

Why I joined the Socialist Party 'Thanks to my Tory MP'

Darren Gibson
Brighouse

I know it might sound a bit strange but I've got so much to thank my Tory MP for.

I sit at home waiting for a heart transplant, with plenty of time on my hands to think about what life really means to me. Every now and then I find a report that really upsets me about our government. I then write to my MP. Within a week I get a reply.

That's why I joined the Socialist Party: my MP's complete lack of un-

derstanding about normal working class life. He just has not got a clue.

My MP completely lacks an understanding of working class life

The latest news I've heard is that academy schools do not have to provide food to a minimum standard of nutrition. These are the basics, the minimum we should expect

is a good nutritious meal each day for our youth, working towards free school meals for all.

I know what it feels like to be dying from heart failure. I do not want our children to go through it because of a poor diet provided by our government.

If they can't get the basics right what chance have we of a good life for all?

It's all in the small print - most proposals are disgusting on face value, then vile when we read the small print. In my eyes there's only one way to go, I joined the Socialist Party.

Stoke Socialist Party's public meeting success

Andy Bentley
Stoke Socialist Party

The Socialist Party's public meeting in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, on 24 November was packed. This compares to Labour, the Tories and Lib Dems, who have had no public meetings locally to outline their policies during 2011.

Why are these parties so afraid of explaining what they stand for? Could it be because all three attack the living standards of the millions for the benefit of the millionaires?

Our meeting was billed as Capi-

talism in Crisis - Fight for Socialism - an idea that can change the world!

Workers from the NHS, call centres, engineering, catering industry, pottery, teachers and postal workers along with students, the unemployed and disabled came to hear Socialist Party deputy general secretary, Hannah Sell.

Hannah outlined how only genuine socialist measures could solve the economic crisis and provide a decent future for this and future generations. Plans were also made to give maximum support to workers taking strike action on 30 November. Many were attending their

first Socialist Party public meeting, some of which, including Unite union and Communication Workers Union reps, said they were seriously thinking about joining the party.

An advertisement for the public meeting on the local Sentinel newspaper website attracted over 70 comments and was at the top of the 'Most Commented' list for three days and at the time of writing still is!

Another public meeting will now take place at 7.30pm on Thursday 1 December, Sacred Hearts Social Centre, Hanley, ST1 3BY, to discuss where we go next after the 30 November strike.



Socialist Party members joined 2,000 women at the Reclaim the Night demonstration in London on 26 November calling for an end to violence against women. "Whatever we wear, wherever we go, yes means yes and no means no!" - the main chant of the Slutwalk demonstrations earlier this year - echoed throughout the march and many passers-by showed their support text Sarah Wrack photo S Beishon

'Not Guilty': Support for Occupy Cardiff activists

Jaime Davies
Socialist Party Wales

On 11 November six Occupy Cardiff activists were arrested by South Wales police, simply for exercising their right to protest peacefully. Two activists, Jason and Eric, were charged and brought to Cardiff magistrate's court on 28 November.

Occupiers left their new camp outside Transport House, Welsh headquarters of Unite the Union, to show support for Jason and Eric outside the court.

Almost as soon as the "Defend the Right to Protest: Occupy Cardiff" banner was unravelled, support was given from passers-by and beeping car horns.

Jason then led chants of: "What do we want? Justice! When do we

want it? Now!"

In a great show of solidarity, activists from Occupy Bristol also made the journey to Cardiff.

After about 45 minutes of energetic protest, the court was ready to start and allowed around 25 activists to 'Occupy' its seats.

Proceedings lasted a mere five minutes. Both Jason and Eric pleaded not guilty to the charge of breaking the public order act. The trial was adjourned to 8 February. Eric was given unconditional bail and Jason received bail on the condition that he did not go near Cardiff Castle, the original Occupy Cardiff site.

Cardiff city council should have supported their right to peaceful protest instead of wasting money on the trial. The council used a 136 year old by-law to withdraw the right of access to the land.

Leeds Against Cuts: defiant mood to fight 'daylight robbery'

A Leeds Against the Cuts public meeting during the build-up to the 30 November strike action saw a resolute and defiant mood as people agreed the government's plans were a daylight robbery of pensions.

But discussion around 30 November was not just about pensions, but also about opposing all cuts. In showing solidarity with the Jarrow March 2011 (see pages 6 and 7), chair Laura Miles highlighted the real threat the government is posing to our livelihoods and welfare in its attacks on the public sector.

CWU speaker Ryan Chase stated he would not be alive without the

NHS. Jarrow marcher Stephanie Maston explained how this retirement age increase, coupled with cuts on education, was placing serious roadblocks in front of her in becoming a physics teacher.

Some workers worry about the effects of losing pay if they go on strike. But a CWU representative belted from the audience that the government would take "one day's pay off your salary every month" in pension cuts and that "the services that our parents and grandparents fought for will go".

Nial Vivian, Hyde Park and Headingley Socialist Party

Socialist Party public meetings How can we defeat the cuts after 30 November?

For more information on meetings near you, phone 020 8988 8777 or go to www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson

Monday 5 December

Derby
7.30pm, Ye Olde Dolphin upstairs restaurant, 5A Queen Street, DE1 3DL

Manchester

7pm, Room 2, Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, M2 5NS

Teesside

7.30pm, Cleveland Unemployed and TU Centre, 119 Marton Road, TS1 2DU

Tuesday 6 December

Haringey
7.30pm, Day-Mer centre, 22 Moorfield Road, N17 6PY

Harrogate

7.30pm Harrogate Catholic Club, 5 Robert Street, HG1 1HP

Hatfield

7.30pm, Community Resource Centre, Town Centre, AL10 0JZ

Lambeth and Southwark

7.30pm, Ruby Room, Vauxhall Griffin, 8 Wyvil Road, SW8 2TH

Llanelli

7.30pm, Railway Tavern, Station Road, SA15 1YS

Merseyside

7.30pm, Main Hall, Casa pub, 29 Hope Street, L1 9BQ

Southampton

7.30pm, Sir James Matthews Building, Above Bar, SO14 7NN

West London

7.45pm, West London Trade Union Centre 33/35 High Street, W3 6ND

Wednesday 7 December

Birmingham
7.30pm, Briar Rose Hotel (conference room), Bennett's Hill, B2 5RE

Brighton

6pm, Phoenix Community Centre, Phoenix Place, BN2 9ND

Exeter

7.30pm, Great Western Hotel, St

David's Station Approach, EX4 4NU

Hackney

7.30pm, MOTH Club, Valette Street, E9 6NU

Thursday 8 December

Bristol

7.45pm, Bedminster Library, 4 St Peters Court/Bedminster Parade, BS3 4AQ

Camden

7.30pm, Fleet Road Community Centre, Lawn Road, NW3 2QL

Greenwich

7.30pm, Glyndon Community Centre, 75 Raglan Road, SE18 7LB

Lewisham

8pm, All Saints Community Centre, Monson Road, SE14 5DJ

Reading

7.30pm, Global Café, 35-39 London Street, RG1 4PS

Walthamstow

7.30pm, William Morris Community Centre, Greenleaf Road, E17 6QQ

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SOCIALIST PARTY FIGHTING FUND

	£ target	£ received	October-December 2011	Deadline 6 January
Eastern	1,200	1,650	██████████	██████████
East Midlands	1,550	2,116	██████████	██████████
South West	1,400	1,831	██████████	██████████
North West	1,200	1,513	██████████	██████████
South East	1,000	1,124	██████████	██████████
West Midlands	2,100	1,483	██████████	██████████
Yorkshire	2,900	2,020	██████████	██████████
Wales	2,300	1,592	██████████	██████████
London	6,100	4,191	██████████	██████████
Southern	1,200	662	██████████	██████████
Northern	600	282	██████████	██████████
England & Wales	3,450	2,878	██████████	██████████
TOTAL	25,000	21,349	██████████	██████████