

Throw away the Murdoch rags! Support the paper that fights all cuts

Sarah Wrack

The Socialist sales organiser

News International heads' grovelling adverts apologising for "the wrongdoing that occurred" will have done little to redeem them in the eyes of people outraged by recent revelations about phone hacking.

They also stated that "our business was founded on the idea that a free and open press should be a positive force in society". What a joke! Murdoch has built his empire on anti-trade unionism and the quest for obscene profits.

And it's not just News International. Without the News of the World, what 'choice' faced readers last Sunday? The Mail on Sunday, the Sunday Times, the Daily Star - all packed with poisonous anti-

working class rhetoric. The liberal press - the Observer and Independent on Sunday - do not provide an answer to Con-Dem lies either. The capitalist media ignores or misreports most things that do not support the interests of its big business owners.

But thousands of people read something different. The Socialist isn't held hostage to any billionaire backers. It's funded by working class people who buy, subscribe and donate. We report real news, how it affects ordinary people, and what they're doing about it.

Our reporters are working class people. In every issue we carry reports from workers and young people about campaigns they're organising and taking part in and about how the cuts are affecting their lives.

And a socialist newspaper doesn't just report, it can also help organise the fightback by supporting and drawing together all the different struggles going on.

As movements against austerity develop in Britain and internationally, the Socialist is not just writing about them, it's taking part by offering ideas of how we can win.

For the issue of the 30 June strikes, John McNally, vice-president of the PCS civil servants' union, wrote (in a personal capacity) about the strategy of escalating coordinated trade union action needed to defeat the government over pensions.

Anti-cuts movement

The last three months have seen a rapid development of a movement against the cuts with the 26 March demonstration, the public sector pension strikes and many local battles such as in Southampton. This has been reflected by a big increase in sales of the Socialist.

Hundreds of people bought a copy at their trade union conference where Socialist Party members took part and the Socialist helped them raise ideas of what the conferences needed to agree to present the most effective challenge to the Con-Dems.



News International: 'a positive force in society'? photo Paul Mattsson

As the living standards of working and middle class people are driven into the ground to pay for the bankers' crisis, more and more are questioning not just the 'need' for cuts but the capitalist system as a whole.

The Socialist argues for a different system - a socialist system. That is why it also carries articles explaining the ideas of socialist thinkers and revolutionary leaders Karl

Marx, Frederick Engels, Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky about how we can achieve such a change.

The bosses have their press. We - workers, trade unionists, young people, the unemployed - need ours too.

Subscribe to the Socialist today or ask for a few copies to sell to friends and workmates to help spread the word that there is an alternative to Murdoch and to capitalism.

Socialist sales increase

April-June sales of the Socialist finished at 94% of the new national quarter target.

West Midlands, Yorkshire and South East regions all went over 100%, showing the potential to beat the national target.

Socialist Party branches should discuss how they did in the last quarter and make plans for getting over 100% in the July-September quarter.

For more information and campaigning material contact sarahwrack@socialist-party.org.uk or 020 8988 8796.

Tolpuddle says: 'step up the action'

Tom Baldwin

This year's Tolpuddle Martyrs festival saw a record 10,000 people brave the rain to celebrate the victory of the early trade union movement against draconian attempts to stop workers from organising to defend their living standards. Today we face the biggest onslaught against workers' living standards for a generation and further attempts to restrict trade union rights.

The mood was bouyed by the magnificent strike action on 30 June. Trade unionists from many different unions and sectors saw the need to step up this action and there was an excellent response to the Socialist Party's call for a 24-hour public sector general strike as the next step in the fightback. There was also a lot of support for the National Shop Stewards Network's lobby of the TUC on 11 September.

Unite general secretary Len McCluskey said in his speech that Britain should be more like Greece with a 48-hour general strike. This was received with cheers and applause but unfortunately no concrete proposals were made to make this a reality.

At one of the meetings on the NHS, Labour health spokesman John Healey slammed the Con-Dems'



The Socialist Party stall at Tolpuddle photo Rob Emery

The mood was bouyed by the 30 June strike action

plans to dismantle the NHS. When Rob, a Socialist Party member from Southampton, asked about hospital cuts in Southampton, a legacy of New Labour's time in office, he was told "not to believe Tory lies".

The audience saw through this

and speaker after speaker attacked Labour's record on health cuts and PFI as well as their refusal to support strike action on 30 June.

Over 140 copies of the Socialist were sold, along with 40 Strategy to Fight the Cuts pamphlets.

Youth Fight for Jobs also had a stall, building support for the Jarrow march in October. £80 was raised toward the march and trade unionists took away letters to build support from their branches.

Solidarity at Sheffield Pride

Dave Younger

Sheffield Socialist Party members and Yorkshire Socialist Party LGBT group successfully took part in Sheffield LGBT Pride 2011. We spoke to local workers and young people about the effect of public spending cuts and the proposed scrapping of equality legislation that will severely affect LGBT people if passed.

We discussed the need for coordinated strike action with workers from the health and education sectors. We explained to school and college students the importance of supporting teachers and lecturers in strike action because they were

fighting for young people's futures.

A worker from Italy expressed her solidarity with the fight against the cuts. Young mothers expressed their opposition to cuts affecting women and children. Health workers in particular expressed their willingness to go on strike against the cuts in the NHS. Most people expressed support for the idea of a 24-hour public sector general strike to defeat the cuts.

There will be a public meeting in Sheffield to discuss fighting LGBT issues and fighting the cuts. We hope to replicate this success at upcoming Pride events in Hull and York on 30 July, and in several other towns in August.

Raising Fighting Fund in Liverpool

John Marston told the Socialist about campaigning and raising money for the Socialist Party's fighting fund in Liverpool:

"The main bulk of Liverpool's fighting fund has come from Socialist Party stalls in the town centre on Saturdays. But we also held a stall on Tuesday 5 July, from 11am to 1.30pm and then from 3.30 to 5.30pm.

There now seems to be a mood of determination from old and young alike to get rid of this hated Con-Dem government. It rained quite heavily in the morning session, but

people still took time to talk of their experiences at work, in school and in their communities. It was very inspiring and we sold over 50 copies of the Socialist and raised £40."

The Socialist Party is committed to fighting all cuts and has no big business backers. All donations aid the party's campaigning work. To make a donation, please use the form below, go to www.socialistparty.org.uk/donate or for campaigning advice phone 020 8988 8777. Why not organise a stall in your area or a fundraising social?

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Socialist Party summer camp - bigger and better than ever!

Friday 26 to Monday 29 August

New venue, Epping Forest: Debden House Centre, Debden Green, Loughton, Essex IG10 2NZ

Political discussions in a relaxed atmosphere, fun for children and adults: Walks in the woods • Deer park • Crèche • Cycling (bikes for hire or bring your own) • Games • Barbecues • Camp fires • Tents for hire • Meals at a reasonable cost

Phone 020 8988 8777 for more details and to book your place