

JARROW
SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER
NORTHERN DEMO

MARCH FOR JOBS 2011

Leeds
Sheffield
Nottingham
Leicester
Coventry
Milton Keynes
Luton
Watford

LONDON
SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER
SOUTHERN DEMO

75 Years ago 200 Jarrow workers were forced to March for Jobs
Why is sky-high unemployment back?

Dylan Hussey

David Cameron recently labelled the 20.5% youth unemployment rate a matter of "great regret". More than one in five 16 to 24 year olds is unemployed. The inescapable truth is that big business, the banks and the fat cats are returning to profit while young people are being "shunted into the sidelines".

This October is the 75th anniversary of the 1936 Jarrow march when 200 unemployed men marched from Jarrow, a town in Tyne and Wear, to the Houses of Parliament in London. These men were marching against the extreme poverty that was tearing apart north east England.

So why do I find myself interested in the Youth Fight for Jobs Jarrow March? Well, it resonates with me because the Jarrow march is something my family members have talked about since I was a child.

My great grandfather was one of those men who marched from Jarrow to London. My nan used to tell me stories of her life in Jarrow in the 1930s when she had no shoes except for one pair of black pumps for church on Sundays because no one had money for their kids' shoes.

And here I am, almost 75 years later, living in Britain with nearly one million young people without a job or the slightest hope of getting one. If we could dissect the figures I am pretty sure that a vast majority of these young people would be working class.

I hope to go to university when I finish college but I don't know if this is going to be possible because of the threefold increase in university fees. You see, like my grandad, I too am working class. So I'm pretty scared for my future.

It seems to me that we're in a similar situation to 1936 when my grandad crusaded for the right of working class people to have a future. I can't imagine the despair he and all those other men and women must have felt at the time but they were still brave enough to stand up and be counted.

And that's why I want to join the Jarrow March - I want to stand up and be counted. I want the same chances as those with wealth and power. Nobody will remember Cameron or Clegg in 75 years time but I bet people will still be talking about the Jarrow marchers.

Youth Fight for Jobs calls for investment in a programme of job creation rather than job cuts.

See www.jarrow2london2011.wordpress.com and www.youthfightforjobs.com for more details and information on getting involved.

What we stand for

The Socialist Party fights for socialist change – a democratic society run for the needs of all and not the profits of a few. We also fight, in our day-to-day campaigning, for every possible improvement for working-class people.

As capitalism dominates the globe, the struggle for genuine socialism must be international.

The Socialist Party is part of the Committee for a Workers' International (CWI), a democratic, socialist international that organises in over 40 countries.

Our demands include:

Work and income

- Trade union struggle to increase the minimum wage to £8 an hour without exemptions as an immediate step towards £10 an hour. For an annual increase in the minimum wage linked to average earnings.
- All workers, including part-timers, temps, casual and migrant workers to have trade union rates of pay, employment protection, and sickness and holiday rights from day one of employment.
- An immediate 50% increase in the state

retirement pension, as a step towards a living pension. Reinstating the link with average earnings now.

- Reject 'Welfare to Work'. For the right to decent benefits, education, training, or a job, without compulsion.
- Scrap the anti-trade union laws! For fighting trade unions, democratically controlled by their members. Full-time union officials to be regularly elected and receive no more than a worker's wage.
- A maximum 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

Public services

- No to privatisation and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). Renationalise all privatised utilities and services, with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.
- Fully fund all services and run them under accountable, democratic committees that include representatives of service workers and users.
- Free, publicly run, good quality education, available to all at any age. Abolish university tuition fees now and introduce a living grant. No to academies!
- A socialist NHS to provide for everyone's health needs – free at the point of use and under

democratic control. Kick out private contractors!

- Keep council housing publicly owned. For a massive building programme of publicly owned housing, on an environmentally sustainable basis, to provide good quality homes with low rents.

Environment

- Major research and investment into replacing fossil fuels with renewable energy and into ending the problems of early obsolescence and unrecycled waste.
- Public ownership of the energy generating industries. No to nuclear power. No to Trident.
- A democratically planned, low fare, publicly-owned transport system, as part of an overall plan against environmental pollution.

Rights

- Oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, disability, sexuality, age, and all other forms of prejudice.
- Repeal all laws that trample over civil liberties. For the right to protest! End police harassment.
- Defend abortion rights. For a woman's right to choose when and whether to have children.
- For the right to asylum. No to racist immigration laws.

New workers' party

- For a new mass workers' party drawing together workers, young people and activists from workplace, community, environmental and anti-war campaigns, to provide a fighting, political alternative to the pro-big business parties.
- Trade unions to disaffiliate from the Labour Party now and aid the building of a new workers' party!

Socialism and internationalism

- No to imperialist wars and occupations. Withdraw the troops immediately from Iraq and Afghanistan!
- Tax the super-rich! For a socialist government to take into public ownership the top 150 companies and banks that dominate the British economy, and run them under democratic working-class control and management. Compensation to be paid only on the basis of proven need.
- A democratic socialist plan of production based on the interests of the overwhelming majority of people, and in a way that safeguards the environment.
- No to the bosses' neo-liberal European Union! For a socialist Europe and a socialist world!