As MPs move onto the general election campaign trail, increasing numbers of workers are moving onto the picket lines.

Literally days before polling day, there could be national strikes by postal workers and university lecturers and staff. McDonald’s workers in south London have already been on strike (see page 3). And workers on South Western Railway, and many others, will be also taking action in the coming days and weeks.

The right-wing Tory-supporting press are raging about workers having the effrontery to take strike action during the general election - adding the usual comments that strikers are out to ruin people’s holidays and education.

But strikers struggling to get by on tight budgets aren’t in the business of losing pay and standing in the cold for no good reason. These walkouts are the result of long-suffering workers saying “enough is enough” over the issues of falling wages, low pay, pension cuts, safety and working conditions, and bullying bosses.

The right-wing capitalist media sense that these disputes threaten to expose Boris Johnson’s fake pro-worker populism.

This is the same party that, when in government, launched the biggest austerity offensive for a century - devastating public services, sacking a million public sector workers and inflicting a lost decade of wage cuts on those still in work.

Tory cutters

Boris tries to portray himself as a ‘fresh start’, but as Tory London mayor he was a willing cutter of public services on behalf of his Bullingdon buddies Cameron and Osborne.

Never forget that, three years before the Grenfell Tower tragedy, he closed ten London fire stations with the loss of over 500 firefighter posts.

In contrast, Jeremy Corbyn must seize the chance to show how he is the real alternative for workers.

These disputes offer him the chance to present his anti-austerity, pro-worker programme of policies in the most concrete of ways. He could have a daily election press conference on each picket line!

He could talk about renationalising Royal Mail on a posties’ picket, and how he will bring in a £10 minimum wage for all workers of all ages and scrap zero-hour contracts with the McDonald’s workers.

He could promise to stop privatisation and to bring all outsourced workers in-house at a strike rally at three hospitals in Surrey and Berkshire who are taking action over being transferred out of the NHS.

He could not only stand with the university strikes, but announce a real above-inflation pay rise across the public sector and that university workers’ pensions will be left alone. He could tell the RMT union pickets that all guards will be left on the train in a re-nationalised rail industry.

Corbyn has the opportunity to align himself with the workers in dispute and to hammer home what his programme would do to better workers’ lives. He must embrace this fightback.
ATTACKS SHOW ELITE FEAR A CORBYN ELECTION WIN

WHAT WE THINK

A study into the press coverage of Jeremy Corbyn in 2015 by the London School of Economics revealed, unsurprisingly, that it was much more critical than of any previous left-wing politician. A study covering 12 weeks showed that only 10% of articles were pro-Corbyn, while 25% were anti-Corbyn. Out of 12% of articles actually reported what he thought. While the right-leaning tabloid press were the worst offenders, every capita newspaper in every region was guilty.

A recent study today showed that 35% of the public thought there were significantly increased attacks on Corbyn. Of all the TV companies who are the TV companies - whatever their political differences. It is not coincidental that the attacks on Corbyn have been stepped up in recent weeks. In the London election campaign to argue his case. We believe a conference of Labour First, would strengthen the struggle for a Corbyn-led government to do all privatised utilities and services, with and underfunding that has worsened since 2010. One in the NHS and social care.

Labour MPs targeted by right-wing slanders are stumping the campaign

Chris Williamson, MP for Derby South, is being forced to stand as an independent candidate in the general election.

Tony Blair, a Uriah Heep official who has been embroiled in an acrimonious row with his former boss over his role in spinning the Iraq war, has been selected to stand for Labour in the constituency. The Socialist Party is campaigning in this election for a Jeremy Corbyn led socialist government.

Chris Williamson has been a strong supporter of Jeremy Corbyn, but, for example, the democrats selection of candidates has not been a success. Because of this, he was targeted as one of the last men standing of the Labour Party and easily knocked out of the race.

Chris Williamson has been a chequered past. As council leader he implemented privatization, and even formed a coalition with Tory councils in 2000 after Labour lost the last election. The baseman was elected as an MP in his trajectory has been left to the left. The voting record in parliament and consistent support from suggests that he would be a lacklustre figurehead for austerity policies. This is something that, given Tony Blair’s recent ascension in the financial times, is being exploited. Williamson is being portrayed as Labour and on a tightrope. The result is, like so many others, he may exit on the Tory side John Bull.

Determinations were made that the Labour Party are generally deeply moribund. Of the three Labour candidates, only Chris Williamson even tried to campaign against the “anti-Semitism” and “toryism” in the Labour Party. The chances of Labour winning a majority in 2015 are negligible. Labour’s MPs are being targeted by the Blairite right wing, with the Labour Party being the last bastion of Labour and the campaign against the Blairite right.

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Me against the world

It is not coincidence that the at -

This is one level up from OPEL and the bosses’ neoliberal immigration laws.

We demand a radical policy of point of use and under democratic control. Kick out private contractors! Abolish university tuition fees now!

At the same time, there is growing concern about the financial pressures facing the NHS, and the government’s plans to cut funding for the NHS. This is leading to concerns about the quality of care being provided, as well as the ability of the NHS to provide treatment for all who need it.

The NHS is a valuable public service, providing comprehensive care, placing patients at the heart of its operation. However, it is clear that the government is reducing funding for the NHS, which is putting pressure on the service to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

The main demand of the strikers was for a living wage of £15 an hour, payable only on the basis of proven need. Our demands include...

To find out more today!

The 88 year-old woman, a retired nurse, was for a living wage of £15 an hour, payable only on the basis of proven need. Our demands include...

Challengers to the bosses’ neoliberal immigration laws.

No to the bosses’ neoliberal immigration laws. A democratically planned, low-fare, publicly owned transport system, with free general education, placement patient - defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Reporting on an environmentally sustainable comprehensive care, placing patient – defined as an inability to deliver critical services was reported for several days previously. Recommendation to sign an election pledge to say that it would not bring critical services. It is one level up from OPEL and the bosses’ neoliberal immigration laws.

No to the bosses’ neoliberal immigration laws.
Green Party offers no alternative for young people and climate change chaos

Michael Morgan
Coventry Socialist Party

The panel of speakers at the climate change rally in Socialism 2019 was introduced by chair James Brown, part of the editorial team of the Socialist newspaper. He opened by saying that capitalism is a crisis that needs changing, and change is needed swiftly. He highlighted the work of executive committee member Ruby Dummer, who became free, came out of poverty, moved from California, Arizona and Tennessee, before coming to Japan, “as only the most recent examples” of climate extremes that affect people to the most developed countries.

The threat is not in doubt. Consequences across the world have been seen in support for the widespread school student climate strikes and the presence of a number of international organisations.

The capitalist class “pays lip-service to climate change”, with large corporations adopting green policies while not changing their own. The Green Party offers no alternative to that – they have organized mass protests and continue to do so with no results.

The first speaker, Socialist Party activist Michael Morgan, argued that the Greens and the Liberal Democrats have failed to come close to those of the Green New Deal and the Green Party, however it’s important to bring about the change in so many ways. If the Green Party offers no alternative, they can be swept aside the Tories and finally get rid of them once and for all. To rule out another coalition with the Conservatives, which could provoke a new revolt (including students), and workers’ meetings on the campuses with UCU and UNISON and college workers (and CWU postal workers who are preparing for national strikes), the Greens and Liberal Democrats must organise a general strike in the face of a crumbling Tory government.

We’re ready to organise joint student and conference meetings on the campuses across the country, the only national organisation holding the line in the fight for free education, decent worker housing, for an end to austerity on university campuses.

And that means we’re ready for this election. We mustn’t launch a socialist voice organisation drive on campuses, linked to the fight for a socialist voice, focusing on ending climate catastrophe. A government which will chỉheid national tax, cancel student debt, introduce living grants and be a platform for students to do a job and a house after university.

“Socialism 2019: Rally - ‘Socialist change needed to end climate change’”

The weekly Marxist analysis podcast from the Socialist Party

Listen to and subscribe on Apple Podcasts, SoundCloud or Google Podcasts platforms, plus socialparty.org.uk

GREEN PARTY OFFERS NO ALTERNATIVE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHAOS

Michael Morgan
Coventry Socialist Party

The panel of speakers at the climate change rally in Socialism 2019 was introduced by chair James Brown, part of the editorial team of the Socialist newspaper. He opened by saying...
PCS union general secretary election

ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FOR MARION LLOYD

The Public and Commercial Services (PCS) union general secretary ballot has started and it closes on 12 December.

Socialist Party member Marion Lloyd is one of three candidates. Her 39 Branch nominations outnumber Bev Laidlaw’s 16 and put Marion close to the 62 nominations for incumbent Mark Serwotka. In other words, she can win this election. Activists should unite behind her and make this happen.

Early signs are hugely encouraging. In every town and city a large number of offices have already been leafleted. More of this activity is planned for the days and weeks ahead.

Those leafleting report an enthusiastic and positive membership response to Marion’s decision to challenge Serwotka. Her programme has struck a chord among members looking for a Union leadership that will fight for them on the issues of pay, jobs and equality.

Marion told the Socialist: “I’ve been literally overwhelmed by the demand for my election material and delighted by the response to it. I sensed all along the mood among our members is for change and for a fresh approach. I have become more and more convinced of this as the election has got underway.”

Marion’s pledge to make no material gain by staying on her current civil servant’s wage is well received. As is her commitment to publishing details of her union payback arrangements. Serwotka makes no payback to the union despite his original undertaking to do so. His election material makes no mention of this.

Marion’s criticisms of Serwotka’s pay strategy which led to two failed pay strike ballots is widely shared. The different approach – a disaggregated ballot – which Marion argued for has been used by the University and College Union in their recent successful strike ballot (see page 11).

Had PCS adopted this approach, 21 PCS groups would now have a legal strike mandate. Marion’s commitment to a Union accountable to its members and controlled by its lay structures has gone down well. As president of the PCS’s Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy department, Marion fought against Serwotka’s decision to give control of resources to non-elected union officials.

The election of union full-time officers is a democratic demand that Marion supports. In the past, so did Serwotka but there is no mention of this by him now.

Marion supports the election of a Corbyn-led government on an anti-austerity programme, but she makes it clear that this doesn’t mean we should be uncritical cheerleaders for Labour. And unlike the other candidates she is opposed to Labour Party affiliation.

If you can help or want more information contact Marion4GenSec@gmail.com

Marion Lloyd for PCS General secretary
@marion4Gs

Socialism 2019 event

Marion got a rousing reception at the recent Socialist 2019 event
photo Mary Finch

Frimley NHS Trust strikes

Health workers walkout against privatisation

Terry Pearce
Chair, Bracknell Unite
(personal capacity)

Facilities staff at Wexham Park and Heatherwood hospitals in Berkshire, and at Frimley Park in Surrey (members of Unite, Unison and GMB trade unions) will strike on 18 and 19 November, in an escalation of their campaign to stay in the National Health Service (NHS).

Their employer, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, plans to privatise up to 1,000 NHS cleaners, porters, security and estates staff to a new wholly-owned subsidiary (WOS) company early next year.

Staff employed directly by the NHS will maintain their existing terms and conditions. However, staff transferred to the WOS will only stay on NHS terms and conditions until 2021, and new staff employed by the WOS will be on different terms and conditions.

The spread of WOS’s is part of a government strategy to introduce more privatisation into the NHS, to drive down pay and conditions and ultimately boost private profit. They have been introduced into many NHS trusts around the country and are planned for many more.

However, strike action and threatened strike action in 2018 by NHS workers in Mid Yorkshire and in Wigan won major victories against privatisation, as did NHS workers at Bradford teaching hospitals earlier this year.

While all trade union organisations and members must rally to the NHS workers we must also involve the wider community.

There is a history in the area of fighting to defend the NHS including an epic campaign to save Heatherwood Hospital from closure, which was won following a 25,000 strong petition, marches, demonstrations led by the Save Heatherwood Hospital Campaign.

Already Bracknell Unite branch, Bracknell National Pensioners Convention, Bracknell Defend Our Community Services and Save Heatherwood Hospital Campaign have expressed solidarity with the NHS staff and will be joining strikers on the picket lines.

Get all the latest union news... nationalshop stuardswnetwork NSSN bulletin: shopstewards.net

...and trade unionists protesting against outsourcing at Heatherwood Hospital
photo John Gillman
Postal workers’ union determined to resist bosses’ attacks

Gary Clark
Communications Workers Union (CWU) Scotland No.2 branch secretary (personal capacity) and Socialist Party Scotland

Postal workers are involved in the fight of our lives, and our members know it. A massive 97.1% vote for strike action on a huge turnout that demolished the anti-union ballot thresholds tells us all we need to know about the mood of anger and determination among CWU members.

And the reason is clear. Rico Back and the new team of Royal Mail executives want to break up the business. They want to rip Royal Mail to shreds for the benefit of the hedge funds, big business and capitalism.

And they are prepared to use the courts to try and prevent us from fighting back. Rico Back has come into the role of CEO with a golden hello of £6 million and a package of around £2.7 million a year. His role is to break the strength of the CWU.

This is a result of the sell-off of Royal Mail and the push towards maximum profit and the rundown of the service. We’re due a shorter working week, a one-hour reduction from the 2017 ‘four pillars’ agreement, but management has backtracked. Royal Mail bosses are also walking away from national agreements.

They want to do away with 40,000 jobs, which amount to a third of the workforce. Bullying of our members by management is rife across the industry.

This is a fight to defend the public service too. If we lose this fight the public service is gone. The biggest obstacle to their plans is the CWU and our determination to resist.

We’re planning strike action in the run-up to Christmas. Rico Back is preparing as well. Royal Mail are starting to employ agency staff on a full-time basis, cutting across all agreements and stopping our members getting overtime.

Reportedly, 6,000 extra workers are being recruited for warehouses and as drivers. A large part of this will be an attempt to build an army to undermine the strike.

Injunction
Royal Mail has taken us to the High Court, claiming an irregularity in how the ballot was conducted. This refers to the widely reported fact that CWU reps encouraged members to vote and return the ballot papers en masse. But management say this is breaking the law.

This is a very serious issue for the whole trade union movement as it clearly shows that the Trade Union Act is going to be used to block all action by workers to defend their terms and conditions.

The CWU should call an emergency meeting of all lay officials across the membership, including action to challenge the law by calling industrial action, which would be against any court ruling, and making a call to all of the labour movement to support us.

This is very likely to be a bitter dispute. We will need the support of the whole trade union movement.

The CWU should call an emergency national demonstration in the next two weeks, and the Trade Union Congress, other unions, Jeremy Corbyn and the Labour leadership, should back it. The demands of the demo should be - ‘Defend trade union rights and the right to strike, support the CWU and renationalise Royal Mail’.

In whose interests is Royal Mail to be run? Is it for big business and the vultures of capitalism or about providing a public service?

The general election on 12 December could once again illustrate how important postal workers are. Political parties have election material delivered by CWU members. Postal votes are increasingly important.

It’s vital that Jeremy Corbyn uses his pledge to renationalise Royal Mail as a centrepiece of the election campaign. Corbyn’s backing for our action is also very important.

Socialist Party Scotland believes that the best way to properly reward the workforce and to improve the public service is by renationalising Royal Mail under democratic workers’ control.

Our members are fighting to defend a public service from big business vultures. It’s the public’s fight too. Support the union, demand public ownership of the industry.

Victory to the CWU!

RMT union members at SWR to walk out in December

Guards and drivers on South West Railway (SWR) will be taking an unprecedented 27-days of strike action in December in order to retain safety-critical guards on SWR trains.

The RMT union is incensed that the private rail operator refuses to acknowledge this safety role, but instead is intent on downgrading the role of the guard.

Workers throughout the industry have been battling, with mixed results, in recent years to prevent driver-only operation of trains. RMT members in SWR have already taken several days’ strike action this year on this issue.

Back in September, Geoff Kite, RMT national executive member, told the Socialist: “The RMT will continue to fight for a safety-critical guard on every train. We will not allow the company to put performance over safety by diluting the role into a token gesture to the travelling public.”

RMT cleaners working for ABM are balloting for strike action in response to cuts following the loss of Transport for London’s subsidy.

All grades, whether London Underground staff or members working for subcontractors, are under attack as employers seek to cut costs and pass on the austerity policies of both the government and the London mayor.

Socialist Party member Jared Wood, who is standing for election to the RMT union executive from the London transport region, said: “We must all help to deliver a resounding yes vote for strike.

“We must also use the strike to build membership in the cleaning grades. Many of our reps in ABM have reported that non-members often ask what RMT is actually doing for cleaners. This strike is our answer. If we can win our dispute and deliver on free travel, sick pay and pensions, then the working life of our cleaner members would be transformed, but so would the industrial position of RMT.”

Socialist Party RMT members on London Underground are also pushing for a ballot on the LU offer on pay and conditions. Management has been pushed into offering concessions on a shorter working week but the offer falls far short on the linked question of pay.

RMT union members striking against driver-only operation in Salisbury photo Jane Ward

RMT union members at SWR to walk out in December photo Paul Mattsson

Transport for London - justice for cleaners! photo Paul Mattsson

Transport for London - justice for cleaners!
Tory austerity and Blairite attacks have devastated our education system, with baleful results for school staff and students. But Jeremy Corbyn has promised a game-changing ‘National Education Service’, and unionised workers have proven that fighting back works.

**Cuts and crisis: stop Tory school havoc**

Cuts mean thousands of youngsters with special educational needs and disabilities are not having their needs adequately met. Schools are trying to cater for complex needs without adequate staffing and resources.

Rising child poverty, a direct result of Tory austerity, also has inevitable emotional and behavioural consequences. Yet, with budgets for youth, child and adolescent mental health services all being slashed, underfunded schools are left to somehow pick up the pieces.

Sixth-form class sizes are also mushrooming - in a sector that traditionally always had smaller student numbers per teacher.

Of course, those students won’t escape the funding crisis if they continue to higher education. However, they’ll have to pay for the privilege by racking up tens of thousands of pounds of debt for huge tuition fees and rising living costs.

**Toll on staff**

And underfunding is exacting a terrible toll on staff. Salaries for teachers have fallen by over 15% in real terms since 2010. This has been made worse by schools trying to limit their wage bill by refusing annual progression up their pay scales, further adding to staff de-moralisation.

Support staff and teaching posts have been cut, adding to the demands on the staff remaining. Government promises to act on unbearable teacher workload have proven to be worthless.

The average working week for a teacher in England remains a staggeringly 50 hours - with a quarter working more than 60 hours a week.

Those pressures are deepening the ongoing crisis in teacher retention, with the government’s own figures confirming that a third - a third! - of newly qualified staff now leave teaching within the first five years.

Small wonder that schools continue to be blighted by constant staff turnover, especially those supporting the most disadvantaged communities where pressure on staff is greatest.

In short, the Tories have wreaked havoc on our schools, staff and education. They have to go!

**Union activist, and member of the Socialist Party national committee, looks at what’s needed to save education.**

Valentine School in Southampton won extra funds by striking this year

**Education spending as share of GDP**

Whatever the result of the general election, education unions need to prepare for decisive action to defend education

**Corbyn promises change: building a educational transformation**

Of course, teachers would continue to rely on assessment to inform their work - and to inform children, their parents and carers - but the failing of examinations is punishing schools compete in an education marketplace.

Schools ‘failed’ by Ofsted, or found at fault for complex needs without adequate staffing and resources, have been cut, adding to the demands on the staff remaining. Government promises to act on unbearable teacher workload have proven to be worthless.

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In short, the Tories have wreaked havoc on our schools, staff and education. They have to go!
Abolishing Ofsted and Sats would be significant first steps towards ending the pro-market consensus... and a national system can’t operate if half of England’s pupils continue to be educated in schools controlled by over 1,000 different unaccountable ‘multi-academy trusts’

Standing firm: how to defend education reforms

Education will be one of the key issues that could determine the outcome of the general election. If Labour boldly campaigns to reverse school cuts, and end tuition fees, Sats and Ofsted, it could help convince both working-class and middle-class voters to back a Corbyn government.

But the real test will then follow - to stand up to big business and implement Corbyn’s manifesto commitments.

Where’s the money?
Corbyn has previously proposed to pay for greater education spending through a small increase in corporation tax from its present very low 19%. It’s not a radical step. Even back in 2010, the standard rate was 28%. In 1979, it was 52%!

Nevertheless, any attempt to divert more wealth towards “the many, not the few” will be resisted by the capitalist class. Already, financial institutions - who will be piling on the pressure against the background of a likely worldwide recession - are saying it would result in lower investment in Britain, and so fewer jobs and lower economic growth.

Increased tax rates would also be met with further tax avoidance and evasion by big business. Of course, the best way to counter these pressures is to control the economy, would be to nationalise the main firms and financial institutions under democratic workers’ control and management, even if it seems likely that the Labour election manifesto will pledge to end fee-paying ‘independent’ schools’ spurious ‘charitable status’. A further route to provide some additional resources for state education would be to implement the policy already agreed by a Labour Party conference to redistribute their assets across state education.

Of course, to be carried out successfully, the Labour government would need to assure staff in independent schools that their jobs and conditions were secure.

However, as it provides such a challenge to the privileges so fiercely guarded by the wealthy, it may well remain just a paper policy unless the workers’ movement pushes for its implementation.

If Corbyn is serious about introducing a genuinely transformative ‘National Education Service’, he will need to ensure that, as with the NHS, it is not continually undermined by the existence of a parallel private sector available only to those who can afford it.

Local democracy, not academies

A more immediately pressing education policy agreed by Labour’s 2019 conference is also facing resistance from the right of ‘good education’. Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell has pledged that schools will receive some of Labour’s proposed £150 billion ‘social transformation fund’ for upgrade work.

These are policies which every parent, school student and member of the public will be hoping – and expecting - a Labour government will carry out.
Trade union conference to force secret police disclosure

Lois Austin
Campaign Opposing Police Surveillance and Socialist Party

For decades, trade unionists, shop stewards and socialists suspected there was an active blacklist and that ‘spycops’ infiltrated trade unions. The blacklist was preventing them securing work. Even when work was secured, it was more by accident than design, and often when work was secured, it was more by accident than design, and often that employment was short lived as invented problems meant the job came to an end quickly.

In 2009, the Guardian led a story about the existence of an illegal blacklist. It was compiled and updated by the ‘Consulting Association,’ but the blacklist was funded by some of the country’s largest building firms.

Operating for about 15 years the database named approximately 3,200 workers. The building contractors paid flat fee of £3,000 a year and then a fixed fee for each name they wanted checked. Details of workers’ trade union activities and past employment conduct were recorded.

The Consulting Association was established after the demise of the ‘Economic League’ an organisation that traces its history back decades and also kept a list of alleged trade unionists who were denied jobs. When the League closed down in 2009 its database was passed over to the Consulting Association.

However, it was not just these private organisations which were involved in blacklisting. The Metropolitan Police and other regional police forces were also involved in sharing specious information with the blacklists. Operation Reuben was an internal police investigation into blacklisting launched after reports in the media and parliament.

Police and blacklisting

The report by ex-chief constable Mick Creedon on the findings unequivocally states: “Police, including special branches and the security services supplied information to the blacklist funded by the country’s major construction firms, the Consulting Association.”

Spycop whistleblower, Peter Francis, confirmed the collusion between special branch and the blacklist when he made his revelations about his activity when working undercover for the ‘special demonstration squad.’

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However, blacklisting and surveillance went to the highest levels of government. One of the predecessor unions of the civil servants’ union PCS - the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) - was infamous as a battleground between the right wing of the labour movement and the left wing specifically the Militant Tendency (now the Socialist Party).

Secret meetings between the right-wing leaders of the unions and a hated Tory government took place to discuss how to deal with members of the Militant like CPSA deputy general secretary John Macreadie and collaborate to get union reps sacked when they led strikes.

Internal government papers seen at the time show Thatcher’s government in the 1980s organising regular meetings of the Metropolitan Police, MI5 and government ministers.

The intention was to take down an elected trade union leader, and then to put in place procedures to stop those who were prior to employment, or after employment, active socialists. The papers state “subversives… cannot be tolerated in such jobs.” This political interference by the state into workers’ democratic structures must be exposed and campaigned against.

The trade union conference into police infiltration and blacklisting comes at a timely moment. It is also important to note it was not just the big construction firms who carried this out, they were helped by and colluded with the police. Indeed, as is the case of the CPSA, it also involved MI5 and the secret state.

Public inquiry

It is important that we demand a public inquiry into blacklisting and hold Labour to account in ensuring that this is delivered. That inquiry needs to just inquire into the Consulting Association, but the role of the police in facilitating the blacklist along with the secret state.

The events at Orgreave during the 1983-84 miners’ strike require investigating, particularly the military role of the police and the role of the secret state in dismantling the National Union of Mineworkers. In addition, the political trial and witch-hunt of the Shrewsbury picketers in 1973 must also be examined. The state effectively organised a show-trial to cut across the building workers movement.

It is vital that trade unionists, alongside all the campaigning work to end austerity also campaign for democratic rights which include the right to be active in your union free from police spies, subversion and blacklisting.

London: Cops trade union conference

- Undercover policing and trade unions: the political and the personal
- Saturday 16 November 2019, 10.30am-5.30pm
- University of Greenwich, Stephen Lawrence building, Old Naval College, 30 Park Row, London SE10 9LS
- campaign/oppossingpolice
- surveilance.com
- policespiesoutrifves.org.uk
University and College Union Union strikes

Union means business in fight against employers

Members of the University and College Union (UCU) have backed strike action in two separate ballots - one over pensions and one over pay and conditions in higher education.

Eight days of strike action have been announced at 60 separate universities. The strike will run from Monday 25 November to Wednesday 4 December. Action short of a strike will also commence from 25 November, which will include staff working to contract and not rescheduling lectures missed because of the strike. It's estimated that the planned action will affect up to one million students.

Timing
The quick announcement of strike action builds on the momentum of militancy within the union. The timing of the strike, which will likely overlap with the CWU postal workers strike and finish just days before the general election, may be advantageous if management feels pressure to avoid national action.

Strategy
Combining the two campaigns into one strike action has meant that more universities can participate in the strike - 43 universities met the high thresholds for both ballots, but only 14 would have been able to strike on the pay and conditions dispute alone and three only on the pensions dispute.

Additionally, the disaggregated ballot strategy, where each branch's votes are counted separately, has been successful. Earlier this year, over the issue of pay and conditions, the union was left without a legal strike mandate, despite a 70% 'yes' vote, because of a 41% national turnout. The swift call for strike action ensured half-day closures taking place at libraries at short notice due to staff shortages. Further cuts will make the service even less sustainable. Both Bradford Industrial Museum and Bolling Hall Museums are already facing reduced openings.

In contrast to Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn who tweeted in support of the upcoming UCU strikes, and use student union resources to build campaigns on campus to mobilise students in support of the strikers. These strikes, alongside the upcoming industrial action to be taken by CWU members working for Royal Mail, come at an extremely important time. Falling in the middle of the general election campaign period, they have the potential to lead the way in the struggle against the Tories, and embolden students and workers to fight for a Corbyn-led government with a socialist programme which will fight the bosses to the end and end austerity.

Socialist Students welcome the announcement from the University and College Union (UCU) that members in 60 universities will be taking eight days of strike action from 25 November until 4 December.

In 2018, management of universities tried to weaken and demoralise strikers by pitting students against them. We say staff are going on strike not only to fight against vicious attacks to their pay, conditions, and pensions but to defend our education from Tory cuts and attacks! That’s why it is vital students support the UCU in their struggle.

Socialist Students will not only be out on the picket lines supporting our striking university staff, but will be reaching out to local UCU branch officers on campus over the approaching weeks to build joint student and staff meetings to discuss how we can best build student solidarity with the strikes.

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Bradford libraries and museums

Unite members escalate action against cuts

Around 50 Unite members in libraries and museums across Bradford have entered their second round of strike action, escalating from two to three days of action this week.

As well as rallying in the city centre, strikers have held rallies outside a number of local libraries linking up with concerned service users in places like Wibsey and Ilkley.

The services face £1.21 million cuts in 2019-20 and a further £1.55 million in 2020-21. There are already half-day closures taking place at libraries at short notice due to

Bradford Socialist Party members

Socialist Students stand four-square with UCU

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HELP SOCIALIST IDEAS SPREAD THIS ELECTION: DONATE!

Kris Douglas
Socialist Party national treasurer

Socialist Party members and supporters raised a record £1,647 (63.4%) in four weeks this autumn, passing the fundraising target for the year. This currently stands at 75% of the £1,850 target.

After two busy weeks, we have already set the fighting fund target for this quarter and also breached the annual target of £21,000. But we can’t stop now!

We have a chance to go into 2019 having surpassed the record for the biggest fundraising week in the party’s history. But we need to produce campaigning stalls, weekend lunchtime stalls and afternoon tea events to go into the general election.

We have an opportunity to show that if all the pledges from the Socialist Party appeal are paid in, and we have a determined push over the coming weeks, we can reach our priorities.

The general election itself gives an opportunity to build into our fundraising stalls. Weekday lunchtime stalls will attract workers on their break. Weekend lunchtime stalls and afternoon teas will attract families and friends.

Barking: protest brings pledge to remove dangerous decking

On 14 November, a group of Socialist Party members met with Pete Mason, Barking and Dagenham Socialist Party, to discuss the report of a Socialist Party member who visited the social housing block, Bellway’s Samuel Garside House in Barking.

And on 20 November, a group of Socialist Party members and supporters met with Ashley Davenport, East London Socialist Party, to discuss the report of a Socialist Party member who visited the social housing block, Bellway’s Samuel Garside House in Barking.

In Defence of Trotskyism at Socialism 2019

The theme of Socialism 2019, in the period of political turmoil, was ‘In Defence of Trotskyism’. This is a tribute to Amnon Baron-Cohen,

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We are writing to the Socialist Party national treasurer, explaining why we are unable to contribute at this time, and asking for the solidarity price.

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Bolivia: Right-wing coup ousts Morales

Workers and indigenous people face vicious attacks on their rights and living standards unless resisted

by Niall Mulholland

The CWI is organised in many countries and works to unite the working class and oppressed peoples against capitalism and to fight for a socialist world.

On Bear Ridge

An examination of loss - set in a post-apocalyptic village

by Scott Bove

On Bear Ridge is the story of John Daniel (Byron Howard), Jim Willson (Rahul Kohli) and his Willows (Daniel Solar). Hunted by the couple's dead son, the trio's struggle to survive in a desolate butcher's shop and general store on a desolate mountain range.

The village, deep and nearby villages are equally empty. All they have left are memories. The smell of people and the shadows they cast. Desolate and cold, On Bear Ridge is a place of emptiness and isolation.

Despite the rich emotional memories under the hill, John Daniel fights the memory of his brother into obscurity because of his link to his memories. He's a butcher and more importantly, many of his son's memories are in and linked to, the "old language," different from the one used now.

This clear resonates profoundly in the play's White's writing and also in a way about losing in the world wide gap against capitalism.

"My sin is to be indigenous," he says in one scene.

The society is divided between the rich and the poor, the elite and the masses. This division is marked by social and economic inequality. The rich have access to better education, healthcare, and opportunities, while the poor face struggles in accessing basic necessities, such as food, healthcare, and education.

The story explores the struggles of the masses to fight against the oppression imposed by the rich. It shows the power of solidarity and the importance of collective action in the fight against exploitation. The main character, John Daniel, fights against the odds, leading a rebellion against the rich in an attempt to create a society based on equality and justice.

The story is a powerful reminder of the importance of unity and solidarity in the fight against injustice. It highlights the need for a society where the rich do not exploit the poor and where everyone has access to the same opportunities and rights.
As the general election goes into full swing, so do the Tory lies about the NHS. Boris Johnson claimed at the Tory party conference that they would build “40 new hospitals” in ten years. That turned out to be untrue. They claim they will increase the number of GPs by 6,000 over the next five years. But they made a similar claim in 2015 to increase by 5,000 and there are now 1,500 less!

The Tories have also said they will fund the NHS by an extra £20.5 billion by 2024. This is a less than average increase for the NHS over its existence and comes after years of underfunding.

Some investment in hospital buildings that was held up for years by austerity measures has now been agreed. But it comes with a sting in the tail.

The government has promised £450 million for Leicestershire hospitals. We welcome money for new buildings. But years of cuts and swathes of professionals leaving the NHS means investment in buildings will result in very little improvement without enough staff to work in them!

People power saved the children’s heart unit at Glenfield hospital in Leicester in 2017 and those campaigners are now fighting to protect hospital services in Leicester.

Save Our NHS Leicestershire (SONHSL) has been warning for a long time that the trust’s plans, involving the closure of one of the three acute hospitals in Leicester, mean no increase in the number of beds for decades to come, despite an ageing and growing population.

At a public meeting organised by the campaign, NHS England (which oversees the NHS budget) admitted that their plans for the reconfiguration are dependent on carers taking on more care in the home. With the pressure already on families due to austerity, many will not be able to take the extra strain.

In order to fight to see the full details of the plans and to protect our services, SONHSL will be holding a demonstration in the city centre at the clock tower on Saturday 16 November at midday. The Socialist Party has a proud record of fighting and saving NHS services. The fight continues!

**Demonstrate 12 noon Saturday 16 November at Leicester clock tower, Leicester city centre**

See pages 3 and 6 for more reports on the NHS