INSIDE: YOUR BUMPER MAY DAY SPECIAL EDITION PAPER



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PROF KD EWING & LORD JOHN HENDY QC



PRE-COVID CONDITIONS

- Average wages had not increased in real terms for twelve years;
- 5.1 million people earned less than the Real Living Wage (£9.30 per hour);
- 8.3 million people in working households lived in poverty;
- 1 million workers were on zero hours contracts;
- 3.6 million workers were in insecure work;
- 75% of workers were on terms and conditions determined unilaterally by employers.

COVID IMPACT

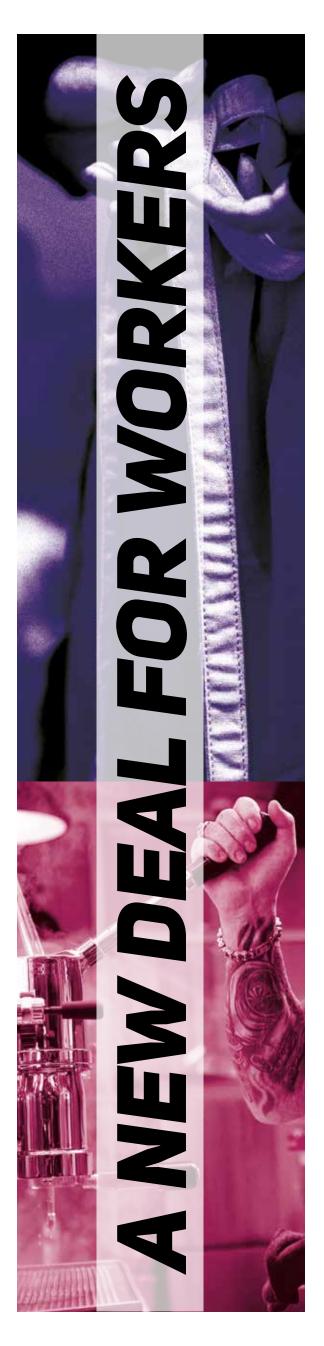
- Tens of thousands of workers have contracted COVID at work and thousands have died from it;
- Those in insecure work had twice the COVID death rate and 17 occupations were identified as being particularly at risk;
- Employers failed to take the precautions required by longstanding laws and the HSE failed

to enforce those laws;

- Statutory Sick Pay of £96 per week meant selfisolation was impossible for many while 2 million workers earn less that the threshold to qualify even for SSP:
- A million people have lost their jobs because of COVID and at least a further 1million are likely to do so;
- COVID and the recession hit workers unequally, often with those doing the most essential work for society suffering the highest levels of infection and death, the lowest rates of pay, the greatest job losses, and the lowest proportion entitled to financial compensation;
- Nearly 1 in 10 workers (9%) have had to accept reductions in pay and conditions by use of 'fire-
- The real value of average earnings fell by 0.9% between April 2019 and April 2020;
- Workers have been excluded from all the key decisions which affect them: furlough, redundancies, pay cuts, changes to conditions and, indirectly, in relation to national economic







MORE JOBS

The need for a transformation of our working lives is obvious. The first requirement is, of course, more jobs—jobs that are better, more fulfilling, sustainable and create a green economy to make the UK and the world a better place to live.

More jobs is one aspect of a buoyant economy, one which depends on what economists call 'demand', i.e. more wages for people to spend, stimulating the production of more goods and services.

The other element is higher wages. Increased wages mean a higher tax take and lower expenditure of benefits which subsidise low wages.

That enables more to be spent on public services and investing in infrastructure for the benefit of all. Most people earn around or less than the average wage and they spend their wages — unlike the rich who invest, often in untaxed offshore tax havens. So, increasing wages for lower earners is crucial

A NEW DEAL

Beyond that we need a New Deal at Work to cure the blatant injustices of working life. Below, we set out the key themes for a New Deal. The COVID shock-wave is not the first and we can learn from the way we dealt with previous events which shook the world: the end of the First World War in 1918; the Depression of the 1930s; the end of the Second World War in 1945; and the financial crisis of 2008. We certainly need to avoid the errors of the past. The removal of wartime State control of industry after 1918 was disastrous for working people

Likewise, the policy of so-called 'austerity' (from which the rich were exempt) and the refusal to invest in infrastructure after 2008 succeeded only in transferring wealth to the rich from the less well-off.

And we do not need short-term economic palliatives like those that Sunak and the Tories now present, accompanied by authoritarian measures to strengthen the police and security services

To which we can add the profits made by the private sector in a public health crisis and the debasement of democracy by cosy relationships between ministers and financiers.

In the UK, the EU and elsewhere in the world, governments have spent huge sums of money in response to COVID (thus demonstrating that there was no justification for the last ten years of austerity). But these have been spent largely on ad hoc measures principally designed to restore things as they were, in particular the power of big business.

COVID has made us realise that we need to reset, not just the national economy but the global economy. International cooperation and solidarity are essential.

COVID has brought home just how interlinked are life, health, the economy and the environment across the globe.

TACKLING INEQUALITY

The UK has the second highest level of inequality in the developed world (after the USA). Professors Wilkinson and Pickett have shown that inequality in income and wealth degrades every aspect of life, damaging for everyone, even the rich.

Inequality leads to instability, stress, crime, dissatisfaction and disorder. Professor Sir Michael Marmot has demonstrated that financial inequality affects health and life expectancy on a sliding scale: the poorer you are the more likely you are to suffer bad health and to die younger.

We add that financial inequality goes hand in hand with inequality of power.

The imbalance of power is inherent in the relationship between the worker and the employer. In the workplace, the COVID crisis has torn the illusory but threadbare velvet glove of freedom of contract and social dialogue from the iron fist of employer power. Inequality of income and of power must be reversed.

RESTORING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

In the first place, wages must increase, especially for the lowest half of the wage distribution (i.e for most workers) and

this means the reintroduction of sectoral collective bargaining — minimum terms and conditions fixed by negotiation in each industry and sector of the economy. On this foundation, workplace bargaining can be reinvigorated.

Even the OECD now recognises, with the ILO and researchers from the IMF, that extensive collective bargaining is the only realistic means of diminishing inequality (and the threat of instability that growing inequality poses).

The most equal and stable societies in the world have high levels of collective bargaining.

Of course, collective bargaining offers other benefits. It increases wages and hence demand in the economy.

It prevents employers undercutting each other on labour costs. It increases productivity (the UK has the lowest productivity in western Europe).

It gives workers a say in their terms and conditions. And international law requires States to promote collective bargaining.

Collective bargaining is the only way in a capitalist society in which employers' overwhelming power at work can be constrained and equality of treatment assured.

To achieve sectoral collective bargaining, legislation is required and the IER has mapped that out (drawing on a modern version of the old Wages Councils). Redressing the imbalance of power also requires greater legal rights for trade unions in terms of access to workplaces and the right to strike in accordance with international law — not unlimited but freed from much of the current statutory shackles.

OVERHAULING RIGHTS AT WORK

Legal reform and a greater role for collective bargaining are also needed to create a modern framework of equality law — which is currently so defective that a significant gender pay gap still exists after 50 years of legislation outlawing it. There is presently no law to redress the ethnicity pay gap so starkly revealed by COVID.

As highlighted by the work of the IER, parental leave and pay, time off for carers, adequate State-provided child care, the election of 'equality reps', are typical of the areas which need to be addressed. The disabled need greater protection.

Individual employment rights, (unfair dismissal, redundancy consultation and pay, whistleblowing, and so on) all need new legislation. Unfair dismissal will be 50 years old next year. Why has it failed to guarantee job security? Many people work too many hours (including the COVID generation of homeworkers), many work insufficient hours to make ends meet, and many are given insufficient notice of changes to shifts, so a new code on hours of work is required by legislation and collective agreement.





The spate of 'fire and rehire' tactics (currently estimated by the TUC to affect 9% of workers) focusses attention on a particular feature of inequality: the one-sided nature of the 'contract of employment' which (amongst other evils) enables the employer to give notice to dismiss and offer to re-engage on worse terms. This has a long and despicable history since the coal owners used it to cut the wages of the miners in 1921 and again in 1926 leading to the General Strike. Plainly, legislation is now needed to create a statutory form of employment relationship to equalise power at work.

STAMPING OUT ABUSE

We must thus overhaul rights at work to support workers, to contain employer power, and to stamp out abuse. Included in that project is the goal of eliminating zero hours contracts and properly regulating casual work and agency work.

In the same vein, the form of working relationship needs reform so that: either you are an employee with all employment rights from day one; or you are a self-employed professional with your own business, clients and customers. We need to get rid of the array of other statuses, 'limb (b) workers', 'personal service companies', 'false-self-employed' by which employers have sought to deny various rights to workers. Such inequalities need to be ended.

If equality means anything it must also include redressing inequality in health and safety. A publicly-owned and properly funded NHS is a pre-requisite, as is a proper and powerful public health structure. Just as essential is a safety regime at work which reduces the risks of those who are exposed to physical risk of injury or death in so many manual and caring occupations (and in office, driving, shop, hospitality and home-work) and to the risk of disease (as COVID starkly showed), stress and depression.

Our law on health and safety at work is in need of comprehensive revision. We also need radical new techniques of enforcement since the HSE has failed so badly (as the IER and Hazards has recently revealed). That means a new independent and well-funded enforcement authority and greater power for safety reps to stop the job.

Enforcement of other rights, too, is vital if equality is to be achieved. There is no point in having rights to require equal pay for equal work, to recover unpaid wages or to prevent unfair dismissal if those rights cannot realistically be enforced. At the same time unions need greater powers to enforce rights directly, though the new extension of collective bargaining coverage will enable many issues to be progressed through dispute resolution procedures without the engagement of lawyers.

REGROWING THE STATE

Inequality of income and wealth is primarily a question of wage levels (though social security and pensions play their parts, of course). But taxation is another lever, what economists call 'an active fiscal policy'.

COVID has shown that government expenditure is not tied

to tax revenue. Taxation is not an effective mechanism for 'levelling up'. But it could be used to level down, for example by really cracking down on tax avoidance and by increasing tax on the wealthy who can spare the most, as with the one-off tax being introduced in Argentina to meet some of the costs of the pandemic, or raising the rate of tax on capital gains to that on income.

Taxation could go some way to deal with the obscene profiteering of companies like Amazon and Serco during the pandemic. So, taxing to level across the board, a commitment to equality, an active tax policy coupled with an active wages policy to raise wages through collective bargaining. This is the way to redistribute wealth.

All these measures require strong State supervision. Of course, in a democracy a sympathetic government or Parliament cannot be guaranteed but we can at least provide a menu for such a future government. First off, it will need to appoint a Secretary of State for Labour (not just for employment rights) with strong powers to impose sectoral collective bargaining in the sectors that need it and to introduce the legislation (as the Welsh are currently proposing) to use the mighty weapon of public procurement to bring employers into line throughout the public contract supply chain (which is a significant part of the UK economy).

The Secretary of State will need to introduce a new Employment Relations Act to implement the proposals outlined above and to create a new independent enforcement regime. Legislation will also be required to re-grow the State by insisting that public services are delivered by the State and reversing outsourcing and privatisation (an evil often compounded by the fact that many of these private sector companies are offshore hedge funds — often in tax havens — with no interest beyond profit in the services they deliver). This would ensure that privatisation and outsourcing do not drive down wages and terms and conditions of employment in the search for profits, one of the prime causes for low pay in this country.

RESTORING DEMOCRACY

In the 1970s there was much debate about 'industrial democracy' with the Bullock Report recommending workers on boards (as in Germany). Though well received, no agreement on implementation could be reached. Such proposals are needed now and workers having a guaranteed percentage of voting rights in shareholder meetings.

The concept of industrial democracy is fundamental to the transformation of the workplace. The exclusion of workers' input through their unions (or even as individuals) has been striking throughout the pandemic.

The most effective means of promoting industrial democracy is, of course, the reinstatement of sectoral collective bargaining (which in turn supports workplace bargaining).

In this country, the percentage of workers covered by a collective agreement is down to about 25% from over 80% from the Second World War to the 1980s. Driven by

government policy and legislative changes it has been in steady decline ever since. In contrast, the European Union appears to have reversed its anti-collective bargaining stance and (in a draft directive on minimum wages) is now concerned about countries where collective bargaining coverage has fallen below 70%! In the UK we now have a democratic deficit where 75% of workers have no say whatever in the fixing of the terms and conditions of employment.

The current outbreak of fire and rehire tactics is a manifestation of the exclusion of workers from any democratic input into the condition of their working lives, other than to 'take it or leave it'.

But industrial democracy goes further than this. We need to re-institute what is sometimes referred to as 'the economic constitution', i.e. a legitimate role and voice for trade unions in the process of government.

Again, this is something which we had in the past, but have forgotten about, or are very defensive about, although we are entitled to it. Our voice should be heard in government, in all decisions which affect workers. In other countries unions are integral to setting nationally the annual pay increase parameters (e.g. Norway) or social security and pensions (e.g. France).

The modest proposal of the TUC for a National Recovery Council with trade union involvement, was rebuffed by government — though it does not go far enough.

At the moment, the trade union voice is not being heard loudly enough, nor has the trade union programme for the future been sufficiently well developed. We have a responsibility as a movement to develop an agenda which is not only based on the experience of the past, but which is also critical to the future of our children and their children.

It is obvious, for example, that the teaching unions should be participants in proposals and decisions which affect the future of education — and the same is true in other industries and sectors

CONTROLLING GLOBALISATION

The COVID vaccination programme so obviously needs global co-operation in place of national competition or extortion by big pharma corporations refusing to release vaccines from patent. Only when the bulk of the world's population is vaccinated will we be free of COVID. Internationalism is vital.

The UK has particularly suffered with one of the highest death tolls from COVID in the world. Our incompetent government failed to heed the lessons of previous pandemic exercises, prepare and ensure adequate supplies of PPE, enforce health and safety law, quarantine arrivals from abroad, provide adequate pay for self-isolating workers, lockdown in a timely manner, put the long-term interests of public health above the short-term interests of private business, or listen to the trade unions.

Only in the matter of securing sufficient vaccine has the UK redeemed itself. Having wasted £37 billion on a failed private test-and-trace effort the government wisely left vaccination to the NHS and thousands of volunteers who acted for the public good, mocking Johnson's claim for 'capitalism and greed'.

The economic crisis on the tail of COVID is also a global one. The UK is entering the worst recession of any developed country partly because its failure to deal competently with COVID, partly because of the appalling Brexit deal it struck (Brexit need not have involved non-tariff barriers which have diminished British exports by 40% since January), and partly because of its economic incompetence and failure to plan for the entirely foreseeable recession. Yet it is evident to all that there is a global recession and global measures are necessary to address it and the impending disaster of climate change. It does not need to be said that we must ensure that the current economic disaster does not lead to war as did that in the 1930s.

Now is the time to start regulating globalisation. It is not a natural phenomenon but a creation of governments to allow transnational corporations to exploit the globe in the search for cheap resources, cheap labour, low taxation, low regulation and rich markets. Globalisation has unleashed tremendous private wealth, and is the source of many problems which we now face (we know that the richest 1% of the global population account for more emissions than the poorest 50%).

We need to address private wealth and the exploitation of workers facilitated by globalisation.

One action we can take (and press on other countries) is the effective regulation of supply chains (as the French have begun to do). The IER has identified a raft of proposals in this respect.



IMPLEMENTING THE RULE OF LAW INTERNATIONALLY

More than that we need to strengthen the international institutions, most of which were established precisely to avoid global calamities such as world wars. The UN and the International Criminal Court, no doubt, have many faults but they exist, they establish rules and procedures, we nominally endorse them but often ignore them and turn a blind eye to other countries ignoring them.

This is also true of the most important international agency in the field of work, the International Labour Organisation (ILO). This tripartite body (governments, employers and workers), formed in the peace settlement at the end of the First World War and with its most important Conventions and principles laid down at the end of the Second World War, establishes minimum standards for the entire world. The UK has ratified and is bound by most of these international laws (but should ratify more). The rule of law means that we should implement and abide by them.

We need to rediscover the 'spirit of Philadelphia'. We refer to the ILO's Declaration of Philadelphia, adopted in 1944. We have been conditioned to talk about minimum wages, adequate wages and living wages as the responsibility of government. The Declaration of Philadelphia speaks instead about the right of workers to a just share of the fruits of progress. That means that we should redistribute wealth on a socially just basis. Wages should not be determined by the market, but by the social value that our work has for the community as a whole.

If we were to allocate pay on the basis of social justice then people working in care homes would be top of the pile, and nurses would not be being told that the country can only offer them a 1% pay increase (in England) after their heroic efforts over the last year. We need to have a way of valuing work other than by the 'labour market', and also of ensuring the universal application of these standards of social justice to everyone. For the moment the best mechanism we have towards such ends is collective bargaining: wages and



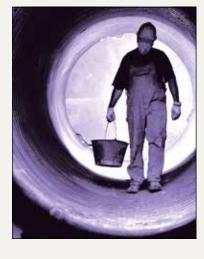
terms and conditions cannot be left in the exclusive hands of government, still less of employers.

Though we have left the EU there are also European Treaties (of the Council of Europe) which continue to bind us and to which our labour law should give effect: the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Social Charter. Both contain the right to bargain collectively, the first by virtue of a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights, the second because it is an explicit provision of the Charter. The Charter also requires States 'to recognise the right of workers to a remuneration such as will give them and their families a decent standard of living'.

These obligations have been reinforced by the Brexit agreement with the EU. Hard to believe, but both the EU and the UK have renewed their vows to respect ILO Conventions, as well as the European Social Charter. It is time we started to take these obligations seriously as part of a broader campaign for trade union rights globally.

CONCLUSION

The 1944 Declaration of Philadelphia (binding on all the countries of the earth) sums it up. Its first proposition is that 'labour is not a commodity (meaning that it is not to be bought and sold on a so-called 'labour market'). It contains much more, including this statement of objectives



- (a) full employment and the raising of standards of living; (b) the employment of workers in the occupations in which they can have the satisfaction of giving the fullest measure of their skill and attainments and make their greatest contribution to the common wellbeing;
- (c) the provision, as a means to the attainment of this end and under
- adequate guarantees for all concerned, of facilities for training and the transfer of labour, including migration for employment and settlement;
- (d) policies in regard to wages and earnings, hours and other conditions of work calculated to ensure a just share of the fruits of progress to all, and a minimum living wage

- to all employed and in need of such protection;
- **(e)** the effective recognition of the right of collective bargaining, the cooperation of management and labour in the continuous improvement of productive efficiency, and the collaboration of workers and employers in the preparation and application of social and economic measures:
- **(f)** the extension of social security measures to provide a basic income to all in need of such protection and comprehensive medical care;
- **(g)** adequate protection for the life and health of workers in all occupations;
- (h) provision for child welfare and maternity protection;
- (i) the provision of adequate nutrition, housing and facilities for recreation and culture;
- (j) the assurance of equality of educational and vocational opportunity.

Our laws and practices need to meet these standards, particularly if we are to recover from the recession now enveloping us. The detailed measures are to be found in the publications of the IER, with details to be found on the IER website (www.ier.org.uk).

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Seven in 10 workers back call to end intimidation tactic

by Matt Trinder

Industrial reporter

UNIONS are marking May Day by demanding an end to the "horrific" practice of fire and rehire, as a Unite poll shows that most workers favour a ban on the "bully-boy" tactic.

Seven in 10 of those who spoke to polling agency Survation said that bosses' increasingly common tactic of threatening workers with the sack unless they accept worse pay and conditions should be outlawed.

A similar proportion (68 per cent) of the 1,009 respondents disapproved or strongly disapproved of fire and rehire.

The TUC found that the practice has been used against one in 10 workers across the country during the Covid-19 pandemic.

. Voters from across the political spectrum have expressed concerns about "dismissal and engagement" in separate

Survation research for Unite, with many saying that it is the job of government and not boardrooms to regulate it.

Despite Prime Minister Boris Johnson describing fire and rehire as "unacceptable," the government has not legislated against it, with the long-promised employment Bill yet to see the light of

day.
Unite wants the government to use the forthcoming Queen's speech on May 11 to catch up with Ireland and Spain and present the necessary legislation to ban the practice, which Business Min-ister Paul Scully said was an example of "bully-boy tactics."

Howard Beckett, Unite's assistant general secretary for legal and political work, said it was "quite clear that the public is firmly on the side of working people when it comes to [this] horrific practice."

Mr Beckett added: "[Ministers have] to get on the same page as the voters on this and fast.

government itself has denounced fire and rehire, so we expect them to eliminate it. The public's revulsion is clear.

The union has started a national campaign for abolition of the tactic, backed by former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, several MPs including John McDonnell and Ian Lavery and Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham.

The launch on April 26 saw dozens of grassroots solidarity actions across the country in support of workers resisting fire and rehire at coffee giant Jacob Douwe Egberts, Go North West buses in Manchester and the Goodlord letting agency, among others.

The call comes as the GMB union continues a bitter dispute with British Gas after the Centrica-owned energy giant sacked about 500 engineers who refused to sign new contracts, which the union said would require them to work more hours for less pay.

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EDUCATION

'Tory cost-cutting exercise will hit poor pupils hardest'

'COME CLEAN': Ministers pushed on pupil premium changes which could slash school funding

bv Matt Trinder

MINISTERS must "come clean" over their slashing of funding for tens of thousands of disadvantaged pupils in England and repay the missing money to schools, teachers demanded yesterday.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) union condemned the Department for Education's (DfE) change to cut-off dates for children to qualify for pupil premium funding, which will lead to many schools losing cash for vital support such as free school meals.

By moving the date back from January this year to last October, the government is estimated to have saved up to £200 million at the expense of the most vulnerable children, based on local authorities' responses to freedom of information (FOI) requests.

NAHT general secretary Paul Whiteman told the union's

virtual AGM yesterday that the government was "intent on clawing back funding from schools," while Greater Manchester's Labour Mayor Andy Burnham warned that the "poorest kids" would suffer the most from the DfE's

"money-saving exercise."

"This is a deliberate act of levelling down," Mr Burnham said. "Now is the time to ensure our poorest kids have all the support they need, not take it away."

Pupil premium funding amounts to £1,345 a year per primary school pupil and £955 for their



secondary school peers who receive free school meals.

Campaigner Andy Jolley, who filed the FOI requests, revealed that schools in Kent would lose £4m in funding, while Birmingham City Council estimated that 3,000 pupils in the city could miss out on free school

change of date.
Mr Whiteman
predicted that
the cuts would
leave school
finances,
already hit
by a decade
of austerity,

meals through the

already hit by a decade of austerity, in a "dire state." clean about how much they have saved with this change and they must put that money back into school budgets immediately." Schools Minister Nick Gibb

the other.

Schools Minister Nick Gibb told the Commons education select committee on Thursday that estimates of the amount of funding lost were "likely to be inaccurate," claiming that the figures had not been calculated yet.

He said: "The government

has made bold claims about

their ambitions for recov-

erv and said that no child

will be left behind, but it is

failing to back these words

showed that the amount of money lost due to this

change is more than schools

are being given for education

recovery. The government is

giving with one hand while

knowingly taking away with

"Government must come

"A recent NAHT survey

with action.

matttrinder@peoples-press.com

POLICING

Fife custody death probe 'progressing with focus'

AN independent public inquiry into the death of a man restrained by police is progressing with "focus and determination," its chairman has said.

Sheku Bayoh died in May 2015 while being held by officers who were responding to a call in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

The 32-year-old's family claimed that race played a part in his death and criticised the subsequent investigation.

An inquiry into the tragedy was announced in November 2019 by Scottish Justice Secretary Humza Yousaf and opened last November, led by Lord Bracadale.

Core participants are Mr Bayoh's family, including his two sons, Police Scotland Chief Constable Iain Livingstone and a number of officers and retired officers of the force.

Lord Bracadale said he was "acutely aware" of the family's long wait for answers.

"I want to assure them, and all who have interest in the inquiry, that we are moving forward with focus and determination."



■ UNITE THE UNION

Ferry walkout to defend 'victimised' rep

WOOLWICH FERRY workers will strike for eight days in May and June over the victimisation of a shop steward, the Unite union announced yesterday.

Members voted overwhelmingly to support their rep, who the union says has been subjected to an unjustified and malicious disciplinary process by Transport for London (TfL).

Also at issue are TfL's "excessive" use of agency labour, failure to negotiate a new pay deal and lack of safety training for new employees.

Stoppages will hit services on May 14, 24 and 28, and June 1, 4, 7, 11 and 21.

The union said poor industrial relations blighted the service in recent years while it was run by privateer Briggs Marine



and they have failed to improve since TfL took the service back in-house.

Unite regional officer Onay Kasab said: "Our members have returned an overwhelming mandate for strike action at the Woolwich Ferry in support of their victimised shop steward and over a myriad of other employment issues.

"Hopefully, the ballot result will be a light-bulb moment for TfL and the management can get employment relations back on an even keel before strike action begins."

TfL was asked to comment.

■ WESTMINSTER

Labour MP: PM's behaviour undermines trust in politics

by Layth Yousif

BORIS JOHNSON has been slammed by Labour's shadow chief secretary to the Treasury for his behaviour during the growing "cash for curtains" scandal.

Bridget Phillipson criticised

the Prime Minister's "angry rant" (pictured) when refusing to answer questions over claims that the Conservative Party loaned Johnson money for the work to be carried out.

An Electoral Commission investigation into payments for the refurbishment of the PM's Downing Street flat has been launched after Mr Johnson spent an estimated £200,000 renovating the property above No 11 Downing Street where he lives with his fiancee, Carrie Symonds.

The body, which oversees political expenditure, is studying claims that Tory Party funds paid for the renovations, that the party may have loaned Mr Johnson the money and that money was handed over by Tory donors, including David Brownlow, to fund the work; establishing a trust via which cash could be channelled.



A rattled Mr Johnson lost his composure, appearing incandescent when challenged over the claims by Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer during PMQs this week.

Speaking on a visit to Hitchin on Thursday, Ms Phillipson said: "I think people find it extraordinary that the Prime Minister is unwilling to give straight answers to straightforward questions.

"Time and again at PMQs he refused to answer Keir Starmer's questions. It does matter because it's about people's trust in and integrity in politics."

The MP for Houghton and Sunderland South called for 66

We would expect the PM to answer the question, not get into some angry rant about it

Bridget Phillipson MP

full transparency around the issue. "I don't think it sends a

"I don't think it sends a great message. If you're asked a straightforward question, it is your job, as a politician, to answer it," she said.

"This is an important issue of trust and confidence and we would expect the PM to answer the question, not get into some angry rant about it."

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UNDERGROUND

'Fit-up' against RMT activist sparks Tube strike

TUBE drivers on London's Central Line will strike on polling day next month over the victimisation and dismissal of an RMT rep with 20 years of service, the union said yesterday.

Long-standing union activist Gary Carney, dismissed by London Underground (LU) for allegedly failing to take a drugs-and-alcohol test, is the victim of a deliberate "fit-up," the union said.

Mr Carney has been backed by an overwhelming number of his colleagues in a vote. The 24-hour stoppage,

The 24-hour stoppage, involving train operators at Leytonstone, White City, Loughton and West Ruislip, will begin at 9pm on May 5 and carry over into May 6 as Londoners vote on a mayor.

RMT general secretary Mick Cash said: "The sacking of Gary Carney is a blatant case of victimisation for trade union activities and his colleagues have made it clear that they stand shoulder to shoulder with him in this fight for justice.

"RMT will have no hesitation in escalating this dispute if LU don't right this wrong."

LU director of customer operations Nick Dent said that the organisation had "strict, long-standing drug-and-alcohol testing policies," but added that the organisation remained "open for further discussions."





MENWITH HILL

Day of action over foreign bases hits US's northern site

by Peter Lazenby

A US military base in Yorkshire was targeted for protests yesterday as part of an international day of action against foreign military bases.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) said that the world's military powers, particularly the US, operate more than 1,000 bases worldwide, often outside the control of the countries which host them.

Menwith Hill, a sprawling development on the North York Moors outside Harrogate, is one of a network of high-tech US bases spread around the world, gathering military, political and economic information relayed to it by informationgathering satellites.

The base is identified by huge domes housing antennae and equipment which relays information to the Pentagon. It is nominally a Royal Air Force

base but is occupied by around 1,000 US military and civilian personnel.

The international day of protest was organised "to show solidarity and opposition around the world" to the activities of foreign military bases.

In Yorkshire, the test was organised by the Menwith Hill Accountability Campaign (MHAC) and

Yorkshire CND.

MHAC co-ordinator Sarah
Swift said: "Menwith Hill
provides information for the targeting of drones which kill innocent civilians. "It is involved in missile

defence, ramping up the possibility of an accidental nuclear war. It was involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "The United States objects to

surveillance of its own citizens. yet Menwith Hill is enabling surveillance of civilians across the world."

news@peoples-pres.com

INDUSTRIAL

AMAZON PROFITS TRIPLE 'OFF BACKS OF WORKERS'

SIGN FOR IT: Unite challenges filthy rich firm to guarantee staff the right to union representation

By Derek Kotz

Industrial reporter

UNITE threw down the gauntlet to Amazon boss leff Bezos yesterday as the online giant announced a tripling of its profits amid reports of union-busting and treatment of workers.

The huge transnational has made a killing from Covid-19, raking in a staggering £5.8 billion in the first three months of this year - more than three times the £1.8bn it made over the same period in 2020 as lockdown forced much shopping online.

Unite yesterday renewed its challenge to Mr Bezos to sign a "declaration of neutrality," which would guarantee that workers could exercise their right to join a union without fear, and allow union reps onto Amazon sites.

The union charges that Amazon workers are still "routinely prevented" from having a collective voice in the workplace,



DOING THE HEAVY LIFTING: A worker packs up an Amazon delivery van

and recently opened a hotline for Amazon staff in Britain and Ireland, giving workers an avenue to blow the whistle without fear of reprisal.

The company maintains that it does not stand in the way of workers joining a union, but the stream of reports of determined anti-union tactics across the globe have painted a very different picture.

Unite executive officer Sharon Graham said: "Amazon's profits have tripled off the backs of workers who have been essential during the pandemic.

"Amazon workers are not currently free to join a union without fear, and without obstruction and propaganda being deployed against them.

"Workers have serious concerns about issues such as bullying, mandatory overtime, intense surveillance, breakneck production targets and much more besides.

"Our union is calling on the company to make a clear commitment and sign up to a declaration of neutrality.

"If the company is genuine then it should be more than happy to sign the declaration.'

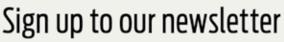
An Amazon spokesman said: "We respect our employees" right to join, form or not to join a labour union or other lawful organisation of their own selection.

"Across Amazon, including in our fulfilment centres, we place enormous value on having daily conversations with each associate and work to make sure direct engagement with our employees is a strong part of our work culture.

'The fact is, we already offer excellent pay, excellent benefits and excellent opportunities for career growth, all while working in a safe, modern work environment. The unions know this."

■ Unite's confidential Action on Amazon hotline can be reached on (0800) 014-1461 or at actiononamazon.org/hotline. derekkotz@peoples-press.com



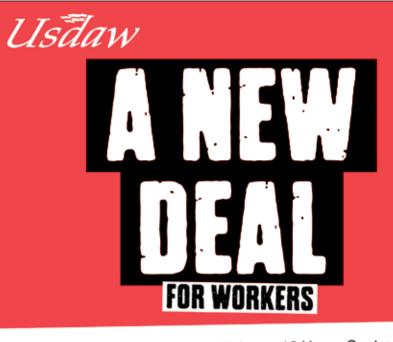


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May Day Greetings





www.rmt.org.uk

General Secretary: Mick Cash

President: Michelle Rodgers



🔰 in brief

Labour promises 'world-class' care for cancer, not 'divisive' indyref

LABOUR: Scottish Labour will prioritise cancer services to offer "world-class" care rather than focusing on a divisive independence referendum, Anas Sarwar has said.

The party leader has warned that up to 7,000 people may have cancer but be unaware of it because of a diagnosis backlog caused when services were suspended earlier in the pandemic.

Mr Sarwar has accused Nicola Sturgeon of under-funding the NHS and said that the "distracted" SNP leader had "taken her eye off the ball" on cancer services.

Last-chance saloon for a low-carbon economy — Greens

GREENS: The Scottish Greens will stress the need for urgent action on the climate as they enter the final days of campaigning ahead of the Holyrood election.

Co-leaders Patrick Harvie and Lorna Slater said that this election is the last in which Scotland has time to move to a low-carbon economy.

Mr Harvie said: "We need urgent action on the climate emergency if we are going to secure our survival this election will be the last where we can still make a significant policy shift."

Parties pledge to ban homophobic gay 'therapy'

LGBT+: Every party represented in Holyrood has made a manifesto commitment to banning so-called gay conversion therapy, ahead of next week's parliamentary elections.

The End Conversion Therapy Scotland campaign say they have received over 200 pledges from election candidates, and have been fully endorsed by the Greens and Lib Dems.

Campaigner Sophie Duncan said: "Conversion therapy belongs in an earlier era. It's a cruel practice which has no place in our society."

HAVE YOUR SAY

Write (up to 300 words) to letters@peoples-press.com or 52 Beachy Rd, London E3 2NS

CLIMATE CRISIS

Female XR activists blockade Faslane nuclear sub base

AN ALL-FEMALE group of activists from Extinc tion Rebellion Scotland blockaded the Trident nuclear submarine base at Faslane yesterday as part of a peace protest.

The campaigners attached themselves to giant plant pots alongside peace activists from Trident Ploughshares at the north gate of the

base, which is on the Gare Loch in Argyll and

The group placed three planters contain-ing plants and flowers and painted with the words "safe," "green" and "future" on the road in

the morning. An Extinction Rebellion protester was locked on to each planter so

that they could not be moved, preventing access to the base.

The action was part of the Peace Lotus campaign, a global day of anti-war resistance marking the anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war on April 30 1975 and demanding a future safe from the "threat of nuc<mark>le</mark>ar weapons and environmental destruction.'

Extinction Rebellion's Sarah Krischer said: "Nuclear weapons are an existential threat to the entire world. Stockpiling weapons with the ability to wipe out all



INDUSTRIAL

Scotrail engineers gear up for more industrial action

by Niall Christie Scotland editor

SCOTRAIL engineering staff will be balloted over further strike action as ticket examiners and conductors prepare to walk out on Sunday, transport union RMT said yesterday.

The union confirmed strike action over "equality between grades in payments for rest-day working" will go ahead this weekend.

Earlier this month, ticket examiners voted in favour of walkouts over the dispute.

While this weekend was due to be the last of six Sundays of strikes by conductors, workers will begin another six Sundays of action from May 9.

RMT said that it will shortly begin balloting engineering grades over the same issue of , workplace justice on enhanced payments," calling on ScotRail operator Abellio to engage in talks.

General secretary Mick Cash said: "We now have the appalling prospect of poorly trained managers being drafted in without any experience to scab

on RMT members' jobs, regard-

less of the safety consequences.
"If Abellio and Transport Scotland think our members are going to be put off by this refusal to engage, then they know nothing of their own workforce and their resilience.

"RMT remains available for talks and it's about time the company started acting responsibly and took up that offer."

ScotRail has warned customers of expected disruption, claiming the action is "wrong" and "damaging."

Head of customer operations Phil Campbell warned that "industrial action will have no impact on ScotRail's position" on overtime pay increases.

Transport Scotland said they understood workers' frustrations as "staff have been instrumental in keeping services moving for key workers."
A spokesperson added: "We

appreciate other grades are waiting on pay negotiations to restart, but we are unable to progress longer-term pay arrangements until we have more certainty of the financial

niallchristie@peoples-press.com

IMMIGRATION

'Asylum overhaul would break with international law'

by Niall Christie

Scotland editor

CAMPAIGNERS in Scotland have warned Boris Johnson that his government's overhaul of the asylum system could "detach the UK from international refugee law."

Charities and community groups north of the border have written to the Prime Minister highlighting their concerns that changes may see Westminster "directly intrude on the devolved competences of the Scottish Parliament and Scottish government."

Last month, Home Secretary Priti Patel announced what she described as the "most significant overhaul of our asylum system in decades.'

Under the proposals, individuals deemed to have arrived "illegally" will no longer have the same entitlements as those who arrive "legally," leading to concerns that asylum claims won't be judged on merit.

The groups, including the Scottish Refugee Council (SRC), the Scottish Muslim Forum,

the Scottish Trades Union Congress and Shelter, told Mr Johnson that the plan would render many people seeking refugee protection, on arrival in the UK, ineligible for asy-

They said: "Most people in Scotland and the rest of the UK want a system that reflects the compassion, decency and common sense they believe in especially as we rebuild the UK after the pandemic."

The groups called for ministers to "set out clearly how they will engage with devolved governments to ensure that a fair and humane asylum system can be developed that works for all four nations of the UK".

SRC chief executive Sabir Zazai said: "These proposals are a direct threat to the very principle of providing asylum and, put plainly, are the biggest threat to refugee rights in the UK that we have seen for decades.

"The fact is that, for the vast majority of people seeking protection, doing so through an organised and official route is simply impossible. There is no illegal route to seek asylum and the UK government is perfectly aware of this.

He also described the planned use of temporary reception centres as another serious concern.

A government spokesman said: "We have a responsibility to put the New Plan for Immigration into action so that we can fix the broken asylum system, helping people based on need, not the ability to pay people-smugglers.

"We recognise the importance of successfully integrating those resettled in the UK and the New Plan sets out a number of measures to support this, including immediate indefinite leave to remain for those that arrive through safe and legal routes."
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May Day Greetings from TSSA

General Secretary

Manuel Cortes

www.tssa.org.uk

Ireland Region, Unite the union

May Day – International Workers' Day



'Our demands most moderate are: we only want the earth'
James Connolly

Jackie Pollock Regional Secretary

Jeff Robinson
Chair, Irish Executive Committee

SOLIDARITY

'Ludicrous' Cuba blockade costing lives, warn MPs

by Peter Lazenby

THE government must build international co-operation with Cuba and lobby US President Joe Biden to end the blockade and sanctions against the Cuban people, a cross-party group of MPs has urged.

Fifty-seven Labour, SNP, Plaid Cymru, Green, SDLP and DUP MPs, as well as several independents, have signed an early day motion in the Commons calling for government intervention against the blockade, approaching its 60th year.

It has been condemned by the United Nations General Assembly in 28 consecutive votes.

In 2019, 183 countries supported a motion to end the blockade, with just three against. The next vote is on June 23.

The blockade is affecting Cuba's ability to vaccinate its population of 11.3 million against Covid-19.

All-party parliamentary

group on Cuba chairman Grahame Morris, the Labour MP for Easington, tabled the motion.

Mr Morris said: "The US blockade of Cuba has cost the Cuban economy billions of dollars and causes shortages in essential services including health and education.

"I welcome the fact that the British government has worked closely with Cuba on joint projects through the pandemic and hope that such co-operation will encourage President Biden to normalise relations by reversing the ludicrous designation of Cuba as a 'state sponsor of terrorism' and ending the blockade."

Cuba Solidarity Campaign director Rob Miller said: "It is heartening to see so many MPs here supporting the campaign against the US blockade.

against the US blockade.

"We would urge the British government to take concrete steps to support British companies wishing to trade with Cuba and stand up to US bullying on this matter."

news@peoples-press.com



Pic: Metropolitan Police

■ POLICE

Cop jailed for membership of banned neonazi hate group

THE first British police officer to be convicted of belonging to a banned neonazi terrorist group has been jailed for more than four years.

Ben Hannam (pictured), 22, was found guilty of membership of National Action (NA) from 2016 until September 2017, following a trial at the Old Bailey.

He had been working as a probationary officer for the Metropolitan Police for nearly two years before he was found on a leaked database of users of far-right forum Iron March and arrested last year.

Mr Hannam, who pleaded guilty to possessing a prohibited image of a child, was also convicted of lying on his job application and vetting forms and having two terror documents detailing knife combat and making explosive devices.

Judge Anthony Leonard QC sentenced Mr Hannam, who was sacked by the Met last week for gross misconduct, to a total of four years and four months yesterday, with an extra one-year licence period.

Mr Hannam showed no emotion as he was sentenced and taken down to the cells.



THAT'S NAE WHISKY: Nicola Sturgeon during a visit to the Edinburgh Gin Distillery yesterday, while campaigning for the Holyrood election

■ FRONT PAGE

'FIRE AND REHIRE' MUST BE BANNED, URGE TRADE UNIONS

FROM PAGE ONE: GMB acting national secretary Andy Prendergast said: "Our members, and the wider public, are furious. They see profit-making employers [squeezing] their staff to boost profits.

"We are proud of our British Gas members for taking a stand against these exploitative practices and will continue to support members whenever other employers make similar moves.

"Considering the fact that even a Conservative PM calls the practice unacceptable, a change in the law to ban such activities is desperately needed."

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said fire and rehire should have "no place in modern Britain" and demanded that ministers stop "turning a blind eye" to the problem.

"Boris Johnson promised the country an employment Bill to protect and enhance workers' rights. It's high time he delivered on that promise," she insisted.

In a statement, the London May Day Organising Committee said unity was needed to resist some employers's attempts to use the pandemic to "carry through plans to cut jobs,

pay and conditions and impose more stressful ways of working.

"Many of these employers have been making a fortune [during the crisis] but are still pushing these cuts ahead, with fire and rehire as an opening salvo.

"This May Day, the old call remains: honour the dead and fight like mad for the living."

matttrinder@peoples-press.com

EXPLOITATION

DETAINED BRITS IN SYRIA 'VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING'

COERCION & EXPLOITATION: Women face torture and death penalty, warns human rights group

by Ceren Sagir

MORE THAN half of the British women and girls detained in north-east Syrian camps are victims of human trafficking, human rights group Reprieve has revealed in a report published yesterday.

At least 63 per cent of the adults meet the legal definition of trafficking victims, as they were subjected to sexual and other forms of exploitation, the report found.

They were either transported to Syria as children – some as young as 12 – coerced into travelling to that country or kept and moved within Syria against their will

At least 44 per cent of the

women were coerced by a male partner or relative.

The report found that Isis employed trafficking tactics and groomed and recruited hundreds of women and girls, who were subsequently forced into marriage, sexual slavery, domestic servitude and other forms of exploitation.

After years of exploitation, the women and their children escaped Isis territory and are now detained in camps with dire conditions.

In one camp, 517 people, mostly children, died in 2019.

Reprieve joint executive director Maya Foa said: "Rather than recognise them as trafficking victims, the government has, in most cases, stripped them of citizenship and abandoned them.

"It should repatriate all British nationals in the camps and bring prosecutions in British courts where there is a case to answer."

United Nations special rapporteur on trafficking in persons Siobhan Mullally, in the report's foreword, criticised the government for failing to honour its commitment to eradicate all forms of modern slavery and human trafficking by 2020.

She said: "The UK's obligations, under domestic and international law, of prevention, of protection and of effective investigation of the crime of trafficking must be fulfilled.

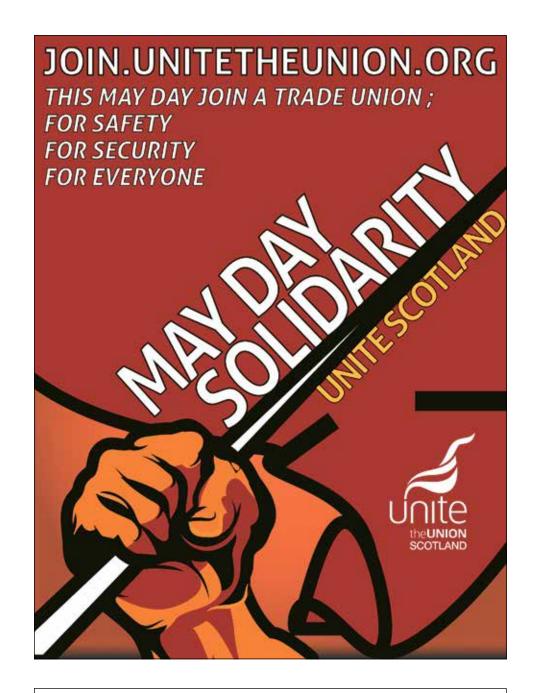
"The particular risks faced by children, highlighted in the distressing accounts of human rights failings presented in this report, must be urgently addressed and without further

delay.

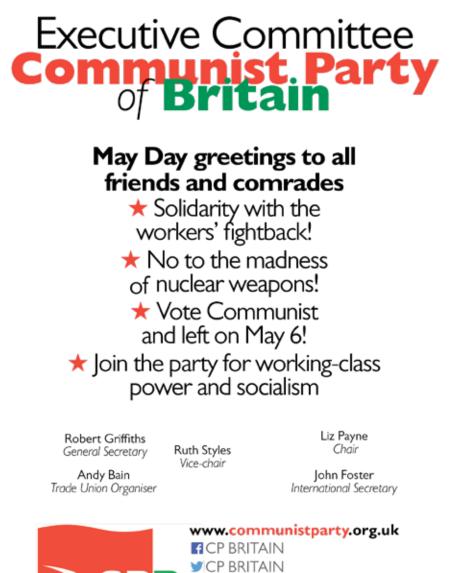
"Repatriation of families currently detained indefinitely in north-east Syria is a necessary first step to meeting the UK's domestic and international law obligations of protection, effective investigation and provision of effective remedies for the serious human rights violations ongoing."

Tory MP Andrew Mitchell, who chairs the all-party parliamentary group on Britons trafficked to Syria, said: "There is no decency or justice in abandoning trafficking victims to face torture and the death penalty."

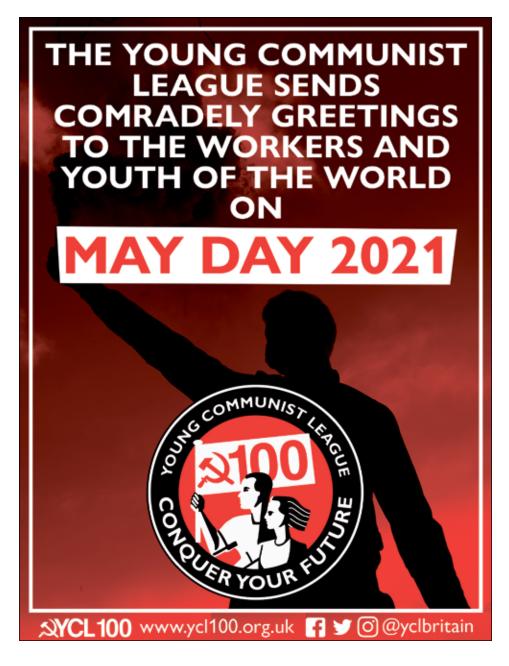
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IRAQ

KURDISH ACTIVISTS CALL ON THE UN TO SPEAK OUT

by Steve Sweeney

SURVIVORS Hussein's brutal campaign against the Iraqi Kurds have urged the United Nations, Britain and the United States to break their silence and prevent Turkey from carrying out another genocide.

Speaking to the Morning Star in the city of Dokan, where the Anfal campaign began in February 1988, they accused Western countries of putting oil and other corporate interests before

the lives of Kurdish people.
"Nato, the UN, the US and Britain are silent while Turkey invades us," said Shamal Muhammed Sabir (pictured, left), who was four when he lost his entire family in the 1988 Iraqi military operation.

"Kurdish oil goes to the world through Turkey. So Turkey has probably threatened them and said they won't give them oil unless they support the invasion," he said.

The 37-year-old criticised the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) for failing to speak out about the latest attack, launched by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan last Saturday as part of Opera-



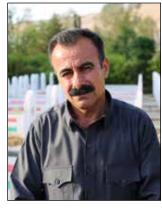
tion Claw Lightning.

Ankara has been accused of using chemical weapons on three occasions in the mountainous Duhok province, where at least 38 Turkish soldiers are believed to have been killed in clashes with Kurdistan Workers

Party (PKK) guerillas. "The KRG should have called for Turkey to withdraw from our land a long time ago," Mr Sabir said.

"But the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) has much interest in this military operation. He [KDP leader Masoud Barzani] wants more power and strength from Turkey. His power rests on Turkey.

"We are under the threat of Anfal again," he said tearfully as



he urged the world not to ignore another genocidal campaign against the Kurdish people.

At least 182,000 were killed in the Anfal operation launched by Saddam Hussein in February 1988, near the end of the Iran-Iraq war.

Many men, women and children were killed and interred in mass graves, while others were buried alive.

Chemical weapons were used in a number of attacks on Kurdish towns and villages during the operation, most notably in Halabja where 5,000 people were killed.

Just four countries recognise the events as a genocide - Britain, Norway, South Korea and Sweden. Survivors are pressing

for wider international recognition as a step towards justice.

"No other nation in the world has suffered the continued injustice and bombardment of the Kurdish people," said Ghafur Hassan Abdullah (pictured, centre), president of the Anfal Survivors Association in Dokan. "The United Nations should

break their silence and prevent another Anfal in these lands."

Qadir Sdiq Osman (pictured, right), who was 10 years old when he was jailed and told he was to be executed, said that recognition of the Anfal atrocities as a genocide was important for the survivors.

"If you don't have justice, you don't have life," he said. stevesweeney@peoples-press.com

COLOMBIA

Unions & students get ready to fight ban on May Day

by Our Foreign Desk

TRADE unions, student organisations and civil society groups in Colombia are set to defy a government ban on May Day demonstrations by taking to the streets in protest at unpopular tax changes.

This follows days of strike action "for life, peace, democracy" and against an economic reform package being pushed by President Ivan Duque, which unions warn will have a devastating impact on the country's poor.

A Bogota court suspended the right to public protest earlier this week after Mr Duque called for a ban on demonstrations on Wednesday and International Workers' Day celebrations on May 1.

Judge Valentina Arboleda caused mirth by accidentally announcing a ban on "pubic" protests, although he clarified later in the ruling that the right to peaceful demonstration had been suspended.

Health Minister Fernando Ruiz called for the strike action to be postponed amid a spike in coronavirus cases that has pushed the Colombian health system to breaking point.

But teaching union Fecode rejected the plea, insisting that the government's refusal to take measures against deepening poverty left its members with with no choice.

"The government has not approved a basic income for us. We have to go out. We teachers shouldn't go out, but we have to," said spokesman Omar Arango.

Thousands took part in the action, which continued on Thursday, blocking major highways in Colombian towns

A heavy clampdown saw at least 10 reporters arrested, according to the Colombian Federation of Journalists.

Video footage circulating on social media showed a police officer getting off his motorcycle and shooting dead a young man in Cali.

In Bogota, student Leidy Cadena suffered a serious eye injury when a protest was fired upon by the Esmad riot squad.

Mr Duque said that he recognised the strikers' anger but is prepared for dialogue and to make some concessions on taxes relating to public services and fuel.

international@peoples-press.com

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

Guantanamo Bay prisoner set to file torture complaint

GUANTANAMO BAY prisoner Abu Zubaydah is to file a complaint with the United Nations alleging torture by his US captors during his 19-year stay behind bars, his lawyers said yesterday.

The 50-year-old Saudi-born Palestinian was detained in Pakistan in March 2002 on suspicion of being a senior member of al-Qaida who helped plan the 9/11 attacks.

He has never been charged and faces being held indefinitely. US officials have since admitted that he was neither a member of al-Qaida or an important figure among outlawed groups.

"His detention has no lawful basis in international law [and] offends all principles of due process," lawyer Helen Duffy said in a statement.

"After 19 years of arbitrary detention, the only appropriate legal remedy for Abu Zubaydah is release and rehabilitation.'

Mr Zubaydah is believed to have been subjected to at least 83 incidences of waterboarding – a now banned interrogation technique used by the CIA.

A petition asks the UN to rule that he should be released. It also demands that six other countries involved in his disappearance and rendition - Britain, Thailand, Afghanistan, Lithuania, Poland and Morocco - use their powers to secure his release and relocation.

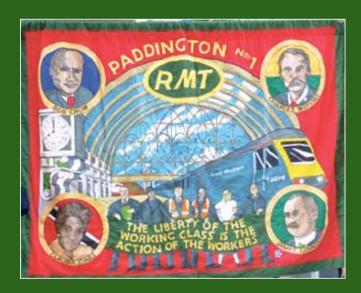




RMT PADDINGTON **NO.1 BRANCH**



Sends May Day Greetings to all trade unionists



WORKERS OF ALL LANDS, UNITE!

TEAM STEVE

Sending May Day greetings and solidarity to workers across the globe

May Day is our day to celebrate our struggles for peace, human, civil and political rights. To renew our determination to win a fairer and greener society where working people and their communities are treated with dignity and respect and to receive our fair-share of the wealth we create ... solidarity

Steve Turner

Candidate for Unite general secretary

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steveturner4gs.org

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Let's make a





MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN

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Communist Party of Britain

London District Committee



Sending May Day greetings to all workers

Capitalism is the problem, Socialism is the answer

VOTE COMMUNIST 6 MAY 2021

Published by Lorraine Douglas, 42A Walmer Terrace, London SE18 7EB, on behalf of the Communist Party, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Rd, CR0 IBD



The Communist Party of Ireland sends May Day greetings to workers throughout the world

"JOIN your union and help in the fight to win back your own land for labour. Join in the fight for a free and regenerated Ireland, which will emancipate not alone yourselves but your children and your children's children" - James Connolly 1915

> Marking the 100th anniversary of the first Communist Party in Ireland

"And our victorious rallying cry shall be, we want the earth!









Hamas furious after **Abbas postpones** first poll in 10 years

by Our Foreign Desk

HAMAS reacted angrily yesterday after Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas postponed next month's parliamentary election, which would have been the first national poll for more than a decade.

He blamed the delay on uncertainty over whether Israel would allow voting to take place in Jerusalem as well as the occupied West Bank.

"Facing this difficult situation, we decided to postpone the date of holding legislative elections until the participation of Jerusalem and its people is guaranteed," Mr Abbas said on Palestinian television.

Hamas, which controls the Israeli-besieged Gaza Strip, was expected to make gains in the poll, the first since 2006.

Critics have suggested that Mr Abbas made the decision at the behest of Washington, which does not wish to see the Islamist party, which it deems a terrorist organisation, strengthened at the expense of Fatah.

But State Department spokesman Ned Price said without a hint of irony on Thursday: "The exercise of democratic elections is a matter for the Palestinian people and for the Palestinian leadership to determine."

Hamas branded the decision a coup," having previously insisted that the elections should take place on the back of "heroic victories" against recent far-right Israeli violence in east Jerusalem.

Postponing the elections indefinitely amounted to an Israeli "occupiers' veto," Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said, adding: "We reject this decision, which violates the national consensus and the Fatah movement bears responsibility for the consequences of this position.'

Mr Abbas also faced challenges from two Fatah splinter groups, the Freedom List led by

Nasser al-Kidwa, the nephew of the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, and another by popular former security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

Israel has insisted the elections are an internal Palestinian affair and claimed that it has "no intention of intervening or preventing them."

But Mr Abbas claimed to have received a message from Tel Aviv saying that it could not grant permission for voting in Jerusalem as it has no functioning government following the March 23 parliamentary elections.

The 85-year-old has ruled by decree since the 2006 elections. The national poll was called three months ago amid mounting criticism that Palestinian institutions, including his presidency, lack democratic legitimacy.

It is not clear whether the presidential election due in July

international@peoples-press.com

■ KENYA

Anti-vaccination doctor dies of Covid-19

became a high-profile anti-vaccine campaigner has died after contracting Covid-19, it was confirmed yesterday.

Dr Stephen Karanja died on Thursday in the high-dependency unit of a private hospital in the capital Nairobi.

He was a vocal conspiracy theorist, helping to spread myths involving Microsoft founder Bill

Gates and the coronavirus being part of a bid to cull the world's population.

Dr Karanja insisted that Kenyans did not need to be vaccinated against the disease. He said that people could be cured through steam inhalation and a mixture of drugs and minerals including the antimalarial hydroxychloroquine and zinc.

He was the chairman of Kenya's Catholic Doctors Association, which described him "as a true medical soldier."

Despite his intervention, more than 800,000 Kenyans have been vaccinated against Covid-19.

There have been nearly 160,000 cases of coronavirus recorded in the east African nation and 2.707 deaths, although critics believe that the true figures may be much

KYRGYZSTAN

Thirteen killed in border skirmishes

AT LEAST 13 people have been killed in Kyrgyzstan during border clashes with soldiers from neighbouring Tajikistan, officials said yesterday.

The government of the Batken region said that more that 10,000 citizens have been evacuated and "placed in specially organised points" in its administrative centre, while others have gone to stay with relatives to escape the fighting.

Military units from the two countries exchanged fire on Thursday before returning to their bases after a ceasefire agreement was announced, Kyrgyzstan's Foreign Ministry confirmed yesterday.

Tajikistan acknowledged the truce, saying that the two sides "came to a mutual agreement to end the armed conflict, to withdraw personnel and military equipment to places of

permanent deployment.'

More than a third of the border between the two countries remains disputed, with the area around the Tajik enclave of Vorukh, where Thursday's conflict erupted, being a regular flashpoint over access to water.

Uzbekistan has offered to mediate in the latest dispute over river infrastructure, while Russia is monitoring the situ-

CHAD

Clashes between armed forces and rebels intensify

by Our Foreign Desk

CLASHES intensified between government forces and armed rebels in western Chad yesterday as hundreds of the military junta's opponents, detained during protests, were quizzed by prosecutors.

Some 700 people were arrested after taking part in banned protests on Tuesday and Wednesday, in which at least six were shot dead by soldiers.

Dozens were brought to Chad's highest court, in the capital N'Djamena on Thursday from a number of cities across the country.

"A majority of them have already been through and many have been released," state prosecutor Youssouf Tom said.

The country has been thrown into turmoil since the death of president Idriss Deby earlier this month. He is reported to have succumbed to injuries sustained on the battlefield, though the circumstances remain unclear.

He has been replaced by his son Mahamat Deby, a move which has sparked mass protests and condemnation from the African Union and other international bodies, who have urged a swift return to civilian rule.

On Monday Albert Pahimi Padacke was appointed as interim prime minister in the Military Transition Council (TMC), with Mr Deby promising a return to civilian rule within

But the concession has failed

to quell growing anger at what has been described by many critics as "an institutional coup."

Battle continues to rage with the opposition Front for Change and Concord in Chad, around 180 miles north of the capital.

"Fighting is continuing in Kanem - we are going to have to continue to fight, otherwise they will destabilise us," junta spokesman General Azem Bermandoa Agouna said.

Observers from the African Union arrived in the N'Djamena on Thursday and will stay for a week as they advise on a return to democracy.

But the TMC has ruled out ngotiations with the opposition and has called for support from neighbouring Niger to defeat

international@peoples-press.com



Struggle on the Streets

the best photos from the week's protests around the world





ABOVE: A boy protests on a street in N'Djamena, Chad. Thousands have joined demonstrations against the rule of a transitional military council headed by the son of the late President Idriss Deby Itno, who was killed last week. Several people have been killed during the protests **LEFT:** People ride horses during a rally against the US embargo on Cuba, in Santa Clara, Cuba



ABOVE: Demonstrators protest in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, United States, in the wake of Andrew Brown Jr's death at the hands of Pasquotank County deputies





ABOVE: Protesters in Bogota, Colombia, face tear gas launched by the police during a national strike against a government-proposed reform which bundles tax rises with pension cuts and attacks on labour standards **LEFT:** People in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, carry tanks of cooking gas purchased from the Petrobras Oil Tankers Union, as part of a call deviate and participations. solidarity and anti-Bolosonaro protest campaign to sell fuel at low prices



Fraternal Greetings from Unite the Union West **Midlands Regional** Committee on International Workers' Day.

a Kildine **Annmarie** Kilcline **West Midlands** Regional Secretary

twitter.com/UniteWestMids

Mohammed West Midlands Regional Chair

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Unite London & Eastern

Solidarity on May Day – for a Radical Recovery Plan!





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Bristol Retired Members Branch SW/001999

Solidarity with workers everywhere [j on May Day.

The struggle goes on in retirement



No Fire and Rehire!

SW/001401 Bristol **Finance & Legal Branch**

May Day greetings, defend workers' rights!

Dan Foulkes

Domenico Hill Equalities officer **Simon Crew**

Unite EM/NG32 **Nottinghamshire Health Branch**

Remembering all workers who have lost Unite their lives or still suffering from Covid. May Day greetings to everyone fighting for safe workplaces and a fully funded, publicly owned, democratically run NHS.

www.doctorsinunite.com

Belfast Shorts and Northern Ireland Technical & Engineering Branch

May Day greetings

Justice for the Palestinians

"The greatest moral issue of our age"

– Nelson Mandela

End the oppresssion of the Palestinian people

Joe Bowers

Secretary

Kevin Doherty Chair

Frank Cammock

Treasurer

We send fraternal greetings to all workers in these

troubled times.

Now is the time to show our true comradeship and prepare for the fight that will surely come

Unite NE/GEO/1

Sheffield East

Unite the Union SE/6246

sends May Day greetings to all those trade union members who are currently on the front line against Covid-19

Unite London Central RM005

Sends greetings and solidarity to all

Janet Hart

Equalities

Kevin Gavin Chair



Secretary

Eamonn Murphy

Tough times are ahead – and every worker will need their union

Tell your children and grandchildren, your workmates and neighbours, it's time to join a union, urges FRANCES O'GRADY

HIS May Day is a chance to express our gratitude to all the workers who have helped get us through this pandemic.

Every time key workers put on a uniform they're putting their health on the line for the rest of us.

That's why allegations of government sleaze are all the more shocking. While underpaid health care heroes risked their lives, ministers' mates lined their pockets.

Working people deserve better than this – starting with respect and dignity.

As we begin the long road to recovery, there is an opportunity to build back fairer from this crisis. We must grasp it.

Covid-19 has shone a huge spotlight on huge inequalities in our society.

We have seen how much harder the virus has hit black and minority ethnic workers, young people and women.

And how too many in power see the pandemic as an opportunity to divide working-class people and drive down wages and conditions.

Cut-throat tactics like "fire and rehire" at British Airways and

British Gas have been met with fierce resistance from unions.

Unions are organising care workers - too often forced to make do on low pay and zerohours contracts.

TUC analysis published last month revealed that Covid-19 mortality rates are twice as high in insecure jobs than in other professions.

This horrific statistic is not tragic accident. It's the result of serial policy failure.

People in precarious employment have been forced to shoulder more risk during this crisis while often being denied access to decent sick pay.

This is forcing many to choose between doing the right thing and putting food on the table.

This can't go on. Insecure work is bad for workers and it's bad for public health.

But together we can fix this. The overwhelming majority of working people back our calls

for higher labour standards. TUC polling published this week shows that more than eight in 10 (84 per cent) of working people want all workers to have the same basic rights.

And a similar number want big companies to be held responsible for all staff in their supply chain – giving workers the right to take action on unpaid wages unpaid holiday pay or unpaid sick pay against the commissioning company or buyer as well as their immediate employer.

There is also massive support for banning zero-hours contracts and for making it compulsory to give workers proper notice and compensation for shifts.

Stronger workers' rights must be a central test of a fair recovery. But we don't have to wait for a change in the law. We can organise and use our collective bargaining power now.

We demand a new deal for working people, good jobs for everyone, decent pay and a strong safety net.

Tough times are still ahead and that's when everyone needs

So, tell your children and grandchildren, your workmates and neighbours, it's time to join

This year we can't all be together on May Day, so I send greetings from the TUC to working people across the world.

Frances O'Grady is general secretary of the TUC



THE FIGHT IS ON: British Airways workers hold a mass meeting at Bedfont Recreation Ground in London, organised by Unite the Union, to discuss their next step in the row over jobs and conditions



RESOLUTE: Asda workers march through Leeds to Asda's headquarters where they handed over a trolley containing a 23,000-strong petition opposing a controversial new contract

IRE and rehire has been described by Unite general secretarv Len McCluskev as a "disease that's ripping through our work-

TUC unions are fighting fierce battles against employers who are using the illegitimate tactic to opportunistically level down pay and conditions at a time when workers are worried about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A number of unions have come up against the tactic including Unite at British Airways, Douwe Egberts coffee and Go North West buses in Manchester, for example.

They are levelling down pay and conditions - often to zero-hours or short-hours contracts – despite Boris Johnson claiming he wanted to level up the UK.

In some of the big hotel chains longstanding staff are being fired and rehired onto short-hours contracts. And where the big chains lead, the smaller ones follow.

A TUC poll revealed that nearly one in 10 workers have now been told to reapply for



Make solidarity permanent to create a fairer Europe

HE value of solidarity has never been so clear to so many people.

It has been clear simply in the way we have worn masks to protect others, it has been clear in the way workers put themselves at risk to keep essential services running and it's been clear in the way trade unions won unprecedented support to save jobs and livelihoods during the pandemic.

In these difficult times, we have depended on one another. The enduring message of the labour movement has never been so powerful as in the circumstances we are marking May Day this year.

By contrast, the neoliberal ideas which have dominated European politics in recent decades have been discredited.

Public health services were underfunded when we needed them most, conservative politicians have become "supporters" of state intervention and people can see in their everyday lives the limits to individualism in the face of a common challenge.

But we cannot let this solidarity across society slowly fade away like the claps for carers. We cannot return to business as usual. The last decade was a lost decade because of austerity.

Europe's leaders pursued spending cuts which they knew would create mass unemployment.

When employment recovered, attacks on collective bargaining meant the new jobs were lower paid and more precarious.

LUCA VISENTINI believes recent legal gains by trade unions in various EU countries point to the potential for collective struggle that must not go to waste

The result is that workers in many EU countries are now earning less now than they were a decade ago and there has been a significant increase in the number of people living in poverty despite being in work. On top of that, cuts to welfare systems meant that the victims of austerity often fell through gaps in the social safety net, which were unprepared for the pandemic.

Even the principal architects and cheerleaders of these policies have accepted they were a disaster. The IMF says they do more harm than good and the Financial Times has said the "death of austerity should not be mourned."

The contrast in the response to the financial crisis and Covid-19 could not be greater. Under pressure from trade unions and many others, the EU and national governments poured resources into emergency job and income support measures. The EU's restrictive fiscal rules have been paused to allow member states to invest in fighting the health and employment impacts of Covid-19 and in economic recovery.

The battle is already on to turn temporary job and wage protection measures into a permanent shift in the interests of working people. To make solidarity permanent. To create a fairer Europe. To ensure a socially just transition to a carbon neutral and digital economy.

We have already witnessed Europe's first general strike in Belgium where workers are being offered only a 0.4 per cent pay rise at a time when the country's biggest companies are increasing payouts to shareholders.

In Italy, 600,000 cleaners, the majority of them women, walked out to demand essential wages to match their essential work. In Spain and the UK, unions have taken on Deliveroo and Uber in the courts and won historic victories for more secure employment. Unions have also made progress against

"

We cannot let this solidarity across society slowly fade away like the claps for carers



SPELLING IT OUT: Alitalia workers with 'Hostages' banner at a protest at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport last Friday April 23 2021

precarious platform work in Italy, with unprecedented success in collective bargaining for platform workers.

Unions are also involved in a landmark legal battle to uphold the right to organise in France, where activists were spied on in a sinister union-busting operation that allegedly involved police collusion with private security hired by IKEA.

In Germany, unions have won "Covid bonus" payments for workers covered by collective agreements at a time when pay levels across the economy have fallen for the first time in a decade and have fought for the health and safety of migrant workers hit by outbreaks in the country's slaughterhouses.

At a European level, we are on the brink of achieving legis-

lation that will promote collective bargaining as the best way to get workers their fair share of the wealth they create, combat union-busting and increase minimum wages.

New law on gender pay transparency has also been tabled after strong pressure from trade unions. The EU is discussing a long awaited "action plan" to implement in practice the principles of the "European Pillar of Social Rights" to improve living and working conditions for all.

Inevitably, big business is lobbying to prevent progress. Uber have doubled their Brussels lobbying power and are trying to rewrite the law to create a special employment status that would allow them to pick and choose which rights to give their workers.

Employers' groups are "passionately opposed" to pay transparency laws and want to water down action on wages.

All of these battles are in the balance as Europe's leaders gather for a summit dedicated to social issues in a week's time at the behest of Portugal's socialist Prime Minister Antonio Costa. They should know that this

They should know that this is Europe's last chance with working people. A rise in rightwing populism was the political legacy of a decade of austerity. Only a decade of solidarity can undo the damage and create a Europe of social dialogue and rejuvenate democracy, including in the workplace.

That has to start with a peoples' recovery that prioritises massive public investment in the creation of quality, green jobs and fair taxation so all companies however large make a proper contribution to pay for the public services and infrastructure they depend on. The vast gaps in wealth that exist within and between countries must be closed.

Solidarity has got us through the Covid crisis but solidarity cannot end as soon as the pandemic is over. Nobody will forget this experience quickly and nobody should forget its lesson: solidarity works.

Luca Visentini is ETUC general secretary.

Fire-and-rehire tactic the lowest of the low

Employers are taking advantage of the ongoing lockdown to slash pay and conditions. **TONY BURKE** explains

"

One in 10 workers have now been told to reapply for their jobs on worse terms and conditions or face losing them

their jobs on worse terms and conditions or face losing their jobs.

Almost a quarter say their working conditions including pay and working hours have been downgraded since the first lockdown in March last year.

And for BME and young workers the picture is bleaker with almost a fifth (18 per cent) of 18-24 year-olds saying their boss has tried to rehire them on inferior terms during the pandemic.

Working people (12 per cent) are nearly twice as likely than those from higher socio-economic groups (7 per cent) to have been told to re-apply for their jobs under worse terms and conditions. BME workers (15 per cent) have been faced with "fire and rehire" at nearly twice the rate of white workers (8 per cent).

The polling says that that nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of workers in the UK have experienced a downgrading of their terms during the crisis – including through reduced pay or changes to their hours.

One in three (34 per cent) of young workers (18-24 year-olds) say their terms at work have deteriorated since March. And nearly a third (30 per cent) of low-paid workers (those earning up to £15,000) report the same. Around two-fifths (38 per cent) of workers say they are worried about having a job in the year ahead.

This is a far cry from Boris Johnson's promise that he would bring forward a new employment Bill to improve people's rights at work. There is still no sign of any such legislation

It is clear that some employ-

ers are taking advantage of the ongoing lockdown and the forthcoming winding down of the furlough scheme and are using fire and rehire to slash pay and conditions.

The tactic is not new – just

The tactic is not new – just look at retailers such as Asda, where workers who didn't accept a new contract were told in 2019 they would be dismissed and given seven days to reapply for their jobs.

Indeed, aggressive bosses appear increasingly willing to attempt the tactic before any negotiations have happened in an attempt to bully workers into agreeing changes.

What we are now seeing is ruthless slash and burn tactics by employers.

Paul Scully MP, parliamentary undersecretary of state for business, said the government "will tackle" fire and

rehire, which he condemned as "bully-boy tactics." Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, leader of the House of Commons, called fire and rehire threats "wrong" and a "bad practice," adding compa-

"

The practice of fire and rehire is outlawed in Ireland and Spain

nies should know "better than to behave in this way" all the time looking the other way as workers face big reductions in their pay and conditions.

Boris Johnson claimed he wasn't aware of the practice, in response to a question from Labour's Kim Johnson MP.

The practice of fire and rehire is outlawed in Ireland and Spain and in the rest of Europe there are restrictions on employers. It's time for the UK to outlaw this practice and for the government to practice what they preach about levelling up on job protection.

Somehow I doubt it they will. They will have to be forced to do it.

■ Tony Burke is Unite assistant general secretary and the TUC general council's lead on employment and trade union rights.

★Star comment

This May Day, work to organise a left fightback for lives and livelihoods

CORONAVIRUS has restricted the British left to its second May Day running where virtual rallies predominate over real marches. In the little more than a year since lockdowns began, the labour movement has not been idle.

The TUC was instrumental in securing support for furloughed and self-employed workers last spring, while union organisation has meant the difference between a safe and an unsafe workplace for millions.

Battles to ensure proper protective equipment is available and public health measures are enforced are far from over. Workplace reps are continuing to fight for them today, even in the NHS. For many workers the importance of joining a union has been made clearer than before as a life-threatening virus exposes just how little value employers really place on their safety. The result has been strong recruitment by unions in key sectors.

When combined with effective use of workplace organising and new technology, this has delivered some impressive results: the National Education Union (NEU's) January 3 Zoom call, watched by 400,000 people, may have been the largest trade union meeting in history.

And that show of engagement and determination by teachers to protect their communities' health by opposing Boris Johnson's reckless drive to reopen schools despite rising infections helped force the Tories to back down a day later, undoubtedly saving lives.



From national organisations to local branches, audiences have grown so hundreds or thousands will tune into meetings that organisers would previously have been pleased to see a few dozen attend. Even as we emerge from lockdown, it is likely that far more of the movement's activity will take place online than before.

So long as this enables us to reach wider audiences, this is all to the good. Because for all the heroic work of thousands of union reps, the last year has not been one in which working people's interests have been advanced.

Across the world, the pandemic has not merely cost hundreds of millions of jobs — it has punished the worst off most. Job insecurity and poverty pay, major injustices that have

become more prevalent across the workforce over years of neoliberal economic policy, will trap millions more workers as soaring unemployment and the fire-and-rehire drive force down wages and weaken contracts.

That requires our movement to emerge from the pandemic fighting. New technologies have all the familiar pitfalls of social media - appearing to attract vast audiences while rarely reaching the ears of the unconverted.

We enter an elections week in which, despite widespread media coverage reporting the Prime Minister talk of deliberately allowing thousands of people to die – as we know they did – polls show the Conservatives maintaining a double-digit lead over the Labour Party.



That's a product of Labour's stultifying lack of vision under Sir Keir Starmer, its refusal to make the case for radical change despite the evidence. It also reflects the difficulty of mounting an election campaign when you have spent the past year in a relentless war against your own activists.

But it also shows the hard work that needs to be done by our whole movement in drawing the political lessons from people's experiences at work - or out of it - to win support for an alternative. Job losses and fire and rehire are taking place all over the country. The pain of the unfolding jobs crisis is only just beginning.
Socialists need to take the message that it doesn't have

to be this way into every workplace and every community, organising again in public wherever we can do so while ensuring public health is not put at risk.

If the Labour Party won't provide an alternative, the labour movement can, beginning by ensuring a huge turnout at the June 26 People's Assembly demonstration for a new normal. This International Workers' Day most of us will not be marching. But we should be organising to hit the ground running this summer.



Diane Abbott

No-one is safe until everyone is safe

We need a people's vaccine to help get the virus under control across the world, not just in the wealthy West

appallingscenes in India are a shocking reminder of the catastrophic effects of failing to suppress the coronavirus.

Even with the best will in the world, in a country as poor as India, with low levels of healthcare and often overcrowded living and working conditions, there was always a risk that this might happen.

But the situation has been clearly exacerbated by following the model of allowing the virus to freely circulate.

That model is one that has been most vigorously pursued across the rich countries of the West, in the EU, in this country and in North America.

The consequences have been nothing short of catastrophic for the populations of those countries, which have some of the highest death tolls in the world, far greater than their proportions of the world's population.

The additional culprit in this has been the government of Brazil, where President Jair Bolsonaro slavishly follows the Trump model of complete disregard for the virus, no decisive actions to protect the population and outlandish claims that some unspecified superiority of his people would protect them.

Unfortunately, it is also now clear that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi fits into exactly the same pattern, ignoring the virus, making false claims of immunity and with very few preparations to defend against the pandemic.

We are now seeing the terrible death toll in Brazil being played out in India, but with a vastly greater population, more than six times larger.

The responsibility of countries like the US and Britain is very great in this disaster, and not just in terms of the disastrous semi-"herd immunity" approach that they followed and promoted as a model.

First, the continued circulation of the virus in the rich Western countries has allowed the rapid development of mutations. So, it is widely reported that the mutation that is ravaging Delhi is one that developed here, the so-called "Kent



DISTRAUGHT: A relative of a person who died of Covid-19 mourns at a ematorium in Jammu in India

Second, rich Western countries have to date done precious little to help India in its desperate hour of need.

The US initially blocked the export of basic materials needed in the production of the vaccines.

The support has been paltry by comparison with the amount of help now needed in terms of PPE, basic medical equipment and oxygen. For its own ideological reasons, as the Times of India reports, the Modi government has so far refused offers of help from China.

It should be remembered that the Tory government has recently slashed the international aid budget.

NGOs and charities report that this is already having dire consequences for clean water programmes, family planning support and children's education in a large number of extremely poor countries.

In Parliament, I am trying to get those cuts restored immediately for at least the duration of the pandemic, and directed towards those countries at the centre of the global upsurge in cases, starting with India.

Third, and perhaps most disgraceful of all is that it is the same rich Western countries which have blocked the joint Indian and South African initiative at the World Trade Organisation to waive patent rights on vaccines.

This would mean that far cheaper, generic vaccines could be produced on a sufficiently large scale and made available to poorer countries.

Instead, the same governments in North America and Western Europe, including this country, who have allowed their own populations to die in huge numbers have also sided with the big pharmaceutical companies in blocking the cheaper vaccines. This really is a case of putting profits before people's lives.

This veto while people are dying in huge numbers must end. The British government should also restore the funds it previously cut from the international aid budget. The slogan that "No-one is

safe until we are all safe" is literally true.

Unfortunately, the pandemic now seems to follow a classic international and historical pattern of ravaging the poorest countries.

Previously the main victims globally were the poor people (including disabled people,

black and Asian people and the lowest-paid workers) living in rich countries. Now the virus is ravaging poor countries.

We need a people's vaccine, where supplies are made plentiful, cheap and shared equally throughout the world.

As the World Health Organisation said, it would be a moral catastrophe to do otherwise.

In addition, it is in our own self-interest, as a virus freely circulating anywhere is a threat everywhere, despite the success of the vaccine rollout in a small number of countries, including Britain.

Even these measures would not resolve the crisis. Plentiful supplies of both oxygen and vaccines are desperately required.

But by themselves will not stop the virus either spreading or mutating. Every country that successfully adopted a maximum suppression policy did so with a short, strict lockdown followed by a vigorous system of test, trace and supported isolation.

No country that achieved zero Covid did so relying mainly or solely on vaccination.

Here, the Prime Minister is in difficulties because it is reported that he said he would "let the bodies pile high in their thousands" rather than impose a third lockdown.

The subsequent nonsense about wallpaper, mobile phones and attacks on Carrie Symonds is simply designed as a distraction.

Whatever the merits of the claim, we know now that Boris Johnson allowed both; the bodies did pile higher in their thousands after he is alleged to have made those remarks, and he was forced into a third lockdown.

Tragically, another 80,000 people have died since that time. The bodies did pile higher.

As Johnson is in charge, there really is no-one else to blame for this catastrophic

It is long overdue that all those politicians who allowed this enormous death toll to happen should be held to account, starting with the Prime Minister.

■ Diane Abbott is Labour MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington and was shadow home secretary from 2016 to 2020.



Demand a new normal

People's Assembly national organiser RAMONA MCCARTNEY on why you should get ready to march for a new normal on June 26

devastation caused by a Tory government on working people's lives in the past year would have once been thought beyond belief.

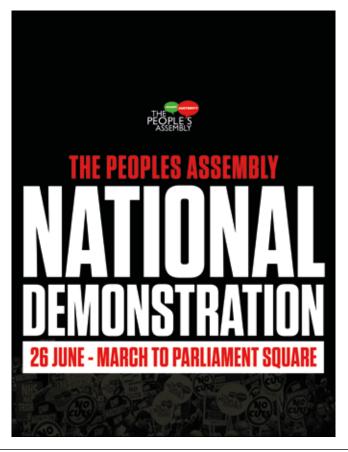
More than 120,000 people have died of Covid-19 and many more suffer the terrible mental and physical health effects of

The Prime Minister thinks nothing of redecorating his flat at a cost of £200,000, or of creating a media centre which will remain unused for £2.6 million.

But he refuses to give nurses and other public-sector workers a decent pay rise, was prepared to see school kids go hungry rather than have free school meals in the holidays, and justifies miserly levels of sick pay for those who get ill.

These are some of the issues which will be raised at the People's Assembly demonstration in London on June 26.

Just days after, hopefully, the lockdown ends. It is already gathering wide support and will bring together representa-



ment in Britain, determined that we will not be going back to the old normal.

We entered into this pandemic with public services that have been stripped to the bone from years of deliberate defunding and cuts.

The cuts and privatisation agenda has carried on during the pandemic and it is clear that this Tory government has failed to protect the people from the worst health and economic impacts of this virus.

Millions have lost their jobs and livelihoods and there have been thousands of unnecessary and excess deaths because the priority of this Tory government has been to save private profit at the expense of the health and economic needs of ordinary people.

In 2020 there was a 95 per cent increase in people claiming universal credit and millions more have lost their jobs or been furloughed since the start of this year.

Profitable private companies are getting away with using brutal methods including fire millions of workers down into

We have one of the highest coronavirus death tolls in the world and the People's Assembly is clear that this government is to blame for this.

Its pandemic strategy amounted to too little, too slowly and too late. Boris Johnson's statement that he would rather see "bodies piled high in their thousands" than consent to a third lockdown says it all.

Not one company has been prosecuted for Covid-19 health and safety breaches that have led to workers falling ill and dying from coronavirus.

Ordinary people including NHS workers, public-sector workers, private-sector workers in areas such as retail and distribution, the unemployed and the disabled, are being forced to bear the cost of this pandemic. We will not just stand by and allow this to happen.

An eyewatering £37 billion has been given to big business for systems that have failed including test, track and trace and the levels of corruption and rottenness at the heart of government are now being exposed for all to see.

Enough is enough and we demand that those who hold public office are fully accountable to the people. We also demand that anyone engaged in criminality is subjected to the full force of the law.

We are facing stark choices in this country: do we want the continuation of privatisation. corporate greed, corruption, and repeated attacks on the living standards of working people, or do we want a "new normal" where we see proper investment in public services, a fully funded and publicly owned health service, decent housing for all, and jobs which are well paid and secure? The answer should be clear

but we know the Tories will not concede these things - we will have to fight to win them.

Assemble 12 noon outside the BBC Portland Place, London and we will march to Parliament.

The key demands of the demonstration are as follows:

- Renationalise key services
- Decent housing for all
- Sack the corrupt politiciansProperly funded, fully pub-
- licly owned nhs ■ End the marketisation of
- education ■ Act now! Tackle the climate
- emergency
- Safe workplaces, save jobs
- End fire and rehire
- Fully funded social care
- \blacksquare End institutional racism ■ Kill the police, crime, sen-
- tencing and courts Bill

It is not a binary choice between independence and the Tory status quo — we need to defend devolution from Westminster and fight for a fairer, greener, socialist future as equal partners with the rest of the UK, writes **BETH WINTER MP**

Wales needs radical federalism

EVOLUTION is not "academic' matter – it has very real consequences for people in Wales. We have a lot to be proud of: for the last 22 years Wales has had a Labour-led government which has retained a largely publicly owned NHS and maintained free prescriptions.

In 2015 our Wellbeing of Future Generations Act encouraged the bill allowing 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in Welsh elections. Wales is also developing an inclusive, largely foundational, economy taking a social partnership approach, promoting fair work and safeguarding workers' rights.

Our 2017 Trade Union (Wales) Act gives further protection to workers in Wales in devolved

This is, however, being done against the background of serious underfunding of Wales over decades and a Tory government determined to ride roughshod over the devolution settlement and recentralise power in Westminster.

Brexit legislation and the Internal Market Act undermine the devolved nations, trying to spark a race to the bottom and threaten the high standards on workers' rights, agriculture and the environment that we hold dear in Wales.

It comes as no surprise that Welsh government has stated its intention to take legal action against the UK government on the Internal Market Act.

Westminster's attempts to bypass the Senedd with the Levelling Up and Community Renewal funding further exposes their contempt for devolution.

The process is a complete shambles. Funding is limited, not properly targeted, excludes



deprived areas and shows their complete lack of understanding of the real priorities for us in Wales.

There is a clear appetite for change in Wales with a growing movement for independence. Membership of the pro-independence group, Yes Cymru, has ballooned from 2,000 to over 17,000 over the past 12 months - many of them young people – fuelled in part by the UK government's disregard for the devolved nations as well as the brutal impact of austerity on Wales.

To date the debate has been dominated by two opposing and ill-defined standpoints: independence versus the sta-

A third option, called "radical federalism" is gaining traction which I, along with many in the Labour Party in Wales including the First Minister Mark Drakeford, support.

At its core lies a commitment to the decentralisation of power with the aim of delivering power, wealth and opportunity back into the hands of people and communities, underpinned by the core values of democracy, fairness, justice, climate stability and equality.

It is fundamentally important that this is underpinned by socialist values. It isn't just about the redistribution of political power - it must also be about the redistribution of economic power. Greater devolution should be about enabling us to build a society where no child goes hungry, no mother has to choose between heating and eating.

But I differ from the proindependence argument that says "if Wales is poor it's after centuries of being part of the Union." That, in and of itself, is too simplistic a response.

Wales, and Scotland and regions in England, including people in parts of the wealthier south-east, are poor because we live in a society that puts profit before people and works for the benefit of the few not the many. Considering how we achieve

change is essential. We need to grasp the nettle and explore and discuss the options before us and what is best for the people of Wales.

While for me retaining an equal partnership of nations within the UK is the way forward, maintaining the unity of workers and promoting progressive policies on, for example, the economy and the environment across the UK, the debate must be an open and inclusive one, which builds a movement for change.

We need to reach out and engage with a diverse range of political, civic and progressive organisations to develop a new reform agenda for a future radical-federal UK.

Underpinning this must be our commitment to stand up and campaign against the damaging policies of this regressive Tory government. We need that clear, radical red action now more than ever as we fight to give future generations across the UK a fairer, greener, socialist future.

■ Beth Winter is MP for Cynon Valley.

Britain's communists prepare for biggest electoral campaign in many generations

HAT we are fielding numbers of candidates unprecedented in recent decades is no accident.'

Robert Griffiths, general secretary of the Communist Party of Britain (CPB), believes that the number of seats being contested on May 6 is the direct result of the party being the only viable alternative to the increasing economic, environmental and social destruction that defines the capitalist sys-

The party is actively campaigning in over 40 seats for the Scottish Parliament, Senedd, London Assembly and various English county and district elections.

"The latest edition of our programme – Britain's Road to Socialism (BRS) - has struck a real chord with many militant working-class voters, especially the young who face insecure jobs, expensive and substandard housing and public services being decimated before their eyes.'

Griffiths believes that the reception to the BRS is the main explanation for the enormous and ongoing increase in members both of the party and the Young Communist League since 2019.

This in turn has fuelled the number of activists keen to use the forthcoming elections as an opportunity to promote the CPB's practical yet radical solutions to society's deeply entrenched problems.

"People respect the fact that our national and local manifestos are not one-off pieces of electioneering, but are practical applications of the BRS to PAUL SIMON speaks to some of the 40-plus communist candidates about their policies, their campaigning methods and their reception from the public

current real-world issues facing the British working class."

The CPB is campaigning under the slogan "capitalism is the problem – socialism is the solution," with a policy platform drawing out the stark choices between the realities of capitalism and the socialist alternatives.

Manifesto headlines include a substantial increase in public investment in housing, transport, R&D and sustainable energy, a shorter working week with no loss of pay, an above-inflation pay rise for all the public-sector workers who protected us during the coronavirus crisis and a rise in the National Living Wage to £10.40 an hour (two-thirds of median male earnings) rather than £8.91, a cap on rents and no foreclosure on home owners.

CPB's innovative approach to campaigning has also drawn praise from many quarters, building on the party's recent "generational" leap to virtual meetings and events developed throughout last year.

Andy Chaffer, the party's elections campaign head, described the situation this way: "The work that developed within the party to deliver the centenary celebrations in 2020 is now being enhanced for the election campaign in 2021.

"IT and creative comrades are now well tuned into making the party's public materials look stylish and eye-catching,

whilst also being immediately identifiable as from the Communist Party.

"The backroom IT work is allowing comrades across Britain to share ideas and information and there are weekly online meetings to support candidates and agents in their individual campaigns.

'This election campaign is the first that has fully utilised social media and the reach of this is being seen by candidates. The campaign has enthusiastically embraced modern campaigning, but there is a still a desire and willingness to be speaking to the electorate on the doorstep or at a rally when this is allowed."

Reports from the electoral front line show both the enthusiasm of the party's candidates and the positive response they are receiving from actual and virtual doorsteps.

Andrea Burford, who is standing in Leicester's North Evington ward, reflected: "I decided to stand because I feel that the community need an alternative to the mainstream parties.

"After years of austerity measures and representatives who do not campaign or fight against these measures on behalf of the electorate. I see this as an extension of my activism and where I can directly represent our com-

In the Motherwell and Wishaw constituency for the Scottish Parliament, candidate Daniel Lambe is upbeat as to unambiguously socialist polithe interest of the local press and I've been offered opportunities to write my comments for the papers about my campaign.

"Myself and my comrades have been out leafleting during recent weekends which has led to some messages on the Communist Party website from people who are keen to get involved. Even more, this has led to some people in Motherwell and Wishaw being interested in joining the party, which is really exciting.

Lorraine Douglas, one of nine London candidates, is keen to emphasise the sheer scale of the party's electoral effort.

This is the largest number of candidates the CPB has stood in London for decades - and is the most diverse, with four women, three Young Communist League members, including the London secretary and national chair: a black candidate and two from the London European diaspora.

"London has the highest unemployment rate in the country and have lost the highest number of jobs, with retail, leisure and hospitality particularly hard-hit - all sectors that employ large numbers of women and young people.

"Communists are calling for a reversal of public-sector cuts and for investment in youth services, apprenticeships and jobs. We need to see investment in the emergency services; policing that protects rather than oppresses working-class communities, and a restoration of the ambulance and fire services to previous levels."

The East will be red

Nowhere more clearly shows the renewed vigour of the Communist Party than the mobilisation of effort and energy by its eastern district for the local

District secretary Phil Katz said: "The east of England is normally written off as one big Tory stronghold. Yet the region suffers as badly as others in terms of expensive and substandard housing, insecure jobs, poor public transport, environmental degradation and an education system that fails working-class students at

In spite of no communists having stood in the area for generations, the party is field-ing three highly respected activists this time around: Mark Jones (Felixstowe Coastal) and sitting CPB town councillor Darren Turner (Bury St Edmunds Tower) for Suffolk County Council and Marcus Kearney (High Town) for a Luton Borough Council byelection.

Construction worker Mark Jones explained that "the party has impressively pooled its expertise together to produce well thought-out, hard-hitting leaflets and social media content that speaks directly to long-neglected working-class voters.

"We've also secured some really positive coverage from the regional media – showing that the Communist Party can cut through to a mass audi-

The response seems to be vindicating this approach.

"Working-class voters like our programme - because it is unashamedly for the working class, by the working class."

All three candidates have shaken up the other parties by their co-ordinated and radical demands, including for disused shops and malls to be bought into public ownership for community and youth, music and arts, advice and guidance centres, with spaces for local independent craft-based retailing.

Online May Day celebrations

Morning Star readers still have time to register to join CPB and Young Communist League election candidates and international guests to celebrate International Workers' Day.

Starting at 6pm today, the event promises to be an inspiring reflection on past workingclass achievements and struggles and an opportunity for activists to hear how the message of a renewed Communist Party is being received by hardpressed communities.

Steve Handford who is standing in the Heaton ward of Newcastle City Council said, 'It's our time now. The elites had their go and what a mess they've made of things. The CPB will transform society for the common good, so that every day the workers win.'

- To register: tinyurl.com/May-DayLaunch.
- Paul Simon is chair of the Eastern District of the Communist





SOCIALIST AMBITION: CPB candidates for the May 6 elections (from left to right) Mark Jones, Akira Allman, Judith Cazorla Rodenas and Daniel Lambe



Stop the US-Ukraine war on Donbass and Russia

OR seven years now, the rightwing government of Ukraine, supported by the US and other Western powers, has been at war with the people of the independent Donetsk and Lugansk republics in the Donbass region of eastern Europe.

The people of Donetsk and Lugansk live under a brutal military blockade imposed by Ukraine and its Western allies. Some 14,000 people have been killed, according to the UN.

On March 22, a 71 year-old pensioner was killed by sniper fire near the capital of Donetsk.

On April 3, in Aleksandrovskoye, Donetsk, a Ukrainian military drone strike killed five-year-old Vladik Shikhov and wounded his 66-year-old grandmother.

On April 4, another Ukrainian drone strike wounded a civilian in Nikolaevka, Lugansk.

Many members of the antifascist People's Militia have also been killed while defending residents.

Since January, Ukraine has been building up its military forces on the front line of the conflict. It uses prohibited weapons, targets civilians, schools and homes in violation of international law and regional ceasefire agreements.

Battalions of troops affiliated with neonazi organisations have been sent to the region, replacing regular Ukrainian army troops. But the Ukrainian and US governments and In a joint statement, several solidarity organisations demand justice for the victims of the 2014 Odessa Massacre, an end to attacks on the people of Donetsk and Lugansk and the end of Nato-led aggression towards Russia

mainstream media blame Donetsk and Lugansk for taking steps to defend themselves and threaten Russia for pledging to protect the people there if Ukraine invades.

Meanwhile, workers of all nationalities across Ukraine suffer repression, joblessness and price hikes while their government sells off the country's resources to Wall Street.

The US government, under both the Trump and Biden administrations, desperately wants to stop the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project that would allow Germany and other Western European countries to purchase Russian gas.

Children, the elderly and other civilians in Donetsk and Lugansk are considered expendable targets by Kiev and Washington as they try to provoke a crisis to give them an excuse to further Nato's military expansion and punish Russia.

In recent days, the US and Nato have been warning of a Russian military build-up near the Ukrainian border, but never mention that one of the largest US-led military exercises in decades has begun and will run until June: Defender

Europe 2021, with 28,000 troops from 27 countries operating in a dozen countries from the Balkans to the Black Sea, which borders both Russia and Ukraine.

This is where the real danger of war is coming from: we say no.

ur joint call for international actions is related to another horrific tragedy.

May 2, 2021, marks the seventh anniversary of the Odessa Massacre, when a massive mob led by openly fascist organisations murdered scores of people at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa, Ukraine.

In February of that year, a right-wing coup backed by the US government overthrew the elected president of Ukraine, unleashing neonazi organisations against anyone thought to oppose the coup, especially Ukrainian citizens of Russian ancestry

It was that coup — rarely mentioned by any Western media in their coverage of the region's current rising tensions that led the majority-ethnic Russian people of Donetsk and Lugansk to declare themselves independent from Ukraine.

For the same reason, the majority-Russian ethnic people of Crimea held a referendum in which they decided to reunite with Russia, which they had once been a part of. It was the right-wing coup that precipitated these events, not "Russian aggression."

On May 2, in Odessa, a multiethnic city on the Black Sea, progressives had gathered outside the House of Trade Unions on Kulikovo square and were gathering signatures on a petition demanding that the Odessa province have the right to elect its own governor, rather than be appointed by the new rightwing central government.

Without warning, they were attacked by a much larger, fascist-led mob. They retreated into the five-storey trade union building, which the mob then set on fire.

At least 42 people died from the flames, smoke inhalation or from being beaten to death after jumping from the building's windows to escape the To date, not one person has been convicted of participating in the massacre, even though there are scores of cellphone videos of the events — just google "May 2, 2014, Odessa."

Further, the Ukrainian government has never allowed an independent international investigation of the tragedy.

Meanwhile, the US government continues to support both the Ukrainian government and the neonazi organisations that backed the coup and led the attack in Odessa.

Some of these organisations, including the Azov Battalion, have linked up with US white supremacist groups, providing them with paramilitary training.

Each year on May 2, despite the threat of attacks by the fascists, Odessans gather at the site of the massacre to pay their respects to those who died there.

And each year, anti-fascist organisations throughout the world hold local actions to show their support and to press the Odessans' demand for an international investigation into the tragedy.

The people of the US, Britain,

the countries of the EU or any other country would gain nothing from a war with Russia, the only purpose of which would be to promote the profits of Big Oil, corporations and banks.

We are the ones who would pay the price, in blood and resources.

We don't want US troops or any other soldiers to be sent to fight and die in another needless conflict and we cry out against the US proxy regime in Ukraine killing our sisters and brothers in Donetsk and Lugansk.

In solidarity with the progressive people of Ukraine, we demand the following:

- An independent international investigation into the Odessa Massacre of May 2, 2014. An end to support by the governments of the US and other Western powers for the neonazi organisations such as Right Sector, Svoboda Party, C-14 militias and the Azov Battalion.
- An end to military support for the Ukrainian government in its war on the people of Donbass, who refuse to be dominated by the right-wing government.
- Pressure the Ukrainian government to outlaw the neonazi organisations in Ukraine.
- Ban entry to the US or countries of the European Union and their allies by any members of Ukrainian neonazi organisations.

An international investigation into the financing of Ukrainian neonazi organisations by Ukrainian official leadership, with the imposition of international sanctions on those found guilty.

Further, we call on all progressive organisations around the world to hold vigils, rallies, public meetings and other events on May 2 to raise the above demands.

■ This statement was initiated by the US organisations Odessa Solidarity Campaign, Solidarity with Novorossiya & Antifascists in Ukraine, the Union of Political Emigrants and Political Prisoners of Ukraine and others — visit www. odessasolidaritycampaign.org.









troops affiliated with neonazi organisations have been sent to the region, replacing regular Ukrainian army troops

Battalions of

Bristol TUC



sends a message of solidarity to all workers.

We salute brave Trade Unionists in Latin America, India and other places where representing workers is dangerous.

Sheila Caffrey Suzy Cheeke Sofy Crew President Vice-President Equalities

Simon Crew Secretary

Medway TUC

MTUC says Kill the Bill defend the right to protest!



Bedford & District TUC

Solidarity with all in struggle against fire and rehire

Covid is a virus – not an excuse to cut wages

Mike Cattell Secretary

Graham Tranguada President



Hackney Trades Council

Sending all workers in struggle May Day Greetings in the ongoing fight for justice, equality, and a living wage of £15 an hour. In memory of Mick Gosling and Mick Cotter stalwarts of the Trades Council who sadly passed away in the TRADES UNION past 12 months.

Islington TUC

Sending solidarity greetings to all facing threats from employers and landlords

We will help to build the movement needed for a better future

Mick Gilgunn Chair

George Sharkey Secretary

Slough & District TUC

Decent pay rise for all key workers.

End fire and rehire. SOLIDARITY TO ALL!



Edinburgh and **Lothians May Day**

Virtual Rally: 1-2pm

Speakers: STUC general secretary Roz Foyer, Gaby Jeliazkov (Just Transitions), Kathy Jenkins (Zero Covid Scotland), Sheena Wellington (musician & campaigner)

Music: Calum Baird and Penny Stone

Compere: Susan Morrison

Search **Edinburgh and Lothians May Day** on Facebook

Or visit: edinburghandlothians mayday.wordpress.com





Sheffield Trade Union Council

sends May Day greetings

to workers of the world struggling for fair pay, safe conditions, and a better life for them and their families.

PPE now for all front-line workers!

We need strong trade unions now more than





On this historic May Day, the **Belfast Trades Council sends** greetings to workers of the world.

This pandemic reinforces the fact that governments in capitalist society are but committees of the rich to manage the affairs of the capitalist class -James Connolly

The fight continues





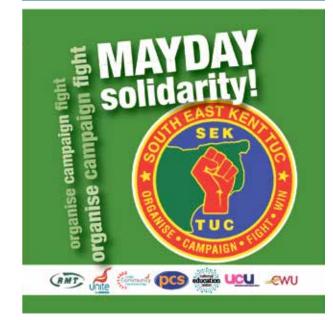
Build the Mass Movement for the New Normal



NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE TUC

sends May Day greetings of solidarity to workers evervwhere.

Capitalism has failed! Socialism is the future!



Waltham Forest Trades Council



Waltham Forest Trades Council sends May Day greetings to all workers in struggle. We say:

- Pay the health workers 15% now – end the pay freeze
- End violence against women
- Fight institutional racism
- Kill The Bill defend our right to protest
- Say no to fire and rehire

Leeds TUC





Kill the Bill

Exeter and District TUC

Sends May Day greetings The struggle continues







Coventry TUC sends solidarity to the workers of the world fighting austerity and Covid on this, our International Workers' Day



The global women's struggle - and its role in winning peace and socialism

LIZ PAYNE introduces the women who will speak in the international section of next Saturday's conference, Sisterhood. Socialism and Struggle — Communist Women Rising

UR panellists at Sisterhood, Socialism and Struggle will join us from North and South America, Africa and Asia.

Their lives, including decades-long roles in fighting against sexism and for women's rights are in themselves an inspiration.

So too are the leading positions and responsibilities in the movement they now hold and about which they will tell us more on the day.

But beyond this, we will have the opportunity to learn from national and international struggles, in societies and environments shaped by colonialism and racism, imperialism and war, all of which have blighted the lives and potential of millions of women and their families.

Most importantly, we will come to a better understanding of the most effective ways for us to stand in solidarity with our sisters, including by challenging the aggressive and predatory policies and interven-tions across the globe of our government and those with wealth and power in Britain, as well as supporting campaigns for equality, justice and peace worldwide.

Socorro Gomes is a leading member of the Communist Party of Brazil and is renowned in the international movement as a campaigner against imperialism and war and is a voice for peace and justice.

She has been president of the World Peace Council since 2008 and knows, perhaps better than anyone, the importance of the struggle of women worldwide for peace, without which they and their families cannot escape poverty and oppression.

Gomes will also speak about the situation in Brazil, where, as she said in a recent interview, the people are "living from one nightmare to another"

under an ultra-right government, installed with the backing of the US and supported by local reactionaries who never accepted that the people could come to power, as they did between 2003 and 2016.

are the greatest victims of the economic crisis and disastrous neoliberal policies, made worse by the pandemic, in a society in which "corrosive misogynistic prejudice" is deeply rooted.

Women's hard-won gains are ing support networks and new ways of organising.

Annie Raja is a member of the national executive of the Communist Party of India and from 2005 has been general secretary of the multimillion-Indian Women (NFIW).

Its membership is drawn

National Assembly of Women Women's International Demo-

for her uncompromising stance for peace, justice and women's rights.

Speaking to Liberation in 2020, Raja told how India maintains its patriarchal feudal attitude, reinforced by religious teachings which peddle reactionary yet powerful stereotypes of women and their place in a society in which misogyny and abuse are the norm.

New legislation on basic constitutional rights has excluded millions and the biggest victims are women and children.

But the struggle for women's rights and against endemic

Now, Gomes says, women

under systematic attack. But women are coming together in their communities and form-

They are determined to take their struggle for rights and justice forward.

strong National Federation of

from a wide spectrum, including peasants, workers, professionals, artists and intellectuals. The NFIW is, like the

in Britain, affiliated to the cratic Federation, of which Raja is vice-president for Asia. She is revered the world over

attacks, including on her home.

in the past two years.

violence and abuse is strong, organised and determined.

Liz Rowley joins us from Toronto. She was elected as leader (the most senior position) of the Communist Party of Canada in 2016 and was the first woman to hold this office.

he is a veteran of many labour and people's struggles since the late 1960s. She joined the party at 17 in 1967 and was a Young Communist League organiser

Two decades later she became the leader of the party in Ontario. She has fought many local and federal elections and campaigned on women's rights and anti-racism.

Her stance against the Ku Klux Klan resulted in an arson

Under her leadership, the Communist Party of Canada has doubled its membership 66

Most importantly, we will come to a better understanding of the most effective ways for us to stand in solidarity with our sisters

Rowley says that she is looking forward to speaking about problems facing women and working people in Canada in conditions of pandemic and deep economic crisis.

However, most importantly, she wants to tell us about their mounting fierce resistance.

Jenny Schreiner is full-time head of the secretariat of the South African Communist Party (SACP), which she describes as "a dream job."

In the apartheid era, Schreiner was a cadre of the ANC, MK and SACP working underground.

She was elected to the party's central committee in 1991 and to its Politburo in 2012. She has been a gender activist in student politics, women's organisations, government and the SACP for five decades and has researched and written prolifically on the theory and history of women's struggles for social emancipation, including on trade unions and the women's question and rape as a human security issue.

We are particularly pleased to

have Schreiner with us at a time

when the SACP is taking new

initiatives to develop women

cadres and place the organisa-

tion of women at the centre of

ten in African Communist that

this commitment must be to

the eradication of patriarchal

oppression and to the empow-

erment of black working-class

women within the women's

organisations themselves and

within society - until gender

equality becomes a lived reality.

Liz Payne is chair of the Com-

Schreiner has recently writ-

its strategy going forward.

The event begins at 9.45am on Saturday May 8 and the international panel will take place at 1.30pm. We hope you will be able to join us for this unique opportunity to exchange ideas and explore new possibilities of working together internationally. To book your place visit tinyurl.com/sisterhoodsocialismstruggle.



Communist **Party**



South Devon **Branch**

MAY DAY 2021 GREETINGS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

South Devon CPB branch salutes working people worldwide. Oppose all imperialist wars. End this decrepit system of capitalism. End poverty, exploitation and racism. Fight for peace, justice, equality and a socialist future

Communist **Party**



Govan Branch

May Day Greetings

'Workers of the World, Unite!'

Communist Party of **Britain**



Oxfordshire & Berkshire

International Labour Day

Workers of all lands unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains!

oxford@communist-party.org.uk

Communist Party of **Britain**



MAY DAY GREETINGS

to all workers and their families, from SW England & Cornwall District Committee, Communist Party of Britain.

Ken Keable, Secretary Liz Payne, Chair

www.southwestcommunists.org.uk Facebook: South West Communists

Communist Party Newcastle &





Sends May Day Greetings

The problem is capitalism The solution is socialism



Communist Party of Britain





May Day Greetings To Our Comrades FKET Ziegenhals-Berlin & Hamburg

Communist Party of Britain



North London

Sending greetings on International Workers' Day to all workers, men and women, fighting for socialism and against the evils of capitalism

Unity is Strength

CPB

Civil Service/ PCS advisory group



conveys May Day greetings to Trade Unionists everywhere. Repeal anti-union laws! For strong collective rights in the workplace!

Communist Party of Britain



South West London

sends

MAY DAY GREETINGS

to all friends and comrades. Forward to Peace and Socialism!

Communist Party of Britain



Greater London East Branch

Sending May Day greetings and good health wishes to all comrades and friends, especially those who have proven to be essential workers

Communist Party of Britain



Coventry and Warwickshire

MAY DAY GREETINGS

- **I5% for NHS Workers**
- Kill the Bill
- Throw the Tories Out
- Forward to Socialism

Communist Party of Britain



Scotland

Scottish Communists call for building the extra-parliamentary class struggle

Communist **Party**



Swindon & Wiltshire Branch

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL WORKERS

Capitalism is the disease

Socialism is the cure

Communist **Party**



Northern District Committee

sends May Day greetings

Peace – jobs – public services – anti-imperialism

The problem is capitalism The future is socialism

Communist Party of **Britain**



Greater Midlands

Midlands Communists remember former Midlands Secretary

GRAHAM STEVENSON

who died on May Day 2020.

Carry on the struggle!



THE PARIS COMMUNE AT 150:

Still going strong and challenging digital capitalism

The spirit of 1871 lives on – and provides hope for working people and fear for today's global technology overlords, writes **DENNIS BROE**

ERE in Paris, where I live, we are now marking the 150th anniversary of the commune, identified by Karl Marx as perhaps the first workers' republic established in the history of humanity.

The commune lasted 71 days, beginning on March 18 1871, and ended in a violent repression during what was called the time of the cherries, of the budding of the cherry blossoms, in the bloody week of May 21 to 28.

The commune was a response by the Parisians to the end of a war that the emperor Louis Napoleon had waged to distract the French from the corruption and negligence that characterised the latter stage of the second empire.

The ill-fated war ended up uniting the German states under Otto Von Bismarck as the French military, hollowed out by years of corruption, was quickly defeated.

The German army then became an occupying army and laid siege to Paris, figuring to starve the city into submission.

The French ruling class, industrialists and remnants of the old aristocracy led by the emperor's minister Adolphe Thiers, left the city and fled to the former palace of the king at Versailles, where they would soon collaborate with the Germans to crush the commune.

Inside the city, a new form of government appeared, a direct democracy with elements of the national guard on its side and with the working people of the city behind it and engaged directly in carrying out reforms in health, education and an equal status for women.

Indeed, the face of the commune that has come down though history is that of the feminist Louise Michel, in the forefront of many of these reforms and, upon the downfall of the commune, exiled from France.

The commune defied the industrialists and issued proclamation after proclamation that pushed the government of Paris toward a workers' state.

Thiers and the German collaborators he represented were furious and finally, with the aid of the German army still encamped outside the city, moved to annihilate the rebel-

lion, which he did in perhaps the bloodiest week of state terrorism in French history, aside from the St Bartholomew's Day massacre of the Huguenots in 1572.

Row after row of these working people were lined up and shot. The most sacred place commemorating the commune is the Mur des Federes (Wall of the Federals), the wall of these victims inside the famous cemetery Pere Lachaise.

With the commune in ruins, its proponents either dead or exiled, Thiers then proclaimed the birth of the French Republic, ending forever the attempts to re-establish the monarchy after it had originally been overthrown in the French Revolution.

Indeed, French republicans now proclaim the commune as a founding moment in the establishing of a representative parliamentary democracy.

However, that bourgeois democracy, with the industrialists now firmly back in power, was erected on the bones and coffins of the Parisian citizens who instead had instituted a direct democracy in which the people made decisions together.

Battles over the memory of the commune continue to be

"

Bourgeois democracy was erected on the bones and coffins of the Parisian citizens who had instituted a direct democracy in which the people made decisions together



THE MOST SACRED PLACE: The Mur des Federes (Wall of the Federals) - the wall of the victims inside the famous cemetery Pere Lachaise

waged. Thiers is commemorated in the traditional French manner by having streets and squares named after him in many French cities and towns. However, there is no street or square that bears his name in Paris, the site of his bloody executions.

The Catholic church, attacked for its corruption by the commune as it was in the French Revolution, allied with the state to anoint the Church of Sacre Coeur, of the Sacred Heart, which overlooks the city and stands as a symbol of the triumph of the bourgeoise.

However, just below the church, in a way that suggests the old spectre of revolution is not dead, sits Louise Michele Square, with its commemoration of the commune's leading spirit.

Released to coincide with the 150th anniversary is a work by the French historian Michele Audin which claims that Thiers' accounting of the dead is vastly understated.

The official figure is over 6,000 casualties but, by checking cemetery records, this new book claims the figure is at least 15,000 and may have been as high as 20,000, with under-

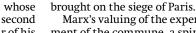
ground mass graves of the communards still being discovered in the 1920s in the building of a line of the Paris Metro.

The March 18 date was

celebrated with great fanfare but that celebration quickly gave way to its opposite as the country readies itself for the 200th anniversary in May of the death of Napoleon, a symbol of empire and conquest beloved by the right and

no friend of democracy, whose nephew, founder of the second empire named in honour of his uncle's self-proclaimed first empire, started the war that





Marx's valuing of the experiment of the commune, a spirit that is yet to be realised, points the way to why it remains at the same time a moment of hope for working people and a moment of fear for their new digital overlords whether they be Jeff Bezos's Amazon, Elon Musk's Tesla or Emmanuel Macron's start-up nation.

"The value of these great social experiments cannot be overrated. By deed instead of by argument, they have shown that production on a large scale and in accord with the behests of modern science, may be carried on without the existence of a class of masters: that to bear fruit, the means of labour need not be monopolised as a means of dominion over, and of extortion against, the labouring man [and woman]...; and that, like slave labour, like serf labour, hired labour is but a transitory and inferior form, destined to disappear before associated [or communal] labour plying its toil with a willing hand, a ready mind, and a joyous heart," wrote Marx in Inaugural Address of the International Working Men's Association.



WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY

A scattering of showers again, especially during the afternoon, with the odd heavier one remaining possible. Rather chilly, but light winds and occasional sunshine should help to offset this.

NEXT FEW DAYS

Sunshine and showers tomorrow before many parts have a wet and windy day on Monday, clearing back to sunshine and showers on Tuesday. Still chilly with some night frost.

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Tell us what you'd like to see more of in your paper! Email editorial@peoples-press.com

Fighting Fund with Keith Stoddart

YOU'VE RAISED:

£18,121

HAPPY May Day, brothers, sis-

ters and comrades - and you've

smashed the Fund target too.

thanks to the arrival of £1,498

yesterday taking us to £18,121.

the shortfall created by the pan-

demic stopping us supplying

papers to trade union offices,

conferences, public stalls and a

reduction in advertising sales.

A Chichester comrade sent

This really does help address

WE'VE BEATEN

OUR TARGET! WELL DONE!

£50 in memory of Willie Haines and Ladbroke Grove and the same sum arrived from Southampton, both with support for our horse-racing coverage.

Cheques came in from the Isle of Arran with best wishes to all and Market Harborough with £20. There was £100 to top up the tea fund, from Hinckley arrived £300, an Otley sister's £200 was "to make up for

missed opportunities for both selling and promoting the paper," £13 from Barnsley came with May Day greetings and from unknown locations we gratefully received two cheques for £20 and one for £50.

There was £10 from Manchester to remember George Abendstern and a £100 gift was to salute Monty Meth, Mike Pentelow, Andrew Dodgson, Eric Gordon and "keep our favourite paper in fighting trim.'

From Brampton we got a £5 postal order, from Barnsley £70 and from Wigan £15 with good wishes. An interesting pamphlet onthe Scottish Martyrs memorial in London arrived from Edinburgh with £50.

Thanks all. There will be more acknowledgements and April's final total on Monday.

Give by BACS...

Sort code 08-90-33, account 50505115, name PPFF

online...

morningstaronline.co.uk/ page/support-us

by phone...

9am - 4pm, 0778 0220 391

...or by post

Cheques to PPFF, 52 Beachy Rd, Bow, London E3 2NS

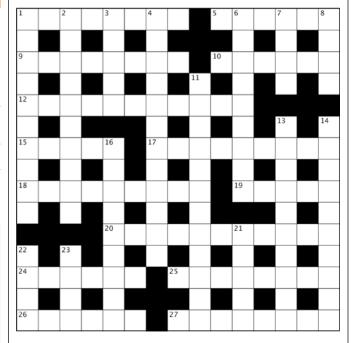
X Commie Chef

Roast new potatoes, Mediterranean-style

THIS is a very tasty light dish which can be served with a green salad and, if you like, some good crusty bread. Fennel seeds are available in health food shops but also in supermarkets, and if you're not familiar with them, I can recommend that you give them

a go. They have a strong, fragrant flavour, so you don't need much, and they won't break the bank. Disclaimer: whether anyone from the Mediterranean region has ever cooked anything like this, I have no idea. It's simply that it suggests the cuisine of somewhere warmer!

CROSSWORD 1,390 set by Alamet



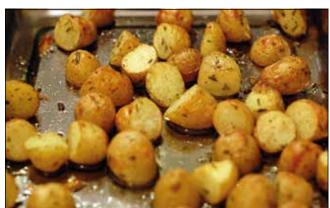
Ingredients

- 220g/8oz thinly sliced
- 220g/8oz very small new potatoes
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp chilli flakes
- 50g/2oz cherry or cocktail tomatoes, halved or quartered ■ 1 medium red pepper, seeds
- removed, cut into strips ■ 1/2 tsp fennel seeds ■ tsp mixed dried herbs (such
- as herbes de Provence) ■ 1 or 2 cloves garlic (to taste),
- thinly sliced
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

What to do

Preheat the oven 200°C/400F/#6. Cover a baking sheet with cooking parchment and spread the potatoes onto it. Bake for 45 minutes, then add the

mushrooms, tomatoes, red pepper, fennel seeds, garlic, chilli flakes, seasoning and dried herbs. Drizzle with olive oil and return to the oven for 30 minutes.



Pic: Su-lin/Creative Commons

ACROSS

- 1. Feeling international partners can go to court (8) 5. see 24
- 9. Red pen found after game with unlimited cash (8) 10. Wait, a licensee holds a kind of
- letter (6) 12. Survey junction on drowned
- valley where deer perhaps loses its 15. Love foundation bishop re-
- moved from fertile place (5) 17. I agree bun is spoiled by fruit
- 18. Cancellation of Look Back in Anger starting with piece for one
- working (9) 19. Form of tuberculosis in part flares up, ulcerated back (5) 20. Varying clout if aunt is about
- 24, 5. Cool hip clubs turn out to be where future cabinet ministers
- go (6,6) 25. Arm for reported trip to Italy
- by doctor (8) 26. Property condition (6)
- 27. Called for a time in 26 to set at

DOWN

- 1. Unthinking in a trial or at sea
- 2. Compliance with undersea assignment (10)
 3. States native half keeps name of
- old Peruvian (5) 4. Pore over corporation account
- to find acknowledgment of debt it intractable (12) 6. Teach criminal to send fat up to
- church (9) 7, 8. Oriole regularly unwell
- around large hazard to marine 11. Butter cake on top of cupboard with nuts out is hard to control
- 13. Almost avoid jail, accepting
- second of fines for failure of duty
- 14. Sound an earlobe's produced
- 16. Hide mineral from Scrooge (9) 21. States native half keeps 1 down for Muslim prince (5)
- 22. Each raised afterthought inside part of 6 (4) 23. Help sailor get to Egypt (4)
- Solution on Monday...

QUIZMASTER

with William Sitwell

TODAY'S QUESTIONS

- Which British sciencefiction writer wrote Dracula Unbound?
- The woodchuck is indigenous to which continent?
- How old is Jonathan Gibson, who this year became the voungest winner of Mastermind?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

- 1. The Kiel Canal belongs to which European country? Germany (it crosses Schleswig-Holstein)
- 2. Spa is the name of which English city's main railway station? **Bath (Bath Spa)**
- 3. The musk deer is indigenous to which continent?



WATERWAY: The Kiel Canal

DAILY SUDOKU (challenging)

5		6				8	7		
			1	8					
	9	8				2			
				4		7		8	
	3		5	2	8		6		
8		2		9					
		5				6	4		
				5	4				
	8	7				9		2	
Calutian an Mandau									

Solution on Monday...

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY CAMPAIGN

We demand the reinstatement of the crane registration and congratulate the Shrewsbury Pickets

For info on CSC, email Mick: mgilgunnross@yahoo.co.uk



May Day greetings to trade unionists everywhere.

Vote Labour on May 6.

End fire and rehire.

Frank Bagnall Dorothy Kilsby
Chair Secretary





Bracknell Unite Members send

Warmest May Day Greetings

to Socialists Everywhere!





The Workers' Stately Home wishes everyone a safe and happy May Day 2021 and welcomes you back to enjoy our beautiful grounds and to dine outdoors on our terrace.

We hope to see you soon. Open 10 til 4 every day.





Leeds & Wakefield Unite Community



Extend the £20 to all Benefits
Kill the Bill



Stop the Tories' Fraudulent Integrated Care System Proposals!

UNITE NW/11500 LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY BRANCH



No Cuts! No Privatisation! Defend the NHS!

Islington NEU



May Day Greetings

For children, For staff, For education

People before Profit

Newham Trades Council



May Day Greetings

Solidarity with all workers

Steve Hedley President

Jeanette Dye Secretary

Today we celebrate all workers, all over the world, Happy International Worker's Day from FBU Scotland

WE DON'T JUST FIGHT FIRE - WE FIGHT INJUSTICE TOO!



Executive Council Member: Chris McGlone Scottish Secretary: Denise Christie

Scottish (Acting) Chair: John McKenzie Scottish Treasurer: Seona Hart www.fbuscotland.org

HE DEMOCRATIC AND PROCESSIONAL VOICE OF EIREFIGHTERS ACROSS THE III

Scottish Left Review

We wish all our readers, supporters and subscribers a happy May Day in these challenging times for the left.

Please visit our websites to read, support and subscribe:

www.scottishleftreview.scot/

www.reidfoundation.scot/



Coventry & Warwickshire Unite Community



Sends May Day greetings 15% for NHS workers

www.unitetheunion.org/community

🖈 Morning Star

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'We work to become, not to acquire' Solidarity on **International Workers' Day** From all at East Midlands Fire Brigades Union





MONDAY MAY 3

11.00am: Assemble Shental

Gdns, S40 1LP

11.30am: March sets off

12.00pm: Rally at

Queens Park Bandstand

Please observe social distancing and wear appropriate face covering bit.ly/ChezzaMayDay2021

Sarah Woolley
Bakers Union (BFAWU)
General Secretary Tricia Gilby Rehana Azam

Secretary (public

Chris Peace Patrick Wakefield

MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY





The challenge of progressive federalism and labour movement mobilisation Round table: Thursday 13 May, 7pm, via Zoom

This round table brings together leading campaigners from Scotland, Wales, English regions and the trade union movement to discuss our country's constitutional status. It does so in the aftermath of the Scottish and Wales legislative elections in which issues of independence have come to the fore.

Speakers: Andrew Murray, Beth Winter MP, Jamie Driscoll (Mayor North Tyneside), Sean Griffin. Chair: Pauline Bryan, Labour Peer

Book here: www.democracy-neoliberalism.eventbrite.co.uk

Sat 8th May 9.45am - 5.15pm



Women Rising

This major event aims to put women's liberation at the heart of class struggle, and to explore how we should respond to the intensification of women's oppression under modern capitalism

Programme & Registration:

t.ly/jQJa



CELEBRATE MAY DAY ON-LINE

SATURDAY MAY 1 2021

JOIN LONDON MAY DAY FROM 10.00

speakers FRANCES O'GRADY TUC, DAVE WARD CWU, STEVE TURNER UNITE

International links - Links for Black Lives Matter and Environment/Just Transition LINKS TO EVENTS - IER EVENT AT 11.00 AND MARX MEMORIAL LIBRARY AT 14.30

Plus live links to local events happening across London

LONDON MAY DAY ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Resist → Repeal → Replace

On international workers' day join us to celebrate trade union victories, organise for resistance against authoritarianism and plan for a fundamental change in workers' rights in Britain.



Speakers: Lord John Hendy QC, Prof Keith Ewing Andy McDonald MP, Shadow Sec. of State for Employment Rights Eileen Turnbull (Shrewbury24 Campaign), Matt Wrack (FBU), Dave Ward (CWU) Sarah Wooley (Bakers Union), Paddy Lillis (USDAW), Kate Ewing, Mick Rix (GMB), Yvette Williams (Grassroots Black Left), Andy Green (CTUF), Go North West Buses,

Strike Map UK, Trade union reps from Australia and USA

11:00am - 12:30pm - Saturday 1st May 2021 Book here: https://tinyurl.com/UnionPower2021



Employment Rights





















TV Weekly Preview

MOTHER OF GOD: Superintendent Ted Hastings. Below: Suspicions have been growing over DCS Patricia Carmichael

Sunday

Line of Duty, 9pm BBC1
THE moment we've all been waiting for (well, not me, to be honest, but I'll defer to the ratings): the final episode of the sixth series of the high-octane, fast-paced tale of bent copper catand-mouse,

with more twists than a big bag of fusilli.

Will the honest bobbies prevail? Will we finally find out who "H" is? Will the redoubtable Ted at last be able to tend to his allotment in peace?

Film

Saturday Citizen Kane, 2.30pm BBC2

A chance to see Orson Welles's groundbreaking film about a media tycoon who runs for

elected office.

A classic tale of hubris and nemesis, it is somehow fitting that the film was — and perhaps still is — a firm favourite of one Donald Trump.

Sunday Skyfall, 8pm ITV

Not a Bond fan by any means, but this one — the last in which Dame Judi Dench appears as M, alas — is pretty good. Mostly for the shootout at

Mostly for the shootout at the Bond family's Highland estate, looked after by a gruff Scotsman played by Albert Finney, who wields a shotgun at the invading hordes.

Documentary

Monday

The Buildings That Fought Hitler, 8pm Yesterday

Creech St Michael, Crimson

Hill, Knowle St Giles — wonderfully English names for places that were designated as strongholds for Britain's defences should the Nazis cross the Channel and invade Britain during the second

Rob Bell explores the pill boxes that still scatter the south coast of England, as well as examining the plans that were designed to be put in place did Hitler decide

world war.

Sealion.

Tuesday The Violence Paradox, 9pm

implement Operation

Steven Pinker, cognitive psychologist, linguist, and popular science author, is a bit up himself, but he's done a fair amount of work to prove that humans are actually getting less violent as the years roll by — the subject of this two-part documentary.

All well and good, but peaceable humans can, and do, destroy their natural environment, so maybe the curly-haired egghead should turn his prodigious attention to that, instead.

Drama

Saturday Keeping Faith, BBC1

The lyrical tale of a Welsh woman who embarks on an epic emotional adventure after the disappearance of her husband.

with Tom King

Set predominantly in Carmarthenshire, the scenery is often breathtaking, and the soundtrack is sublime.

Sport

All weekend Snooker: The World Championship, 10am BBC2

Start here and you can't go wrong. The weekend's bumper coverage begins with the end of both semi-finals, kicking off with the third and penultimate session of Kyren Wilson v Shaun Murphy. You'll be prompted to switch to Stuart Bingham v Mark Selby on BBC 1 (1.15pm), and so on and so forth until we reach the final — which begins tomorrow at 1pm on BBC2 and ends on Monday.

It's a bit like a marathon, except you get to sit still for several days instead.

⋉ What to miss



Sunday: Prince Charles Inside the Duchy of Cornwall, 8pm ITV3

How the future king has managed to build up his billion-pound business, including the "delicious" biscuits, over the course of 50 years.

Not everyone could do it – you need vast estates and a huge amount of money, for a start.

Yesterday's sudoku

4	5	1	9	2	7	6	3	8
7	9	2	3	8	6	1	5	4
8	3	6	4	5	1	9	2	7
9	4	3	8	1	5	7	6	2
1	6	7	2	4	9	5	8	3
5	2	8	7	6	3	4	1	9
6	7	9	1	3	2	8	4	5
3	1	4	5	9	8	2	7	6
2	8	5	6	7	4	3	9	1





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Morning Star



Mihaly Biro, Hungary: Soviet Republic May Day poster



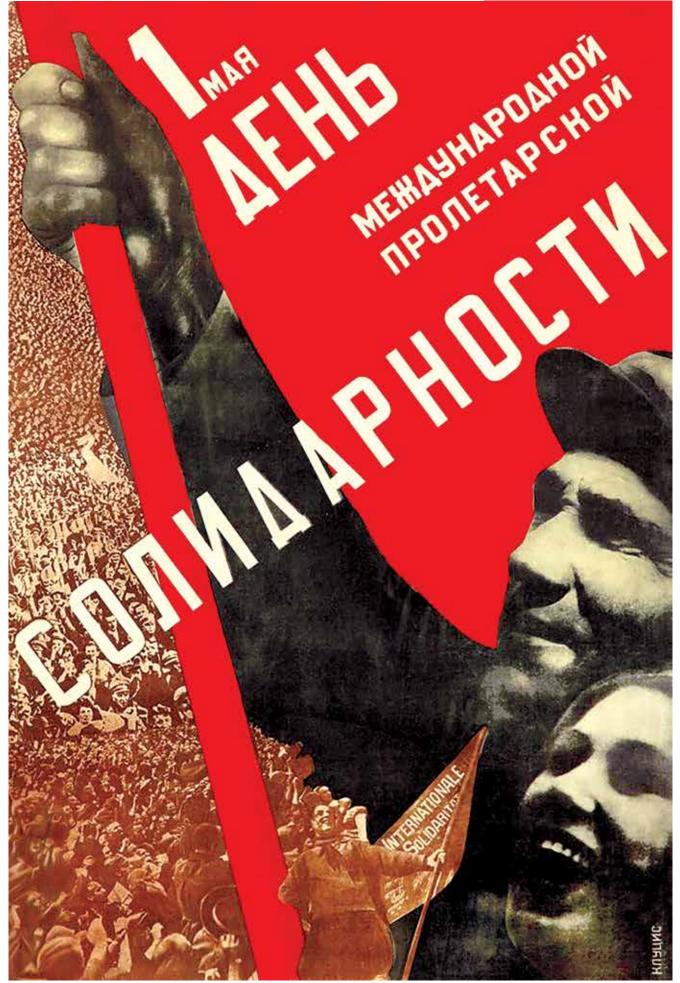
Jose Briones/Spain: 'Thanks from the graphic workers union to the glorious republican air force'



Zvi Berger: May 1 poster for Histadrut (General Federation of Labour, Israel) in the Palestine Poster Project Archive, 1943



Unknown designer, GDR: 1 May and struggle



Gustav Klutsis: May 1 day of international proletarian solidarity, 1930

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT YOUR CHAINS

That slogan from The Communist Manifesto by Marx and Engels is one of the rallying cries celebrating May Day - International Workers' Day – and the historic struggles and gains made by workers and the labour movement globally over generations of class struggle.

As a commemoration, May Day's origins lie in the Haymarket Massacre, the bombing of a peaceful rally in support of Chicago workers striking for an eighthour working day in 1886.

Since then, inspiring poster images such as these reflect a spirit of optimism and political resolution, demonstrating May Day's growing significance internationally and the message that "the workers united can never be defeated."



Unknown designer, Soviet Union: May 1, day of workers' international solidarity, c1960s



Stanislaw Pudelko, Poland: The working class the mainstay of peace in the world, 1986



Giladi Goffer: May 1 poster for Histadrut, 1959



Falco, Cuba: May Day 2017



MAY DAY HISTORY

Compelled to turn the world upside down

On May 1, 1820, five of the Cato Street radical conspirators were hanged for attempting to kill the British Cabinet.

PETER LINEBAUGH recommends a gripping new account of their doomed attempt to overthrow a brutal existing order

HE Cato Street
Conspiracy —
named after the
meeting place
where the conspirators met near
Edgware Road in the West End
of London — was an attempt to
murder all the British Cabinet
ministers and the prime minister Lord Liverpool in 1820.

Most of its members were angered by the economic depression and political repression of the time and planned to assassinate the Cabinet, which on the night of February 23 was supposed to dine together in Lord Liverpool's Grosvenor Square house.

They would then seize key buildings, overthrow the government and establish a committee of public safety to oversee a radical revolution.

They were prepared to cut the throats of Sidmouth and Castlereagh. The latter, leader of the House of Commons, had crushed the United Irish in 1798.

Lord Sidmouth was the former prime minister who organised a mass hanging to squash Despard's attempt at a democratic republic in 1803 and who later became home secretary responsible for the Peterloo Massacre.

According to the prosecution at their trial, they had intended to form a provisional government headquartered in the Mansion House.

But due to the machinations of agents provocateurs, the conspirators were easily duped and captured above a stables in Cato Street and hanged at Newgate Prison in London on May 1.

The police planted an informer in their ranks, the plotters fell into their trap, and 13 were arrested.

One policeman, Richard Smithers, was killed by conspirator Arthur Thistlewood.

Five conspirators were executed and five transported to

Those hanged and beheaded were a mixed group of radicals. Thistlewood was an apothecary, Tom Brunt an artisan bootmaker, Richard Tidd another shoemaker, James Ing, a butcher and Will Davidson a cabinet maker.

Associated with the Lincolnshire gentry, Thistlewood was of some social status. His great uncle, owner of several plantations in Jamaica, was

the worst kind of slaver and at the forefront of imperial acquisition, accumulation and extraction.

His great nephew became a follower of Thomas Spence, the advocate of the people's farm, perhaps the most direct link between the democratic radicals of the 1790s and the burgeoning forms of socialism, feminism and communism of the 1820s.

Davidson, a man of colour, was descended from Jamaican slaves and a figure in the very long history of African descendants in England.

Yet modern capitalist slavery is the pertinent background to Davidson – he repeatedly cites, and even recites, Magna Carta.

He was responsible for drafting a constitution, while others dealt with the equal division of lands, or annual elections, or redistribution of wealth.

When asked what she would be responsible for, Tidd's daughter replies in a flash: "The committee for the care of unwanted children and orphans. There will be no need for "scrumping" — appropriating apples from private apple trees."

How widespread the Cato Street conspiracy was is uncertain. It was a time of unrest and rumours abounded.

Malcolm Chase noted that "the London-Irish community and a number of trade societies, notably shoemakers, were prepared to lend support, while unrest and awareness of a planned rising were widespread in the industrial north and on Clydeside."

The conspirators were Spencean Philanthropists and took their name from the British radical speaker Thomas Spence.

It was known for being a revolutionary organisation, involved in unrest and propaganda and plotting the overthrow of the government.

That May Day hanging of the conspirators is not at the centre of the wonderful historical novel Turtle Soup for the King by Judy Meewezen.

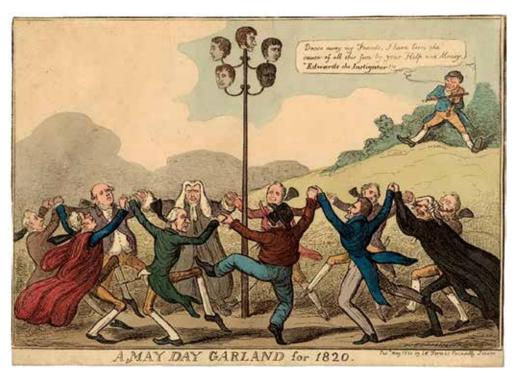
It's scarcely alluded to, though if you want a study of the hangings read Vic Gatrell — how they took a pinch of snuff or sucked on oranges, how they advised the placement of the noose, how they denied religion and how the crowd yelled "butter fingers" when the executioner dropped a decapitated head.

The king in question in the book's title was George IV, "the most disreputable and unrespected monarch who has ever sat upon the British throne," wrote the historians of the common people. His father George III, a tyrant gone insane, had died in January 1820.

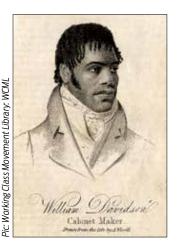
As for the turtle soup, it was the soup of the age for royalty, aristocrats and the big bourgeoisie.

Starting in the 1740s, their palates were tickled by the





CLASS AGAINST CLASS: Samuel William Fores's cartoon of the May Day Garland for 1820, with aristocrats dancing under the severed heads of the conspirators, (below) hanged conspirator William Davidson and (bottom) the surviving original building where the conspiracy took place



majestic creatures and they continued to slurp into the 1860s.

Imported from the slave islands of the Caribbean, lords, ladies, and fat cats consumed these ancient animals to virtual extinction.

Turtle soup was fattening but not as fattening as the proletariat, whose labours royalty and their ilk gorged upon.

The ruling class consumed the proletariat not so much at table as at loom, plough and wheel or by massacre and the noose.

Meewezen's historical novel is based largely on the documentation of spies, police, informers, turncoats and provocateurs on the one hand and, on the other, the documentation of the trade union movement, reform politicians, the radical press and an archive that was already censored or in peril of extinction.

The conspiracy arose after the Manchester massacre in St Peter's Field — "Peterloo" —in August 1819, when men, women and children were slashed dead with sabres wielded by charging Hussars of the crown. The proletariat was enraged, hurt, traumatised and hungering for revenge.

Its revolutionary traditions included insurrection, the art

of taking over a government by force. Yet, tender in its grief, the proletariat was vulnerable to ruling-class provocation nipping it in the bud.

The Cato Street Conspiracy was a kind of epilogue to the insurrectionary impulses that had punctuated English class relations from the Despard conspiracy of 1803, through the Luddite attacks on machinery (1811), the dislocations and dearths ("bread or blood") following the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars (Waterloo, 1815), concluding with Peterloo.

Irish disturbances, Scottish uprisings, Caribbean slave rebellions and colonial resistance from India to Cape Town – thousands of Xhosa attacked Grahamstown in 1819 – accompanied, influenced, or reflected these conflicts in England.

he May Day hangings in 1820 were at a conjuncture embracing the organisation of the cotton spinners and weavers in Scotland, the migration of the Irish to England, one of whom, Bronterre O'Brien, coined the expression "moral economy," signifying not communism certainly but not neoliberalism either.

Events in the novel are viewed through a microscope, from the perspective of the wives, women and their children.

Misadventures and calamities affecting children and poor women occur well apart from the pompous, and manly, events of official narratives. Under the subtle pen of Meewezen, the dramas of kitchen and alley are as gripping as those of the patriarchs' public forums.

These proletarians are close to starving and, as in The Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens, rarely does a page go by without reference to something to eat. Molly, Thomas Brunt's wife, cuts up a flannel sheet into little squares later to be made into gunpowder cartridges.

It's a monotonous task, so she relieves her mind by construing the men's whispers as so much babble which would one day lead to paradise. For her, that meant a full pantry.

Susan Thistlewood stands out in these pages for her courage and intelligence and, at the end, two of the widows and the children share house.

The women have the "determination that the children of heroes should face the world with pride, engaging their hearts their brains and all their talents in the construction of a better world for all."

Turtle Soup for the King would make an ideal TV series. There are five threads for each of those hanged and decapitated — Thistlewood, Brunt, Ing, Davidson and Tidd — and the Judas of the plot is the villainous engineer and police informer Thomas Edwards, Thistlewood's second-in-command.

The whole is divided in two parts, each structured in chapters broken into sections full of similes and fascinating asides such as on the clogs worn by the northern spinners and weavers

The new king's coronation feast starts with three soups and hundreds of side dishes, sauces and desserts.

"If it's not over-salted," says his majesty, "let us start with the turtle." Writing on death row, Ings asked that his body be conveyed to the king "that his majesty, or his cooks, might make turtle soup of it."

After such a generous gesture of sacrifice, justice can only reply: "Eat the rich."

■ This is an edited version of an article that first appeared in Counterpunch (counterpunch.org).

IRELAND

Toilet decision will improve safety



REGARDING the recent Morning Star article about the new guidelines by Ireland's Department of Education allowing schools to choose gender-neutral toilets.

As a Canadian, I'm not certain which "campaigners" have raised objections to this announcement. Nor does the article specify who are the "others" who have "condemned the decision, saying that it will leave girls feeling

unsafe and vulnerable."

I do welcome the explanations in the article from the Irish Department of Education and from a head teacher in Limerick, making it clear that toilet facilities under new construction and refurbishment will include cubicles and communal access to washbasins, and that individual schools can choose whether to designate such facilities as unisex

I will comment on the issue from the perspective of a public education supporter in my city of Vancouver. Seven years ago, despite a right-wing fear-mongering campaign about "dangers to girls," the Vancouver Board of Education made a similar decision, affecting about 120 schools with 50,000 students.

Since that time, there has not been a single case of such threats or attacks against students using unisex school washrooms.

Similarly, both main washrooms at the University of Victoria Student Union Building were transformed into gender-neutral facilities over 20 years ago, with no negative consequences.

It remains true in Canada and many other countries that washrooms are frequently the site of harassment and intimidation, but in nearly every case, these incidents target individuals who are considered by some to not fit the social stereotypes of gender appearance. I am quite certain that this decision in Ireland will in fact improve the safety of many students.

KIMBALL CARIOU Vancouver, Canada



ALI KHAVARI

Sad passing of an internationalist

FIRST met comrade Ali Khavari in Prague in 1981 (M Star April 24-25).

It was at Thakurova 3, Dejvice, Prague. It is now sadly a Catholic University which was then the headquarters of the prestigious theoretical journal Problems of Peace and Socialism (World Marxist Review).

The journal printed in 41 languages and was read in some 145 countries all over the world from 1958 until 1990.

We, the representatives of the 69 communist and workers' parties, including Ali Khavari of the Tudeh Party of Iran, Bert Ramelson of the Communist Party of Great Britain and me of the Communist Party of Turkey frequently shared our experiences and exchanged opinions in this historic building.

When we first met, it had only been two years after Khavari's release from the Shah's notorious prison following 15 long years of incarceration.

He was still carrying the scars from the National Organisation for Security and Intelligence's brutal torture. I will always cherish the memory of a fine comrade with a true international spirit.

CAVLI CULFAZ

Mav 1-8

Potters Bar

The Red List

>> SATURDAY 1

Spanish civil war commemoration in Reading

A Zoom meeting with live coverage from Forbury Gardens of the wreath-laying ceremony. Join at tinyurl.com/3yks7959. Organised by Reading International Brigade Memorial Group.

Manchester TUC May Day Rally

Speakers include Labour MP Richard Burgon, Hilda Palmer of Families Against Corporate Killers and Spanish trade unionist Begona del Castillo. Music by Joe Solo and others. Register at mstar.link/manc-

Inaugural meeting of south-east Kent Palestine Solidarity Campaign

A celebration of Palestinian resistance with Omar Mofeed of the PSC youth and student committee, Barac



chairwoman Zita Holbourne and Amna Shquair of the Palestine New Federation of Trade Unions. Join the meeting at zoom.us/j/9763645166.

TUESDAY 4

May 4th-June 1st: From Suffragettes to Feminists

Dr Michelle Johansen covers the changing lives of women in the 20th century, from the battle for equal voting rights to the women's libera-tion movement. Find out more and enrol for £67, concessions £50, at bishopsgate.org.uk/whats-on. Organ-ised by the Bishopsgate Institute.

May 4th-June 22th: Trade Unions, Class and Power

7pm online every Tuesday for eight

This course seeks to understand trade unions and union members today within a century of historical perspective. Find out more and enrol for £30, unwaged £15, at eventbrite.co.uk/e145250932449. Organised by the Marx Memorial Library.

WEDNESDAY 5

Book event: The Chronology of Revolution – Communism Culture and Civil Society in 20th-Century Britain

Ben Harker launches his new book arguing that the Communist Party

of Great Britain, despite its great influence over British culture, never fully appreciated the importance of civil society to its political strength. For more details. go to wcml.org.uk/events. Organised by the Working Class Movement Library

Poetry from Rosie Garland

7pm online Poet, fiction writer and post-punk singer Garland reads from her latest collection of verse, What Girls Do in the Dark, talks to Megan Taylor about her life and writing and answers questions from the audience. Register at event-brite.co.uk/e/145051221107. Organised by Five Leaves Bookshop, Nottingham.

Book event: White Skin, Black Fuel – On the Dangers of Fossil Fascism

Andreas Malm and Zetkin Collecand Anoushka Zoob Carter talk to Ash Sarkar of Novara Media about this first study of the far right's role in the climate crisis. For tickets, priced £3, with book £25, students and unwaged free, go to housmans.

Workshop for CND groups: Getting Press Coverage

tive members Laudy van den Heuvel com/events. Organised by Housmans Bookshop.

Hear about how to work with your

Saturday 8

Sisterhood, Socialism & Struggle 9.45am online

Exploring how capitalism oppresses women.

local media to publicise events and attract new supporters. Guest speaker: Ben Chacko, Morning Star editor. Register at mstar.link/

Trade Unions, Workers' Rights and the Media

Former BBC industrial correspondent Nick Jones, bakers' union general secretary Sarah Wooley and Jim Boumelha of the International Federation of Journalists look at what kind of media we need to support workplace struggles today. Register

at eventbrite.co.uk/e/150634147791. Part of the Festival of Debate.

May 5th-June 9th: An Introduction to LGBTQ+ Literature

Wednesday for six

Learn from Dr Emily Garside about the history of the LGBTQ+ community, including stories of oppression and resist-ance, through key literature texts. Find out more and enrol for £95, concessions £71, at bishopsgate.org.uk/ whats-on. Organised by the Bishopsgate Institute

>> THURSDAY 6

6th-20th: Greening Our Workplaces – 'Green Skills' for Trade Unionists

A chance to learn the practical skills needed to develop union-led sustainability initiatives in the workplace. Find out more at mstar. link/greenskills. Organised by Wales TUC.

May 6th-June 10th: Factory Girls, New Women -Gender and Class

7pm online every Thursday for six

Dr Louise Raw explores how 19thcentury female factory workers fought for their rights and freedom and how their image evolved from "slum lass" to "new woman." Find out more and enrol for £95, concessions £71, at bishopsgate.org.uk/ whats-on. Organised by the Bishop-

>> SATURDAY 8

Sisterhood, Socialism & Struggle

An all-day webinar with Mary Davis, Pragna Patel, Sarah Woolley, Kellie O'Dowd and others exploring various aspects of women's oppression under modern capitalism and how to respond. Find out more and register at t.ly/jQ Ja. Organised by the Communist Party of Britain.

Study workshop: Act Up London

Dan Glass outlines the history of the Aids Coalition to Unleash Power (Act Up) and looks at what we can learn from from its activism against HIV stigma. Enrol for £24 at bishopsgate org.uk/whats-on. Organised by the Bishopsgate Institute.

German Colonialism and its Aftermaths

Historians Jurgen Zimmerer, Sara Pugach and Adam A Blackler discuss possible links between Germany's colonial brutality and the Nazis racist imperialism, along with related issues. Register at eventbrite. co.uk/e/145869512639. Organised by the Wiener Holocaust Library.





CIVIL RIGHTS

Police Bill can be defeated by unity

OVER the weekend of April 17, hundreds of local protests took place bring together thousands to protest against the government's latest attacks on civil society and trade unions.

While the government says that current laws need updating, many say that they don't. Britain already has restrictive laws and regulations when it comes to demonstrations, strike action, protests and trespass.

The police already have significant powers to arrest and stop and search. Community sentencing is common is many communities. The changes in a Bill hardly discussed in Parliament so far is over 300 pages long and will result in more arrests, fines and imprisonments.

Single protesters can now be arrested. Under the guise of health protection more personal details will be shared with the authorities.

Pickets making a noise or causing a nuisance could suddenly find themselves charged. Ramblers wandering of a poorly defined right of way could be done for trespass.

Gypsies and Travellers could become homeless as their homes are seized. Black people will again be disproportionally affected.

In short, the Bill affects us all. We must now build on these demonstrations: most trade unions oppose the Bill, but not all.

And trade unions must be at the heart of any campaign.

The Labour front bench voted against the first reading after the events at Clapham Common but this opposition must become more steadfast. The message must be taken into unions as well as trade union councils. We must see a massive turn out for the national demonstration called by the People's Assembly on June 26 supplemented by other

actions on that day.
We can defeat this Bill if we build a united movement. TONY CONWAY

Coventry

INDEPENDENCE

STUC made a good call on Scottish referendum

THE decision by the STUC congress to support the Scottish Parliament's right to hold a referendum on independence means it is almost inevitable that, in time, the rump of the Labour Party in Scotland will have to welcome a second referendum on Scottish independence (M Star April 22).

Anas Sarwar is politically dead. It may take time, and the decision may be too late to ensure we get our democratic

right within the near future.

Rome wasnie built in a day, and neither will our new democratic Scotland manage that.

But happen it will. It appears that the Scottish left will finally be reunited in support of a democratic, green, nuclearfree Scotland. But dinnae haud yer breathing too long: it won't happen tomorrow.

DOUGIE HARRISON Glasgow



MATCHWOMEN Sir Keir insults all workers' struggles

SIR KEIR STAMMER'S extraordinary gaffe concerning the matchwomen's strike explains a lot (M Star April 26).

Without proper edge of the struggle of working-class people against the indifference and cruelty of the ruling class both in this country and in its empire to make modest gains which are always opposed there can be no movement towards the alternative, which is socialism.

His acceptance of neoliberalism in all its forms is an insult to the memory of those men and women who struggled against the odds for a better society.

Perhaps we should all clubbed together and buy Sir Keir a copy of Louise Raw's groundbreaking book Striking a light which fully chronicles the bravery and tenacity of the matchwomen in overcoming seemingly impossible odds.

Perhaps Sir Keir might reflect that the matchwomen's strike lit the flame of the new union movement which in turn gave birth to the Labour Party.

TERRY MCCARTHY

Hastings



PEAS IN A POD

Cummings can't talk about integrity

REPORTEDLY Dominic Cummings has attacked his former boss as lacking both integrity and competence.

The words "pot" and "kettle" come to mind.

Manchester

RICK SUMNER

Great comrade will be sorely missed

RICK SUMNER, referred to in last weekend's edition as "a legend of the miners' struggle," may well have been a member of the International Socialists but when I got to know him in the 1990s he was in the Old Trafford branch of the Communist Party of Britain (M Star April 24-25).

We were both delegates to

the national Party congress in

He had a wealth of hilarious ment has lost a great comrade. GERRARD SABLES

either 1992 or 1994.

anecdotes some of which were put together in an audiotape raising cash for the Justice for Mineworkers campaign. The move-

Barnstaple

EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE

Football fans should fight to empower people

THE recent protests by soccer supporters to the idea of a Super league which was stopped in its tracks is to be welcomed.

Although I believe that these so-called soccer clubs (international business concerns would be a more appropriate term) will win

out in the end due to the avarice nature of their owners.

Imagine if these loyal supporters could use their strengths and empower the local people in the towns they follow and live in for the betterment of the working class. PAUL DORAN

Dublin





London socialist historians group

May Day Greetings

Moments spark Movements that change the world

Convenor Keith Flett

londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com

BILL SYRETT

1934-2015

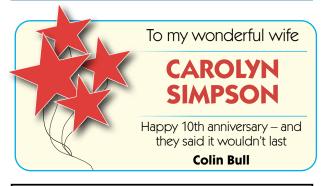
Still loved and missed by family and friends



Ayrshire Morning Star Readers & Supporters

Proud to support Irvine's May Day rally

Join us at noon today via Zoom, at: tinyurl. com/Irvinemayday





May Day greetings to cyclists throughout the world.

Clarion cyclists and Socialism: a link never broken.

NATIONAL CLARION CYCLING CLUB (1895)



Peace and Best Wishes for May Day.

A victory for one is a victory for all.



Mat Coward sends May Day greetings to friends and comrades everywhere.

www.matcoward.com



The people's flag is deepest red Greetings to comrades worldwide

Communists in Yorkshire

I fully support the action of the Go Ahead bus strikers who enjoy the full support of Unite the Union.

Opposed to fire and rehire.

Victory to the workers.

Mervyn Drage (mervyndrage@gmail.com)

Pellacraft wishes everyone solidarity on May Day



PROMOTIONAL MERCHANDSE DELIMED WITH SERVICE, QUALITY & EXPERIENCE to 01623-636602 e.sales@pellacraft.com w.www.pellacraft.com



Maggie & George
Send May Day Greetings
to all Comrades and Friends
on this Auspicious Occasion,
celebrating International
Workers' Day

Alf Froom

3rd May 1915 - 15th August 1975

Communist; Trade Unionist; Great at repairing buses, and our family car, and keeping our big old house standing!

Winnie Froom

21st August 1912 – 12th November 2004

Communist; CND supporter; Loved trees, flowers, the Welsh countryside, and loved writing.

Remembered with love on May Day, their special day, and every day.

Lorna (Liverpool)

WORKERS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION

Greetings to all readers.

Summer School planned: 20-27 August 21, Ingestre Hall, Nr. Stafford

Hope springs eternal



Southampton Morning StarReaders & Supporters

May Day Greetings

Defend our right to protest!

Fight back!

Support the Morning Star!



Brighton Unemployed Workers Centre brings May Day greetings

to all those fighting poverty, racism, imperialism and oppression

No return to austerity or to the politics of New Labour Reinstate Jeremy Corbyn — Sack Sir Keir Starmer Coronavirus has demonstrated that the free market has no answer to the problems facing humanity

Oppose all benefit cuts and attacks on the employed, unemployed and disabled

FOR INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM!

Bill North – chairperson; Andy Richards - secretary; Tony Greenstein – treasurer; Val Cane and John Johnston brightonunemployedcentre2000@yahoo.co.uk





Racing Guide

with Farringdon

■ NEWMARKET, THIRSK, DONCASTER AND GOODWOOD

Flat season kicks off with the 2,000 Guineas this weekend

T IS the first Classic weekend of the new flat season and with 15 runners set to go to post this afternoon for the 2,000 Guineas (Newmarket, 3.40), three apiece from the powerhouse yards of Aidan O'Brien camp and Charlie Appleby, you could easily surmise both these stables don't have an outstanding candidate to go to war with.

The conclusion is that each trio are very tightly matched up both at home and on the race-course as well, which certainly gives some kind of hope to the other nine acceptors.

other nine acceptors.

Of the "big six" my preference would be for **WEMB-LEY** (nb) (O'Brien) who skates across good ground and has been working well at Ballydoyle. Had he been better positioned through the race in the National Stakes last year I think he would have beaten Thunder Moon and I strongly expect those placings to be reversed here with a question mark about the latter getting home in a fast-run mile race.

Of the Godolphin team, Craven winner Master of the Seas is readily preferred to One Ruler and Naval Crown, but to my eyes does need another significant step forward here. That of course is not out of the question in what should be a well run event.

Away from those two squads, impressive conditions race winner Mutasaabeq also needs to find a bit on the figures, but his win over seven furlongs here was hugely pleasing to the eye and his time figure



certainly suggests this supplemented runner will not be out of the place at Group One level especially if he can once again dominate from the front.

Of the big outsiders, Legion of Honour may well run into a place for Roger Varian. Connections were desperately disappointed with his second in a Listed contest at Newcastle last time out and feel he is much better than that run suggests.

As far as the rest of the card is concerned, **LAZULI** can give the boys in the blue a boost before the big race by landing what looks a below par Palace House Stakes at 2.25, while the value play in the Suffolk Handi-

cap Stakes at 1.50 could come in the form of **DUBALLEGACY**.

I have long thought that a step up in trip would suit this son of Discreet Cat and the faster the ground the better for him in this nine furlong event.

He needed all of the seven furlongs to score on the Rowley Mile in 2019 off a mark of 97 and has since performed with credit out in Dubai. A pound lower here and freshened up since running at Meydan in the spring, he has Frankie on board to boot.

It is Thirsk's big day of the year this afternoon and there is a cracking entry for the Thirsk Hunt Cup due off at 2.40 with

two top-rated horses running off 97 in a field of 16.

I fancied Tom Collins at the first acceptance stage, but his box 13 draw may compromise his chance and although I may well have a saver on him my main selection in the race is now the Night of Thunder gelding **ACQUITTED** (nap).

ing **ACQUITTED** (nap).

Hugo Palmer's charge is best served by a flat track and opened his four-year-old career with a cracking neck second to Artistic Rifles at Doncaster looking all over the winner when he quickened to the front at the distance only to be picked off close home.

Âny forecast of showers will

Ω WEEKEND TIPS

Farringdon's Doubles Saturday

ACQUITTED Thirsk 14.40 (nap) WEMBLEY Newmarket 15.40

Sunday

IN THE COVE Racecourse 00:00 (nap)

VAUNTED Salisbury 13.00

Houseman's Choice Saturday

CHINDIT Newmarket 15:40

Sunday

LOVELY BREEZE Newmarket 17:20

definitely play in his favour and he remains open to more improvement on just his sixth start on turf.

A mere one pound higher here and nicely positioned in stall five, he gets the vote over Tom Collins and Sir Michael Stoute's likely favourite Astro King. I am going to roll in with a

I am going to roll in with a double-figure priced horse in the seven furlong handicap at 2.10 where the Ruth Carrtrained CITY WANDERER could well outrun his price off what looks a lucrative handicap mark of just 68. For the most part since 2019 he has been racing over a mile, but this drop back to seven furlongs could be just what he needs.

Drawn out wide, I expect Jamie Gormley to slot him in at the back of the pack and then unleash him down the home stretch. Off a fast pace a race of this ilk is very much within his compass and he gets the nod over the Mick Easterby-trained Rocket Dancer.

My one bet at Goodwood is AZANO in the seven furlong handicap at 2.35. David O'Meara has kicked off the new season in fine fettle and this five-year-old ran a cracking UK debut when second at Thirsk. That should have put an edge on this frontrunner and stall six shouldn't prove too much of an inconvenience if Oisin Murphy can bounce him out. Willie John ran way too freely dropped back to six furlongs at Newmarket on his debut for Tom Dascombe and this looks more like his trip and the disappointing six-year-old is rightly respected.

Later on, **STONE OF DESTINY** should get a nice tow through the race before picking up his rivals in the five furlong event at 3.10, while ATHERS may be able to defy top weight and a mark of 70 in the three-year-old, mile and a quarter handicap at 4.20.

Sunday's 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket (3.40) can go to the well backed ante-post favourite **SANTA BARBARA**. She has been tearing down a strip on the home gallops and can initiate a Guineas/Oaks double at the main expense of outsider Vadream (a real eye catcher in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury) and Nell Gywn heroine Sacred.



■ WOMEN'S CRICKET

Ecclestone relishing 'massive' moment

by Our Sports Desk

ENGLAND's Sophie Ecclestone (left) hailed the decision to kick off the inaugural Hundred with a women's game as a "massive" moment for the sport.

The Oval will host the opening game on July 21, with the Oval Invincibles taking on the Manchester Originals. It will be the first time a major British team sporting event has headlined with a women's match.

Ecclestone will be part of the Manchester Originals squad in that first match, with the new format designed to attract a new cricket audience and appeal to younger viewers.

"I think it's massive that the women's games are going to be in the spotlight with the men," the 21-year-old told the PA news agency.

"It's going to be obviously a competition that's run with the men's and women's along-side each other so I think it's going to be massive for the women's game to go first and hopefully the Hundred will get a lot of publicity around it

"It's really exciting to be playing in the first game of the Hundred, I think we're all really excited to get going in the Hundred and I think to play in that first game ever is going to be quite historic and it's going to be a great game.

"I'd love to bowl the first ball but I think with Kate Cross being the captain, and a seam bowler, I'm not sure I've got a choice really."

Ecclestone is no stranger to breaking down barriers having emerged as the world's number one international Twenty20 bowler in March, just before her 21st birthday.
The spinner also featured in the first edition of a women's Indian Premier League tournament, called the T20 Challenge, last year in the United Arab Emirates.

"It was a great experience for me to play in the IPL and I think it was just a great experience to be able to play as an overseas player," she said.

"It would be great if it hopefully goes alongside the men's in the next few years – not just for women's cricket but for cricket in general."





WOMEN'S FOOTIE England and N Ireland to play in same WC group

ENGLAND and Northern Ireland have been drawn in the same qualifying group for the 2023 Women's World Cup.

Austria, North Macedonia, Latvia and Luxembourg will join them in Group D of the European section of qualifying as they look to reach the finals in Australia and New Zealand.

The Lionesses reached the semi-finals in 2019 before being beaten by eventual winners the United States, while Northern Ireland are aiming to reach their first finals having ended their major tournament duck earlier this year by qualifying for Euro 2022.

Scotland, who qualified for the last World Cup in France, were drawn in Group B with Spain, Ukraine, Hungary and the Faroe Islands.

Wales, who have not yet reached a major tournament, will be looking for a change in fortunes after being drawn in Group I alongside France, Slovenia, Greece, Kazakhstan and Estonia.

The Republic of Ireland were drawn in Group A, which contained Spain, Finland, Slovakia and Greece, and have also never qualified for a World Cup or European Championship.

Europe will supply up to 12 teams of the expanded finals, which will feature 32 nations for the first time.

The winners of each of the nine European qualifying groups will automatically qualify while each runner-up up will be entered into playoffs to decide two more

A final runner-up will take part in a 10-team tournament in Australia and New Zealand in February 2023, when they will play against teams from the other federations for one of the three final places.

The left wing

with James Nalton

Capacity Crucible ends a great snooker season

The crowd at this weekend's 2021 World Championship Snooker final will be the biggest test yet for bringing fans back to sporting events

HE 2021 World Snooker Championship final will begin this weekend capping what has been a strangely successful season for the sport.

The isolated nature of snooker as an individual rather than team game has seen it generally cope well through a difficult period, and it is now playing a key role in exploring ways to get fans and spectators back to events safely.

The continuation of professional snooker tournaments during the past year has often given them pride of place on TV, and the sport could emerge from this period stronger than it has been for some time.

The final session of the World Championship final on Monday will be played in front of a full house at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, with earlier sessions also close to selling out.

These capacity crowds at an indoor venue will be the biggest test yet of the first phase of the government's Events Research Programme, in which this year's World Snooker Championship has played a major part.

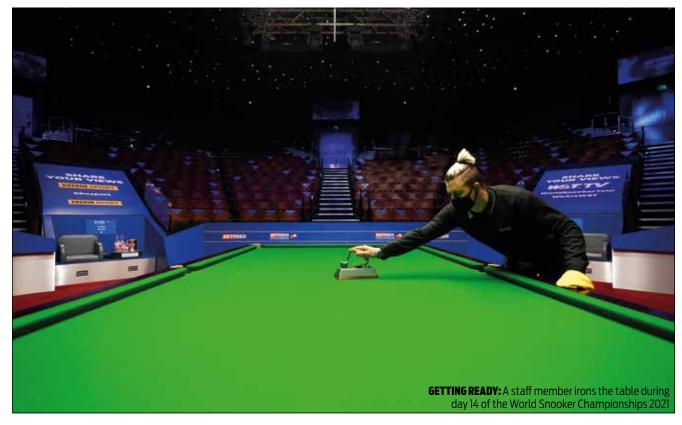
There are few sporting arenas in the world where those watching the game live and in-person are as much a part of the action as they are at the Crucible.

The theatre has hosted the tournament since 1977, and part of the test for the players is how they deal with the atmosphere, the crowd, and the cameras which are all in close quarters.

This year's tournament began with the venue at 33 per cent capacity. On most days it was much lower due to ticket purchases being grouped in socially distanced bubbles of people from the same house-

The capacity was increased to 50 per cent for the second round, before the semi-finals and final at 75 per cent and full capacity respectively.

A negative Covid test from the same day or previous day has been required for spectators to enter the venue, along with a matching photo ID. Those not providing both



were refused entry and offered refund options, as was anyone testing positive.

Two home testing kits have been provided at the end of sessions with spectators asked to complete one on the day, and another five days later as part of the research.

This programme is aimed at finding ways to enable fans and spectators to return to events safely using a combination of testing and non-pharmaceutical interventions to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Other pilot events in the programme have taken place, or will take place, at foot-ball matches (including last week's League Cup final and the upcoming FA Cup final), nightclubs, outdoor gigs, business events and cinemas.

There was a brief lifting of restrictions last year when sporting events, such as nonleague football, were able to welcome fans into outdoor grounds, and a small number of spectators were allowed to attend the final stages of the 2020 World Snooker Champi-

The government's bumbled

handling of the virus, especially in those vital early days, weeks and months, meant there were no real plans in place working alongside these events and this inevitably led back to square one late last

Those hosting such events were much more competent than the government, though, and it's no surprise that snooker has been one of the sports chosen to try to push things forward in a sensible manner and as safely as possible as part of Stage 4 of the Covid-19 roadmap out of lockdown.

The full capacity crowd for the final still feels like a risk at this stage, but those taking part in this pilot event have been made fully aware of what's going on throughout the process.

The communication from the World Snooker Tour has been very clear, and those working at the Crucible Theatre have made it easy for spectators to follow the necessary guidelines.

"This research programme will provide the evidence

required to show that people can get back to doing some of the leisure activities they love, such as visiting theatres. indoor concerts and sporting events," Barry Hearn, then World Snooker Tour chairman, said last month.

"It is vet another challenge for us, but so far over the past year we have risen to every challenge and met it success-

"We have proved again and again that we can stage events where the safety of the players, officials and fans is para-

"Snooker continues to lead the way in the sporting world as we fight back against difficult times.'

Snooker managed to complete its 2019-20 season in August last year and has now played out a full 2020-21 sea-

The World Championship aside, this campaign has been played behind closed doors in isolated venues in Britain, meaning most players have not had to travel around the world to compete.

They have still been affected, though, with many having to spend long periods away from family.

Others, such as Hong Kong's Marco Fu, have not been able to compete at all due to coronavirus travel restrictions, while Thailand's Noppon Saengkham had to withdraw during World Championship qualifying after testing positive for Covid-19.

The many players who have managed to compete in qualifying and the tournament proper have made it a memorable World Championship, perhaps epitomised by Stuart Bingham's impressive run from round 3 of qualifying to the semi-final where he faces Mark Selby.

The standard has been high and at the time of writing 93 century breaks have been made, closing in on the Crucible record of 100 set in 2019.

Semi-finalists Bingham, Selby, Shaun Murphy and Kyren Wilson have each entertained spectators in the venue and on TV in their own way, and fans will be hoping the final goes all the way to the end in that sold-out last session on Monday.





Layth's take

with Layth Yousif



The football will not be shared on social media

S PEPE stepped up to take his penalty with his side 2-0 down and a man down with only 17 minutes left I tweeted that Arsenal's season was "here and now."

Miss that pressure-laden spotkick and lose the first leg of the Europa League semi-final 2-0 and the chances of overturning that chasm of a deficit were slim to none, and like everyone knows, slim just left town.

But score, and you grab a lifeline and genuine hope. Not least because 2-1 is the result that has most been overturned on aggregate across 60+ years of European competition. Why? Because the side playing at home in the second leg have the crucial away goal - which is all-important in continental football.

So, a 1-0 victory at Ashburton Grove next Thursday will, incredibly, see Mikel Arteta's misfiring, inconsistent, maddening, frustrating - yet talented and, at rare times, resilient Gunners, reach the Europa League final. A real chance of glory, silverware, and a return to the riches of the promised land that is the Champions League.

Of course, given Manchester United's stunning rout of Roma in the other semi-final on the same evening, nothing is certain. It was an impressive result against a Roma side, which, despite containing Chris Smalling, former Gunner Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Edin Dzeko-or, as some would argue, because of them – lost 6-2 at Old Trafford.

I covered 90 per cent of Unai Emery's pre and post-match pressers in person during his time in charge at Arsenal, not We have to take a stand against Silicon Valley's dreadfully lame response to combatting hate on their platforms

to mention observing training at London Colney on the rare times they opened up to the press for European games, and he is a gentleman.

I saw him up close and fired many questions at him over his 18 months in charge. He is one of life's good guys. It just didn't work out for him. We wished him well then and we wish him well now, well apart from this tie. No wonder Thursday is shaping up to be a seminal match.

Of course, it pays not to get ahead of ourselves with anything related to Arteta's side, nor football and sport in general, so let's concentrate on Arsenal's next game, with all eyes on the match against Newcastle in the north east on Sunday.

Or not, as the case may be. I will be there reporting on the match for this newspaper. But you won't see anything from me on social media. Why?

Because, as a fully paid up member of the Football Writers' Association I will be taking part in their solidarity with football's governing bodies in uniting for a three-day social media boycott, which lasts from from 3pm on Friday to 11.59pm on Monday.

will be proudly joining my press box colleagues in "strike," as well as the FA, Premier League, EFL, Women's Super League, FA Women's PFA, LMA, Championship, PGMOL, Kick It Out and the FSA in refusing to post during the boycott.

This is because we all want to send a concerted message to enough is enough regarding their dreadfully lame response to combatting racism, discrimination, homophobia and abuse on their various platforms.

As a working-class kid who somehow made it to university - but long, long before I became a journalist - I worked in a jobcentre after graduating because I'd had enough labouring and removal jobs in the cold.

The pay was terrible. The job felt hopeless at times given the lack of support to those

on the front line from an uncaring Tory government for so many reasons on so many levels. But there was a union. And when thev called for a strike to raise awareness of such things, one of the things that I feel most proud about was that I didn't cross the picket line.

As a contract worker, I had no contract rights and lost a day's pay, and of course, while nothing could ever be proved in writing, when it came to renew my three month contract the very next week, I was let go.

This was despite doing what I thought was a good job. Far more importantly, my colleagues and the people I helped thought so too. But it wasn't enough for management. Privately, I was told it was because I took part in the strike and refused to cross that picket line.

I was proud then. And I'm even prouder looking back on it more than two decades later.

So. If you're one of those rare handful of people who might be looking for my opinion on Arsenal, football, sport, music or even politics from me on social media this weekend, I'm afraid I won't be on there. Because I've never crossed a picket line in my life - and I'm not going to start

PS, Save The Gooner Fanzine update: we effectively lost a week to fighting the ESL and gearing up for last week's demo so we are battling hard to make up the time and numbers.

If you appreciate supporter solidarity as well as informed, intelligent, and yes, irreverent writing from passionate football fans, please do consider signing

up. We've had a few non-Arsenal fans sign up and we'd certainly welcome more reading our fanzine - which was voted the best fanzine in the UK by the FSF a couple of years ago.

The social media boycott won't help our cause this weekend, but that's just something we'll have to deal with. Because principles are far, far more important.

in brief

Up to 10,000 fans for cup finals

RUGBY UNION: Up to 10,000 will be able to attend the Champions Cup and Challenge Cup finals at Twickenham next month. It will be the first time since 2,000 spectators were present for the Autumn Nations Cup between England and France on December 6 that supporters have been allowed into Twickenham. "We are working hard ... to put various measures in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all those attending each match," RFU boss Bill Sweeney said.

SFA probing alleged abuse of Cox

SCOTTISH FOOTBALL: The SFA is investigating after Albion Rovers David Cox retired midmatch last Thursday, claiming Stenhousemuir's Ionathan Tiffoney taunted him about a suicide attempt, which Tiffoney denies. Cox said on social media: "I wasn't playing tonight, I was on the bench, one of the boys on the Stenny team... Told me I should have done it right the first time.'

Solskjar: The fans must be heard

MAN UNITED: Ole Gunnar Solskiaer stressed the importance of fans being heard as thousands prepare to protest against the club's owners. Solskjaer said: "It's important that the fans' views are listened to and that we communicate better. As I've said before, I've had great support from the club and the owners and I'm sure I will get the backing again to go one step further. But I'm so happy that all the clubs agreed that this shouldn't be the way of moving forward."

Heading 'twice as dangerous' for girls

HEALTH & SAFETY: THE FA plans to issue guidance on women heading the ball, after a study of US high school football suggests that teenage girls are at almost twice as much risk of concussions as teenage boys. The FA's director of women's football, Baroness Sue Campbell, said: "There is still a long way to go to make these connections meaningful in a medical sense. But ... we are taking it seriously."



■ MEN & WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

MAN UNITED BAN SIX FANS FOR ONLINE RACIST ABUSE

Club says hate directed at its players has increased by 350% since September 2019 as other sports, governing bodies, sponsors, media and more join social media boycott

by Our Sports Desk

MANCHESTER UNITED have banned six fans for abusing Tottenham's Son Heung-min and revealed online abuse aimed at their players has increased 350 per cent ahead of this weekend's social media boycott.

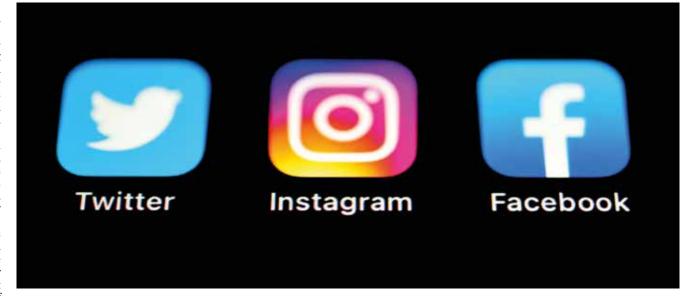
Chelsea also announced on Friday a decade-long ban to a supporter for anti-semitic posts as social media accounts across English football and beyond shut down at 3pm yesterday until 11.59pm on Monday.

A coalition of football's largest governing bodies and organisations, including the Football Association, Premier League and EFL, are to go silent on social media in a show of solidarity against sustained, sickening and spiralling abuse.

United players have been frequent targets and the club's own in-depth review of Twitter, Instagram and Facebook has found 3,300 abusive posts were aimed at their players between September 2019 and February 2021.

The club said 86 per cent of those posts were racist, with 8 per cent homophobic or transphobic, and activity peaked in January 2021, when over 400 abusive player posts were recorded.

United say since September 2019 "there has been a 350 per cent increase in abuse directed towards the club's players", plus



they are acting on the abuse of others.

The club said: "Manchester United has instigated club sanction proceedings against six individuals alleged to have breached club rules by abusing Tottenham's Heung-Min Son on social media following the match on April 11.

"Regretfully, suspensions have been issued, subject to appeal, to three season ticket holders, two official members and one individual on the season ticket waiting list.

"This disciplinary action demonstrates the club's commitment to the fight against discrimination on many fronts" Chelsea also announced the ban of a supporter on the morning of the boycott for posting anti-semitic messages online.

The statement read: "Following the conclusion of court proceedings in February, the Club conducted our own investigation into the matter and has taken the decision to ban the individual from Chelsea FC for a period of 10 years.

"Everybody at Chelsea is proud to be part of a diverse club. Our players, staff, fans and visitors to the club come from a wide range of backgrounds, including the Jewish community, and we want to ensure everyone feels safe, valued and included.

"We will not tolerate any behaviour from supporters that threatens that aim."

Thierry Henry has called football's social media boycott this weekend a "start" in the fight against racism and discrimination.

Last month the Arsenal great removed himself from social media because of racism and bullying across the platforms.

"A lot of people are – I'm not saying waking up, because everyone was aware of it – but now they're loud about it and [showing] the same energy that they put with the Super League," Henry told CNN.

"It looks like we're getting brave in trying to make those big companies answer the question that we have, and I know it's not easy also on their side, but that's your job.

"(What) the world of English football is doing at the minute and what's going to happen at the weekend, people ask me, 'Is it enough, the weekend?'

"And I'm like, 'It's a start'. You know, you can't be too greedy from not having anything to that. It's a start.

"But yes, we have a voice, we have a voice all together. We can actually make people aware of our disapproval and hope that things can change. If you don't do anything, nothing would ever change.

"Maybe not this year, maybe

not in two years, maybe not in three years. Maybe we might not see it, but you have to do something while you are passing by."

Since it was first announced, the boycott has grown as other sport governing bodies, sponsors, partners, broadcasters and media outlets have come on board.

European governing body Uefa will take part, as well as Scottish football, England Rugby, Scottish Rugby, British Cycling, the Rugby Football League, British Horseracing, the England and Wales Cricket Board, the Lawn Tennis Association, International Tennis Federation and others.

Although Formula One will not take part following discussions, Sir Lewis Hamilton is also ready to join the boycott on the weekend of the Portuguese Grand Prix.

The seven-time world champion, who has 22 million followers on Instagram and more than six million on Twitter, said: "I am fully supportive of the initiative

"If me doing it helps put pressure on those platforms in order to help fight against it then, for sure, I am happy to do so."

Formula One has issued a statement supporting the boycott, saying: "We continue to work with all platforms and our own audiences to promote respect and positive values and put a stop to racism."

■ MEN'S RUGBY LEAGUE

Clubb suspended over alleged racial slur

by Our Sports Desk

WIGAN have suspended prop forward Tony Clubb (right) pending the outcome of an investigation into alleged racism.

Hull second rower Andre Savelio claimed he was the subject of a racial slur during the first half of his side's Super League defeat by the Warriors at the DW Stadium on Thurs-

The incident was placed on



report by referee James Child and both clubs on Friday issued a joint statement revealing they have launched a joint internal investigation. Both clubs say they are determined to demonstrate a strong and united approach against racial abuse on the day rugby league as a whole joined the sporting boycott of social media platforms in a bid to tackle online discrimination and abuse.

Wigan executive director Kris Radlinski said: "There is no room for racism in sport in any form and we take the accusations made by Hull's Andre Savelio very seriously.

"Our immediate intention is

to work closely with Hull and the governing body to gather all the facts and support the investigation process that is in place.

"In the short term, Tony Clubb will be suspended from all club activities.

"Tony's evidence will be taken into consideration by all parties moving forward and his welfare will remain a responsibility of Wigan Warriors throughout the investigation."

Hull chief executive James Clark said: "Andre has the full support of everyone at our club and we will work hard to ensure this incident is thoroughly investigated and that his voice can be heard. Racial abuse is not acceptable in any form.

"This is obviously an emotive and highly personal subject and he has access to the best possible welfare network should it be required.

"A zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse is prevalent in Rugby League – we are a welcoming sport that prides itself on its core values of inclusion, community, diversity and respect."

A spokesman for the Rugby Football League says it will follow the normal process, with its match review panel considering the incident on Monday, following the completion of all round five fixtures.

The panel will decide whether or not to bring charges – which would be heard by an independent operational rules tribunal on Tuesday – but also has the option to refer the matter for further investigation.



COMMUNIST PARTY

CPBRITAIN CPBRITAIN CPBRITAIN WWW.communistparty.org.uk May Day 2021

Workers of all lands, unite!

ds, unite! Inside

2 Democracy under attack

- 2 CPB fights election ban
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- 7 Against anti-semitism

RALLY TODAY https://tinyurl.com/MayDayLaunch





Scientific reason in revolt

SCIENCE

TRIBUTE TO British scientist
Ann McLaren (above) was
viewed by millions, Monday last,
26 April, when the 94th anniversary of
her birth was featured on the Google
browser.

Anne McLaren is renowned as one of the most important reproductive biologists of the 20th century. Her fundamental research on embryology helped countless people realise their dreams of parenthood.

A lifelong communist she studied zoology at Oxford University and embarked on a pioneering research programme. Her landmark findings, published in 1958 opened the way to in vitro fertilisation. She served on the Warnock Commission that led to the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act.

And in counterpoint to the tribute, last week scientists rallied in defence of Ann McLaren's daughter, Professor Susan Michie, following a poisonous anticommunist attack on her in the Daily Mail.

Professor Michie is a leading behavioural scientist and a member of the government's SAGE committee and has appeared on television throughout the Covid-19 pandemic as a voice of reason and science.

She also sits on the independent SAGE committee and came under attack for her party membership and politics and for her advocacy of Zero Covid measures which have so offended the right wing rag.



UNEMPLOYMENT

ANDY BAIN

ACK THE prime minister and the rest of the corrupt politicians is the call from a rising coalition of resistance against the government.

The People's Assembly Against Austerity and a host of working class organisations have backed the call for a demonstration on Saturday 26 June

As workers face the biggest increase in unemployment since trade unions began the call for mass action and for bold and imaginative tactics is gaining ground.

Solidarity action between trade unionists and community campaigners is the need. Imagine striking workers being protected from eviction by tenants' unions, or trade unions funding a centre for unemployed workers to organise campaigning for jobs, or trades councils organising pickets to support precarious workers in dispute.

Imagine football fans demanding workers in their club get decent wages, or small businesses being drawn into support for workers facing fire and rehire, or unions working together on recruitment initiatives. The possibilities are endless and we need a flexible approach to the difficult battles ahead if the working class is to win out.

From the start of the pandemic the Tories – the party of the ruling class – have shifted the balance of power even more in its favour.

Shortages of PPE and medical supplies, forcing people to work when ill or infected, the failure to pay sick pay, and the *laissez faire* approach to employers making workplaces safe, all moved power further to employers.

The union fight back won a furlough scheme which has saved millions from poverty. Throughout the crisis

unemployment has risen, as has the threat of precarious work and underemployment, and the employers' power to 'employ' on their terms has increased. When furlough ends unemployment will escalate, unless we fight back.

The Communist Party has been working with others to build this **Unemployment Fightback** since mid-2020. There are now several campaigns and many trade unions making demands, including for a green new deal, to build back better, for a new normal and no turning back.

Some trade unionists are exploring the need for a new type of Unemployed Workers Centre, and it is a striking observation on capitalism's lack of progress, that the centenary of the National Unemployed Workers' Movement has just been celebrated.

The Communist Party's ground breaking conference on the Future of Work in December 2020 started a serious discussion on planning to use new technologies for the benefit of the worker and combat the employers' drive to increase the reserve army of labour, and so keep wages down.

Communists are working hard to unite the anti-austerity movement and the trade unions and raise class consciousness. It is not enough just to defend our jobs and resist cuts.

This needs a militant and flexible approach especially in the non-traditional trade union environment without long term jobs and high union density. But we have to do more. In engaging in the struggle we have to inspire and make demands for a better future.

Mayday – International Workers Day – is a time for the workers' movement to find new energy. Now we can move from small scale protests to big rallies.

Already protests against the take over

of GP practices by US insurance giant Centene are underway and there will be many others.

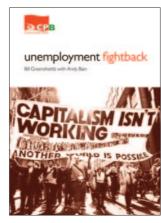
Everyone should turn out for the 26 June national demonstration organised by the Peoples Assembly Against Austerity and the unions. This will be a huge, socially distanced event uniting campaigners on many causes against the Tory Government. Opposing unemployment, and investing in jobs and homes for all is a central demand.

The victory of football fans against a group of greedy billionaires is an inspiration and we must widen our movement to embrace them and all others in conflict with the rich.

This government and its corrupt leadership is on the ropes.

Now is the time for mass action of all kinds to end this corrupt government.

Andy Bain is the Communist Party Industrial organiser



▲ This new pamphlet *Unemployment*Fightback analyses the uses that
capitalism makes of unemployment, then
considers the class struggle during the
pandemic and looks ahead at the building
of a movement to change the balance of
power: www.communistparty.org.uk

Crisis: make the rich pay!

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

ANY THOUSANDS of people are expected to join the first major national demonstration since the pandemic began. The People's Assembly against Austerity has called a mass rally and march to parliament for Saturday 26 June.

The Communist Party was among the first organisations to back the protest.

Sean Cannon, who convenes the party's Anti-Austerity Commission said: 'The slogans adopted for the demonstration: "Make the rich pay for the coronavirus crisis – not the workers" puts the blame squarely on our venal capitalist class for the catastrophic way the Covid-19 pandemic has been handled.

'It is payback time for the those who have plundered the public purse and those in government who enabled this robbery.'

The rising tide of anger at the government's handling of the crisis has been given extra heft by the chance to show public anger about the Tory management of the crisis and to stand up for the right to protest and to oppose the government's Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

* thepeoplesassembly.org.uk

2 | May Day 2021



POLITICS&NEWS Parliamentarianism has become "historically obsolete". That is true in the propaganda sense.

'owever, everybody knows that this is still a far cry from overcoming it in practice. VI Lenin 'Left wing Communism' an infantile disorder



FREEDOMS

ALEX GORDON

E FACE A growing threat to our freedoms. Despite his reputation as a 'Tory libertarian', Boris Johnson's government is now attacking democratic freedoms on a scale that cannot be justified by the Covid emergency

The Police and Crime and 'Skycops' Bills presently kicked into touch by the government is an example of the growing centralisation and empowerment of the state and its police and intelligence services.

They are part of a longer-term trend since 1979, from anti-trade union laws and the privatisation of public spaces patrolled by private security

companies to the criminalisation of squatting and the atrocious 'Windrush' deportations of British citizens.

The Tier 4 lockdown had abolished even the limited right to protest allowed by the lower tiers and so clearly contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights.

The danger now is that some of the drastic but temporary Covid restrictions of our hard-won civil liberties might be made permanent - if we don't resist.

The 'over the top' police action against women peacefully protesting on Clapham Common against male violence; and the £10,000 fine imposed on trade union activist Karen Reissmann for organising a protest are wake-up

The pro-democracy protest in Bristol had been peaceful for hours

before the eruption of violence played into the hands of Tory and other supporters of repressive ruling-class legislation.

Communists urge people to make the maximum use of their surviving freedoms to fight against injustice.

The Communist Party supports the struggle to defend the right to protest and communists young and old are present in demonstrations up and down

ALEX GORDON IS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE RMT UNION AND IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Explaining socialism

In one of the biggest campaigns to explain the meaning of socialism in recent years, the Communist Party has produced a series of 25 posters, also as social media artwork.

Entitled What socialism really means, the series has proven to be so popular, it is going to be renewed after the 6 May. The party also produced an Introduction to Marxism and What we stand for in digital and printed form.

Elect a red!

For the first time activists have been able to contact the party and be directed automatically to the nearest branch and campaign, to get involved Those going to tinyurl.com/ElectARed are able to download free campaign documents including An introduction to Marxism, What we stand for and, our programme Britain's Road to Socia There they can order campaign leaflets to use at workplaces or in the community, apply to join or ask to 'get involved'. Over one hundred have taken

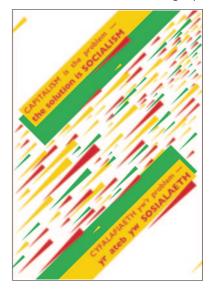
Social media

Covid conditions, at the start of the election, brought CP social media campaigners into action and they are playing an important part in spreading the word, answering questions and organising online meetings.

Many new members who have joined during the centenary year are highly skilled in the use of social media and some of these work in the party's communications network. The aims of the CP network are to use social media to make parry members the best informed of any political party - in terms of policy, achievements, developments and campaigns and to use their skills to promote the Britain's Road to Socialism programme and support workers in struggle. Every week, all members receive a copy of Party Organiser and the network helped to build a new version of the party website, fit for a full election campaign. in a matter of weeks.

Within 48 hours translations of the www.communistparty.org.uk

Some major publications are available in Welsh with the Communist Party campaign in Wales including three radio and TV broadcasts, delivered bi-lingually.



Manifestos

During this election, the Communist Party produced four manifestos and two short popular versions. First to be published was Our future is socialism in Scotland - where each candidate also had their own election brochure with a total distribution of 175,000.

In Wales/Cymru the party produced Real Power for the people of Wales / Grym Go Iawn I Werin Cymru, which went to 200,000 homes.

In London the Party produced a full manifesto and a short popular version distributed to tens of thousands of homes – we literally ran out of copies. An all Britain manifesto Capitalism is the problem, Socialism is the solution was produced online and launched at an online meeting attended by just under a thousand visitors. These are all available at the Communist Party website www.communstparty.or.uk.

Women candidates

Of all the political parties contesting the elections, only the Communist Party held a rally of women candidates, and, in revolutionary style it had an internationalist flavour.

Andrea Burford (North Evington, Leicester) was joined by Spanish-born London candidate Judith Cazorla Rodenas and Lorraine Douglas (Greater London Assembly).

Nora Garcia from the Communist Party of Spain joined and it was chaired by London young communist Maryam Pashali.

In Wales three of the five regional party lists are led by women communists Laura Picand (South West Wales), Claudia Cannon (Mid & West Wales) and Anita Wright (South Wales central).

Communists hit by ballot ban

ELECTIONS

NICK WRIGHT

HE ELECTORAL COMMISSION has banned the Communist Party from using its normal descriptions as the 'Communist Party', the 'Welsh Communist Party' and the 'Scottish Communist Party' on ballot papers for the 6 May elections.

All three names have long been registered with the Electoral Commission which has now decided to ban them with immediate effect just weeks before the election.

In previous elections to the Welsh Senedd, the party – which pioneered devolution policies for Wales and is the only all- British Party headed by a Welsh speaker - was described as the 'Welsh Communist Party' on ballot papers and in campaign materials and party election broadcasts.



▲ Discrimination against the CP.

Scottish Communists planned to describe themselves as the 'Scottish Communist Party'.

'There appears to be no good reason to take this drastic step and the Electoral Commission must know that this weakens weakens our long established political identity Communist Party general secretary Robert Griffiths said. He pointed out that the commission's decision is final and leaves

no time for the registration of other names before submitting nomination papers for the 6 May election.

The Communist Party leader also revealed that Welsh broadcasters have already informed the party that it will qualify for election broadcasts as the "Welsh Communist Party", on the basis that it will again be contesting all five regional lists under that name in the Senedd election.

There is a whiff of sabotage about this and it is not the first time in recent years that the Electoral Commission has treated the Communist Party unfairly and incompetently', he said.

'The Tory and Labour parties use "Welsh" and "Scottish" in their titles. This is blatant discrimination against the Communist Party. Mae'r pleidiau Llafur a Cheidwadol'yn defnyddio "Cymreig" ac "Albanaidd" yn eu teitlau. Mae hyn yn ragfarn amlwg yn erbyn y Blaid Gomiwnyddol'.

Many tongues

On 8 April, the Communist Party put out a call, Hablas Espanol? Parlez-vous Français? Você fala Português? Czy mówisz Polsku? Sen Türkçe konuşmayı biliyor musun?

party's election brochure appeared in Polish, Spanish, Catalan, French, Arabic, Punjabi, Portuguese and Greek. Chinese and Russian versions are planned and are available as a free download at



ELECTION SPECIAL

Published by the Communist Party of Britain Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon CR0 1BD

Capitalism is the problem Socialism is the solution



ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Phil Katz runs the rule over the politics, the parties, the policies... and the Communists.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION manoeuvres, designed to confuse voters and make it much harder to vote communist, have fired up Communist Party candidates and campaigners.

Many candidates have written to the commission to complain at their skulduggery in barring the party from using its own name on the ballot paper.

The Commission added insult to injury to say they will conduct an inquiry into their anti democratic behaviour...on 12 May, six days after the ballot has closed.

Profits pile up, billionaires multiply, work is fragmented and growing scarce, our health and education services face a funding meltdown. The youth have been particularly hard hit, affected by the failure to build affordable housing. No government has failed its people in recent times, more than this, with their failure to deal with the Covid pandemic.

This is coupled to an attempt to restrict rights to assembly and speech and a refusal to pass on powers to the Wales and Scottish governments that would allow them to intervene to support jobs and fund public services, just when they are most needed.

In response to this, the Communists have launched their biggest election campaign since the early 1980s aiming to assert class solidarity, raise political awareness and

strengthen union organisation based on a programme of radical and socialist change.

South Wales candidate Rob Griffiths, the party's general secretary: sets the scen, 'Britain has a future, but it will have to change. There must be no going back. The people have to act against the capitalist system, which has failed us at our time of greatest need. We must assert a new set of values and a new way of bringing communities together, putting people first.'

DEMANDS

Amongst key demands the Communist Party called on councils and government to:

- rebuild Britain, for the millions not the billionaires
- take the electricity, gas, coal, water, railways, banking, pharmaceutical and armaments industries into democratic public ownership and planning, to meet society's needs
- develop tidal, solar and offshore wind power, clean coal technology and other safe and sustainable energy sources
- impose a levy on financial speculation, control the export of capital, and end all tax haven regimes under British jurisdiction
- halt all forms of privatisation and invest in the NHS and public services, with a massive programme to build more council housing
- ullet set the national minimum wage at £10.40 an hour
- repeal all anti-trade union, antidemocratic and racist immigration laws with full employment rights for all workers from day one, and
- guarantee far-reaching economic powers and financial resources for Scottish, Welsh and English parliaments, local government, and English regional and Cornish assemblies in a federal Britain.

Major meetings were held on un-



Markus Keaney stands in Luton

employment, housing and women ('Has Cathy Come Home?'), antiracism and internationalism and on the environment (Silvertown project, 'Stop Digging'). A feature of each was the preparedness of a diverse range of speakers, who were not CP members, to share party platforms.

LOCAL CAMPAIGNING

The campaign has been very much based on local initiative and finding new ways to explain the core values and politics contained in the Communist Party programme, Britain's Road to Socialism. Our ability to do this, whilst raising issues of concern on an all-Britain basis, such as privatisation of the NHS, scrapping Trident and opposing Conservative cronyism in the award of Covid-related contracts, has been a major achievement of the campaign.

In Motherwell and Wishaw, candidate Daniel Lambe said, 'The road to socialism isn't an easy one, communists are fighting for a better future for all.'

Rumanian-born Lucian Branescu Mihaila a London List (GLA) candidate called for 'A fair immigration policy with and an equal route to nationality and an end to the hostile environment.'

Judith Cazorla Rodenas denounced 'Systemic failure by police to protect women from domestic violence, sexual harassment and assault and its ongoing failure to eliminate racism in its ranks'.

London candidate Robin Talbot and chair of the all-Britain Young Communist League was part of a team leafletting historic Cable Street calling for a 'Vote for investment in jobs, education, housing, youth services, better transport and London's future.'

In Wales, nearly 200,000 election brochures have been distributed. A



new website has been built to coordinate the Wales campaign and a party political TV broadcast, carried on S4C, ITV and BBC during last week. It led to many enquiries and requests for more information.

On estates in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Motherwell and Wishaw, banner drops were well received as well as door-to-door leafletting and street stalls. Each candidate took part in hustings - a valuable chance to explain policy in greater detail.

One comrade spoke at a North Lanarkshire hustings alongside past Labour leader Richard Leonard. Comrades signed up to important pledges ranging from Age Concern, Shelter, to that of the Living Rent campaign. Johnnie Hunter in Glasgow, called for a 'guarantee of federalism as a third option in any future referendum.'

Construction worker Daniel Lambe, out leafletting in Motherwell said, 'If you want a party in Holyrood that puts the needs and concerns of working people first, then get involved in our campaign.'

Matthew Waddell who is standing in his home city of Edinburgh has emphasised the need for planning of housing development, 'We need well-built social housing in planned communities.'

Throughout its campaign, the Party has emphasised that in the words of one candidate, 'every day is an election day.' The Communist Party does not 'shut up shop' between elections and call out members only when we need leaflets handed out in a run up to polling day.

Nor are our Manifestos, a cynical exercise in issuing 'never to be kept' promises. In truth, our campaign has been aimed at putting new ideas and organisation into the labour movement so that it emerges stronger, the better to fight against unemployment.



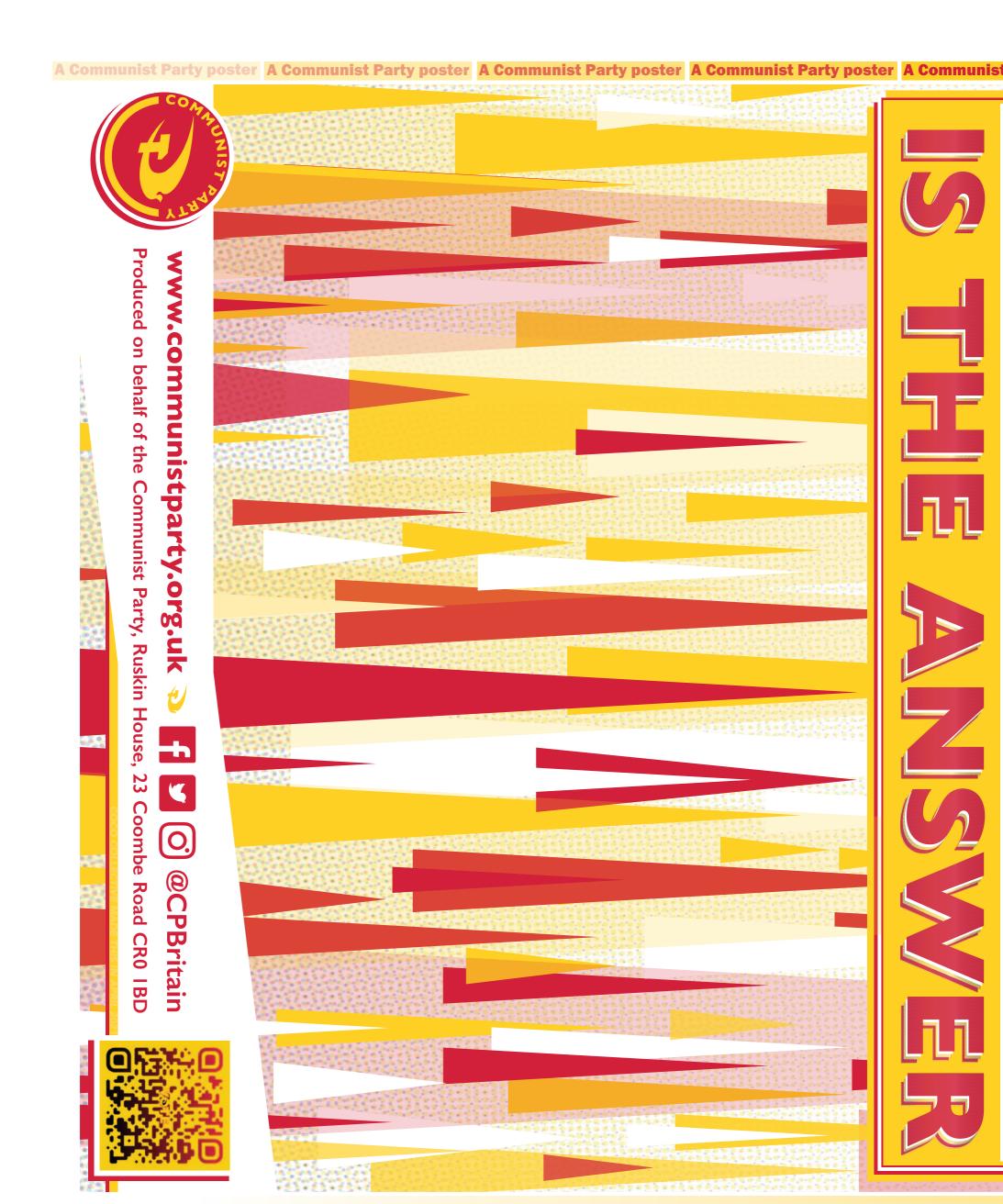
The same is true of the party, which is increasing its reach and influence, recruiting new members and much looking forward to fielding many more candidates in next year's elections.

As the party grows it is striking roots in communities across Britain. This was borne out in the campaign of Unite local community activist Andrea Burford (above) standing in the North Evington ward, Leicester. Andrea started her campaign early with a supportive and creative local campaign team.

She called for a vote for her as a local working class woman who wanted to see, 'more council homes and affordable homes built, so everyone has a roof over their heads.' Andrea spoke powerfully at the Rally of Women making a strong case for investment to improve pay, conditions and availability of jobs in the local textile trade. On Earth Day she issued a call for a 'green, environmentally friendly city'.

'The communists' says Andrea, 'will generally support moves to lower emissions from city buses.' Andrea defended local citizens who work in retail, when their work was denigrated by a Labour MP. The Communist Party she said, 'recognise the value of every worker whether they work in a supermarket or a care home.'

PHIL KATZ IS HEAD OF MEDIA FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY



AGAINST ANTI-SEMITISM

'Anti-Semitism, a weapon carried to barbaric extremes by fascism, is a weapon used by the ruling class to split and divert the masses of the people away from the struggle for their real interests.' Declaration, moved by Rajani Palme Dutt, 3 March 1947 at the British Empire Communist Parties Conference, London in February/March 1947.

Communist struggle against antisemitism

I Long-standing and historic opposition to antisemitism

The Communist Party opposes all forms of racism and xenophobia and notes with grave concern the rise of antisemitism as part of the anti-working class ideology of right-wing populism in Britain and elsewhere. It calls on all who wish to protect the values of our movement to oppose every manifestation of antisemitism along with other forms of racism. Our party's founders included significant numbers of comrades of Jewish culture and commitment – many of whom had fled from persecution in Eastern Europe and the Russian Empire.

These comrades led the way in combatting antisemitism in Britain in the 1920s and 30s and in particular developing a united mass movement among working people in London that blocked the advance of Mosley fascism. One of our party's MPs, Phil Piratin, was instrumental in leading this movement. He did so again against the attempts to redevelop Mosley Fascism, exploiting antisemitism, in the later 1940s and 50s.

In the 1970s our party was a founder member of the Anti-Nazi League and of the Anti-Racist Alliance and since then has helped make the annual commemoration of Cable Street a unifying demonstration that puts the fight against antisemitism at the centre of a united working-class opposition to all forms of racism. Each year on 27 January our party supports Holocaust Memorial Day.

2 Formation of the State of Israel

Our party, in the aftermath of the Nazi genocide, supported the formation of a State of Israel in 1948 on the terms set by UN resolution 187 of May 1947 – whereby it should exist in a defined territory alongside an Arab State within Palestine and 'nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities'. The editorial of the *Daily Worker* of 15 May 1948, in welcoming the new state, additionally urged the new State 'to take all possible measures to live in peace with its Arab neighbours...'

3 UN resolutions following the 1967 war and Israel's annexation of Palestinian territories

Our party supported the UN resolution 242 (1967) following the annexation of Palestinian territories in 1967. This resolution required Israel to withdraw to its pre-war boundaries and upheld the right of the people of Palestine to their own state beside the state of Israel with its capital in lerusalem and the right of return of all refugees. This continues to be the position of our party. It condemns the subsequent actions by the government of Israel to defy both this and subsequent UN resolutions and to fail to honour the Oslo Accords negotiated between Israel's prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and the PLO in 1993. Our party is a member of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and supports the 'two-state' UN-mandated

4 Condemnation of the actions of recent Israeli governments headed by Benjamin Netanyahu

These actions by the Israeli governments headed by Benjamin Netanyahu include a) the passage of the Nation-State Act in July 2018 which makes the right to 'national self-determination' in Israel 'unique to the Jewish people', establishes Hebrew as the official language, and in terms of all official documentation



▲ Communist Party leader Harry Pollitt writing in the party's Party's Jewish community newspaper Jewish Clarion

downgrades the status of Arabic, and makes 'Jewish settlement' a national value; b) the formal shift of the Israeli government to Jerusalem in 2017 and its recognition by the United States as the capital of Israel in violation of UN resolutions; and c) the joint 2020 initiative by the governments of the United States and Israel to secure the agreement of Arab states to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory and to make permanent the full Israeli settlement of the West Bank.

These actions violate the objectives of all those committed to the upholding of the rights of the Palestinian people to an integral state composed of all pre-1967 territories and also of those who wish to see the State of Israel living in peace beside the state of Palestine.

5 Continuing robust opposition to antisemitism

Our party calls on all who wish to protect the values of our movement to oppose every manifestation of antisemitism along with other forms of racism. All forms of racism weaken our movement. antisemitism has been deeply rooted within our country since

feudal times and has repeatedly been used as a weapon to divide working people, particularly so at the beginning of the last century and at the time of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Our party also notes the dangers posed to the fight against antisemitism by the opportunist and politically-partisan use of unjust charges of antisemitism within the Labour movement and the current attempts to extend them to all those who wish to uphold the rights of the Palestinian people and to campaign against the illegal occupation of their land. In particular, our party opposes the demand of the current British government that public bodies receiving government funds adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism. The IHRA definition was not developed for this purpose and its principal drafter has stated it was not intended to be adopted as a legal policy document by public bodies. Its references to criticism of the State of Israel are, moreover, now compromised by the passing of the 2018 Nation State Act, as described above.

Those who use this definition against

anyone campaigning for the justified rights of the Palestinian people, as laid down in UN resolutions, and for peaceful sanctions in order to achieve them, must be condemned as themselves actively hindering the real and necessary fight against antisemitism.

The Communist Party of Britain therefore reiterates its opposition to all forms of antisemitism. It confirms its support for a state of Israel living in peace beside a state of Palestine within pre-1967 boundaries. This commitment includes its backing for the full implementation of UN resolutions and for the use of economic sanctions to achieve these objectives. Communists in Britain pledge their solidarity with all those campaigning on this basis, against antisemitism along with the rights of the Palestinian people. This includes full support for, and solidarity with, our sister parties, the Palestinian People's Party and the Communist Party of Israel.

The Communist Party executive committee adopted the above statement on 14 March 2021



On guard against fascism

A call to the labour movement
This pamphlet was written by Tony
Conway, John Foster, Robert Griffiths
and Liz Payne under the auspices of the
Communist Party of Britain's AntiRacism Anti-Fascism Commission.
£1 Now available in Portable Document
Format (PDF) only.



OMRADE WORKERS! May Day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class-conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation.

Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom

On one side stand the handful of rich blood-suckers. They have seized the factories and mills, the tools and machinery, have turned millions of

acres of land and mountains of money into their private property. They have made the government and the army their servants, faithful watchdogs of the wealth they have amassed.

On the other side stand the millions of the disinherited. They are forced to beg the moneybags for permission to work for them. By their labour they create all wealth; yet all their lives long they have to struggle for a crust of bread, beg for work as for charity, sap their strength and health by backbreaking toil, and starve in hovels in the villages or in the cellars and garrets of the big cities.

But now these disinherited toilers have declared war on the moneybags and exploiters. The workers of all

lands are fighting to free labour from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labour will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. They want to make the land and the factories, mills, and machines the common property of all toilers. They want to do away with the division into rich and poor, want the fruits of labour to go to the labourers themselves, and all the achievements of the human mind, all improvements in ways of working, to improve the lot of the man who works, and not serve as a means of oppressing him.

The great struggle of labour against capital has cost the workers of all

countries immense sacrifices. They have shed rivers of blood on behalf of their right to a better life and real freedom.

Those who fight for the workers' cause are subjected by the governments to untold persecution. But in spite of all persecution the solidarity of the workers of the world is growing and gaining in strength. The workers are uniting more and more closely in socialist parties, the supporters of those parties are mounting into millions and are advancing steadily, step by step, towards complete victory over the class of capitalist exploiters.

Published in 1904



PARTY LIFE

The Communist Party's postponed 56th Congress will be held on Saturday and 6-7 Sunday, November with the theme popularised during the 2021 election campaign: The crisis is capitalism, the solution is socialism



Communists on campaign trail in Felixstowe. Coastal ward candidate Mark Jones with supporters from new branches in East Suffolk and Colchester.

After considering the economic, social and political perspectives for 2021, the March Executive Committee identified the main issues requiring debate and discussion at the Congress.

Unemployment Fightback!

Meeting the challenges of mass unemployment as the ruling class and its Tory government pursue policies to restore the general rate of profit by intensifying the exploitation of labour, attacking the terms and conditions of employment, reducing the tax burden for the capitalist monopolies and maintaining the value of the Pound by slashing public sector borrowing and reducing the National Debt. How can the People's Assembly and the labour and progressive movements best defend jobs and organise and mobilise unemployed and their supporters on a mass scale. Should we support a Universal Basic Income?

Production for the People

and Planet Exposing the unbalanced, precarious and predatory character of British imperialism's economy at home and abroad; promoting green, sustainable policies that create jobs and living standards while also combating global warming; elaborating the Left-Wing Programme for Britain and economic strategies for its nations, regions and key industries based on public ownership and planning - and which also secure economic and social equality for women, young, immigrant, migrant and disabled workers. Should we embrace Modern Monetary Theory?

Progressive Federalism Elaborating our policy and building alliances in the face of aggressive Tory-British unionism and vigorous Scottish and Welsh separatism. How should we address questions of English nationalism, regional devolution and local government? No to the new Cold War': Exposing the motive forces and strategies for imperialist re-division. domination, militarism and war, past

and present; strengthening Liberation and the British Peace Assembly and projecting the World Peace Council; winning the labour movement to the case for cancelling Trident and alternative socially-useful production; and defending China in particular against false atrocity propaganda, contrasting its economic, social and cultural advances to those of other developed and developing countries.

Waging the war of ideas

Promoting the Morning Star as the voice of the labour and progressive movements in the fight for democratic mass media against monopoly domination; promoting the classes, publications and other activities of the Marx Memorial Library & Workers' School; and using all forms of media to project three fundamental themes against the state-monopoly capitalist offensive: (i) for working-class and people's unity: (ii) for peace and solidarity against militarism and imperialist wars; and (iii) for socialist

Anti-Monopoly Alliance

Strengthening and uniting the labour and progressive movements in the struggle against state-monopoly capitalism; in particular, projecting the Charter for Women; building the National Assembly of Women and a new initiative against racist laws as broad-based campaigning bodies with strong links to the labour movement; and assisting the Young Communist League to project the Charter for Youth.

Building the Communist Party

Projecting the Party's publications (notably the Communist Review and *Unity!*); strengthening its commissions including a women's commission in every Party district and nation - and establishing new trade union advisories; and securing five standing committees to deal with political education, communications, recruitment & membership, elections and internal complaints & discipline (a 'Control Commission' established by rule

There will be other important issues to consider and these may feature in the EC's main resolution(s), in Branch, District and Nation amendments (up to three each per EC resolution), and separate resolutions (up to two) on topics not covered by the EC resolution(s).

Congress Commissions As for the 55th Congress, the outgoing EC proposes a number of Congress commissions where delegates can discuss their experiences and ideas and make proposals to the incoming EC for the Party's future work. At the moment, the EC is proposing Congress commissions from among the following areas of work:-

- I class politics and the struggle for women's liberation
- 2 fighting racism
- 3 building the peace movement
- **4** building local anti-monopoly alliances

Your views Party organisations are invited to submit their views on the above proposals to me at Party centre on any of the matters in this Congress Letter by Friday, 4 May. This will mean online meetings wherever possible to ensure that these are the collective views of the Party organisation concerned.

District and nation congresses

These were due to be held this year, as the alternate year to our biennial National Congress. But the EC has decided that the postponement of the 56th Congress to 2021 should mean that the District and Nation congresses are all now postponed to 2022, to be held on a date to be decided by the District or Nation Committee concerned.

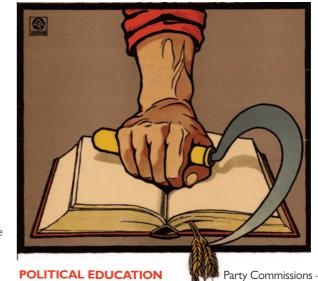
Communist Congress timeline

May 17: deadline for submission to Party centre of Branch, District and Nation amendments to the Party rules and Congress standing orders.

July 19: EC draft resolutions, Congress agenda and rules amendments to be sent to Party organisations.

October 1: deadline for submission of Branch, District and Nation resolutions and amendments to the EC resolution(s) and of nominations for the EC, Appeals Committee and auditors.

October 23-24: first meeting of Congress committees. **November 6-7:** 56th Congress of Britain's communists.



BILL GREENSHIELDS

Millions of workers are agitated – and many are organised to do battle with our corrupt ruling class and government. The big question is: are we equipped to fight but also to win in the class struggle?

Though our success depends on courage, determination and resilience, we need analysis and understanding of the reality of the struggle – and not just hope and enthusiasm.

The working class movement needs sound political education. Education in which we learn from each other, challenge each other, teach each other - not just from our immediate experience and closest mates but from workers of the world, and throughout our class divided history... and our individual and collective experience of struggle.

What should a Communist Party political education project look like?

It's free and open to all and based on collective discussion and activities. Everyone has things to offer – decades of experience in the working class movement, or new eyes to see old problems in the light of new realities.

Varied work, cultural backgrounds and life and class experiences brings fresh insights. And always the acid test of the reality of class struggle in all its

The party programme Britain's Road to Socialism is available online at www.communistparty.org.uk with study materials - some summaries of its sections, video introductions to each and with suggestions for preparatory and follow up reading. Key to the materials are discussion questions for each section. These are available for $individual \ use-but \ they \ are \ designed$ for collective group discussion – or by signing up for a live online group.

The new extensively updated book Women & Class is presented in similar formats - and a series of six week tutored courses will begin to take registrations from 8 May. Education materials, meetings, webinars and courses will be added over time by our

Party Commissions – each concerned with an aspect of working class life and struggle. Recordings of live education events will appear together with notes, ideas and suggestions from comrades involved.

A new eight session programme Taking the Road will introduce the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism in an accredited first stage course, that all new members of the party can follow in their first year. Further stages, take us deeper into the theory that Lenin maintained was essential for a revolutionary movement. The aim is that all courses should be followed collectively through a party organisation or party-organised online course.

An Our Party Library page will host a developing library of historical classics of Marxism-Leninism, contemporary writings, provided through Manifesto Press and Praxis Press and party publications such as All Power to the Working Class, Dialectical & Historical Materialism and Das Kapital & Marxism in the 21st Century.

The most recent are available with study material as appropriate. Library users will be encouraged to review the books, suggest others and provide materials that might contribute to study and discussion

What the Paper Says – in ironical comment on the banning of the Morning Star from television's What the Papers Say – will showcase key Morning Star editorials and features.

Another valuable public resource is the Marx Memorial Library's Full Marx series of accessible introductions to Marxist theory.

Finally we will showcase Communist Review, the party's popular theory & practice journal – with its editorial board selecting articles to be enhanced with study materials.

The aim of Marxist political education is to sharpen our contribution to change political outlook of the working class, and strengthen its analysis, strategic direction and leadership.

BILL GREENSHIELDS IS THE COMMUNIST PARTY FOLICATION ORGANISER AND A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE NUT.



CULTURE&IDEOLOGY

One must speak for a struggle for a new culture, that is, for a new moral life that cannot but be intimately connected to a new intuition of life, until it becomes a new way of feeling and seeing reality Antonio Gramsci Art and the Struggle for a New Civilisation



ONLINE COURSE: TRADE UNIONS. **CLASS AND POWER**

This eight-week interactive course seeks to understand trade unions and union members of today within a century of historical perspective. Tuesday 4 May 7pm and Tuesday 22 June 8:30pm

DEMOCRACY, NEO-LIBERALISM AND BRITAIN'S **CENTRALISED**

Join Baroness **Pauline Bryan** for this timely round table discussion on the challenges of progressive federalism and labour movement mobilisation. 7pm Thursday, 13 May 2021



lournal of the Marx Memorial Library 2021 Number 122

Editorial Marjorie Mayo Marxist understandings of past and recent struggles Mary Davis, Roger Seifert and Andrew Murray COVID-19 and its economic, political and social aftermath Michael Roberts, Allyson M. Pollock, Louisa Harding-Edgar, Jenny Clegg, Ben Fine. Kate Bayliss, Ted Benton and Mariorie Mayo

International responses to the pandemic Bob Oram and the Communist Party of Viet Nam Covid-19 and trade union struggle

Carolyn Jones, Kevan Nelson, Helen O'Connor, Heather Wakefield and Jonathan White MML events Ralph Gibson,

John McDonnell, David Lane, Meirian lump and Lydia Samarbakhsh Reviews Ben Fine, Roger Seifert, Jonathan White, Ines Newman, John Green, Richard Clarke, Andrew Murray, Bruni de la Motte, John Foster, David McLellan, Jim Mowatt, Robert Maisey and Alex Gordon



COMMUNIST REVIEW99

Theory and discussion journal of the Communist Party Spring 2021

FUTURE OF WORK SOCIALISM, WORK, TECHNOLOGY AND THE STRUGGLE FOR IOBS

Gail Cartmail, Michael Roberts, Leonardo Impett, Ursula Huws, Andrew Maybury, Roger McKenzie, Tony Burke, Sarah Woolley, Keith Ewing, Andy Bain and the Communist Party Future of Work Group

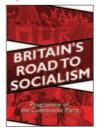
- ★ How long will we tolerate big pharma? Marc Vandepitte
- ★ How do intellectuals view communism? Sean Meleady
- * REVIEW: Engels 200 John Foster
- ★ 2021 Marx Oration Lydia Samarbakhsh
- ★ SOUL FOOD: On Priti Patel, practical solidarity, poetry and preservation Fran Lock

£2.50 www.communistparty.org.uk

revolutionary books from the Communist Party



David Horsley charts Claudia's life from a child in Trinidad, struggles in the USA. repression and deportation to Britain and her struggles here. £4.95



Capitalism is in crisis and its champions in disarray - what better time to launch a new edition of the Communist Party programme. £3.00



A new and The amazing and updated edition. true story of by Mary Davis. communism in Essential reading Britain, through for all activists in the life stories of the women's and the party's working class and extraordinary trade union rank and file movements. membership £4.50



The first ever, single volume history of the Communist Party. Edited by Mary Davis with 20 contributors charting 100 years of struggle. £9.99



The Charter for Youth, published in its thousands by the Young Communist League is in its second printing reports YCL leader Johnnie Hunter (above). The YCL's Youth Charter is a set of policies to combat the crisis faced by Britain's youth and to offer some relief. The Charter isn't a recipe for socialism. These policies can't cure the underlying problems of capitalism but the demands and the struggle to achieve them ask the fundamental questions about economic ownership and democratic control in our country. More deatils at www.ycl.org.uk

sisterhood 8th May 2021 socialism 9.45 am - 5.15 pm &struggle

This event aims to put women's liberation at the heart of class struggle and explore how we should respond to the intensification of women's oppression under modern capitalism.

Based upon the three strands of the Charter for Women, which was adopted by the National Assembly of Women in 2020, sessions include Marxist-feminist analysis of women in society, at work, and in the international labour movement. Drawn from across the labour movement our speakers include Mary Davis on the roots of women's oppression, Pragna Patel on domestic violence, migration and racism, Sarah Woolley on sexual harassment and Kellie O'Dowd on abortion rights.

Additional panels will highlight such questions as the feminisation of poverty, unfair job segregation and the erosion of women's sex-based rights, calling for urgent change to secure equal pay and access to decent childcare.

Internationalists recognise that the fight against women's oppression is worldwide and we are delighted to be joined by communist women leaders from three continents, including Liz Rowley, (Canada), Jenny Schreiner (South Africa), Annie Raja (India) and Socorro Gomes (Brazil).

zoom.us/webinar/register/WN__IpZ504URB-6P23vownIxQ

Unity! Culture workers (of the world) unite!

Today, May Day 202 I Unity! appears as a paid for supplement to the Morning Star and in locally produced editions.

Unity! is the **Communist Party** newspaper published for 30 years and now in monthly and special editions for working class, and progressive events, union conferences and daily at TUC. conferences.

CULTURE COMMISSION

Ron Brown

ARL MARX and a myriad of Marxist thinkers have offered us the insight that cultural activities which we can define broadly to include the arts, sport, the media etc. are under capitalism - dominated by the ruling class and used to justify and legitimise exploitation and oppression.

But that cultural hegemony can be rendered fragile and temporary and challenged by activists and cultural workers, working to imagine and build a better world.

Culture workers are organised in trade unions and the vital work of strengthening organisation and running campaigns is strengthened through creative and critical writing,

performance and the mobilisation of the enormous reservoir of creative talent in the working class.

This spring the Communist Party organised a series of meetings to find ways to develop the conscious work of Marxists in this vital arena of creative

From this has come a firm intent to develop a Culture Commission to give direction to this work and help coordinate creative workers, writers, artists, designers, poets, singers, musicians, craft workers, theatre workers, linguists, image based creatives, critics and media and new media specialists.

Dozens of people attended these discussions and from this a programme of work is underway including developing cultural policy and a working class approach to cultural

democracy. Other projects include documenting the historic cultural work of British communists, shaping a marxist leninist approach to democracy and sport and a critical approach by marketing and media professionals.

Among the ideas that emerged from the discussions is a proposal to look at food and drink from an internationalist perspective and to develop thinking around traditional crafts, cultivation. gardening and ecology.

Commission chair Mike Quille of Culture Matters is convening the cultural policy group and a data base of practitioners is being created for production and to add to party work.

RON BROWN IS A MUSICIAN BASED IN THE NORTH EAST AND IS CONVENOR OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S CULTURE Commission

UNEMPLOYMENT

A FAST AND FURIOUS WEBINAR May 29, 2021 I lam - 12:30pm

Keynote speakers include: Bill Greenshields and Molly Brown (Communist Party in discussion) Steve Turner (Unite) Mark Porter (Rolls Royce Unite at Barnoldswick) Rohan Kon (Sheffield Needs a Pay Rise) Johnny Hunter (YCL) Laura Smith (ex-Labour MP and No Turning Back campaigner) Helen O'Connor (NHS activist) Sabby Dhalu (SUTR) Speaker from the Communist Party of Spain (on a bill to protect gig employees) Jackie Simpkins (War on Want) and Mick Lynch (RMT)