As we go to press, Johnson and his bosses’ Brexit deal remain suspended in mid-air. Unable to govern, Johnson’s only way out is a high-risk gamble on a general election, hoping against hope that it will win him a working majority.

The result of any election is uncertain. Right now the polls show a lead for the Tories of around 10%. But that could melt away once an election is called.

Johnson - like May and Cameron before him - heads a viciously anti-working class, pro-super-rich government. His bosses’ Brexit deal is not designed to ‘give back control’ to working-class people, but to give even greater control to big business to super-exploit workers and sell off public services.

The Socialist Party has been campaigning for a general election because it gives an opportunity to throw this rotten government of the super-rich out of office. This has not been the approach of the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party, however.

The pro-big business ‘Tories in disguise’ who make up the right wing of the Labour Party are openly campaigning against Corbyn winning a general election. Even figures on the left of Labour - like Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell - have prioritised campaigning for a second EU referendum before a general election.

Mistakes
At the same time, under pressure from the pro-capitalist majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party, Corbyn has focused on manoeuvres in Westminster rather than mobilising the working class to get the Tories out and to bring a socialist government to power. The result is that workers have heard no clear voice fighting for their interests in parliament.

The mistakes of the Labour left have made more difficult the terrain on which a pre-Christmas election could be fought. Nonetheless, if Corbyn comes out with a fighting, socialist manifesto he could transform the situation and win the general election.

The 2017 anti-austerity manifesto could be a starting point. But the 2019 manifesto should go further. It should also include, as part of a socialist programme, reversing all cuts to council services, scrapping Universal Credit, and a pledge to nationalise under democratic working-class control, the banks and major companies, along with those which carry out closures and job cuts in the name of Brexit or otherwise.
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“The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.”
Karl Marx

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ANTI-AUSTERITY, SOCIALIST POLICIES CAN BE A WINNING FORMULA

As the parliamentary Brexit crisis drags on, the already deep distrust of capitalist politicians is being further undermined. Johnson is straining every nerve in order to get a general election. In the process he is revealing how the capitalist class are prepared to bend, break or change their own rules whenever it suits them.
The Fixed Term Parliament Act was an undemocratic device cooked up by a previous Tory prime minister, David Cameron, in order to try and strengthen his weak coalition government. Now, heading a government so weak it cannot govern, Johnson has no hesitation in changing the law introduced by his predecessor in order to suit his interests.

Contrast that with the treatment meted out by the courts to groups of workers who, despite having an overwhelming majority for strike action, are banned from striking if the numbers who voted in the ballot are even one below the legal threshold.

As we go to press it seems as if Johnson could succeed in getting an election before Christmas. The task of the workers’ movement is to fight to ensure he doesn’t succeed in winning it.

Johnson’s risk
Johnson’s strategy is very high-risk. Despite his spurious claims to have ‘take back control’, millions of working-class people can only see a continuation of the misery imposed by successive Tory governments for almost a decade. And despite his attempt to mobilise Brexit supporters by promising ‘to get Brexit done’ or ‘die in a ditch’ he has done neither!

In a general election the Tories are likely to lose both Remain votes to the Lib Dems (19 of their 20 target seats are ‘Red’) and pro-Brexit votes to the Brexit Party. The election result is therefore very unpredictable. But the most important factor will be the kind of campaign that Jeremy Corbyn runs.

Corbyn is being attacked from all sides. Not least from the pro-capitalist wing of his own party. But the arch-Blairite Peter Mandelson was forced to recognise, however, that Corbyn’s policies are popular.

Right now those policies are being largely drowned out by the noise of the Westminster bubble. Corbyn and the Labour lefts bear a big share of the responsibility for this. Their endless attempts to compromise with the pro-capitalist Labour MPs have – as we warned - done nothing to stop the Blairites trying to undermine Corbyn. Instead, it has resulted in his anti-austerity message becoming almost inaudible.

As the 2017 snap election showed, a general election is an opportunity to change all this. If Corbyn comes out fighting with a socialist programme he can mobilise massive popular support. Calling for the immediate renationalisation of the energy companies, an immediate minimum wage of £10 an hour for all, along with abolition of zero-hour contracts – a programme of these demands and more could electrify Britain.

On Brexit, Corbyn needs to pledge to renegotiate it in the interests of the working class - refusing to accept the EU’s pro-privatisation, pro-austerity laws. He would then be able to argue clearly in favour of his deal in any confirmatory referendum.

This programme should be combined with nationalisation of the major corporations and banks, to really take the levers of power out of the hands of the capitalist saboteurs that would otherwise do all in their power to prevent the implementation of pro-working class policies.

In the run up to the 2017 election, the Socialist Party argued that Corbyn could win if he fought on a socialist programme. At the start of the election campaign few believed us. While Corbyn didn’t win, however, he gained 3.5 million extra votes - the biggest increase for any party in a general election since 1945. This clearly demonstrated that it was possible to kick the Tories out, providing Labour did not stand on an ‘austerity-lite’ Blairite manifesto but put forward policies in the interests of the working class.

In the coming weeks, or at most months, the workers’ movement will have another chance to get the Tories - who have driven millions into dire poverty - out of office.
Anry mass revolts have been erupting in many countries across the globe. On Friday 25 October, up to two million people demonstrated on the streets of Chile’s capital Santiago (see page 15). That was the eve of a weekend that saw up to 500,000 demonstrating in Barcelona for the release of political prisoners, anti-government protests across Iraq and a 105-mile long human protest chain in Lebanon.

In recent weeks, explosions of protest have also broken out or been ongoing in Hong Kong, Ecuador, Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Bolivia, and Haiti - among others. Prior to these there was the ‘gilets jaunes’ flare up in France and the beginning of a revolution in Sudan which has already overthrown President Omar al-Bashir.

These movements draw inspiration from each other, sometimes echoing a tactic or symbol seen elsewhere. The triggers and demands vary from country to country. But common to most has been fury at austerity, inequality and corruption. “Across continents, it seems; we inhabit an age of anger,” said a Tianjin Villager. The authors of an article in the New York Times called the protest wave: “A louder-than-usual howl against elites in countries where repression, disappointment, corruption is seen as brazen, and a tiny political class lives large while the younger generations struggle to get by”.

In Lebanon, protesters have insisted on having a united struggle of Shia, Sunni, Druze and Chris- tians, opposing divisive separation. Also in Iraq, sectarian divisions are being overcome through protest. The demands gaining an echo in Lebanon include the removal of the corrupt political elite and changing the entire political system. A fifth of the population - 1.3 million people - has participated in that movement so far. A tax on data services like WhatsApp was an initial trigger. But the BBC reported a protestor as saying: “We are not here over WhatsApp, we are here over everything!”

In Chile, the movement is also demanding political change, with mass support coming behind the demand for a constituent assembly to ‘restructure society.’ The hundreds of thousands who have protested in Ecuador were enraged by a savage austerity package. A general strike took place, led by the General Union of Ecuadorean Workers. The National Assembly was stormed, and the government forced to relocate away from the capital Quito (see ‘Uprising in Ecuador forces government climdown’ at socialista.org.uk).

In alarm and despair, ruling elites have been trying both the carrot and the stick. Demonstrators in a number of countries have faced brutal state repression, yet have been determined to continue. Over 150 people have been killed dead in Chile. In Iraq, 42 were killed in protests on 25 October alone.

On the other hand, concessions have been hastily announced to try to quell the fervent. Iraq’s cabinet is being reshuffled, Chilean president Piñera cancelled transport fare increases and is dismissing his cabinet; in Hong Kong the extradition bill has been withdrawn; in Lebanon the government rapidly scrapped the WhatsApp levy, and announced some reforms. And now the prime minister has announced his resignation. But if all this is not enough, among others, such measures have rightly been dismissed by protesters as far too little.

‘Leaderless’

Commentators in the capitalist media have bemoaned the difficulties governments have in trying to counter protests which in many recent cases have been ‘leaderless’, spontaneous outbursts, mobilising on social media. ‘Who can be negoti- ated with? ’ they ask. While socialists have little sympathy on that score, we strongly call for workers and youth to have their own committees and organisations, to be able to democrati- cally discuss and decide the steps needed to both defend the protests and escalate them towards victory.

Suspicion towards political organ- isations is understandable given the past experiences of workers interna- tionally - of being betrayed by for- merly left leaders who moved to the right and accommodated to the in- terests of capitalist big business. But genuine workers’ parties - with lead- ers elected and subject to recall - will be indispensable for maintaining unity of purpose in the movements and formulating programmes that firmly express working-class interests.

Organised workers in the trade unions need to be the backbone of those parties, bringing in their ex- perience of workers’ struggles and their potential power to bring soci- ety to a halt through strike action. Due to their common class interests they can also take a lead in building and arming the movements with the ideas necessary to counter the capital- ist class. In practice, this can only be through developing socialist pro- grammes for removing capitalism, opposing coalitions and pro-capital- ists and forming governments of repre- sentatives of working people that can build societies in the interests of the overwhelming majority. No trust can be placed in any of the political representatives of capitalism!

While these vital organisations are still to be built, the period since the 2011 mass uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa hasn’t passed without lessons being noted. For instance, the demands now being raised by protesters for ‘complete change at the top’ show recognition that removing single presidents or prime ministers is not enough; oth- er capitalist representatives can step into their place.

Journalist Simon Tisdall mentioned in the Observer on 27 Oc- tober that over 40% of the global population is aged 24 or under, and referring to the present revolts, aptly wrote: “This global phenomenon of unfilled youthful aspirations is producing political timebombs’. While struggles will ebb and flow, the overall trend is that they will widen and escalate. Along with that, development of consciousness on the political and organisational tasks needed will inevitably speed up, providing the other vital ele- ment, along with the will to struggle, for achieving lasting victories.

Chile photo Carlos Figueroa/CC

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39 migrants found dead in Essex lorry container

- Safe passage for refugees
- Fight for jobs, homes and services for all

FILM REVIEWS: SORRY WE MISSED YOU BY KEN LOACH

“Let’s get one thing straight, you don’t work for us, you work with us.”

Among those signing the book of condolences for the dead in Es-
ssex is Ken Loach. The director of documentary films like ‘Land of
our Fathers’, ‘C城人’ and ‘I, Daniel Blake’ has stood against the inhuman-
ity of bosses buying a ‘golden visa’ in this way. As he says in his book:

“They have not heard the evening before the tragedy was
announced. The family has been written off. The inhuman-
ties of the bosses have been written off from their pass-
pers. All the晚间 news has been written off in the media. It’s
been written off. ‘These things happen’ is the constant
response saying that we have to accept this. The busi-
esses have written off the migrants. The bosses have writ-
ten off the migrants. The unions have written off the
migrants. The migrants have written off the migrants.
They have written off the migrants. They are the real in-
humane lengths employers will go to under the current pol-
icy. They will go to inhuman lengths. They will go to
the super-capitalist’s g®® economy.”

But though a shockingly high number of people have died
trying to make a living in the super-capitalist’s g®® econ-
omy, it’s focused through the lens of an ordinary family. The
decisions should be based on solidarity, not division, which can only
be achieved by working class unity.

The bosses and their political rep-
ers’ oversight. As part of the Com-
ity, not division, which can only be
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achieved by working class unity.
The election for the next general secretary of the PCS civil and public services trade union runs from 7 November until 12 December.

Socialist Party member Marion Lloyd (pictured right) won 39 branch nominations for general secretary. She is currently PCS BEIS (government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) Group President and on the union’s national executive committee, and is in the best position to challenge the incumbent, Mark Serwotka. Marion spoke to the Socialist and explained why she believes PCS members should vote for her.

**Why are you standing for general secretary?**

Because the current leadership is out of touch and doesn’t understand, let alone tackle, the day-to-day issues we all face at work.

The insistence by Mark Serwotka and his supporters that we can only have a national campaign on pay, and only pay, is wrong. Their failure to win two national pay ballots has not only weakened us but ignored pensions, jobs and office closures!

Members feel isolated - and left to fight alone.

Surely the most sensible thing to do is to link everything together, to develop a campaign that everyone can get behind and have confidence in. I would build that, working with reps, and go out to the heart of our membership.

That’s why I’m standing - to work with members and reps to build that campaign. One which inspires confidence and gets members involved.

**What are the key challenges facing the union and its members?**

The above, together with equality and building membership.

Poverty pay levels within our membership are appalling. 10% of civil servants earn below the living wage.

In our privatised areas members barely scrape the minimum wage.

This is scandalous. We need an almighty campaign to improve our pay so that people can make ends meet.

We cannot repeat the failed pay strategy of Mark Serwotka. He insisted we should have another single ballot even after losing the last. Rather than listen, he insisted we did it again. What happened? We lost again. Not only has this made members furious, it also means that we’re left without any strategy on pay.

21 employer areas met the ballot threshold - including HMRC (revenue and customs department). This means if we had adopted the approach that I suggested - a ballot counted employer by employer - then things could be very different now.

Just imagine 21 areas used to pressure the employer, 21 areas campaigning and striking.

21 areas helping us build the campaign across the union.

Just imagine a pay campaign pressuring an employer and a government in complete chaos.

The challenge to solve the problems caused by pay, is the key.

We must particularly take up the struggle of those most affected - women, BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic), disabled, LGBT+, younger and older workers.

As a working mother, these issues remain close to my heart and I am determined to root equality properly into our bargaining and campaigning.

Challenge number three is to build our membership. 60,000 members lost under the current general secretary’s tenure. Staff will join a union winning for them.

This will strengthen the union in our workplaces and at the table. That’s why we must give resources to our reps on the ground.

**What’s your position on the possible general election?**

I want one, and as soon as possible. I am desperate, like many of our members, to get a Corbyn government elected on a programme to reverse pay decline and job cuts.

But I do not believe that we should affiliate to the Labour Party. We remember the Blair and Brown governments that cut 100,000 civil service jobs; privatised jobs and gave our members away to rotten companies which ruthlessly attacked our members’ terms and conditions.

Many of the MPs who supported these policies are still around and are trying to get rid of Jeremy Corbyn - why would we support them? We are a trade union - not an extension of the Labour Party - and both my opponents in this election would do well to remember that.

We should be using our influence to influence politicians to benefit us, not just throw money at them and let them off the hook. This is not what members want.

**How will you be different from the current general secretary?**

I will actively build a campaign to tackle the issues I have already highlighted. I will ensure that no group of members is left isolated and develop an approach which inspires confidence and a belief we can do something.

I am a working mother on a civil service salary. I know the daily challenges our members face because I too have faced redundancy in recent years and experience the pressure at work.

Unlike Mark Serwotka, who pledged to not take the full general secretary’s salary but does, I will stay on my civil service wage and publish details of the money I give back to PCS.

I remain, as I have done all my working life, completely committed to building our union and solving the problems we face at work. I know what to do and how to do it.

I will work with reps and members to build the confidence we need so that members will join together to fight the employer.

---

**I have known Marion for over 25 years. She is one of the most hard-working and dedicated lay activists I have come across. She is the longest-serving current group president and has been a constant support to me (in HM Land Registry) as we fought two successful campaigns against privatisation.”**

Michael Kavanagh

president PCS Land Registry Group
(personal capacity)

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**“I believe that Marion’s record as a campaigner has demonstrated great tenacity and strategic awareness. If deployed across the union, her joined-up approach to organising, campaigning and bargaining is capable of taking members with us across all departments.”**

Dave Lynn

vice-president PCS HM Land Registry Group
(personal capacity)
McDonald’s - Striking to end low pay.

Scott Jones
East London Socialist Party

Workers at six McDonald’s stores in south London will go on strike on 12 November. The members of the BFAWU bakers’ union are demanding a £15-an-hour wage, an end to youth rates, the choice of guaranteed hours of up to 40 a week, notice of shifts four weeks in advance, union recognition and respect and dignity at work.

Melissa Evans, who works at McDonald’s in Wandsworth Town says: “I need £15 an hour so I can show my son that poverty is not the only option. Me and my colleagues are coming together in a union to tackle lack of respect which has gone on at McDonald’s for too long.”

McDonald’s workers know full well that they are only paid a fraction of the value of the meals they produce and serve up. Lewis Baker, a McStriker from Crayford, who has walked out before says: “We are growing bigger with every strike.”

The action will take place the same time as action in other countries. BFAWU has organised previous McDonald’s strikes. The first in January 2018 in Crayford and Cambridge won the biggest McDonald’s UK pay rise for a decade. The second was a joint walkout with low-paid workers at TGI Friday’s, Wetherspoon and Uber Eats on 4 October 2018. The stores involved this time are Wandsworth Town, Downham, Balham, Depford, Catford and Crayford.

Springboard

The Bakers’ union and the other unions involved in last October’s action should use the upcoming McDonald’s strikes as a starting point to coordinate a further round of walkouts in the hospitality and food sectors where worker exploitation and low levels of unionisation is rife.

The Socialist Party - which sends the strikers solidarity greetings - fights not only for everyday improvements in living and working conditions but links this fight through the organised working class to the struggle for socialism: the organisation of society where the main levers of the economy are nationalised under democratic workers’ control and management, so that production is democratically planned in the interests of the majority of people.

United Voices of the World

London - ‘autumn of discontent’ against low pay and outsourcing

Rob Williams
National Shop Stewards Network, chair

Independent union United Voices of the World (UVW) has launched an ‘autumn of discontent’ with strikes by outsourced, low-paid, mainly migrant workers.

There are strikes at five London employers - playground attendants at the Royal Parks, cafe workers in Greenwich University, hundreds of cleaners, caterers and porters from St. Mary’s Hospital in Paddington, and workers at the Ministry of Justice and the headquarters of ITV and Channel 4.

They are coordinating their strikes on 31 October. Two others are balloting for action too - St. George’s University and the University of East London. UVW has previously won important victories, including at the London School of Economics. A central demand is for all outsourced workers to be brought in-house. This is the policy of Jeremy Corbyn and should be shouted from the rooftops as we inch towards a general election. This would draw a real class division between him and Boris Johnson, who wants to open the NHS and other public services to even more parasites, such as US private health companies.

Civil servants’ union PCS won an important victory for outsourced workers in the government’s business department BEIS, by securing the London Living Wage. (See ‘BEIS: Outsourced caterers’ indefinite strike victory’ at socialists.org.uk).

Members of public sector union Unison in the North West have been on strike at NHS private contractors Compass. And food workers’ union BFAWU are striking for £15 an hour at McDonalds (see above).

This shows that established unions can also take action among precarious and contracted-out workers, providing they give a lead.

The planned national strike by 110,000 Communication Workers’ Union (CWU) members in Royal Mail could highlight to a new generation of workers the role of fighting trade unions. It can be an attractive force to all those facing the bosses’ offensive.

Get all the latest union news...

See socialistparty.org.uk for updates

RMT national executive election - London Transport Region

Fight the cuts, vote for Jared Wood

Jared Wood opposes the £1 billion worth of cuts by Transport for London. He rejects shift patterns that are killing tube workers, fights for a four-day week, and also campaigns for the policy of transport union RMT - a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government with socialist policies.

Can you give your backing to Socialist Party member Jared in the RMT national executive committee elections? He’s standing to represent the London Transport Region on the union’s national executive committee.

Paul Schindler, RMT Stations and Revenue, said: “During our fit-for-the-future dispute... Jared was instrumental in delivering effective industrial action that won back over 500 jobs.”

See Jared’s interview - ‘Uniting workers and public to fight the cuts’ - at socialists.org.uk

Trade Union Conference Opposing Political Policing

16 November at the Queen Anne Buildings, Greenwich University. Request a speaker from Cops by emailing opposingpolicysurveillance@gmail.com

Register for the conference by searching ‘undercover policing’ in London at eventbrite.co.uk

UNI WORKERS’ PAY AND PENSION STRIKE BALLOT

We are waiting for the result of the University and College Union (UCU) strike ballot. The union is asking its members in universities two questions. Will you strike for your pay? Will you strike for your pension?

The ballots closed on 30 October. The employers have broken their pension promise. They want to jack staff contributions up from 8.8% of pay to 9.6%.

Real-term pay has shrunk by 21% in a decade. Workers already voted to strike over pay earlier this year. But in that ballot, they didn’t meet the threshold in the ‘Torries’ anti-union laws.

Bea Gardner is the Postgraduate Research rep for the UCU at Southampton University. She spoke to the Socialist, in a personal capacity, and praised the support the union has had from Socialist Students.

“Socialist Students interviewed staff and plastered what they have said on posters around campus. They have also been collecting signatures from students pledging to support the strike.”

See socialists.org.uk for updates

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See socialists.org.uk for updates

Halloween

End the nightmare

Kick the Tories out

Corbyn’s Labour in to power - with a socialist programme!

Unite London Print Branch

Chair Mick Cotter
Secretary Tommy Murphy

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Register for the conference by searching ‘undercover policing’ in London at eventbrite.co.uk

UNI WORKERS’ PAY AND PENSION STRIKE BALLOT

We are waiting for the result of the University and College Union (UCU) strike ballot. The union is asking its members in universities two questions. Will you strike for your pay? Will you strike for your pension?

The ballots closed on 30 October. The employers have broken their pension promise. They want to jack staff contributions up from 8.8% of pay to 9.6%.

Real-term pay has shrunk by 21% in a decade. Workers already voted to strike over pay earlier this year. But in that ballot, they didn’t meet the threshold in the ‘Torries’ anti-union laws.

Bea Gardner is the Postgraduate Research rep for the UCU at Southampton University. She spoke to the Socialist, in a personal capacity, and praised the support the union has had from Socialist Students.

“Socialist Students interviewed staff and plastered what they have said on posters around campus. They have also been collecting signatures from students pledging to support the strike.”

See socialists.org.uk for updates

Halloween

End the nightmare

Kick the Tories out

Corbyn’s Labour in to power - with a socialist programme!

Unite London Print Branch

Chair Mick Cotter
Secretary Tommy Murphy

Get all the latest union news...

See socialistparty.org.uk for updates

RMT national executive election - London Transport Region

Fight the cuts, vote for Jared Wood

Jared Wood opposes the £1 billion worth of cuts by Transport for London. He rejects shift patterns that are killing tube workers, fights for a four-day week, and also campaigns for the policy of transport union RMT - a Jeremy Corbyn-led Labour government with socialist policies.

Can you give your backing to Socialist Party member Jared in the RMT national executive committee elections? He’s standing to represent the London Transport Region on the union’s national executive committee.

Paul Schindler, RMT Stations and Revenue, said: “During our fit-for-the-future dispute... Jared was instrumental in delivering effective industrial action that won back over 500 jobs.”

See Jared’s interview - ‘Uniting workers and public to fight the cuts’ - at socialists.org.uk

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Our local MP was sympathetic but couldn't help. He raised the issue in the House of Commons and the Housing Select Committee. However, even after three years, I am still in the same position. I will never get a new home. As a result, I am living in the same old room and will always be fighting for a new home. Although I am powerless, I am still fighting. Together we can win the battle. If you are renting in London, you too can fight for your rights. We are strong and will never give up. Together we can win. Together we are a force and can change the world. Together we can win.

**Butterfields won’t BUDGE!**

**Butterfields’ tenancy**

I was there from the start. When we first heard the news about the building being sold in January 2016, I decided to do something about it. I joined the tenants association and started organizing meetings to discuss the situation. We decided to fight against the sale of the building and to demand that the tenants have a say in the decision. We knew it wouldn't be easy, but we were determined to make a difference.

**Socialism**

Karen

**Socialism**

Karen Steel

West Ham Socialist Party

One of the main lessons of the Buttersfield struggle is that it was a successful social movement that could have been replicated elsewhere. But it was a struggle that was led by tenants and for tenants. It was a struggle that was led by tenants and for tenants. It was a struggle that was led by tenants and for tenants. It was a struggle that was led by tenants and for tenants.

**Butterfields tenants**

As a way to mark this remarkable campaign, we are now planning a series of events to celebrate the achievement of the Butterfields tenants.

**Lessons for renters now:**

- **Collective action:** The Butterfields tenants showed that tenants can organize and fight back against the power of landlords.
- **Elected committees:** The tenants association was formed with an elected committee and this has given the tenants a voice.
- **Tenants’ movements:** Setting up a tenants’ association, and organizing the collective tenants’ fightback against the landlords, was key.
- **Media and publicity:** The posters go up in our windows. The media turned up. I thought ITV was going to come to our demo. Also picketing a restaurant on the auction sheet. Our campaigners were all so positive! And it was a learning experience.
- **Organizing Network:** Joining the organizing network, part of the local trade union and socialist movement, was the start.
- **Momentum builds:** A tenants’ association is formed. We need a clear outcome. - well, only if you want to relocate far away from your home. We need a clear outcome.
- **Powering through:** There was a clear outcome. There was a clear outcome. There was a clear outcome.
- **Together we can win:** Together we can win.

**Three years since victory:** Butterfields didn’t budge

**How working-class tenants beat gentrification**

**Butterfields tenants**

Three years since victory: Butterfields didn’t budge

**What were Butterfields tenants doing three years ago?**

- **We fought to keep our home:** We fought to keep our home. We demanded that the building be sold to the tenants.
- **We organized the community:** We organized the community. We held meetings and discussions to determine our next steps.
- **We demanded a say in the decision-making:** We demanded that the tenants have a say in the decision-making process.
- **We demanded decent housing:** We demanded decent housing. We demanded that the building be improved and upgraded.
- **We demanded an end to gentrification:** We demanded an end to gentrification. We demanded that the community be preserved.
- **We demanded an end to evictions:** We demanded an end to evictions. We demanded that the tenants not be evicted.

**Butterfields tenants’ experience:**

We were one of the first tenants’ groups to stand up against the gentrification of our community. We were able to organize the community and fight back against the landlords. We were able to win our case and keep our home.

**How working-class tenants beat gentrification**

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Obituary - Bob Lee: 26 February 1954 - 20 September 2019

Black liberation struggles

The struggle against racism, initially the anti-slavery movement, that took place across the Americas and the Caribbean.

Haitian revolution

The most successful was the revolt that took place in Haiti - described as the first successful slave rebellion in history.

British and American armies attempted to suppress the rebellion, but failed.

Black leaders have come to power, particularly in Africa, through elections which only happen after the people have taken to the streets and put pressure on the old regime to hold a democratic election or allow the opposition to participate in the elections.

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Enfield North socialists lobby candidate stitch-up

Local Socialist Party members joined the lobby of the Enfield North Labour Party meeting to select the constituency’s prospective parliamentary candidate on 26 October. Labour’s national executive committee had undemocratically imposed a list which excluded all local left and socialist candidates.

46 delegates spoiled their ballot papers in protest. Having campaigned to get rid of the previous right-wing MP Joan Ryan, who went on to join Change UK, local members have been denied the right to democratically replace her with a local socialist. Instead they have been saddled with another right-wing candidate.

Opinion: Labour Party is structured to block left councillors

Blairite councillors are doing everything they can to prevent councils standing up to the Tories and defending their communities like Tony Mulhearn and the ‘Liverpool 47’ councillors did from 1983 to 1987.

Democratic ‘district Labour parties’ were replaced by ‘local government committees’, then by ‘local campaign forums’. Each change has made them less democratic and enhanced the power of right-wingers to block the left from becoming councillors.

According to the otherwise good Labour Party conference, we now have local government committees again. Under the latest rule change, a third of members must be existing councillors - in contrast to the district Labour parties, where overwhelmingly were elected by local trades unions, Labour branches, and affiliated organisations.

My sister had to support the infamous ‘private finance initiative’ to become a Labour councillor. In my ward, a local activist won a by-election, but the local campaign forum prevented her from standing as a Labour candidate a few months later without any explanation.

The vast majority of Labour councillors are determined to stop Jeremy Corbyn. They put the profits of property developers before the needs of the people. Council housing is being demolished and tenants forced to pay greatly increased rents to stay in the area.

As well as restoring the money cut from local authorities, the following steps should be taken.

People expelled from the Labour Party for opposing cuts should have the right to return, and all Labour Party members should have the right to stand as candidates.

There should be annual local government conferences in each council area with participation by trade unions and local community groups as well as Labour Party members. End the mayor and cabinet system and make all council meetings open to the public.

Out with the Blairites! Housing for all on the basis of need! Reverse all cuts and privatisation!
There's a huge explosion on a building site. Children playing on the poorly guarded site are caught in the blast - dead, injured or trapped in an unsafe building that’s collapsing.

In the plush city offices of Kallbridge Developments panic begins. Moments ago the close-knit community was cheering its mayor as he praised the new development. It was his project.

Now they rush to the scene of the accident.

How many times have similar ‘accidents’ happened? The bosses attempt to deny responsibility. Their greatest advantage is that the victims are unknown to each other. In those circumstances, the most difficult and vital first step is to bring the victims and the local community together.

But here everyone knows each other.

The mayor
Will the affected be brought together in a democratically run campaign around commonly agreed demands? Not if the mayor has anything to do with it!

He leaves the scene before the dead are brought out. In the absence of genuine leadership, the town spontaneously holds a silent vigil.

In literature this reflects the Grenfell silent vigils, but this is not the best expression of those caught up in that struggle - it was collective anger and a determination to get answers.

The working-class characters are sympathetically drawn. They stand at the barbed-wire fence of the new development, meant to bring 1,000 new jobs to the town, covered in ashes and tears. Some may find this depressing reading.

In the fictional Welsh town of Glyngolau, moving scenes capture what so many working-class families have experienced over centuries - and Welsh mining towns perhaps more than anywhere else - family members killed, trapped and devastated by loss, as a result of cost-cutting, profit-driven big corporations putting lives at risk.

I felt the well-drawn collapse of the building very close to home. I live on the Barking Riverside estate in east London. In June, fire ripped through Samuel Garside House there. (See ‘Fire tears through Barking flats - cladding off now’ at socialistparty.org.uk.)

It's now fully reoccupied, but many residents fear it might collapse at any time. Cracks have spread across the building, painted and plastered over by the managing agents.

Our residents' association has a fighting leadership, which is doing what it can to aid the residents’ struggle for justice. It will be interesting to see the mayor’s pro-capitalist leadership tested under pressure from the company and the rest of the establishment, during the investigation into the causes of the deaths.

Polly Bevan, a local hairdresser and wife of the mayor, angrily confronts a Kallbridge executive who has rushed to the scene. She accuses the company of using shoddy building materials: “And what do you know - that this was done cheap as chips - is that what you know?”

It was true to life. The building manager arriving at the site of our fire had personally assured me that all fire-safety precautions had been put in place.

“I know you!” Polly accuses. Spot on. And it’s caught on local TV. Polly’s husband responds by violently attacking her at home.

Their toxic relationship will be one focus of the struggle for justice. Will Polly break free as she exposes her husband’s role in life-threatening cost-cutting at the development?

Well made, worth watching.

The Socialist

Inbox

Do you have something to say?

Send your news, views and criticism in no more than 150 words to editors@socialistparty.org.uk or if you’re not online, Socialist Inbox, PO Box 24697, London E11 1YD

Youth clubs cuts are a mistake

The Thornhill Youth Centre in Southamp-ton is being bulldozed to make way for unaffordable flats. Council-funded youth services ceased in the city in 2013. Since then, the Thornhill building leasing has struggled to cover rent.

The council, who own the building, have stepped in and sold the land to new developers.

My mum, now in her late 50s, grew up in the area. She told me: “The youth club has always been a place for young people to hang out. We used to play badminton and table tennis there. It’s sad to see all the facilities, which build community, being literally destroyed.”

Josh, who was part of the ‘save our youth services’ campaign in 2012, told me: “When the council first voted to stop all funding for youth services, they said the services would be run by volunteers and stay open.”

“We warned that volunteers and charities would be unable to maintain the services and the council would wait for them to be run down and sell the land for profit - which is exactly what has happened!”

A few weeks ago, city leaders initiated controversial Section 60 stop and search powers following a serious knife incident less than a mile from the youth club. It’s no surprise to residents that the lack of youth facilities is making communities less safe, particularly for young people.

Bea Gardner

Southampton

Publicly owned public transport is solution

Claire Wilkins’ article in issue 1061 was spot on and showed graphically how out of touch with reality the leaders of Extinction Rebellion (XR) are. (See ‘Extinction Rebellion action opens up divisions on how to stop climate change’ at socialistparty.org.uk.)

Public transport is part of the solution to climate change. But XR take the position that because buses or trains produce some carbon emissions, then they are as bad as cars.

We need a mass council house building programme and rent control in Newham and everywhere. Not fake “affordable”, but genuinely, for the working class and poor.

And no more of Labour-run councils putting humans in containers or converted tiny office space in soulless buildings. Or shipping the homeless out of London, as Newham council did.

There are plenty of empty homes and buildings that can be refurbished in Newham and elsewhere that councils should turn into quality homes.

Niall Mulholland

Newham, east London

Homeless problem is an abomination

This tent encampment is just across the road from the Stratford Westfield shopping centre, east London, and adjacent to new high rise block flats for the super-rich. An abomination!

We need a mass council house building programme and public ownership of transport. Socialists are correct to campaign for these policies in the environmental movement.

Clive Walder

Birmingham

Readers’ opinion
The 1929 Wall Street Crash
WHEN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM WAS ON ITS KNEES

There was mass destitution and impoverishment of the poor and the unemployed.

The 1929 Wall Street Crash

The 1929 crash, like the banking crash of 1907, marked a decisive moment in the history of the capitalist system. In 1907 the collapse of banks and the failure of businesses had resulted in a serious recession, but the economy had quickly regained its strength. The 1929 crash, on the other hand, was much more severe and lasted much longer. The crash was caused by a combination of factors, including speculation in the stock market, a boom in the housing market, and a general optimism about the future of the economy.

The crash began in September 1929, when the stock market began to fall. The fall was precipitated by a series of events, including the publication of a report by the Rockefeller Foundation that suggested that the economy was overvalued, and the collapse of several banks that had invested heavily in the stock market. The crash was accompanied by a wave of panic, as investors sold their stocks in a desperate attempt to recoup their losses. The crash led to a sharp decline in the economy, with unemployment rising sharply and business activity falling.

The crash was followed by a period of economic depression, which lasted for several years. The Great Depression was one of the most severe economic downturns in modern history, and it had a profound impact on people's lives. Millions of people lost their jobs and homes, and the economy was depressed for many years. The crash marked the end of the so-called Roaring Twenties, a period of economic繁荣 during the 1920s, and it set the stage for the Great Depression that followed.

The crash also had political consequences, as it contributed to the rise of radical political movements. The crash led to a sharp drop in the stock market, which affected many people's finances. This, in turn, led to a rise in political radicalism, as people became angry and disillusioned with the established political order. The crash also contributed to the rise of the American Communist Party, which was one of the many radical political movements that emerged in the aftermath of the crash.

The crash was followed by a period of economic recovery, but the recovery was uneven and incomplete. The economy recovered, but it did not return to its pre-crash levels. The recovery was accompanied by a series of political and social changes, as people became disillusioned with the established political order and sought new solutions to the problems of the day.

The crash also had long-term effects, as it contributed to the rise of radical political movements and to the establishment of a new political order. The crash led to a sharp drop in the stock market, which affected many people's finances. This, in turn, led to a rise in political radicalism, as people became angry and disillusioned with the established political order. The crash also contributed to the rise of the American Communist Party, which was one of the many radical political movements that emerged in the aftermath of the crash.
The election for the next general secretary of the 180,000-strong trade union runs from 7 November until 12 December.

Socialist Party member Marion Lloyd won 39 PCS branch nominations, the incumbent Mark Serwotka got 62, and Bev Laidlaw 17.

We call upon activists to unite behind Marion’s candidacy for a union democratically controlled through its elected lay structures, and a leadership which will actively coordinate across the union the fight on pay, jobs, pensions and office closures.

Marion has spent many years building the left and fighting the right wing in the union. She has a record of success in winning for members, including a successful fight which stopped the closure of her office.

Recently, low-paid PCS members, employed by private contractors ISS and Aramark at the BEIS government offices in London, won the London Living Wage after taking indefinite strike action.

Marion - currently PCS BEIS Group President and on the national executive committee, and who has been on the BEIS picket lines - said: “I’m immensely proud of my members and the branch reps. Two victories in a few weeks after these low-paid workers took indefinite strike action shows what can be achieved. It confirms that we can attract outsourced workers into PCS and link them with members who are directly employed, with the demand that these workers are brought in-house.”

Marion stands on a programme of union democracy, breaking down barriers to win equality for all and a fresh, winning approach on pay, jobs and office closures.

Speaking to the Socialist, Marion says: “Unlike Mark Serwotka, who pledged to not take the full general secretary salary but does, I will stay on my civil service wage and publish details of the money I give back to PCS.”

We call upon activists to unite behind her campaign and elect her as the next PCS general secretary.