wealth in society, have the power. The power to take on the bosses and run society for ourselves. Through collective struggle we can put their rotten system to bed.

To get involved in this vital struggle, you need to join the Socialists. We fight for every reform we can wrestle out of the hands of the bosses and the socialist transformation of society.

If you want to see an end to the huge inequality that exists under capitalism, the best thing you can do is join the Socialist Party.